

THE REEVE'S TALE



~~Chaucer's House, Bawdeswell.~~

A Monthly Magazine for
Bawdeswell & Foxley

February 1976 -
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THE RECTOR WRITES

At the outset of this first issue of 'The Reeve's Tale', which I hope with help to be able to produce every month from this on, I would like on behalf of my wife and myself to express our very sincere thanks to all the many people who have made us feel so welcome in Bawdeswell and Foxley. We arrived with streaming colds in the rain; almost at once the lights and power went off, and a few days later I dislocated my right thumb, and discovered how much one uses a thumb! But none of these things mattered very much because of all the kindness we received on all sides. In particular I would like to thank all who worked so hard to make the service of Institution so memorable, those who got everything so perfectly arranged in the Church, and all who provided and served the refreshments afterwards. There are far too many to thank individually, so may I thank them all.



Why 'The Reeve's Tale'?

First, because we have to call this magazine something, and for preference something a little out of the ordinary, for too many titles are frankly pretty dull. If I go to a Parish and pick up a copy of the local magazine, called, let us say, 'St. Agatha's Church News', I find myself so put off by the name that I am tempted not to open it, however excellent it may be inside: so I felt that we ought to have something a bit different. The trouble came when I tried to think of a suitable name, for most I came up with were either dull or bawdy (!), until mercifully a friend of mine came up with this, which seemed exactly right; because, as many of you will know, the Reeve (or 'Reve' in the original), was one of the story tellers in Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales', and came from Bawdeswell, in which we still have 'Chaucer's House', possibly the oldest private dwelling in England, and which we illustrate on this first cover.

What form will it take?

Well, first of all, it is not intended as a 'Church' Magazine, though it will have church news, times of Services and so on: the intention is that it should be a Community Magazine, trying to record anything of interest to the whole community, and reporting on anything of interest that takes place: therefore it is really your magazine, and I will always welcome any items of news you care to send in. Also I hope that it will be a useful medium for advertising forthcoming events and so forth. But I hope that it will not be too parochial, but that it will be concerned with the wider world outside. It will, I hope, be 'political', taking an active interest in anything which concerns the welfare of the people, but will be strictly not 'party-political'. I also hope it will make you laugh sometimes. But above all, I hope that it will be a useful way of keeping in touch.

As Editor, and subject only to any Editor's rights to vet what is printed, I will warmly welcome any contributions, Articles, poems or anything else.

What will it cost ?

Nothing, because the idea is that it will go free to every house in the two villages, and if we start charging for it, then we will have to have a complicated system of collecting the money, and we will also have to remember who has it and who doesn't. But for anyone outside the villages the cost will be 3p.

Then how will it cover its costs ?

I suppose this depends really on how much people like it. If you do, and if later on, after a few issues feel that you would like it to continue, then I will be very glad to receive a donation, large or small. I have produced a similar magazine for the last seven years, and in spite of constantly rising costs of paper and so on, though it never made any profit, it never lost any money either.

Incidentally, this first issue will be rather 'churchy' because I have not yet had time to find out about other organisations, nor to pick up all the bits of gossip !

CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

ANGLICAN

Bawdeswell Services subject to any alterations made at the PCC Meeting on January 29th.

- 1st. Bawdeswell 9.45. Family Service: Foxley Closed
- 8th. Bawdeswell 8.30. Holy Communion, 11.00 Mattins.
Foxley 9.45 Family Service.
- 15th. Bawdeswell 9.45 Family Service: Foxley 11.00 Family Service
- 22nd. Bawdeswell 8.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Mattins
Foxley 9.45 Family Service
- 29th. Bawdeswell 9.45 Family Service: Foxley Closed

METHODIST

- 1st. Foxley 11.00
- 8th. Bawdeswell 2.30 : Foxley 6.30
- 15th. Foxley 11.00
- 22nd. Bawdeswell 2.30 : Foxley 6.30
- 29th. Foxley 11.00

DEANERY SYNOD

Bintree Village Hall, Tuesday, 17th. February, 7.30 p.m.
The Rector will gladly give lifts if notified.

FOXLEY PCC

At the Meeting of Foxley PCC on 15th. January it was decided that for an experimental period the Services of Holy Communion would take the form of the relatively new 'Series 3' Communion, designed to meet the needs of to-day. This would be the basis of the 'Family Services' above, and it was hoped that it would appeal to everyone young and old.

It was also decided that it would be wrong to hold Services at the same time as the Methodists if this could be avoided, so that, on the 1st. and 29th. February Foxley Church would not have a Service at 11 a.m., so that the Church Members would be free to join the Methodists at their Service. It was also decided to obtain the Hymn Book '100 Hymns for To-day' to use in addition to the present one.

ADA ETHEL BUSH aged 67

We record with sorrow the death on 9th. January of Ada Bush, at the West Norwich Hospital.

Mrs. Bush had been an invalid for many years, and throughout this time was cared for with devotion by her husband and her family.

We express our sympathy to them in their loss, but rejoice that she is now at last free from pain and suffering.

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FOLLAND COURT OLD PEOPLE'S CLUB

Mrs. Rounce, the Warden of Folland Court, has asked us to say that the Club which started a year ago meets every second Wednesday in the Recreation Room at 2.30 p.m., and that any 'Over 60' in the two villages is very welcome to come along. The first Birthday Party was held on 27th. January, and after tea those present were entertained by 'The Merry-makers' and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

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FOXLEY VILLAGE HALL

Another successful money-making effort was held on 16th. January, and two further Country & Western Dances are planned for this coming month.

These will be on Friday, 13th. February, when the Group will be Patsy Powell and the 'Good Timers', and on the 27th., when the 'Mississippi Delta' Group will be coming.

All are very welcome.

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THE SALLY ARMY

The Salvation Army Band will conduct a 'Gospel Service' on Tuesday, 2nd. March in Foxley Village Hall: this will take place at either 7 p.m. or 7.30 p.m. - the exact time in the next issue of 'The Reeve's Tale'. We are most grateful to the Army for providing this. Proceeds will be divided three ways - the Chapel, the Church and the Army itself.

Everyone will be most welcome, and the service will last about an hour.

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THE SCHOOL PAGE

(We are delighted that the Headmaster was so willing to respond to our request that we might have an entry from the School, and we hope that this will be a regular feature, and that the children will themselves contribute to it.)



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Members of the top class at the School are preparing for their visit to the Norfolk County Festival of Spoken Arts which takes place in March. Last year's Choir gained a Distinction in Spoken Verse, and there were several good individual performances. This is always a happy occasion, and it gives the children a chance to hear performances from many other schools.

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The Boys have had a reasonably good football season so far, having played ten, won five, drawn two and lost three matches. Brisley School has provided tough opposition so far, and although we had big scores against us in these two matches, the boys have enjoyed them, and are anxious to cut down the margin of loss.

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The Girls Netball team has played only one competitive match so far, which they won handsomely. We are having some difficulty in obtaining Netball fixtures, and would be most grateful of news from any school who would like a game.

(Editor's note: Sorry about the hockey stick above: we should have read the notes before we drew the pictures !)

CONFIRMATION

I very much hope that in the near future I will be starting preparation groups for Confirmation, and I would warmly welcome anyone of any age from 10 and upwards who might like to come along.

One of the encouraging features nowadays is the number of adults who are being Confirmed, people who for one reason or another did not come forward at an earlier age: and there is no top age limit at all. I have prepared many people in their '60s, and our Bishop has Confirmed 90-year olds !

Confirmation is a two-way thing: on the one hand we 'confirm' the promises made for us in Baptism, and show that we wish to take our full part as Members of the Church: on the other, it is an act of God, giving us through the laying-on of hands by the Bishop the gift of grace to help us to keep our promises: and of course it also makes us eligible as full members to receive the Holy Communion, and to take our part, if we wish, in the government and organisation of the Church.

But I was never Baptised.

It doesn't matter, for if you really wish to be Confirmed, that can easily be dealt with, and lots of people are baptised just before Confirmation.

If I'm an adult, must I be prepared with the children?

Of course not: Candidates will be prepared in natural groups, or alone, and in the case of adults, this will normally take the form of discussions about the Christian faith and its meaning.

What do I do now ?

I'd be very grateful if you would put your name and address on a piece of paper and let me have it as soon as possible. I would like all names in if possible by say 14th. February so that we can make our plans.

And if you are not sure, then do let me know, and we can talk it over in confidence. Coming to preparation groups does NOT commit you in any way - in fact you may not wish to make your final decision 'till they are over.

JUST A BIT ABOUT MYSELF - for the first and last time !

I'm H.L.H.Townshend, Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral, and I now live at the delightful new Rectory in Foxley West (where you will always be most welcome): my telephone number is Bawdeswell 397, and my postal code is NR20 4QJ.

But forgetting all that, I'm better known as 'Tim', as I never could stick the names I was lumbered with as a baby, and in any case have never been called by any of them.

I am 61, and once upon a time was a schoolmaster: I was ordained in 1946 in Lichfield, and from 1948-1950 was Rector of Hethersett in this Diocese, before I went to Suffolk to be what was called 'Adviser for Youth Work', with two delightful Parishes near Ipswich. At the end of 1955 I went back to my original Diocese and until 1968 was Vicar of two different mining Parishes, in which I was helped by a large staff: I was also a Rural Dean, with a Deanery population of some 130,000 people as against Sparham's 7,000 ! Mainly for reasons of health I came to Iyng and Sparham in 1968, and have spent seven very happy years there, subsequently adding Elsing and Bylaugh and the Deanery to my task.

I am also Secretary of the Diocesan Synod and the Bishop's Council, which means that I have to spend a fair bit of my time on outside work, and am also a Member of the Pastoral Committee, which is concerned with planning and reorganisation in the Diocese; and recently I was elected a Member of General Synod, the central governing body of the Church.

I have a wonderful wife, Lorna, a full-time Teacher, two sons, one a Priest like me, the other a Barrister, and two married daughters; and in addition six grandchildren, Sally, Alice, Claire, Diana, Richard and Kathleen - rather an overplus of girls, but we wouldn't be without them for anything.

But most important of all, to me at any rate, I am now Rector of Bawdeswell and Foxley, and very much at your service.

I very much like to know if anyone is ill or needs a visit; but, although I am an Irishman, I haven't got second sight, so I do badly need to be told. So please help me in this.

Tim Townshend.