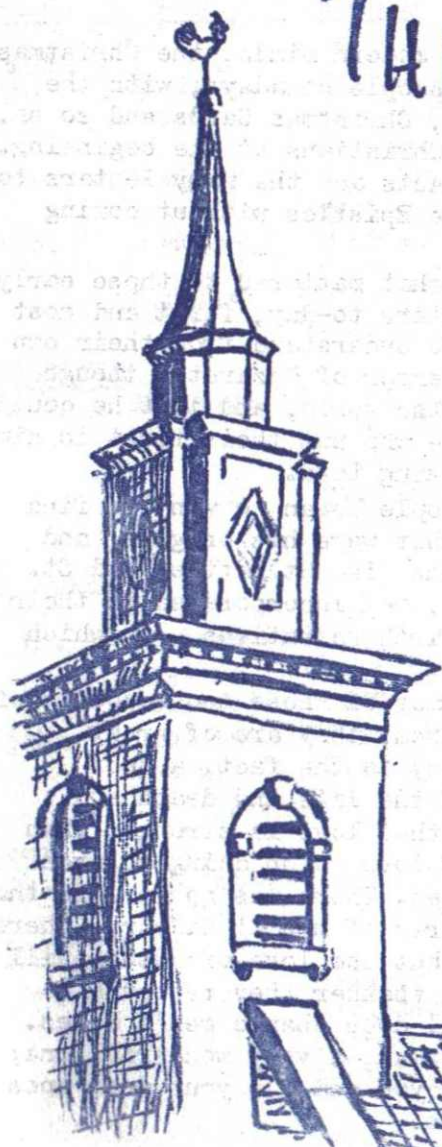


THE REEVE'S TALE



The Magazine of Bowdeswell
and Foxley -

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THE RECTOR WRITES

Strange though it may seem to our modern minds, the Christmas stories, which preoccupy so many people nowadays, with the emphasis on Carol Services, Cribs, Christmas Cards and so on, were of no interest to the early Christians at the beginning. In fact one can read the Book of Acts and the many letters to the early Church which we call the Epistles without coming across any mention of them.

And this was understandable, for what mattered to those early followers of Christ, and what matters to-day, first and most importantly, was that they came to understand from their own personal experience that the Carpenter of Nazareth, though crucified, was a living power in the world, and that he could and does change the lives of those who put their trust in him: that, in fact, he was and is a Living Lord.

It was not until later on that people began to want to find out where he had come from, and what were his origins; and it was at that stage that Historians like St. Matthew and St. Luke began to delve into the past, and incorporated in their Gospels the early stories - the birth narratives - on which our Christmas Story rests.

But whatever the historical accuracy of these two accounts of the birth of this child in Bethlehem, they are of great importance, for they bear testimony to the fact, a fact reflected in the whole account of the life and death and subsequent living power of Jesus that love is stronger than hatred, and that those who really love go on doing so even when they are rejected and despised. There was no room in the Inn; there was no room in the hearts of men at Calvary; there is still no room in many hearts; but the love of Jesus still is poured out towards all people, whether they reject him or not; and his love can and still does change men's lives. This is the real message of Christmas, a very wonderful one; and it is in his name that I wish you and all your dear ones a very blessed and happy Christmas.

T.T.

CHURCH SERVICES for December

Anglican

4th. Bawdeswell 9.45 a.m. Family Service
 Foxley 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 11 a.m. Mattins

11th. Bawdeswell 8.30 Communion 11 a.m. Mattins
 Foxley 9.45 a.m. Family Service

18th. Bawdeswell 9.45 a.m. Family Service
 6.00 p.m. CRIB & CAROL SERVICE
 Foxley 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 11.00 a.m. CRIB & CAROL SERVICE

CHRISTMAS

Bawdeswell: 11.45 p.m. Midnight Eucharist
 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 10.45 a.m. Short Carols & Readings

Foxley: 9.45 a.m. Family Service.

Methodist

4th. Foxley: 6.30 p.m. R.C.Lee

11th. Bawdeswell 2.30 p.m. D.Hicks
 Foxley: 11 a.m. Rev.I.Claydon: Communion

18th. Foxley: 6.30 p.m. Rev.W.G.T.Westgate

25th. Bawdeswell 2.30 Local arrangement
 Foxley: 6.30 p.m. Local arrangement

Roman Catholic

4th. 11th. 18th. Mass RAF Swanton Morley 8.30 a.m.
 Dereham Catholic: 10.00 & 6.30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Midnight Mass 12 midnight
 RAF Swanton Morley 8.30 a.m.
 Dereham Catholic Church 10 a.m.
NO EVENING MASS

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BAWDESWELL & FOXLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The new W.I. got off to a good start on 14th. November, when it held its first Meeting after its formation.

The following were elected to the Committee:

Mrs. John Ames, Barwick House: President.

Mrs. Olive Curtis, Cursdon, Norwich Road: Secretary.

Mrs. Ronnie Winter, The Elms, Foxley: Treasurer.

Mrs. Hepburn-Wright, Mill House, Foxley, and Mrs. H. Loose, Bawdeswell Hall, Vice-Presidents.

and Mrs. Collett, Mrs. Parfitt and Mrs. Fitzjohn, Committee Members.

There are 34 paid-up Members, and further new ones will be welcome.

The Committee will meet at Mrs. Loose's house on Monday, 5th. December, at 7.30 p.m., and the next Meeting will be on the following Monday, December 12th., 7.45 p.m. at Foxley Village Hall.

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BALLET ???

Is anyone interested in the formation of a Ballet School, to take place in the Village, and to be run by the Guildhall School of Dancing ?

The plan would be to have two Classes, one for children aged 3-6 years, and the other for children from 7-12 or thereabouts. The Classes would run during School terms, the younger one from 3.45 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., and the older one from 4.30 p.m. to 5.15 p.m., and it is hoped that perhaps these might take place in the School. About 12 children would be needed for each Class, and the cost would be £4.00 per term.

If you are interested, please contact either of the following by not later than 14th. December: Helen Cook, Old Hall Farm House, Foxley; Tel. Bawdeswell 436, or Sarah Fitzjohn Church Farm House, Bawdeswell; Tel. Bawdeswell 288.

If there are enough interested persons, it may be possible to start after Christmas.

Dr.Earle Presentation

Some 300 or so people crowded into the North Elmham Institute on November 29th. for the presentation to Dr.Earle on his retirement after 20 years in the practice. A total of £755.60 had been collected in the villages in the Practice, and he was presented with two Parker-knowle chairs, a Transistor, a set of luggage and a trolley, a drawing-room Clock, and a cheque for £343.

Mr.Marsh, Chairman of the Elmham Institute, made the presentation, and Fred Nicholson, District Council Member, also spoke.

It was pointed out that Dr.Earle's retirement brought to an end a family link with the Practice of just on 100 years - 97 to be precise. In 1880, Dr.Rackman, who used a pony and trap, started the connection, followed in 1919 by Dr.Harrison, his son-in-law, who in his turn was joined in 1951 by his nephew, Dr.Earle.

We would like through these pages to wish Dr.Earle a very happy retirement, and to hope that he will long enjoy the rest he deserves.

WE ALSO WELCOME his successor, Dr.Andrew McNair, Marion his wife, and Alastair (3) and Kate (around 1), who, to our delight have come to live in Bawdeswell on the new Estate. We wonder how long it is since we actually had a resident doctor in these two villages, and we look forward to getting to know him and his family in the future.

BY THE WAY, we should have said above that the collections for Dr.Earle from these two villages were: Bawdeswell £70.31¹/₂p, and Foxley £34.50p.

TALKING OF HEALTH, our best wishes to Jack Buxton of Foxley, who is in Diss Ward, N.& N. recovering after a major operation. He is in a good deal of pain with his chest at the moment, but is full of courage and still enjoys a joke. We hope that he will have a speedy recovery and will soon be home again.

ADA FRANCES FROST, aged 79 years

We record with sorrow the death on 16th November of Ada Frost of Redtory Cottage, Foxley, who died in St. Michael's Hospital, Aylsham. She had lived in Foxley for many years, and was much loved in the community.

For some long time her health had been failing, and in many ways her death was a merciful relief.

Our sympathy goes to her family, and especially to Joan Mason, her daughter, who cared for her devotedly for so long. May she rest in peace.

SIDNEY ALEC BUGDALE aged 79 years.

Sidney Bugdale, a native of Bawdeswell, had left the village some eight years ago to live in North Elmham: he worked for many years for his uncle, Mr. Lake of Bylaugh, and he was very well liked in the village. His late wife, who died many years ago, was the well-loved District Nurse, who covered her very large area on a bicycle, and many of the older people still remember how she would often set out to ride miles in the darkness of the night to care for the sick.

Our sympathy to his adopted son, and to all his family.

LEONARD WILLIAM BUSH aged 68 years.

We also remember Leonard Bush of Bawdeswell, who was taken ill and died on 22nd November while staying with one of his daughters in Reading.

He came to the village about 13 years ago, from Holt, where many of his relatives still live, and was a well-known character in the area.

There is little doubt that the death of his wife, just on two years ago, gave him a great shock, from which he never really recovered, and he was in a real sense a very lonely man.

But we are thankful that he was with his daughter when he died, and we wish her, and all the other members of his family, our deepest sympathy.

THIS SATURDAY

The Over 60 Club is holding the Christmas Fair in the Village Hall, Bawdeswell, starting at 2 p.m. Your support will be very welcome.

The funds will be used for the New Year Party.

PRESENTATION

There is still a little time for contributions to be received for the Presentation to Mr. Stebbings. If you have not already contributed, but would like to so, please give your contribution as soon as possible to Bawdeswell or Foxley Post Offices, or to Whybrow's Stores, or to the Chairman of the Managers, Mr. Charles Steward.

THERE WILL BE A NATIVITY PLAY

in Bawdeswell School on Thursday, 29th. December, at 7 p.m., performed by local children, we understand, from Bawdeswell, Foxley and Reepham.

ONCE AGAIN

We hope to take the children of Bawdeswell Choir to the pantomime, as a little 'thank-you' for their efforts: any gifts towards the cost of this will be very welcome, and should be given to: the Churchwardens (Mr. Gurney or Mrs. Lloyd Lewis) the Treasurer, (Brian Winterbone) the PCC Secretary, John Ames of Barwick House, or the Director.

FOXLEY VILLAGE HALL

The Dance on 4th. November realised £15.31p.

THE JUBILEE INN FOXLEY

All being well, it is hoped to open the new pub on Tuesday, 13th. December, in the evening. The very best of luck to Derek and Judy as they start this great adventure.

FOXLEY FLOWERS

Mary Freeland will be making out a new list shortly for the Flower & Brass Rota, and will include everyone, hopefully, unless they let her know by Dec.15th, everyone, that is to say except for Mrs.Webster, senior, who is now giving up after doing them for no less than 28 years. Warmest thanks to everyone, and especially to Mrs. Webster. New names will also be very welcome.

COMING TO EITHER OF THE CAROL SERVICES (below) ???

If so, would you like to bring a small present for the Christmas Tree? If so, these will be taken on the next day to The Children's Home, Garfield House, Dereham, where, if last year is anything to go by, they will be most warmly welcomed.

We suggest sweets of any kind, crackers or tins of biscuits, but not, we think, second-hand toys.

CRIB AND CAROL SERVICES

These will take place:

in Foxley on Sunday, 18th. Dec. 11 a.m.

in Bawdeswell Sunday, 18th. December, 6.00 p.m.

COME ALONG AND BRING THE FAMILY

The next issue of the Reeve's Tale will be a bit late, and will come out some time in the first week in January, with a bit of luck !
