

THE REEVE'S TALE



Foxley

March 1877.

Vol. 2. No. 5

THE RECTOR WRITES

The brutal murder of a banker in a Cheshire village the other day, and the subsequent death by exposure of his assistant, left tied up on a lonely moor in Staffordshire, brings us right up against the terrible dilemma as to whether or not the death penalty for certain crimes ought to be re-introduced into our country.

There is, I think, little doubt that if this question was put to the vote in a referendum, the answer would be an emotional 'Yes', for there is much evidence that a majority of people, understandably sickened by such crimes as this, and also by the continuance of almost daily murders in Northern Ireland, feel that the ultimate deterrent is the only way to return to sanity. And it is possible that at some point in the future there might be such an outcry that government, of whichever party might feel compelled to bow before the storm.

So it is important that we should think out this real problem as unemotionally as possible, so that our own judgement may be guided, not by emotion, but by reason.

In the first place, I think we must face the fact that the command 'Thou shalt not kill' is irrelevant, and must not be used as an argument against the return of capital punishment. For, as it was understood by the Jews, and later by the Christians, it was understood to mean 'Thou shalt not murder', and both, for many Centuries, accepted the necessity for the Law to have ultimate authority in this matter.

Secondly, there is a real necessity for us to work out our priorities in regard to the treatment of criminals, specially in regard to murderers themselves. The first necessity, I would think, is to protect the citizen from him, for the Law has an overriding duty to the ordinary member of the public. Second, the Law must provide an effective deterrent, if this is possible, to prevent people from committing acts of murder. And last, so far as it is possible, the murderer must be given a chance to reform, if this is possible. This is very important, but less so than the other two.

There are many arguments on each side, arguments which carry much weight.

Those in favour of capital punishment argue that it now pays the bank robber, for example, to kill, so that he can avoid recognition; if he is caught, the penalty for the robbery and the killing are much the same: and this argument is a powerful one. They also say that as the threat of death has been removed, so armed robbery is likely to increase; and certainly since abolition this seems to be the case.

On the other hand, those against it argue that a return would be a return to the dark ages, and that the Judge who must pronounce the sentence is still a man, who will carry a great burden on his shoulders; and that it is unreasonable to ask him to bear such a load. They also point out that, no matter how careful the Law may be, there is always the possibility of error - that mistakes have been made in the past, and could be again.

It is difficult to decide indeed: the one thing we must avoid at all costs is any demand for the death penalty, motivated by any personal desire for revenge: for two wrongs never make a right.

Tim Townshend

FOXLEY INVALIDS

We have our best wishes to Mr. Morters, at present in the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital for observation, and Mr. Elsdon (Senior) now in the West Norwich, Bowthorpe Ward. We hope that they will soon both be better again, and back home.

Church Services for MarchAnglican

6th.	Bawdeswell	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		11.00 a.m.	Mattins
13th.	Foxley	9.45 a.m.	Family Service
		Bawdeswell	9.45 a.m.
	Foxley	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		11.00 a.m.	See Methodist Church
20th.	<u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u>		
	Bawdeswell	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
27th.	Foxley	11.00 a.m.	Special Service
		9.45 a.m.	Family Service
	Bawdeswell	9.45 a.m.	Family Service
	Foxley	9.45 a.m.	Family Service
		11.00 a.m.	Mattins

Each Wednesday in March:

Holy Communion: Bawdeswell; 10 a.m.

FOXLEYAnnual Parochial Church Meeting:
Thursday, 24th., 8.00 p.m. Rectory

Methodist

6th.	Foxley	6.30 p.m.	Mrs. Fisher
13th.	Bawdeswell	2.30 p.m.	D.W. Clarke
	Foxley	11.00 a.m.	Miss Theobald
20th.	Foxley	6.30 p.m.	L.A.
27th.	Bawdeswell	2.30 p.m.	Mrs. Fisher
	Foxley	11.00 a.m.	D. Fisher

ADVANCE NOTICEBawdeswell Church SPRING FAIR
Saturday, 23rd. April: Village Hall

GRACE ALEXANDRA POLL aged 74

We record with sorrow the death in Hospital of Grace Poll of Folland Court, following complications which had set in after a major operation.

Grace was a genuine cockney - born within the sound of Bow Bells - with so much of the cockney warmth and kindness. She and Albert had enjoyed 49 years of married life, never separated except during her many spells in hospital, and they had looked forward to their golden wedding this coming September.

During the war, when she worked in the Ambulance Service through the London blitz she was the victim of a land-mine explosion, which left her with considerable deafness, and with spinal injury, which left her with a legacy of pain from which she never fully escaped. But in spite of this she was a cheerful and uncomplaining person, who would do anything for anyone. She was very artistic, and especially was expert in shell pictures and ornaments; many of the shells she had brought back with her from the two periods of their lives which she and her husband spent in Australia.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Albert, her husband, to her son Maurice and devoted daughter-in-law, and to her two grandchildren, and also to the larger 'family' of friends and neighbours in Folland Court.

But we rejoice for her, that she is now free from all pain and suffering, and fully alive within the safe keeping of God.

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FOLLAND COURT SERVICES

Monday, 7th. March. 10 a.m. Hymns & Readings

Monday, 28th. March 10 a.m. Holy Communion

PLAY GROUP

If the faces of the children are anything to go by, the new Play Group is a success, and how! On our recent visit, they all looked brimful of happiness, and were having a wonderful time rushing around, playing with the many and varied toys which kind people have provided to keep them amused - and incidentally, the organisers ask us to thank all those who responded so splendidly to our appeal in the January issue of The Reeve's Tale.

The particular 'ploy' that morning was the making of rather superior 'mud pies' out of a fearsome-looking mixture of flour and paint, bright red and sticky and gooey; but we were assured that it would eventually come off their hands and clothes. Some were building with enormous polystyrene bricks, light enough not to hurt if thrown at each other, and some were having a great time inside an enormous cardboard box; and the three helpers present looked remarkably calm and collected in spite of the chaos around them.

We are told that there are still a few vacancies, especially on Wednesdays, so if any Mum is interested, please get in touch either with Sandra Steward, the Organiser, of Church View, Bawdeswell, or with Sarah Fitzjohn, at Church Farm.

The last day of this 'Term' - Thursday, 31st. March, will be an Open Morning, and will be celebrated with an Easter Bonnet Parade: the Organisers - and the children - would be delighted to see anyone who cares to look in for a cup of coffee during the morning.

We strongly recommend the Play Group; it is immensely helpful to the children to learn to play with each other, and to overcome in this way the shyness which can make the start of school life such a misery, no matter how good the school.

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FOXLEY VILLAGE HALL

Two March Dances:

Saturday 5th.

BLUE HORIZON

Saturday, 12th.(Rock & Roll Dance)

MEMPHIS INDEX

Entrance £1.00 Bar.

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THAT PANTOMIME !

The children of Bawdeswell Choir would like to thank all those who gave so generously to make it possible for them to go to the Pantomime to see Dick Whittington and his Fabulous Cat; and also those who provided the transport to get them there.

They all seem to have enjoyed themselves tremendously, and came home tired out but contented. Some of the drivers were tired too, so much so that one failed to look carefully in the back of the car, and put it away in the garage, leaving a small boy peacefully asleep in the back !

Fortunately he was subsequently discovered, when it was realised that his bed was empty, and no harm was done! The donations, incidentally, exactly equalled the cost, to the nearest penny.

WE ARE SORRY that Mrs.Meale (Senior) of Foxley is not too well at the moment, and is in bed with a slight infection. We very much hope that she will soon be better.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

LEAH MOTHERLY SERVICE

As announced on page 4 the Mothering Sunday Service, on 20th. March will take place in Foxley at 9.45 a.m., and will be a Special Service, and not a Communion Service: we hope that all the children and parents will come along, and that the children will be able to give their parents gifts of wild flowers.

The Bawdeswell Service at 11 a.m. will also be a Special Service, and again we look forward to seeing parents and children all together, to join with us in thanking God for our homes.

REEVE'S TALE

We are very grateful to those who have so generously made donations towards the cost of the Reeve's Tale.

So far something over £35 has been given, which is very good for this early in the year. THANK YOU.

WE WELCOME a new neighbour, the Reverend Michael Pickering, who will be instituted on March 1st., as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Foulsham. He has been working in Gaywood Parish in King's Lynn, and we are delighted to have him in our Deanery:

VERY ADVANCED NOTICE

We understand that plans are well in hand for Celebrations in the two Villages on Tuesday, 7th. June - Jubilee Day: it is hoped, weather permitting, to have Inter-Village Sports and a Football Match, and separate entertainments in Bawdeswell & Foxley in the evening. We also hope that it may be possible to have a United Open Air Service on Sunday 5th., for both villages and all Churches.
