



THE REEVE'S
TALE

December 1978

Vol. 3, No. 11.

THE RECTOR WRITES

"Christmas is not what it was when I was young " - so say the older people, and they are quite right, for Christmas, while holding on to old customs, is always changing a bit. Many of the old traditions go way back, and we've forgotten why we keep them up. Mistletoe, for example, was the pagan protection against lightening, mince pies were made in memory of the Wise Men and their spices; the coins in the pudding go back far beyond Christian times, the Crib was first used by St. Francis who wanted to remind people of the simplicity of the first Christmas.

The Puritans in 1652 tried to abolish Christmas by Act of Parliament, an American first thought up Father Christmas and his reindeer; the first Christmas Card appeared about 150 years ago, and it was not until Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria brought the idea from Germany that we had the first Christmas Tree.

And so it goes on : nowadays we tend to have much of our Festivities before Christmas with Carol Services, School Parties and the like, whereas earlier on Christmas Day started the festivities, which then went on for 12 days - the Twelve Days of Christmas.

So indeed Christmas is not what it was, for its always changing.

But essentially its the same, for whatever our customs the underlying truth is constant, namely that 'love came down at Christmas', and although the child of Bethlehem was rejected from the outset, for there was no room for him in the Inn, nor was there or is there in the selfish hearts of so many, yet his coming was the start of a process whereby in every generation since people have found through him the power to live less selfishly and more lovingly.

So I wish you all a Merry Christmas - yes, merry indeed, but also a Christmas marked by unselfishness, gentleness and kindness: then it will truly be 'merry'.

Tim Townshend.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Anglican Canon Tim Townshend: Foxley Rectory. Tel. 397

- 3rd. Bawdeswell: 9.45 a.m. Family Service
Foxley: Holy Communion 8.30 am. Mattins 11 a.m.
- 10th. Bawdeswell: Holy Communion 8.30 a.m. Mattins 11 a.m.
Foxley: 9.45 a.m. Family Service
- 17th. Bawdeswell: 9.45 am. Family Service.
6.00 p.m. CRIB & CAROL SERVICE
Foxley: 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 11 am. see Methodists
- 24th. Bawdeswell: 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion. NO Mattins
Foxley: 11.00 a.m. CRIB & CAROL SERVICE

CHRISTMAS DAY

- Bawdeswell: 11.45 P.M. (Eve) MIDNIGHT SERVICE
8.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.45 a.m. Carols & Readings .
Foxley: 9.45 a.m. Family Service;
(Communion & Christmas Hymns & Carols)
- 31st. Bawdeswell: 9.45 a.m. Family Service
Foxley: 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 11 a.m. Mattins

FOLLAND COURT : Dec. 4th. Bible Study 10 a.m.
De .18th. Holy Communion. 10 a.m.

Methodist Church: Rev. Ivor Claydon, 31, Trinity Close, Dereham.
Tel. (9) 5528.

- 3rd. Bawdeswell: 2.30 p.m. Rev. Ivor Claydon
Foxley: 2.30 Family Service
- 10th. Foxley: 6.30 p.m. G. Brown.
- 17th. Bawdeswell: 2.30 p.m. Mrs. Raines
Foxley: 11 a.m. Rev. N. Povey.
- 24th. Foxley. Local arrangements
- 31st. Bawdeswell. 2.30 p.m. P. D. Coleman
Foxley: Local arrangements.

Roman Catholic: Fr. Peter Marsh; Catholic House, 35, London
Road, East Dereham. Tel: (9) 4066

Mass each Sunday: RAF Swanton Morley 9.00 a.m.
Dereham Catholic Church 10.30 & 6.30.

CHRISTMAS DAY Midnight Mass 12 midnight (Carols from 11.30 p.m.)
RAF Swanton Morley 9.00 a.m.
Dereham Catholic Church; 10.30 a.m.
NO EVENING MASS

BAWDESWELL & FOXLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Unfortunately there was a rather poor attendance at the Annual General Meeting, but for all those who were present Mrs. Lilwall gave a wonderful demonstration of Christmas arrangements. What she can do with twigs, leaves, a piece of tree bark a cake board and a packet of Tide has to be seen to be believed.

The Elections took place, and we express our gratitude to Mr. & Mrs. Winterbone for acting as Tellers; and we extend a warm welcome to our new President, Mrs. Hepburn Wright.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at Mill House, Foxley, on Monday, 4th. December, at 7.30 p.m., and the Christmas Party will be held in Foxley Village Hall on Monday, 11th. Dec. at 7.45.

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POPPY APPEAL: FOXLEY.

Congratulations to Janice Wright who collected £15.52 for the Appeal: this, together with a donation and a collection from the Church brought the Foxley share of the Foulsham District collection to £31.52. The total of the District collection was £338.07.

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THE FOOTBALL CLUB

The '100' Club Winner with ticket No.77 was Mr. Webster. There will be a Disco on 8th. December.

CHRISTMAS DANCE to "GOOD COMPANY"

Friday, 22nd. December: 8 p.m. to midnight.

BAR : GRAND DRAW: Tickets for Admission £1.00.

BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL

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Also Dance & Draw on December 1st.

THE FRIENDS OF BAWDESWELL SCHOOL

The 'Friends' got off to a terrific start with the first of their ventures, the Bonfire Party, on 3rd November: there were no less than 23 Guys entered for the Competition, and Mrs. Amiss had the almost impossible task of judging which should have the place of honour on top of the fire. In the end she chose two joint winners, the 'Whybrows' entry tying with that from Susan de Haviland.

Somewhere around 150 to 200 people turned up, and enjoyed the fire and the fireworks, and we are asked to thank all who brought or sent them.

Soup, apples and baked spuds were on the menu, a collection for the funds of £10.50 was taken, and no one was hurt: in fact it was a roaring success, and congratulations to all concerned.

There will be a Nativity Play in the School on Wednesday, 13th December, and the Children will have their Party on the last Wednesday of Term, 20th.

As announced in the last issue of Reeve's Tale, there will be a School Adults Party on Friday, 15th December, which will take place in the School from 8 p.m. to midnight. Numbers will be limited to 150, and tickets can be obtained from the Committee or at the School. These cost £1.00, and it will be a matter of 'first come, first served': so get them while they are still available.

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SINCE THE LAST ISSUE, Billy Mann has had to return to Hospital, and is once again in Colney Ward in the Norfolk and Norwich, cheerful and uncomplaining as ever, but far from well.

Mr. Buck of Paradise Road, Bawdeswell, is also in Hospital, and we hope that he will soon be better.

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preached in our little chapel and also came to our house for tea, and among my earliest memories those who visited us included George Edwards (later a Member of Parliament and Sir George), and the Reverend Horne, father of the late Kenneth Horne.

My school days were uneventful: I attended the village school from the age of four until fourteen and had the same three teachers all the time. The children were all put together dull and bright: the bright ones got on and the dull ones were simply left behind: most of the boys leaving school went to work on the farms and the girls went into 'Service'. Life was very hard for many people in those days and even in Norfolk children were often hungry, and in the winter very, very cold. We should be thankful that it is not so to-day. I had a very happy and sheltered childhood, although I was firmly brought up by my parents: but whatever they said they meant, and they never broke their word.

The things that gave me most pleasure were the simplest: gathering the first snowdrops in the Spring, and after these violets and primroses. Cowslips grew profusely in the meadows and we would gather great armfuls to bring home. We listened for the first Cuckoo and watched for the first Swallow, telling us that summer was on its way. The girls skipped, ran hoops played hop-scotch and Five Stones, which really was a game of skill.

I was by no means a perfect child; I often provoked my brothers and sisters who were very patient with me.

In the great Norfolk flood in August 1912 our village escaped the worst of the flooding but many outlying places were completely cut off. It rained continuously for two days, and my father, though he tried very hard, could not deliver his letters. A fellow postman and a friend of my father's was drowned while trying to get to Field Dalling from Holt: a bridge over what was normally a small stream collapsed and he and his horse were swallowed up. I remember thinking 'suppose it had been my father, it could have been': in those days a tragedy like this affected the whole district: I knew nothing of road accidents, war or violence as these things hadn't touched me, and the death of a family friend affected me much.

Two years later came the first world war and my childhood ended, but my happy memories will always remain.