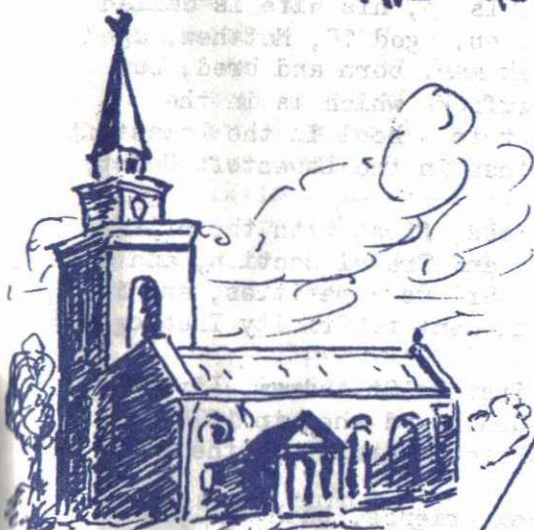


# THE REEVE'S TALE



St. Andrew's  
Barnes

January 1980



St. Thomas', Foston

1980

## THE RECTOR WRITES

It gives me the greatest pleasure in this, the last Number of The Reeve's Tale for the time being, to be able to write about my successor, who will be coming here in April as Priest in-Charge of Bawdeswell and Foxley, and Local Radio Officer for the Norfolk Churches on the new Radio Norfolk, which is due to start during this year.

His name is Robin Brookes, his age is 33, his wife is called Val, and the three children are Simon, aged 10, Matthew, aged 9, and Lisa aged 4: he is a Suffolk man, born and bred, but actually from that little bit of Suffolk which is in the Norwich Diocese, Lowestoft. He went to school in the Lowestoft County Primary School there, and then in the Lowestoft County Grammar School.

From 1963 to 1972 he had secular jobs, first with the British Council in London, in the Registry and Travel Section, and then with British European Airways, in various capacities, and in 1972 he decided to be Ordained, and went to Trinity Theological College in Bristol.

After Ordination in 1975 he went first to St. Andrew, Livesley, in the Northern Diocese of Blackburn, and then in 1978 as a Curate to his present Parish, St. Peter, Burnley in the same Diocese.

He has had a great deal of Radio experience, both in the Bristol Diocese, and also where he now is, and I am sure that he will have a great deal to offer in this part of his work. In addition to that, I am sure, from what I have seen of him, that he will very much enjoy working in a country setting, and that he will be a good and caring Parish Priest: by the same token, I am sure that the people of these Parishes will make him and Val and the children feel really welcome.

His address at present is: 239, Red Lees Road, CLIVIGER, Burnley, BB10 4RF.

He tells me that he very much looks forward to carrying on with The Reeve's Tale, but I am sure that you will give him a little time to find his feet before he produces his first issue.

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## THE REEVE'S TALE

From time to time people ask me why we call our little Community Magazine 'The Reeve's Tale'; and I thought that in this, the last number which I shall edit, it might be worth reminding ourselves of the reason, and indeed letting newer residents know.

The point was that we had to call it something, and no doubt we could have simply called it something like 'The Community Magazine of Bawdeswell & Foxley', which would have been accurate but pretty dull: but then, thinking about its long history, we remembered that of course Bawdeswell was the home of the Reeve, or 'Shire-Reeve' one of the group of Pilgrims travelling to Canterbury to go to the shrine of Thomas a Becket, all of whom were immortalised by Geoffrey Chaucer in his great narrative poem, the Canterbury Tales. He picked out a number of the pilgrims, The Knight, the Prioress, the Clerk of Oxenford, the Doctor of Phisyk, and Reeve and others, and made each tell a story to pass away the time.

He introduces each and says a bit about them: of the Reeve he says:

"Of Northfolk was this Reeve of which I tell,  
Beside a town men clepen (call) Baldeswell"

and he says:

"His wongyng (house) was ful faire upon a heeth"

And in his turn he told a somewhat bawdy tale about a 'millere' called Symekyn, 'his wyf', y-commen of noble kin' and his beautiful daughter or 'Doghter', and also the two poure clerkes, John and Aleyn.

Modesty forbids that I should go on with the Tale, but if anyone has the patience to decipher the old English in which it is written, they would find it delightful and very worthwhile. I was delighted to be given a copy of it in the original language by two of our Parishionners, and have had an amusing hour refreshing my memory.

So anyhow, that's why 'The Reeve's Tale' is named as it is, linking us back to about 1380, when Chaucer clearly knew 'BALDES WELL'.

Tim Townshend

SERVICES FOR January 13th. to Easter Day

As there will not be another issue of The Reeve's Tale until after Robin Brookes has arrived, we print below the list of Services which have been arranged to cover the next 13 Sundays; these are rather fewer than normally. because of the shortage of Clergy in the Deanery, partly through sickness, and partly retirement, and in part because there are very many less clergy available than in former years.

Anglican

Jan. 13th.	Bawdeswell	9.45 a.m.	Family Service
	Foxley:	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion: 11 (Methodists)
20th.	Bawdeswell:	8.30 am.	Holy Communion: 11 am. Mattins
	Foxley:	9.45 a.m.	Family Service
27th.	Bawdeswell:	9.45 a.m.	Family Service
	Foxley:	8.30 am.	Holy Communion. 11 am. Mattins
Feb. 3rd.	Bawdeswell:	11 a.m.	Mattins
	Foxley:	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
10th.	Bawdeswell:	9.45 a.m.	Family Service
	Foxley:		No Service
17th.	Bawdeswell:	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	Foxley:	11 a.m.	Mattins
24th.	Bawdeswell:	9.45 a.m.	Family Service
	Foxley:		No Service
March 2nd.	Bawdeswell:	11 a.m.	Mattins
	Foxley:	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
9th.	Bawdeswell:	9.45 a.m.	Family Service
	Foxley:		No Service
16th.	Bawdeswell:	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	Foxley:	11 a.m.	Mattins
23rd.	Bawdeswell:	9.45 a.m.	Family Service
	Foxley:		No Service
30th.			<u>PALM SUNDAY</u>
	Bawdeswell:	11 a.m.	Mattins: (Archdeacon of Norwich)
	Foxley:	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (Rev. A. Hawes)
April 6th.			<u>EASTER DAY</u>
			BAWDESWELL (United Service for both Parishes) <u>9.30 am.</u> (Note time)
			<u>Family Service: Rev. Arthur Hawes.</u>

For Services on April 13th. & 20th. Please see Notice Boards later.

Methodist Church :Rev.Ivor Claydon.Tel.Dereham (9)5528

January 13th. Bawdeswell: 2.30 Mr.Middleton  
Foxley: 11 a.m. Miss Theobald  
20th. Foxley: 6.30 p.m. Mr.Talbot  
27th. Bawdeswell 2.30. Rev.W.G.T.Westgate.  
Foxley: 11 a.m. Mr.Brown.  
February 3rd. Foxley: 6.30 p.m. Ruth Fisher  
10th. Bawdeswell 2.30 p.m. P.D.Coleman  
Foxley: 11 a.m. Rev.I.Claydon  
17th. Foxley: 6.30 p.m. D.Fisher  
24th. Bawdeswell: 2.30 p.m. Rev.I.Claydon  
Foxley: 11 a.m. L.A.  
March 2nd. Foxley: 6.30 p.m. Mr.Middleton  
9th. Bawdeswell 2.30 p.m. Mr.Talbot  
Foxley: 11 a.m. Mr.Lee  
16th. Foxley: 6.30 p.m. P.D.Coleman  
23rd. Bawdeswell: 2.30 p.m. Mr.Brown  
Foxley: 11 a.m. Rev.W.G.T.Westgate  
30th. Foxley: 6.30 p.m. Rev.I.Claydon

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

Mass each Sunday: RAF.Swanton Morley 9 a.m.  
Dereham Catholic Church 10.30 & 6.30 .

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FOLLAND COURT

January 14th. Bible Study 10 a.m.  
21st. Holy Communion 10 a.m.

Thereafter the twice-monthly Services will be discontinued until the new Rector has arrived; but I am very sure that he will wish to start them again as soon as possible.

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH & VESTRY MEETINGS

Foxley:Thursday,24th.January: 8 p.m. in Mr.Chase's House.  
Bawdeswell: Tuesday, 19th. January: 7.30 p.m. in the Church.

KEEP FIT

Mrs. Mary Harrison of Dereham is trying to form a 'Keep Fit' Class in Bawdeswell, and in fact the first of these will be taking place on the day I type this, Thursday, 10th. January, so this notice will appear too late to be of much use: however, these classes will take place in Bawdeswell School at 7.30 p.m., and anyone who wishes for information about them might like to telephone Mrs. Harrison, Dereham (9) 4803. We apologise to Mrs. Harrison for our late issue, but this was unavoidable, as we had to wait until it was possible to arrange for the Services for the next few months, and this took a little time.

BAWDESWELL & FOXLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The last Meeting for 1979 was our Christmas Party which was much enjoyed both by our own members and also by a large number of visitors from other Institutes. Our thanks must go to Mr. George Kemp who lent the lovely decorations, and also to Mr. Ray Loose who made the Hall look so festive: also to Mrs. Lilwall whose delightful flower arrangements made the tables look so attractive.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members both old and new a very Happy New Year, and to hope that all will find the programme for 1980 both interesting and enjoyable.

POPPY DAY COLLECTION

The total collected for Bawdeswell amounted to £40.98, plus £5 for the creath, making a grand total of £45.98. Our warmest thanks to the Collectors, and to those who gave.

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CONGRATULATIONS

to the group of young people from Foxley who went Carol Singing just before Christmas: they collected the splendid sum of £24, which they decided to share between 'Help the Aged' and the Tear Fund for children in Cambodia. The latter part of their singing was a bit fluffy, because of all the mince-pies they were given on their rounds!

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THE CHRISTMAS TREE GIFTS

I wish all those who brought such a great number of gifts for the Christmas Trees in Bawdeswell & Foxley Churches at the Carol Services could have been with me on the morning of Christmas Eve, when I took them off to Garfield House, the Children's Home in Dereham.

The face of the little boy with glasses - a little boy deserted by his family - glowing with excitement as he danced about on the doorstep crying out "Are these for me - are these for me?" would have been more than adequate as a reward for the trouble which so many of you took.

Of course that little boy would be having a happy Christmas Day, not just because of your gifts, but because of the love and real care poured out towards him by the wonderful people like the wardens and workers in children's homes, who dedicate their lives in the service of the deprived, and who do so with very inadequate financial reward, for in terms of the value which our topsy-turvey society puts on things, their work is 'non-productive'.

As a Nation we will never make any headway until we learn to revalue everything we have, and stop worshipping the gods of material prosperity and 'differentials'.

It is 'differentials' that really cause the trouble, and we seem to have got ourselves into a situation from which we cannot escape; for the argument behind them is that one person is worth more than another, either because he is more highly skilled or because his work contributes more materially to the wealth of the country: in fact the way it works out is too often that it is the person with the greatest power to disrupt the country who will get the highest pay, simply because he has more industrial muscle.

But look at it this way: who is really of more true 'value'; the Managing Director, the skilled workman, the unskilled one, the nurse in a home for the mentally handicapped, the policeman on his beat, the old age pensioner, the school teacher or the school cleaner?

I suppose that the answer is that every one of them is of equal value, and that the first priority of the nation should be to see that each has sufficient, not just for bare existence,

but for a reasonable degree of comfort, and a reasonable share of the good things which modern technology has produced. It is probably true also that those who have special responsibility should have that responsibility recognised in a material form, and in the categories mentioned above I would want the nurse in the mental home given particular recognition; but behind any differences in reward I would hope to see the principle made clear that no one group of people should benefit at the expense of anyone else.

This, I know, sounds like an impossible dream, but for the sake of the country I hope it is not; for the alternative is pretty dreadful to contemplate: for if we go on in our present selfish way the day will come when our whole economy will collapse as selfishness takes over, and then we will be taken over by the extremists either of the Right or the Left, both of which groups are waiting there in the background, and force will achieve the stability which unselfishness could have achieved if only it had been tried out.

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FOXLEY FLOWERS

Mary Freeland asks us to thank all those who once again did the flowers and brasses during the last year: the time has now come for a new list to be prepared, and she would be very glad if as many as possible could continue to help: if anyone should feel that they really cannot continue, she would be grateful if they could let her know at the earliest possible moment, so that she can get the new rota for 1980 completed.

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WE ARE SORRY TO SAY that Mr. Bing, of Oak Cottage, Dereham Road, Bawdeswell, is very ill: over the last years, since he had a massive operation, he has shown a degree of real courage and cheerfulness, and in fact has been living on this courage, wonderfully supported by his wife. Fortunately he does not seem to be in much pain, and we pray that this will continue to the end.

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