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at Surgery.

Child Welfare Clinics: 2nd and 4th Tues. in the month.
2.00 - 4.00 p.m. at Gardiner Memorial Hall.

"OUT OF REACH"

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Issue No.27

November 1978.

EDITORIAL

Some of you may have noticed that, in an effort to soften the trauma of losing both my children to school, I have recently spent some time perched precariously on a ladder or sitting on the pavement outside our house. I have found this to be a most sociable pastime. Amongst those who stopped to chat was Mrs. Gray, who with a daughter and son, moved into No. 1, Ditchfield a couple of months ago. As you will see from Mrs. Gray's ready contribution below, I am no longer under the illusion that a mention in The magazine is a necessary welcome to Reach!

I hope everyone enjoyed their half-term holiday. Wales was as peaceful and lush as ever and, with that sun and warmth, what more could be desired.

J.J.

We extend sympathy to Mrs. Rule's family on their recent bereavement.

My heart is light,
The clouds are gone.
That hung above my head.
I'm feeling so free,
Now I can see,
The path that lies ahead.
So straight and true,
Now I've come to,
My home, my goal,
In Reach.
For I have found,
My fellow friends,
My neighbours and children too,
Have welcomed me,
Made me feel,
At home with all of you.
So thank you all residents of Reach.
This is all I can say,
Bless you for the care free way
I look forward to every day.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

It now seems that our efforts have been rewarded in that Reach came 4th in it's Group, gaining a total of 70 out of 100 points in the Best Kept Village Competition.

As you are probably aware, Mr. Dudley's planning application has been approved taking into account the comments registered by the Parish Council. Mr. Warrington's application for conversion of a barn to dwelling has also been approved.

Due to recent incidents involving large lorries at the Swan Corner, we have written to the County Surveyor asking if something can be done to remedy the situation, i.e. endeavour to stop long heavy vehicles using the Village as a through road.

FROM THE VICAR

We print first a Pastoral Letter from the two Archbishops, which was read from every pulpit of the Church of England on Sunday 8th October:-

The Archbishop of York and I are taking this opportunity of writing directly to you about the ordained ministry.

We wish to share with you our sense of thankfulness for the signs of renewed life in many parishes in our Church. We believe that these are encouraging days in which the People of God are recovering confidence in their mission and ministry.

If we are to maintain and increase this momentum, our need for a dedicated, well-qualified and full-time ordained ministry will be even greater than in the past.

The House of Bishops and the General Synod have recently given most careful consideration to this subject. We are united in welcoming experiments in new forms of ministry, in taking full advantage of them, and preparing men for them. At the same time we are totally convinced that the full-time ordained ministry must be maintained at least at its present size. In recent years we have been ordaining too few. This means that we now need to increase the number of men ordained each year by at least half as many again. In 1977 three hundred and one new deacons were ordained; we wish to see this figure steadily rise to between four hundred and four hundred and fifty a year.

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FROM THE VICAR contd.....

To train and provide for them will make great demands on our financial resources. It will also make greater demands on our spiritual resources, for vocations to the ordained ministry rise out of a Church which has a lively understanding of and commitment to the Gospel.

We therefore ask you:

1. to make sure that the vocation to the ordained ministry is the subject of regular teaching and prayer;
2. to accept responsibility for encouraging and, where necessary, supporting in practical ways any who become aware of a vocation to the ministry;
3. to think about the work of the ordained minister in your parish and to discuss ways in which his ministry may be more effectively used;
4. to ask yourself what form your own service should take as a member of Christ's body and an instrument of God's loving purpose for the world.

May God bless you in His work and make you a blessing to others.

DONALD CANTUAR:
STUART EBOR:

Lambeth Palace, London,
Bishopthorpe, York

October, 1978

There are just two brief comments which might be made at this point. First, may I ask you to read this letter again as a document primarily concerned with yourself and your own parish, not someone or somewhere else. Practically every calling to the priesthood comes as a surprise to the person concerned. Why choose men? There are boys and young men even in our two small parishes who might well be wanted as priests. Secondly, remember how serious the man-power situation really is. The fact that an average of only 300 new deacons are being ordained each year means that the total allocation to this small diocese, with its low population, is precisely two per year. Which, to bring the matter down to ourselves, means that the day in which the two villages of Bulbeck and Prior will have a priest of their own are numbered. Indeed, it is only through the accident that both their present priests are also involved in diocesan work in addition to their parish responsibilities that they possess one each at the moment. We have lived at ease far too long.

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FROM THE VICAR contd.....

Beyond this a number of disconnected items need mention. First, September has become memorable for two delightful occasions, both arranged in aid of our Porch Restoration Fund. The recital for flute and organ by Wendy Fountain and Martin Pacey was a moment of pure pleasure which we hope will be repeated. Two days later a large number of parishioners enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Cazenove for a Wine and Cheese Party in their new and newly restored home; and we are grateful indeed for both these generous gestures. The recital realised £25.25 and the party the extraordinary sum of £152.10. Alas, we are still waiting for the Department of the Environment to make a decision about giving us a grant. The sponsored cycle ride to Maldon fixed for October 14th has had to be postponed till the Spring.

Remembrance Sunday falls on November 12th. There will be the usual service in St. Mary's at 10.50 a.m., at which Mr. John Macdonald will give a short address; and there will be the usual Memorial Service on the Green at Reach, at 10.55 a.m., which on this occasion will be followed by Matins. The celebration on this Sunday will be at 8.00 a.m.

May I remind you that we are attempting a Carol Service of our own on Thursday 21st December at 7.00 p.m. in St. Mary's. We hope to make this an act of worship for the whole parish, and representatives of the Baptist, United Reformed and Roman Catholic Communities, as well as members of the School, have been invited to read lessons.

Eight days later, on Friday December 29th we hope to round off the year, more or less, with a dance for the two villages of Swaffham Prior and Reach in the Reach Village Centre. It will be an Ancient and Modern affair, like the hymn book, for Hims and Hers of all ages and outlooks at 8.00 p.m. Tickets will be available through the usual channels.

J.K.B.

From the Registers:

Burial:

11th October: Agnes Laura Rule, 1 Fairgreen, Aged 73

Baptisms:

15th October: Marisa Zoe, daughter of David John and Gillian Ann Stearn, 32, Swaffham Road.

15th October: Rachel Alexandra, daughter of Harvey Robert and Patricia Anne Harrison, Tilden House.

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FROM THE CHURCHES

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1st ALL SAINTS DAY

7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

5th TRINITY XXIV

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)

9.30 a.m. Matins & Eucharist (St. Mary's)

6.30 p.m. Evensong (Reach)

12th TRINITY XXV - Remembrance Sunday

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)

10.50 a.m. Memorial Service (St. Mary's)

10.55 a.m. Memorial Service (Reach Green)

6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)

19th & 26th TRINITY XXVI & NEXT before ADVENT

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)

11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)

6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)

30th ST. ANDREW

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)

3rd December

6.30 p.m. Deanery Carol Service - Soham Church.

REACH CONSERVATIVES

Reach Branch Conservatives would be pleased to receive gifts of wine, savoury items, vegetables etc., for their stall at BURWELL FAIR on November 18th, 1978.

Please leave any items at Delver House, or Fitzroy Farm, or telephone 742039 to arrange collection by Friday, 17th November.

Help on the stall would be welcomed.

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"WHY DID THEY LIVE AT REACH?"
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Most of us know something of the long and varied history of the hamlet of Reach, since stone age man has lived here. The archaeological finds in the area, from bronze axes to Roman pottery show that it was a place of importance, from the earliest times, probably even more so than today. Why did so many of these ancient people live here?

The clue is in the fossils found in the Fenland soil. Their interesting story continues up to modern times. In fact too they can be said to have played a vital part in making British Agriculture the most productive per man hour in the world today.

Fossil coprolites once formed an almost continuous layer below the soils of Reach and Burwell Fens. This showed the geologists that in ancient times vast herds of deer and game grazed the edge of the marsh and the grassy downs of the heath above it. They were probably similar to the Lechiwe (Waterbuck) which even today are found on the swamp margins of Central Africa. The writer once saw grazing on a similar flood plain a herd of these $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. It must have been just like that many centuries ago on the fenland edges of Reach.

This was why primitive man set up his hunting and fishing camps on what is now called Church Hill. Then it was higher and probably high enough up to avoid the swarms of mosquitos and other insects that lived in and around swamps. Until recently the Fen Mosquito was a virulent carrier of the Ague (Malaria). One of the other many difficulties of life in those times was food in the hard and frosty winters. Up to the Middle Ages most domestic cattle were killed off and salted down due to lack of winter feed. The "salt" roads from Maldon in Essex and Thornham in Norfolk met on the heathland behind and beyond Reach. But in the times previous to recorded history the Fen was an abundant source of winter food. Game, fish, geese and ducks were there in unlimited thousands for the taking. There was turf and wood for fuel and for smoking fish and fowl, with reed for thatch, and later stone from the Reach quarries for houses. The traders from the East sailed up the waterways with goods to exchange for

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"WHY DID THEY LIVE AT REACH?" contd.
 smoked meat and fish, hides, furs, flint, wool and grain.

As the ancient Britons changed from hunters and collectors to settled farmers the site of Reach had another advantage. The short grass chalk downland of the Heath above was ideal for ox-drawn wooden ploughs. The ground did not have to be cleared and stumped of huge forest trees as most of Britain did. When the small Celtic fields here lost their fertility because of monoculture or over-use, there was no problem of forest regrowth. A few years of bushy regeneration, nothing axe, hoe and fire could not quickly deal with and the bush fallowed land was productive again. In the waste and the Fen the game continued to thrive. The Kings and Queens of England came to the area to hunt, up to the time of James I (of England and Scotland). The Royal family were often recorded as hunting at Fordham and from the Palace at Newmarket. Probably Charles II started the racing on the Heath when the deer became "a bit thin on the ground". One wonders how many Kings and Queens came to or looked on Reach from the Heath?

In early Victorian times history took a turn and unexpected twist. The Fens were being drained and the great Enclosure Acts enforced. The hunters and wildfowlers were almost no more, or reduced to digging peat from the drying meres. The Agricultural Revolution was well under way. Not enough natural manure was available. In 1827 alone, 40,000 tons of bones had to be imported into U.K. for use as phosphate fertilizer. Fortunes were made from seabird and bat guano brought from overseas for British farms.

As a result of the brilliant agricultural experiments of Lawes and Gilbert in East Anglia, there sprang up chemical fertilizer companies to treat bones with sulphuric acid to make quicker acting and better Super-phosphate Manures. Millers and corn merchants, such as Birds, Packards, Prentices and Fisons had the plant to grind the bones. They became manufacturers and distributors of the new fertilizers.

contd.

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"WHY DID THEY LIVE AT REACH?" contd.

It was not long before it was discovered that in Cambridgeshire among the strata there were large beds, between the chalk, the gault-clay and the greensand, of phosphatic nodules, coprolites. These were far superior to bones as a raw material for making fertilizers. In Reach and Burwell these were near the surface and proximate to the water transport on the Lodes. From the 1850's the area saw a coprolite mining rush, which had much in common with gold rushes elsewhere. Maps of the time show that most of Reach, Burwell and Swaffham Prior Fens were dug over. The millers came in because they had the skill to grind the coprolites and had the mills to hand. Reach had three or four such mills then, to do just this. The sites are known (e.g. one near Spring Hall Farm) and they are marked on the Ordnance Survey maps of the time. The coprolite rush was over soon after the 1880's but the foundations of the vast agricultural chemical industry of today had been laid. This layer of fossilised animal remains and manure from the vast herds of deer and game, which had grazed the Fen edges in prehistoric times had recycled into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with explosive force.

From it came the firm of Fisons Ltd., which today is world wide, selling and manufacturing not only fertilizers but also pest control materials for both insects and weeds, along with pharmaceutical products and laboratory equipment in its very varied and large range of chemical products. Few will realise that from this same small group of millers and local pharmacist, which built a fertilizer factory and powder factory at Stowmarket, came the world wide giant combine of I.C.I. Limited. The Stowmarket factory survives today as a large paint factory. The local Burwell enterprise in Factory Road is sadly declined, the railway is gone and barges cease to ply the Lodes. One and all today through TV know of Silthane paints and Dulux dogs, but how many in Reach have seen a coprolite, let alone heard of the rush to mine them in Reach and Burwell Fens? Times change.

H.B.C. Jones

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SHIRE HALL TITBITS

I know that Planning is a great bore to almost everyone, myself included, but the much-discussed Cambridgeshire County Structure Plan is now nearing its final stage at Shire Hall, prior to submission to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

I have been highly critical in the past, not only of the supposed need for, but the method of producing the Plan. I have also thoroughly disapproved of some of the more lunatic ideas thrown up in earlier stages of debate - ideas which seemed contrary to the whole concept of reasonable freedom for the individual. However, the final draft which comes up for approval on 21st November does contain a lot of common sense and, as far as our local villages are concerned, would seem to allow reasonable natural growth with new housing development generally limited to infilling, with groups of dwellings possibly permitted in special cases to meet an identified local housing need in communities with some service facilities including at least a Primary School - such detail to be left to the discretion of the District Council.

The principal aim of the Plan, however, and this I totally support, is to attempt to improve the quality of life in those parts of the County and sections of the community which are relatively disadvantaged. This means, quite frankly, the North and the East, and in particular the Fen areas up to Wisbech. I have spent a lot of time in recent months examining the situation, and I believe we all have a responsibility to the less fortunate areas of the County and should really set our minds on making improvements, even though the overall financial position of Cambridgeshire is not properly recognised by Central Government. Secondary Schooling, for example, is not as satisfactory in the North-East as it is round here, and at least £1 $\frac{3}{4}$ m. are needed to put it on the right course. Fortunately, the County Council has, since the present administration took over in May 1977, sold surplus property to the value of £1,385,000, which means that we are turning assets which are no longer useful into constructive improvements for areas hitherto neglected. A continuation of this policy will bring benefits to all our ratepayers, and I am assuming, unless I hear otherwise, that residents of Reach will give general approval to this!

After the long and difficult harvest, I am now back at Shire Hall nearly full time, but can be contacted at home early mornings and most early evenings. Some readers will note with relief that my attempts to help with the farms are virtually at an end - the work, therefore, being in more responsible hands - sorry about the fire.

Geoffrey Woollard,
County Councillor.

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FOR PROMPT SERVICE

* YOUTH CLUB *

The club continues to be enthusiastically supported by a regular band of 20 or so members, which is very encouraging.

We have entered the National Postal Quiz, so wish us luck at producing the top senior and junior teams.

There are a few more talks lined up for the future but it would be nice to complete the calendar for several months so please come forward if you are prepared to talk about your hobby or occupation for 20 minutes to a small audience; Mervyn Woolnough, Linda Sheldrick or I will be pleased to arrange a date with you.

R.C.

Parents and Friends of the School

The A.G.M. took place on Friday 6th October, during the open evening. It was decided that henceforth the word 'Parents' would be added to the title of the Association. We welcome three new committee members, Mr. Fox, Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Harding to our next committee meeting on Thursday 19th October.

The fogs of November began a little early this year but they served to remind us of the firework display on Saturday 4th November, when hot dogs, baked potatoes etc., will be available. Please help towards the cost of the fireworks with donations to Mrs. Booton at the school. The smallest donations are gratefully received, so please do help us to have a good display.

On November 25th, School Fund will be holding the Christmas Fair and all support will be appreciated. Anyone who has any articles to donate for the sale or the raffle please contact Mrs. Booton. Anyone who wishes to run a stall at the Fair should also make the necessary arrangements with Mrs. Booton as soon as possible please.

OUT OF REACH - Further copies are available from the Post Office - 5p each. Send them to your friends - let other people read the news Out of Reach!

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* THE CHRISTMAS PRIZE *

WIN £10 IN CASH THIS CHRISTMAS!

EVERY boy and girl in Reach of school age is invited to help in putting together a book about Reach. Let's call it, possibly, 'REACH RECORDED'.

The book itself, and the cash prize of £10 each Christmas for the next five years, will be given by Arnold Cawthrow. It's hoped it will record the life of the village from 1978 to 1982.

What to put in it? EVERYTHING that is typical of Reach. Photographs, drawings, descriptions, words, newspaper cuttings that will be interesting and amusing to look back on in a few, or in many, years' time.

Let's record, in one way or another, people waiting for the bus or the milk; anybody at work, in a field or on a haystack; the Fair and football matches; fishing - and the one that got away; gossip overheard in the Post Office or over the garden wall; mending a machine and minding the baby; a tree blown down, the annual bicycle race; people on the swings; women gossiping; travellers and odd types that pass through; the ice-cream van.

All entries - photos, drawings, words, cuttings - will be mounted in the book, with the name and age of the contributor.

The winner will be given his/her £10 prize at least a week before Christmas. Join in! Write your own book about Reach.

ALL ENTRIES TO BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER 1978.

HAND YOUR ENTRIES TO J. ROBINSON ON OR BEFORE THE ABOVE DATE.

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TABLE TENNIS

A new season has just begun and this year the Club is running two teams, both of which are in the Ely and District League Division Two. The first team began well with a crushing 10-0 victory over the Palace School, Ely. Unfortunately, the second team lost their first fixture but were in no way disgraced in a 7-3 defeat by Beck Row, a team who gave the first team plenty of trouble last year. With many more matches this year at home there will be an opportunity for non-team players to play on a Wednesday night in the future and the calendar for this month is as follows:-

Mon. October 30th	Handicap Cup - First Team v Cottenham (H)
Mon. November 6th	Second Team v Mepal (H)
Wed. " 8th	Practice Evening
Mon. " 13th	First Team v Burwell Baptists (H)
Wed. " 15th	Practice Evening
Mon. " 20th	Reach I v Reach II ???!
Mon. " 27th	Handicap Cup - second round. First Team if they beat Cottenham, play Lakenheath (including 3 Suffolk County Players). Second Team versus Soham I (including 3 Cambridge County Players).

Yours

Colin Fletcher

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BOTTISHAM YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

On Sunday 23rd September a car treasure hunt was held, starting at Bottisham and finishing at Cheveley, where the 'hunters' enjoyed a Barbeque kindly prepared by Mrs. Swann.

There were administration changes when the Club met for their Annual General Meeting on Friday 29th September. Mr. John Green is succeeded as President by Mr. Geoffrey Woollard, and Mr. Charles McCartney (Club Leader) by Mr. Lawrence Howe.

One forthcoming event will be a Christmas Bazaar at Bottisham Village College on Saturday 16th December.

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RECIPE

Brownies

- 4 oz. butter or margarine
- 8 oz. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 2 (1 oz.) squares unsweetened chocolate, melted.
- 4 oz. sifted (plain) flour
 (optional)
- 4 oz. chopped walnuts.

Cream butter, sugar. Add vanilla, beat in eggs. Blend in chocolate. Stir in flour and nuts. Bake in greased pan at 325°F. for 30-35 mins. Cool before cutting.
