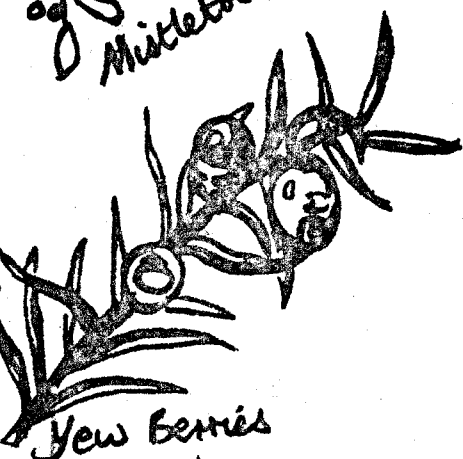
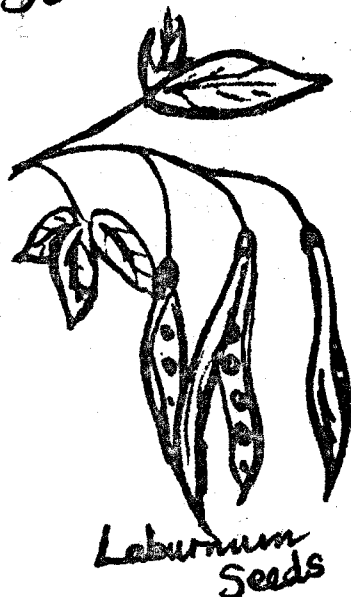


Mistletoe berries 41

February 1980



OUT of REACH



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Clerk to the Parish Council: Mrs. M. Evans
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Ante-Natal Clinics: 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month
2.00 - 4.00 p.m. at the Surgery

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

VICAR: Rev. Canon J. K. Byrom, Swaffham Prior Vicarage Tel. 741409

EDITORIAL

I think that February is one of the most depressing months of the year. Christmas is behind us and summer seems far away. In a small place like Reach it would be easy to feel oppressed, especially if one is, for one reason or another, largely tied to the home. Although having plenty to keep me busy, I fall unwillingly into this category at the moment. I expect that a lot of people like me feel the need for the stimulous of an outside job, yet there is more to life than work alone.

We are in a fortunate position in Reach for exploring the countryside, and even having a young child does not prevent one from doing this. But a pushchair does limit one to the roads in winter, as I have discovered to my cost after getting stuck in mud halfway across a field! There are several long walks in most directions where hardly any cars pass one on the road. Even though I have use of a car I always make a point of walking where at all possible. And a brisk pace is a good way of keeping warm!

Another free enjoyment in the winter (or any other time) is of course the joy of reading. Doubtless most people know that the travelling library calls here every other week, but very few people seem to use it. It is true that one never need feel bored as long as one has access to books. I seem to get through an amazing number at this time of the year. I also make a point of pursuing an interest outside the home one evening a week. I consider it essential to "do ones' own thing" and leave one's husband to babysit once in a while, and surely a fulfilled mother makes a better one! So there is really no need to feel too depressed while waiting for the long winter months to pass.

I expect that most of you read with interest the article about Len Warren's son in the Cambridge Evening News. It is indeed heartening to learn that he intends to continue Len's work and complete the book on Reach begun by him. If he comes to live in the village when he leaves the R.A.F. in August, perhaps he could be persuaded to write an article for the magazine!

We are sorry that we will be losing the Cochran Family some time this month and hope that they will be happy in their new home in Cambridge.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Ken Peacock last month and offer our sympathy to Mrs. Peacock. Jenny has written more on this.

N.B. In future could all items for publication in 'Out of Reach' be brought to my house "The Moon & Sixpence", and no longer to Jenny's.

Kay Pote.

MR. PEACOCK

When Mr. Peacock died in January, I felt that I had lost a friend; indeed that Reach had lost a friend.

In any small village, the shop is an important centre of communication. Many times I have gone to the shop feeling lonely and in need of a friendly chat and come out lighter of step as the result of Mr. Peacock's gentle, flattering teasing or a lively discussion over how we would put the world to rights. He cared for and considered everyone. Someone I spoke to the other day said that he was one of the people she had felt privileged to know - that surely rings true for many of us.

Though born and brought up in the city, Mr. Peacock developed a profound love of the countryside, particularly his native Yorkshire. Northerner he may have been, but he lacked the brusque facade that often overlies the big hearts of the Northerners.

Apart from his appreciation of good country, Mr. Peacock was a football and boxing enthusiast and during his working life he had been a sales representative, poultry farmer and, through the war, an aircraft maintenance man.

We all have great admiration for Mrs. Peacock's stoicism over the last month and extend to her our sympathy and the hope that the future, however it unfolds, will bring contentment for her.

J.J.

FROM THE VICAR

The season of Epiphany, recalling Wise Men led to Christ by a star, is a good time to say a word about the vision of God.

Frankly, it must be our overriding consideration and pre-occupation; and its achievement, - tho' it is strictly a gift, - is the only thing that lends meaning to the whole paraphernalia of organised religion. It is the whole point of prayer, which is itself the heart of religion. "I sought my God", Augustine said, "that, if possible, I might not only believe, but actually see something." "I beseech thee" Moses cried, "shew me thy glory", taking glory here to mean all that God is in his concentrated essence.

So what, first, do we mean by seeing God, and, secondly, how may the vision be come by?

There is a great tradition in the Old Testament that no man shall see God and live, simply because direct vision is too appalling. And this is still true. Yet that tradition has been modified in so far as He is now to be seen in the face of Jesus. He means to be seen, but thro' a glass, darkly, because anything more direct would destroy our sight. (How strange that in this late atomic day we

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FROM THE VICAR (continued)

have had to learn all over again that there is a light which even physical eyes cannot bear, but only see literally thro' thick dark glass).

So the vision itself is first "a dim yet direct perception", in Cuthbert Butler's famous phrase, or in Bishop Hedley's classic description, "a spreading, silent, sense of something near at hand, vague in outline, colourless and dim, accompanied by burning love"; "an encounter, face to face, in darkness", as a French nun put it.

It consists of feeling, awareness, background knowledge, proved experience, every kind of aesthetic sensitivity, and, as the hymn says, all this "warmed by love"; indeed it is the addition of love, as in the experience of falling in love, that fuses these scattered perceptions into a single track of intuitive sight. "My mind in the flash of a trembling glance came to that which is", i.e., to God. So Augustine wrote, describing the supreme moment of his life.

Yet the vision can't easily be talked about precisely because it is so concentrated, and so wordless, yet somehow containing everything that can be said; and nothing except the utterances of Jesus himself can plumb the depths, and even these leave us peering into infinity. "There's something fishy about describing other peoples' feelings", Iris Murdoch says. "For most of us truth can be attained, if at all, only in silence".

Secondly, an element of moral purity is involved. Any sort of life won't do. Mere intellect won't do. "For there is no seeing God as He is except by becoming like Him". "The upright shall behold his face", says Ps. 11. "Only the pure may touch the pure", Plato said. "Blessed are the pure in heart", Jesus said, "for they shall see God". And by purity I mean what has been called "the simplicity of an undivided will", an undivided, loyal, heroic submission to the truth as one sees it in the conscience and intellect combined. "We grow by attention", says Iris Murdoch. "Attention is our daily bread".

But the path to vision, once this moral aspect of obedience has been grasped, is by way of each and every branch of knowledge, "for the universe is the remoter and diffracted utterance of Christ", God's masterworkman and instrument in creation. Any and every aspect of it and creature in it is a universe in itself, and can be a tiny peep-hole

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FROM THE VICAR (continued)

into the mind of God, tailing off again, like the eye of the modern telescope, into infinity.

But in the last resort you come to the vision of God thro' Christ the image of God, because Christ himself is the crown of creation, sending rays of brilliance into every part of it, and therefore "no truth (about creation) can be alien to him who is the truth". He makes sense of everything in creation below him, and stands as the window and gateway to what is above him. "No man has seen God at any time". "He that has seen me has seen the Father".

But lastly, this sense of the presence of God, the sight of God, the glory of God, is seen at its maximum not when gazing at sunsets, or even at the glory of her hair, but in contemplative prayer, for which I take it the proper English equivalent is brooding or reverie, when every hint of mystery and marvel, but also the homeliness of God, is fused into one inexpressibly intense awareness, which is an actual foretaste of our final destiny, our last end and only good.

So it means rigour, an hour a day at least given to prayer. Our sole aim as Christians, the sole aim of religion and of all we do corporately and individually is to help us to embody this vision in every act, private and public, moral, ecclesiastical, civic or political: to help us to see God, and to know what we mean when we pray that prayer of Moses, "I beseech thee, show me thy glory".

DEANERY QUIET EVENING

May I draw your particular attention to the fact that the Bishop of the Diocese has kindly agreed to conduct a Quiet Evening for the parishes of the Fordham Deanery on Ash Wednesday, 20th February, starting with coffee at 7.30 p.m., in Isleham Church. These evenings of concentrated thought have proved of great value in the past, and I hope will be used by increasing numbers.

J.K.B.

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FROM THE CHURCHES

Worship in February: St. Mary's and Reach

- 2nd The PRESENTATION of CHRIST in the TEMPLE
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)
- 3rd 9th Sunday before Easter: SEPTUAGESIMA
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Reach)
9.30 a.m. Matins and Eucharist (St. Mary's)
6.30 p.m. Evensong (Reach)
- 10th 8th Sunday before Easter: SEXAGESIMA
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)
6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)
- 17th 7th Sunday before Easter: QUINQUAGESIMA
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)
6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)
- 20th ASH WEDNESDAY
7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Mary's)
7.30 p.m. Quiet Evening for the Deanery, In Isleham Church:
Conductor: the Bishop.
- 24th LENT I
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St. Mary's)
11.00 a.m. Family Communion (Reach)
6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Mary's)

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Burial:

8th January: Kenneth Sidney Peacock, The Post Office Stores,
aged 58.

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APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS
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Cambridgeshire County Council Road Safety Section are desperately in need of voluntary instructors for the above scheme. At present the number of children needing instruction is too great for the safety officer to train directly. YOU could help. Child accident figures firmly support the need for these safety courses.

Volunteers would be required to take a four week evening course at The Brunswick Teachers' Centre, Newmarket Road, Cambridge each Thursday in March.

After the course they would be asked to give four hours cycling practice each year to local school children at times to be arranged through the school, (evenings would be possible in summer time).

Anyone interested is asked to contact, by 22nd February, 1980,

C.C.C. Road Safety Section,
Room 17, Block E,
Gloucester Court,
Shire Hall,
Cambridge. (Telephone: 35881)

Please consider helping - you need not be a parent or teacher.

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Thanks are due to the Staine Hundred and Mrs. Jenny Fowle for their donations to the magazine.

I would also ask people if they could think up an idea or two to raise money. The "Typewriter Fund" needs topping up in order to repay the Parish Council loan. Another KNIT-IN has been suggested - it raised quite a lot of money last time - any volunteers to help arrange it please?

The magazine is like everyone, short of money in these days of rising costs - paper, ink and stencils - so if you feel that you can support your local magazine - remember it has been delivered free to every house in the Parish for over three years - the smallest gift will be put to good use - please be generous.

H.H.

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NEWSAGENTS

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NOTICE TO MAGAZINE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND HELPERS

Please come to a Coffee Evening at The White House on Monday, 4th February, 1980, at 8.00 p.m. so that you can all meet our new Editor.

J.J.

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE/STADT KEMPEN TWINNING

After preliminary discussions, a civic party from Kempen visited East Cambridgeshire for a twinning ceremony in September, 1978. This was confirmed last May (1979) when a party from the District visited Kempen in North Germany.

Kempen was selected by East Cambs., because for some time the County of Cambridge has been twinned with Kreis Viersen, the "County" area of which Kempen is a part, and already many exchanges have taken place between parties of school-children (including some from Bottisham V. C.), Young Farmers, football teams, and other groups. The object of "twinning" is to promote friendship, knowledge and understanding between people of different countries, and the warmth of the hospitality and kindness we received when we visited Kempen last May, would indicate that our German hosts take their responsibilities in this direction very seriously indeed.

The District Council hopes that the people of East Cambs. will be just as eager to support the twinning arrangement, as the people of Kempen, and so it is proposed that a Twinning Association be formed, and to this end a public meeting will be held in the Maltings at Ely on February 7th, 1980 at 7.30 p.m., when it is hoped that there will be a large measure of support for the proposed Association, from individuals, Parish Councils, and representatives of organisations throughout East Cambridgeshire.

Margaret Cook

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SHIRE HALL TITBITS

It's difficult, at this time of year, when a mass of information is coming from Shire Hall, to pick on something particular for readers of Out of Reach, and besides, there are few concrete decisions until after the County Council's Budget is determined on 26th February. For this month's issue, therefore, I will not concentrate on a chosen area, but remind readers of who does what and where.

Your District Councillor keeps you well informed and the duties and responsibilities of East Cambs. District Council are well known. There is often confusion, however, regarding the great number of tasks that the County Council takes on, either willingly or unwillingly. The principal one and that which takes up most time and money is Education, but Social Services (not Social Security), Highways and Transportation, the Police, Consumer Protection, the Fire and Rescue Service, Leisure and Amenities (Libraries, etc.), some Planning, the Magistrates Courts, Probation and After-Care, and last, but by no means least, County Farms, all take up time and mostly cost millions of money. If you have any queries or points to raise with your elected County Councillor, then give me a ring or write me a letter, and I will do my best to assist.

I've mentioned the District Council and the County Council, but your Parish Council should never be underestimated, as, at the least, it is a remarkably sensitive sounding-board for local opinion and, much to many people's surprise, has quite significant powers these days. If all, or any, of the three tiers of Local Government, with their different but equally important functions, drive you potty, however, you can always approach our Member of Parliament: The Rt. Hon. Francis Pym, M.C., M.P., House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Mr. Pym has a reputation for being willing to help all his constituents, and one should not feel put off by the fact that he now has enormous responsibilities as our Secretary of State for Defence. He is still very much the Member of Parliament for Cambridgeshire and, in my experience, is as efficient and effective as a Constituency M.P. as always.

I write this on a bitter winter morning looking forward to the arrival of spring and sunshine in more ways than one. Let's hope it's early!

Geoffrey Woollard, County Councillor

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The next meeting of the Staine Hundred will be on Wednesday, 13th February. This will be another working evening, using the society's collection of copies of local records and documents, especially census returns and Bottisham parish records. The meeting will be in the Lecture Room at Bottisham Village College at 7.30 p.m. - 10 -

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BOTTISHAM YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

During December the club members have been actively involved in a number of projects that continued into the New Year.

The month began with a trip to Mr. Richard Gowing's smithy in Soham where members were given an amusing and informative talk on the traditional crafts of shoeing horses and wrought iron work.

On 15th December, a Christmas bazaar was held in Bottisham Village College. Members provided sweets, games, jumble and teas which resulted in a profit of £70 for the club funds.

During the week leading up to Christmas, many of the Young Farmers Clubs held Christmas parties to which members of fellow clubs are invited.

Bottisham held their party in the Youth Centre on 20th December. A bar, disco and refreshments attracted many Young Farmers and their friends to an evening which proved to be both enjoyable and successful.

On New Year's Day, the Young Farmers turned out to distribute bags of logs to the old folk in Longmeadow and Lode. Mr. John Green kindly provided the tree which had been felled and chopped the weekend before.

Bottisham Young Farmers Club meet every Tuesday evening at 7.30 p.m. in Bottisham Village College.

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BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting held on 11th January was very well attended. The following officers and committee members were elected:
Chairman: Mr. R. Coleman, Secretary: Mrs. P. Clementson,
Treasurer: Mrs. H. Fitch. Committee Members: Mrs. J. Wrightson,
Mrs. A. Humphreys.

After the business meeting, members of the Society gave an entertainment of music and readings from the 17th Century.

CONCERTS FOR FEBRUARY

Friday, 1st February at 8.00 p.m. at the Village College

A recital for soprano and piano by MARGARET AND JOHN DOUGHERTY.

The programme will include music by Bach, Chopin, Haydn, Mozart, Purcell and Schumann.

ADMISSION - Non-members 75p. Members 50p. Students 30p.

Friday, 29th February at 8.00 p.m. at the Village College

A recital for the harpsichord by GERALD GIFFORD.

ADMISSION - Non-members £1. Members 75p. Students 40p.

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THE MONTHS RECIPE

Looking through back numbers of "Out of Reach" I did not find one for a casserole - what could be more warming at this time of the year, and its economical too. I am very fond of pulses, they are full of protein and make a casserole that bit different.

KIDNEY AND BACON CASSEROLE

8 Pigs Kidneys	1 Onion
4 oz Streaky Bacon	4 Carrots
8 oz Lentils	1 teaspoon Mix Herbs
4 oz Dried Red Kidney Beans	Seasoning
4 oz Dried Butter Beans	

Soak the lentils and beans in cold water overnight. Prepare onion and carrots. If you have a large enough casserole dish you could ring the changes with different vegetables (swede, parsnips, turnips, celery). Remove any skin from kidneys and cut out central cores. Cut into pieces. Derind bacon strips and cut into pieces. Mix up a pint of stock with boiling water, stock cube, seasoning, dried herbs, bay leaf. Pour over casserole. Cover casserole and cook in a moderate oven (Mark 3 - 160°C - 325°F) for 2 - 2½ hours.

PARSLEY AND LEMON DUMPLINGS

4 oz Self-raising Flour	1 tablespoon Chopped Parsley
2 oz Suet	Lemon Juice
Salt and Pepper	Water to Mix.

Mix together ingredients with sufficient water to make a firm dough. Divide into four and shape into balls. Place on top of casserole for last half hour of cooking. These are a refreshing change from ordinary dumplings and you can use the juice from a lemon or a dessert spoonful from a "squeezy" lemon. Of course dried parsley can be used.