

# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts

## WELCOME TO OUR FIRST EDITION

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

RESULTS OF THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

A REPORT ON THE VILLAGE FESTIVAL

NEWS OF A NEW 'DOMESDAY BOOK'

PLUS OUR REGULAR "UPDATE" FEATURE

MONTHLY GARDENING TIPS

THE ASTON ABBOTTS COOKBOOK

CHURCH NEWS

September '83

No. 1

# EDITORIAL

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

This first issue of the CHRONICLE will I hope inform, entertain and amuse. The aim is to try and provide a magazine that will have something for everyone. If your area of interest is not covered please let me know and I will try and put the matter right in future editions.

There is almost too much to report this month - a successful Festival; a sensational (and much deserved) second place in the Best Kept Village Competition; news of a new 'Domesday Book' to be produced by the Friends of the Vale of Aylesbury, as well as our regular 'Message from the Rector'.

Other monthly feature include advice from our 'Amateur Gardener' and the 'Aston Abbots Cookbook', a pot-pourri of recipes old and new; familiar and unfamiliar.

But, this is your newsletter, available free to all. If you want to announce future events, suggest ideas, buy something or sell something why not use THE CHRONICLE.

The regular 'Update' section on Parish Council news will I hope keep you informed of issues that are discussed and enable you to use your voice in village affairs. This month the Council is seeking your advice on the future of the Church Room. All comments would be most welcome.

Graham Parker.

### HOW TO PASS ON ARTICLES/INFORMATION FOR "THE CHRONICLE"

1. By telephone to Graham on Aston Abbots 325.
2. A note through his door - The Cloisters, Church Row.
3. Use the box in the Village Shop.

### DATES FOR PRINTING

The 22nd. of each month will be the last day for delivery of material you wish included in the next issue.

### DELIVERY

'THE CHRONICLE' will be delivered in the last week of each month by members of the Parish Council.

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Printed by The Squirrel Press, Waddesdon, Bucks.

## ASTON ABBOTTS 2ND IN BUCKS

Having been placed FIRST in the Vale of Aylesbury section of the competition the village went into the Gurney Cup with high hopes but were just edged into SECOND place by Weston Underwood.

This was a magnificent result .... congratulations to everyone.

The results of the final judging was:

### GURNEY CUP (Villages with a population from 0 - 500)

- |                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 1. Weston Underwood (MKBC) | 95 points. |
| 2. ASTON ABBOTTS (AVDC)    | 94 points. |
| 3. Fulmer (SBDC)           | 91 points. |
| 4. Hambleden (WDC)         | 87 points. |
| 5. Little Missenden (CDC)  | 82 points. |

### MORRIS CUP (500 - 1500)

- |                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Cuddington (AVDC)            | 93 points. |
| 2. Lavendon (MKBC)              | 91 points. |
| 3. Lacey Green/Loosley Row(WDC) | 90 points. |
| 4. Stoke Hammond (AVDC)         | 89 points. |
| 5. Coleshill (CDC)              | 88 points. |
| 6. Dorney (SBDC)                | 86 points. |

### De FRAINE CUP (1500 - 3000)

- |                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. Richings Park (SBDC)   | 84 points. |
| 2. Little Kingshill (CDC) | 83 points. |
| 3. Long Crendon (AVDC)    | 82 points. |
| 4. Woburn Sands (MKBC)    | 80 points. |

### MICHAELIS CUP (3000+)

- |                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 1. Holmer Green (CDC)    | 89 points. |
| 2. Gerrards Cross (SBDC) | 85points.  |
| 3. Tylers Green (WDC)    | 84 points. |
| 4. Wendover (AVDC)       | 75 points. |

Thus the winner of the Sword of Excellence, presented by Wilkinson Sword ltd., is Weston Underwood. Perhaps next year will be our year.

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### NORTH SEA GAS

The response to the article in our pre-launch issue was very encouraging. The Gas Board have indicated that the prospective consumers would have to be responsible for the cost of connection which is apparently from a point near the Wingrave crossroad. This will almost certainly make the cost prohibitively high. However the Gas Board have asked for the names of interested consumers but Mrs.Holmes is rightly reluctant to forward names without permission. If you would like your name to be forwarded please ring Mrs.Holmes on Aston Abbots 319 as soon as possible. This would commit you to nothing and might enable us to obtain a quote from the Board so that further discussion can take place on known costings.

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## SEPTEMBER'S GARDENING TIPS.

Harvest time has come again. Once more we are thinking about food for the winter and seeds for next year. Most of the vegetables we eat, either as green food or seed, are part of the reproductive cycle of the plant.

The splendid weather we have had has been good for plants reproduction by seed, especially the flowers. Seed pods have formed in great numbers, even on Geraniums. So next year I am going to try and grow from my own seed the following : Incarvillea; outdoor Cyclamen; Bergenia and Primula. I'll let you know how I get on.

Last year I had great success with Magnolia seed - six young trees in all and only five or six years to the first bloom!

Cuttings are another way of propagation. Try four cuttings to a pot with Geraniums, done now. This takes much less room in the greenhouse than all the old roots and gives lovely new plants in the spring.

Amateur Gardener.

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## THE ASTON ABBOTTS COOKBOOK.

This is the first of what we hope will become a regular feature, to which everyone is welcome to contribute. The intention is to be as varied as possible; something well tried, something new, but based on your own experience. We start with a recipe passed on to Anita Parker while living in Kenya - so for something different why not try:

### MRS.SHEVDE'S CURRY.

Sauce : 2" Root Ginger: 6 Cloves of Garlic: 1 teaspoon of Cloves; 2 sticks of Cinnomon: 4-5 Peppercorns; 2 teaspoons of Tomato Puree; 1 tablespoon of powered Coriander/Caraway; 1 teaspoon of Turmeric; 2-3 tablespoons of Ghee;  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Onions.

Meat : 3lb. Chicken; 1lb. Beef (or vegetables).

- Method: 1. Take 1lb. of coriander and  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of caraway roast in the oven then pound to a fine powder - this will keep.
2. Mix together the coriander/caraway, tomato puree, ginger (ground or grated), the garlic cloves (peeled and crushed) and the turmeric with a little water.
3. Heat the ghee (Ghee is clarified butter and can be obtained by melting butter - preferable to use unsalted butter - slowly simmer until it divides into a clear oil and a whitish residue; drain the clear oil into a container - this is ghee and it will keep) and add the peppercorns, cinnomon and cloves. Put the lid on the pan.
4. Fry the onions (sliced) until brown and crispy.
5. Add the tomato puree etc. to pan and fry until water has evaporated - lower heat.
6. Add meat (or veg.) and fry a little.
7. Add salt and enough water to cover.
8. Cook gently until meat is tender.

Serve with chopped pineapple, pawpaw, banana, tomato, onion, mango chutney and poppadoms.

This then is a chance to make a "real" curry from scratch. Ground spices could of course be used and the amount of meat will depend on how many servings you are catering for, but the key to a good curry is the sauce.

If you prefer a hot curry one teaspoon of red pepper (chilli powder) should be added to the tomato puree mixture. Yogourt also improves the flavour and makes the gravy thick.

Next month something closer to home! If you have a favourite recipe please send it in to the Editor or leave in the box provided in the Village Shop.

# CLOUDS ROLLED AWAY FOR FETE

**MEMBERS of the Aston Abbots Village Festival committee were apprehensive when the festival began with heavy thundery rain.**

It continued most of the time when everyone was hoping to have the stalls and sideshows erected on the Green in readiness for the opening of the fete by 2 p.m.

Fortunately it was a bright, sunny day by the time Mr. Victor Scott declared the fete open.

Mr. Scott, who was born in the village and has lived there all his life, said how lucky they all were to live in such a lovely village and spoke of the friendliness.

He reminded people that the funds were to be divided equally between St. James Church, the Methodist Chapel and the recreation ground, and urged all to spend as liberally as possible.

Stalls on the Green included: bric-a-brac, cakes,

garden produce, groceries, handicrafts and a bran tub, and sideshows were old farming implements, rifle range, skittles, spinning wheel, tombola and treasure hunt.

Marsh Gibbon Brass Band played throughout the afternoon, and other entertainments included a modern dance group from Waddesdon School and the Stanbridge and Tilsworth Children's Folk Dance Club.

On the Recreation Ground, an inter-village "It's a Knock-out" attracted many spectators.

Taking part were teams from Stewkley, who came first, Grendon Underwood second, Elliots Close third, Aston Abbots fourth, Mentmore fifth and Cublington sixth.

Special prize for the best supporters was won by Cublington.

Refreshments and teas were available throughout the afternoon, on the Church Room and on the

Recreation Ground.

In the Parish Church there were floral displays and the Methodist Chapel was open for everyone to see other flower arrangements.

Skittles winners were Miss B. Bennett and Owen McManus, junior.

Mr. L. Scutchings and Nick Smith shared the darts prize.

In the evening a barbecue was held at the Royal Oak.

The following day 60 people attended the Festival lunch served in the Church Room by members of St. James Church.

In the evening Festival Evensong was held in St. James Church when the Rev. J. Heffer welcomed the congregation and thanked all who had helped to decorate the church.

The preacher was the Rural Dean, the Rev. David Smith and the organist Mrs. L. Scutchings.

After the service coffee and refreshments were served.

Most of you will have read the above report that appeared in the Bucks Herald on 4 August but few will know the financial outcome. The net proceeds were £969.17 - full details on the reverse of this page.

The major recipients have already been given their cheques and much of the remaining 10% has been earmarked. A £10 donation has been sent to the St. Johns Ambulance and a further £10 to the Stanbridge and Tilaworth Childrens Folk Dance Club as a token of our appreciation. Further sums have been set aside for the Ladies Club and to offset the cost of producing 'The Chronicle' but it is not too late for other organisations to make claims on the funds raised - just contact any member of the Festival Committee.

The response to the Committee's appeal in the pre-launch issue of 'The Chronicle' was overwhelming - our visiting Arab guest was most impressed by the whole-hearted generosity of all he met!

There are so many people to thank on these occasions that it is impossible to list them all without reprinting the electoral roll, so on behalf of the Festival Committee can I thank all who helped to make this years two day Festival so memorable.

Graham Parker.

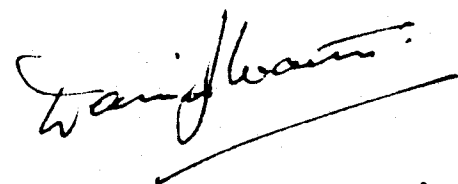
ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

ASTON ABBOTTS FETE 23 JULY 1983

<u>Financial Statement</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>198</u>
Grand Draw - ticket sales	484.04	444.20
Stalls	454.13	397.60
Refreshments	80.81	81.95
Sideshowes and Competitions	55.26	54.13
Other Receipts	63.05	55.22
	<u>1137.29</u>	<u>1033.10</u>
Less Expenses	168.12	121.22
NET PROCEEDS	<u>£969.17</u>	<u>£911.88</u>

In accordance with a Resolution passed at the 1983 Annual Parish Meeting, 90% of the net proceeds are to be allocated in equal shares to St. James' Church, the Methodist Church, and the Recreation Ground Fund, the remaining 10% to be applied at the discretion of the Committee.

St. James' Church	290.00
Methodist Church	290.00
Recreation Ground	290.00
Balance to be allocated	99.17
	<u>£969.17</u>

  
HON. TREASURER.

# UPDATE

An Occasional Series on Parish Council Activities.

Among the topics discussed at the last Parish Council meeting on the 12 August were:

Street Lighting: the Electricity Board did not accept responsibility for replacing the broken lamp at Lines Hill under the terms of the maintenance agreement, but had agreed to a reduction in their original quote. The Council asked the Clerk to accept this quote and request that the work be carried out as soon as possible.

Traffic on Moat Lane and Lines Hill : The County Council had indicated that a 30 m.p.h. limit could not be granted on this road as there was only development on one side. A traffic count had been carried out but in the view of the County Council had not indicated an abnormally high traffic flow for such a road. However it was indicated that "chevrons" would be made available to warn of the sharp bend. The Parish Council did not accept the County view and agreed to continue to push for a 30 m.p.h. limit (numerous exceptions to the 'both sides developed' argument were mentioned); to continue to point out to the County that there was no footpath yet many parents with young children had to walk the route in order to catch the school bus - a walk which in the depths of winter could be particularly hazardous.

Refuse Skip : this was expected during the first weekend in September.

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## ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

Colin Higgs, 6 Wingrave Road. (Chairman); John Whyte, 23 The Green (Vice Chairman); Peter Dines, 87 The Green; Graham Parker, The Cloisters, Church Row; Les Smith, Gatesgarth, Lines Hill, with David Watts of White Wheels, Wingrave Road as the Clerk.

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Future Management of the Church Room : The Rector had written to the Parish Council seeking advice on the future development of the Church Room. There was general agreement by the Council that the Room was a valuable, if underused, asset, and that a Management Committee comprising the various interest groups within the village might be a way forward. It was agreed that the advice of the village be sought through the means of The Chronicle and that the Rector be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to finalise ideas.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING : FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 8.00 p.m. in the CHURCH ROOM.

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### THE CHURCH ROOM - REPLY SLIP.

We want your views on the future of the Church Room.  
How should it be managed ?

Would you be willing to serve on a Management Committee ?

Any ideas for ways in which the Room could be used?

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer not to sign fair enough, but the Council would like as many people as possible to express their views. Additional space on reverse.

## ASTON ABBOTTS - OVER 900 YEARS OF HISTORY

How did it all begin ? Well, we don't know exactly, but it is clear that by the time of the Domesday Book, there were settlements at Aston Abbotts and Burston, at that time named respectively as "ESTONE" and "BRICSTOCK".

A translation of the entry for Aston Abbotts reads:

"The Abbot holds Estone himself. It answers for 10 hides. Land for 12 ploughs; in lordship 6 hides; 3 ploughs, a further 2 possible. 7 villagers with 12 smallholders have 6 ploughs. 1 slave; meadow for 3 ploughs. Value 10 pounds; when acquired 6 pounds; before 1066 10 pounds. This manor lay and lies in the lordship of St. Albans Church."

Burston, then Bricstock, a name which has been revived in the village in recent years, was held by several proprietors, and it is recorded in "Domesday" that the chief of these was the Earl of Morton - could there be any connection with the present occupiers ?

The hamlet of Burston was at one time comparable in size to Aston Abbotts, but was de-populated in the late fifteenth century, sixty people having been evicted from the village in 1488, because sheep pasture had become more valuable to landowners than houses for villagers ! The outlines of the former lanes and crofts at Lower Burston can still be readily identified from the air, or even on a sunny evening , from the top of Lines Hill.

We hope, in an occasional series of short articles, to touch on other aspects of our village's history, and in particular, to record the sayings and doings of a few of the many interesting characters who have lived here from time to time.

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REALLY WIP



But back to where we came in - the Domesday Book !

This was undertaken in the years up to 1086 as a taxation survey, a tool of government, comparable in many ways to our present day population census, and remarkable for its degree of sophistication in a relatively illiterate age. For us, its significance is that it is the most important chronicle of English social history of its time.

Now, 900 years on, (without any sinister motives at all !) the Friends of the Vale of Aylesbury are planning the production of a "Chronicle of the Vale". It is designed to be presented in three sections :

Part 1 will be a summary of the Vale as a whole, its geography, population, economic activity, wildlife and so on ;

Part 2 will contain detailed surveys of the individual villages within the Vale, each village being allocated four pages ;

Part 3 will comprise expert analysis and commentary on the information collated in Parts 1 and 2.

From a practical point of view, Part 2 is the most important, and the collection of detailed information will involve the completion of questionnaires, in which we hope all villagers will co-operate. We are fortunate to have in our village the Chairman of the Chronicle Sub-Committee, Mr. Nicholas Murray, who will welcome all sources of information and assistance. The first Area Meeting of the group of villages which includes Aston Abbotts is to be held in the Church Room on 7th September at 7.30 p.m., and if you are willing to help with the collection of local information for this exciting project, please come along to the meeting.

RUTH AND DAVID WATTS



VILLAGE STORES, ASTON ABBOTTS.

### LADIES CLUB NEWS.

The new season begins again on SEPTEMBER 29th. in the Church Room at 2.45 p.m., when Mrs. Ayling is coming to talk to us about enamelling.

Other topics during the session include another talk on paintings by Mr. Ward, whom I think we all enjoyed last year; a demonstration of wood carving and an evening of flower arranging - just to mention a few.

All new members will be very welcome and we look forward to seeing everyone again on September 29th.

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### CHURCH NOTES.

September begins with the Family Service at 11.15 a.m. on the 4th. Our last Family Service, on Festival Sunday, produced a record congregation of 50. We hope as many as possible will come again on the 4th. September.

#### SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER.

4th.	11.15 a.m.	Family Service followed by Holy Communion.	<u>Sidesman</u> Mr. C. Spike
11th.	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion	Mr. J. Ford.
	6.00 p.m.	Evensong.	
18th.	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion.	Miss. G. Ford.
25th.	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion.	Mr. C. Higgs.

Altar Flowers for the month : Mrs. M. Hill.

Whist Drives on 8th. and 22nd. September at 7.30 in the Church Room.  
Harvest Festival this year will be celebrated on Sunday 2nd. October.

### METHODIST CHURCH NOTES.

Harvest Festival Sunday 18th. September

Afternoon Service at 2.45 p.m. conducted by Mr. K. Rumens.

United Service at 6.00 p.m. conducted by Rev. Barrie Heafford.

Harvest Sale in the School Room at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 19th. Sept.

EVERYONE WELCOME.

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September 1983

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Tel. A.A. 623

If you live in either Wingrave, Rowsham, or Cublington, you will be interested to know that this 'Church News' sheet now forms part of the 'Aston Abbots Chronicle'. It has been part of the 'Wingrave Communique' for more than six years, but I am glad that Aston now has its own parish newspaper. It should encourage the sense of community as I believe it does in Wingrave.

This is not isolationism. The more the villages of this group can work together so much the better. After all, we are even now linked in so many ways - through the local authority, schools and churches. The fact that Methodist boundaries vary slightly should not prove an insuperable barrier to ecumenical experiment and co-operation. Indeed, the signs of the Churches meeting together for worship are very apparent in Cublington, and there are real possibilities for further growth in Aston Abbots. Wingrave has special problems, but problems exist to be overcome!

However, each parish has its own identity which is well worth preserving. The new publication in Aston will make a great contribution to fostering this identity, and will nurture the spirit of community. It's rather like a family and the neighbourhood in which they live, where the family should beware of remaining in isolation from those who live around them. But - and this is a big "BUT" - that same family must be strong in its own relationships before it can attempt to help those who live around them.

It is worth saying that the tendency these days to centralise our society, both in government and industry, can have a disastrous effect on individuals and groups. 'Big' is not necessarily 'beautiful'! The large "combines" may have the economy to succeed but the soul of man can be overcome in the process. Swallowed up and prevented from the expression of personal freedom.

As I have written before, I am always willing to include in this 'Church News' sheet any item which has common relevance and interest to the united parishes, where the churches of all denominations can help each other by working together. So I hope very much, as with the Wingrave Communique, the 'Aston Abbots Chronicle' will be used by all groups, organisations and individuals as they speak to their own communities.

How about it, Cublington!

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On the subject of working together, there is the matter of the parish fetes. Would it be beyond the bounds of possibility for the Churches and the Community in Wingrave to be able to bring their efforts together? Cublington and Aston Abbots work with the Churches and arrange their efforts at the same time. I am sure they benefit accordingly. But the worse feature at the moment seems to be that Wingrave and Aston have fetes on the same day!

Aston's festivities are traditionally associated with their Patron Saint S. James. Wingrave Feast has always been part of their Patronal Festival of SS. Peter and Paul (first weekend after 29th June). So why not that weekend for the whole village? Perhaps the first step at least could be for Aston and Wingrave to confer.

And, incidentally, there is as much chance of smiling weather at the beginning of July as at the end, or whatever!

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEEFER

### HARVEST SERVICES AND EVENTS (Submitted)

18th September: Wingrave U.R.C... Services at 2.45 and 6.00 p.m.  
18th September: Cublington Methodist Church... Service at 6.00 p.m.  
18th September: Aston Methodist Church... Services at 2.45 and 6.00 p.m.  
25th September: Wingrave Methodist Church... Services: 2.45 and 6.00 p.m.  
25th September: Rowsham (Mr. Toefield's Barn)... Service at 3.00 p.m.  
(Preacher: Revd. Michael Whalley, Vicar of Bierton)  
1st October: Aston Abbots' Harvest Sale at 8.00 p.m.  
2nd October: Aston Parish Church Family Service at 11.15 a.m. and  
Special Form of Evening Service at 6.00 p.m.  
9th October: Wingrave Parish Church... Parish Communion at 10.00 a.m.  
Special Form of Evening Service at 6.00 p.m.  
followed by Harvest Supper and Sale.  
13th October: Wingrave School Harvest Service in the Parish Church  
at 9.30 a.m. Parents and visitors welcome.  
16th October: Cublington Parish Church... Services at 8.45 and 6.  
22nd October: Cublington Harvest Supper, Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICES in Aston Parish Church will now always be held on the FIRST Sunday of each month at 11.15 a.m. (Date Check: 4th Sept. and 1st October.) There will also be a family service in Cublington P.C. on Sunday 25th September conducted by the Rector.

WINGRAVE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY in the Parish Church on Thursday, 8th September at 9.30 a.m. Parents and visitors welcome.

CONFIRMATION 1983 A meeting for all those who would like to attend preparation classes at the Rectory on Wednesday, 12th October, 7.30 p.m. Such attendance would be seen as an enquiry, not a commitment.

NEWTON LONGVILLE, STOKE HAMMOND, WHADDON & TATTERNHOE The new Rector, Revd. A.A. Whalley comes into our Deanery from Slough and will be instituted on 15th September. Our prayers and good wishes for his new ministry among us.

HOLY BAPTISM in Aston Abbots' Parish Church:-

17th July: CHLOE JEAN, daughter of Michael and Pamela Cox.

### SUNDAY LESSONS

25th September: Pentecost 18 1 Peter 4(7-11) & Matthew 25(14-30)  
2nd October: Pentecost 19 Hebrews 11(1-2, 8-16) & Matthew 6(24-34)  
9th October: Pentecost 20 Romans 8(18-25) & Luke 9(51-62)  
16th October: Pentecost 22 Deuteronomy 11(18-28) & Matt'w 25(1-13)  
Harvest Thanksgiving: Deuteronomy 8(7-18) & Luke 12(15-21)

PLEASE KEEP THIS SHEET as the readings are one month in advance. Some vary from the A.S.B.

FUNERAL Wingrave Parish Church:-

28th July: Cyril John PARKER.

THE BISHOP OF BUCKINGHAM comes to Aston Abbots for the 10 o'clock Parish Communion on Sunday October 23rd.

NUCLEAR FREEZE "We the undersigned support the United Nations General Assembly's call for a TOTAL HALT - FREEZE - on all nuclear weapons in 1983, including Cruise, Pershing 11, Trident and SS20ies to cover their testing, production and deployment. We believe this would be a valuable step towards wide measures of disarmament"  
Such is the wording of a petition which will be in our three parish churches throughout September to be presented to the Government in October. If you don't attend Church on Sundays and would like to sign please come in at the end of a Service. The Bishop of Oxford writes: "Whether we are multilateralists or unilateralists, we are surely all in favour of any attempt to stop the nuclear arms race as a first step. That is why this petition is sponsored by the Board of Social Responsibility of our Church among others." But, of course, it is not just a Church petition; it originates from the United Nations Association, and is an opportunity for everyone who is concerned about the nuclear threat to stand up and be counted.