

The Chronicle

Aston Abbott's Parish Magazine



MARCH 86

ISSUE 31



Editorial

A Matter for Concern

The plea in last month's Chronicle from Joanna Perkins for observance of the speed limits in our village is echoed this month by an appeal from Fr. John Heffer to support a demonstration that would show our concern over the dangers of Wingrave crossroads. How many times must the tragic death of David Gaskell be repeated before action is taken? The brutal answer is something like three in the next twelve months, then the crossroads will have reached the "body count" required to classify it as an accident black spot and thus qualify for cash to alleviate the situation.

Such a mechanistic approach to road safety speaks ill of our society and is contemptuous of life itself. It is sad that the repeated pleadings of both Aston Abbots and Wingrave's Parish Councils has produced nothing but white lines - whose application has done little to lessen the danger of the crossroads and some would argue has actually made it worse.

Reasoned argument is increasingly ignored by those in positions of power, all they respond to is something that catches the media attention or upsets the normal flow of affairs. Fr. John's appeal for a "public demonstration of your disquiet" has my support.

Graham Parker

DEADLINE DATE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE: 22nd. MARCH PLEASE.

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

1. By telephone to Graham on Aylesbury 681325.
 2. By dropping a note through his door - The Cloisters.
 3. Use the box in the Village Shop or the Post Office.
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NOTICEBOARD

3.

WHATS ON IN MARCH

THURSDAY 6th & 20th. WHIST DRIVE in the CHURCH ROOM 7.30 p.m.

THURSDAY 13th & 27th. BINGO in the CHURCH ROOM 8.00 p.m.

FRIDAY 14th. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING in the CHURCH ROOM 7.30 p.m.
followed by a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

SUNDAY 16th. FOOTPATH WALK - MEMBERS MEET AT LINSLADE CANAL BRIDGE 2.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 19th. ROYAL BRITISH LEGION in the ROYAL OAK at 8.00 p.m.

YOUTH CLUB

Thanks to Buckinghamshire County Council, the Youth Club has just received a grant of £100, money which you can be assured will be well spent on new equipment for the children.

The events for MARCH are as follows:

- 7th. March - ICE SKATING at Oxford, at a cost of £3.50.
- 12th. March - SWIMMING at Tiddenfoot (N.B. No youth Club on the 14th. March due to the Annual Parish Meeting).
- 21st. March - WORKING WITH CLAY & other crafts.

LADIES CLUB

Mr. Humphries from Waitrose came to talk to us about the John Lewis partnership for the second of our January meetings and on a very cold afternoon on the 13th. February we were highly entertained by Mr. Mayes talking on "Country Ways and Customs". Mrs Jean Anderson will have been to our second February meeting and in March we are having a lunch on the 13th. instead of the ordinary meeting. We hope some non-members will come to this - cost and time to be advertised later.

No other meetings in March as Easter comes at the end of the month. The next meeting will be on the 10th. April.

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MEMORABLE QUOTES

Lady Astor about Lloyd George: "He couldn't see a belt without hitting below it."



AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

BYELAW

relating to

DOGS FOULING FOOTWAYS AND GRASS VERGES

1. No person in charge of a dog shall allow the dog to foul a footway or grass verge (being a footway or grass verge to which this byelaw applies) by depositing its excrement thereon:-

Provided that in proceedings for an offence against this byelaw it shall be a defence for the person charged to prove that he took all reasonable precaution and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.

2. This byelaw applies to:-

- (a) the footway of any highway or of any public place; and

- (b) a grass verge which is not more than 3 metres wide and is -

- (1) adjacent to the carriageway or footway of a highway; and

- (11) managed by a local authority and maintained in good order.

3. For the purposes of this byelaw the owner of the dog shall be deemed in charge thereof, unless the Court is satisfied that at the time when the dog fouled the footway or grass verge it had been placed in or taken into the charge of some other person.
4. Any person offending against this byelaw shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds.
5. Byelaw 15 of the byelaws made by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Aylesbury on 1st December, 1971, and confirmed by the Secretary of State on the 25th July, 1972, is hereby revoked.

"The foregoing byelaw(s) is/are hereby confirmed by the Secretary of State and shall come into operation on the 5th day of February 1986.

SOAKED GNOMES SEEK REVENGE

Gnomes who live at Aston Abbotts have split the village right down the middle. But there was a moment of black comedy Monday when the man of resources called the speak.

It appeared that a lock on a gate leading to the kennel had been forced. "While searching the area we were told that someone living in the village had two similar dogs stolen some time ago. "We want Radar back. But, whatever happens, we hope that by reporting what we believe was the thief we've

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GNOMES
NOW

FREE
FOOD
FOR
BLACK
DOGS

THE RADAR TRAP ?



Portraits of Buckinghamshire

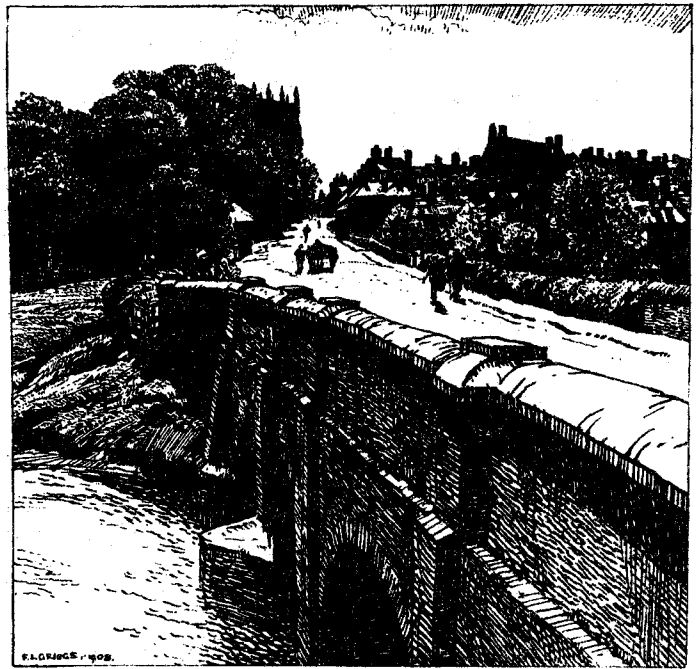
NO. 11. NEWPORT PAGNELL.

Sketches by Frederick Griggs, and dated 1908.

Extract from Clement Shorter's *Highways & Byways of Buckinghamshire*, published in 1910.



The Swan, Newport Pagnell.



Newport Pagnell.

THE first impression of Newport Pagnell is of its bridges, one picturesque stone bridge crossing the Ouse on the road to Northampton, the other an iron structure across the River Lovat. The two rivers give the place an added attraction, and the church and churchyard are well worth more than the hasty visit that many are tempted to pay. Newport Pagnell is a substantial town with good inns, and we might make it a centre for many interesting impressions in a week-end visit. The town became the centre of much conflict in the great Civil War. Prince Rupert held it for Charles, Essex held

it for the Parliament, Cromwell was here in 1644, and later in the same year his son Oliver died here while in garrison. "The young soldier," says Gardiner, "who had fought at Edgehill, was, as one who seems to have known him testifies, 'a civil young gentleman, and the joy of his father.'" Who knows how the history of England might once again have been changed but for this episode in Buckinghamshire—the death of the strong son of Oliver Cromwell of small-pox at Newport Pagnell, leaving the weak Richard to attempt to control the storm at his father's death.



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LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES TWICE

BY

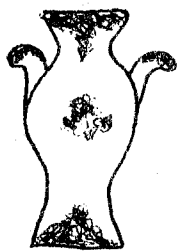
L.O.MEBUTY

I wonder who else remembers attending Sunday School in the Church on a particular day in 1936 when the heavens opened. It wasn't a miracle, it was rain, a real storm. In an effort to reassure us frightened little souls our teacher, Mrs. Brock said, "Gods in his heaven, all's right with the world." The rest of the world may have been alright but next door the school had been struck by lightning; so for us kids maybe it was a miracle after all. The bell had gone and the building was damaged enough for it to be closed for some months, but any thoughts of a nice long holiday were soon dashed. Previously, Cublington children used to walk to Aston to attend school (prior to Clarence Brock starting the bus service) but now suddenly the role was reversed and we were attending school in Cublington.

Our teachers, Miss Childerley and Mrs. Brock cycled over, the rest of us got there the best way we could. Some were lucky enough to have a home made truck, which was hard work going up Harris's Hill, but great fun coming down. All good things, or bad, come to an end, and with the damage repaired, the school was once again open for business, not just business though, as many memorable social occasions were to be had there too: Christmas parties, concerts and the like were always well supported by the local people, although lack of transport probably prevented them going elsewhere for their entertainment. Whatever recollections you may have about the school, be they good or bad, I think its the names connected with it that revive the memories. The teachers like Mrs. Brock, who once lived at the Post Office and later at the Editors house; Miss Childerley, who lived at Church Farm and later at the Old House; Mr. Nixon, who was the School Attendance Officer in the 30's. Mr. Burnham came from Aston Clinton, and Mr. Harrison went on to teach at Berton. Mrs. Davies lived in Church Row; Mrs. Patterson came from Wingrave, and Mr. and Mrs. Badrick lived in Wingrave Road. Mr. Wardle lived on the Green and Mr. Broadley and Miss Whipps came from Wingrave. There was our cook, Mrs. Higgs from Wingrave Road. and Mrs. Brandon from Ross Road was the supervisor.

I believe the school closed in 1975. Miss Whipps was the teacher and there were just five pupils. A decade or so on there are now about 33 children of junior school age in Aston alone. There are 20 below school age. There are pregnant women. There are new and unoccupied homes. It was sad to see the school close for lack of pupils, but it wouldn't be any good to us now, it would be too small. Happy days.

Bric-a-Brac



now at the
Village Shop
Aston Abbotts

A Literary Quiz

This month a real challenge to keep you occupied for the last of the dark winter evenings. The quiz was part of the publicity campaign for the new edition of the Oxford Companion to English Literature edited by Margaret Drabble. If you have a copy then you should be able to find all the answers. No prizes but answers next month.

1. In which play are the main characters two tramps named Estragon and Vladimir?
2. Who was the author of *Lady Susan*, *Sanditon*, and *The Watsons*?
3. What is the difference between Beatrix Potter and Beatrice Potter?
4. A writer (who lived in Woking) described his plan for a novel: 'I completely wreck and sack Woking – killing my neighbours in painful and eccentric ways – then proceed via Kingston and Richmond to London, selecting South Kensington for feats of peculiar atrocity.' Who was he, and what is the title of the novel?
5. What was the name of Lord Emsworth's prize sow and who wrote about her?
6. What are the titles of the plays which have the subtitles *What you Will*, *The Mistakes of a Night*, and *A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*?
7. Patrick White, the Australian novelist, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1973. Can you give the titles of any of his books?
8. Who wrote novels about the Foreign Legion?
9. Who was the Revd Septimus Harding?
10. Where was there 'a stately pleasure dome'?
11. In what play is there a character named Zeal-of-the-land Busy?
12. Who were Uncle Silas and Silas Marner?
13. And Phineas Finn and Phileas Fogg?
14. Who were 'a lass unparallel'd'? 'A savage and deformed Slave'?
15. What is Bloomsday?
16. Who were the authors of *Under Milk Wood*, *Under the Greenwood Tree*, *Under the Volcano*, and *Under Western Eyes*?
17. Who invented the word *utopia*?
18. Who were Modestine, Flush, and Hodge?
19. And Grip, Rosinante, and Crab?
20. What novels have the characters Mr Norris, Mr Polly, and Mrs Dalloway in their titles?
21. What novel introduced the ideas of Newspeak, Doublethink, and Big Brother?
22. Who was the first Englishman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature? And the most recent English winner?
23. What is the name of the narrator of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*? of Charlotte Brontë's *Villette*? of Dickens's *Great Expectations*?
24. Who was Moth?
25. Whose motto was 'When found, make a note of'?
26. What have Kingsley Amis's *Lucky Jim*, David Lodge's *Changing Places*, and Malcolm Bradbury's *The History Man* in common?
27. Who was the original 'Lord of the Flies'?
28. Which great English philosopher was sent to the Tower charged with taking bribes as a judge?
29. Who were expelled from Oxford for circulating a pamphlet arguing the necessity of atheism?
30. Who said 'When I want to read a novel I write one'?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTHS "LOCAL VILLAGES" QUIZ:

- 1.Cublington. 2.Littleworth. 3.Wing. 4.Rowsham. 5.Hulcot. 6.Pitstone. 7.Soulbury. 8.Ledburn. 9.Slapton. 10.Weedon. 11.Pitchcot. 12.Marsworth. 13.Wingrave 14.Aston Abbotts. 15.Hardwick. 16.Marsh. 17.Ford. 18.Brill. 19.Grove 20.Quainton.

* * * * *

People

OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE

Edited by Bridget Brandon.

BIRTHDAYS

March 17th. TRACY FLETCHER.

March 31st. GEORGE BRANDON.

CONGRATULATIONS

To TRISH and MARSHALL WEBB on the birth of a 7lb.15oz. son, IAN, on the morning of 21st. February.

MORE SUGGESTED NAMES

for John and Dee Whytes baby due in August - LILLY, SNOWY.



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Industrial Disablement Benefit

If you are disabled as a result of an injury at work or as a result of one of the prescribed industrial diseases, you should be able to get industrial disablement benefit. This can be either a weekly cash payment or a lump sum, depending on the amount of disablement. It can be paid even if you continue or return to work.

There is a leaflet issued by the DHSS (NI 6) which gives information on disablement benefit and also describes the various increases which may be paid with it.

If you would like a leaflet about this benefit, or any other social security benefit, all you need do is ring, write or call at your local social security office. For any further information why not call our Freefone service - just dial 100 and ask the operator for Freefone DHSS.



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

7.30p.m. Church Room

FRIDAY MARCH 14th.

This is an open Parish Meeting - entirely separate from the Parish Council - at which parishioners can discuss any matter of general concern. The meeting is also responsible for the election of the Fete Committee and the dispersal of money raised by the Annual Fete. In addition the meeting has the responsibility of electing the members of the Church Room Management Committee, which operates under the Chairmanship of the Vicar.

Thus the AGENDA will read:

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Matters arising.
3. Report by officers of the 1985 Fete Committee.
4. Election of the 1986 Fete Committee.
5. Distribution of money raised by the 1986 Fete.
6. Report by officers of the Church Room Management Committee.
7. Election of the Church Room Management Committee.
8. Any Other Business.

If you can spare an hour please come along.

If you would like to nominate somebody, or are willing to serve yourself, on one or both of the committees just complete the slip below and drop it through my door. You may of course nominate or offer your services at the meeting.

The meeting will assume that all previous committee members will seek re-election unless they have let me know otherwise.

If you would like a particular topic discussed at the meeting but are unable to attend, just let me know and I will put the topic (and your views, if you wish) to the meeting.

Graham Parker

Graham Parker
Clerk to the Annual Parish Meeting.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING : ELECTION OF FETE AND CHURCH ROOM COMMITTEES

I would like to nominate the following as members of the 1986 Fete Committee:

I would like to nominate the following as members of the 1986 Church Room Management Committee:

When nominating please ensure the individual is prepared to stand.
If you are willing to stand then please nominate yourself - we need you.

Signed: _____

Please PRINT your name alongside your signature.

ASTON ABBOTTS VILLAGE ROOMStatement of Affairs for the Year Ended 31.12.1985

<u>(1984)</u>	<u>Income</u>		
£		£	
31	Tuesday Club	1.50	
47	Ladies Club	37.50	
30	Bingo	27.00	
12	Whist	3.00	
72	Other Functions	71.90	
243	Festival Proceeds	-	
96	Festival Lunch	103.93	
2	Ramblers Club	1.50	
27	Christmas Show	22.50	
50	Election Fees	50.00	
124	Auction Proceeds	-	
-	Youth Club	82.50	
			£401.33
734			
	<u>Expenditure</u>		
134	Electricity	81.79	
	Less Meter	<u>76.50</u>	5.29
21	Water Rates		23.75
35	Insurance		37.05
80	Meter Installation		-
225	Room Repairs		42.97
-	New Tables		159.91
2	Sundries		11.03
			£280.00
237	Surplus for the Year		£121.33
===			=====
	<u>Bank Account</u>		
	Balance 1.1.85	367.90	
	Balance 31.12.85	489.23	£121.33
			=====

The above statement is prepared from the books of the Church Room and has been audited by me.

Michael Cox

Michael Cox, F.C.A.

March 1986

THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Aylesbury 681623

I feel like lying down in the middle of the A418. No, I'm not tired of living. Just concerned about the Crossroads between Aston Abbotts and Wingrave. This intersection is a nightmare. More than that, the untimely death of David Gaskell has underlined once more the danger of this junction.

This must make you CONCERNED. For the spectre of serious injury and death strikes fear in the lives of all of us who have to use that section of the road.

What is disgraceful is the attitude of those who have the power to reduce hazards at these Crossroads. The Parish Councils of Aston Abbotts and Wingrave have repeatedly called on the County Highways Authority to take appropriate action. But to no avail.

The most glaring inconsistency is the break in the double white line as traffic comes over the hill from Aylesbury. Drivers, unfamiliar with this stretch, are led to believe they can pass other vehicles at this point in safety. Nothing is further from the truth. The double white line should extend to the intersection. Both parish councils have asked for this.

What is really required is a Roundabout; such as are in operation on the B489 Aston Clinton to Ivinghoe. Lights would be impracticable.

In 1977 I led parishioners from Eaton Socon and St. Neots to demonstrate for a by-pass because of the narrow roads of that area. We held up the traffic one Saturday morning for twenty minutes. True, it was eight years later when the by-pass was opened. But that initial demonstration, which attracted the power of the media, was instrumental in influencing public opinion - right up to the Department of Transport itself.

How many people have narrowly missed serious or fatal injury at our Crossroads we shall never know. We do know, however, of three deaths in recent years. How much longer do we endure being ignored by those who have power to keep death off that road? Would you be prepared to come with me and stop the traffic as a public demonstration of your disquiet? Please let me know how you feel so that the death of David is not totally in vain.

"Jesus was a man for others." So wrote a German Christian as he waited for execution under the Hitler regime. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was inspired to write about the Christian religion, but, in all his writings, this simple statement of fact stands out for me: "Jesus was a man for others."

"There are two loves only, Lord," prays Michel Quoist, "love of myself and love for you and for others. And each time that I love myself, it's a little less love for you and for others." Notice, he puts love of you and others together. We find strength to care for other people in the same measure as we care for God.

"Jesus was a man for others." That was the reason for his living; that was the reason for his dying. He loved other people. He gave himself for them. He was "concerned" for others.

So, that's what he wants us to do and be - CONCERNED

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEFFER

14
LENT AND EASTER

DEANERY LENT All Services begin at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesdays with Compline and an Address in the churches listed below:

March 4th SS. Peter & Paul, Wingrave
March 11th S. Mary, Whaddon
March 18th S. Mary Magdalen, Little Brickhill

PARISH LENT All Services begin at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays in Wingrave Parish Church, up to and including 19th March.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Family Service at Cublington, 10 a.m. (The Revd. Alan Creber)
Family Service at Aston Abbots, 11.15 a.m. (The Rector)
Parish Communion at Wingrave, 10 a.m. This will include a Special Order of Service for Mothering Sunday (The Rector)

Posies will be given to the children for their mothers at all Services on that day.

GOOD FRIDAY (28th March)

11 o'clock A Service for parents and children in Aston Abbots Parish Church, followed by refreshments and Hot Cross Bun.
(Address by Mr. David Heffer, Headmaster of the Vale School)
12 Noon "The Good Friday Devotion" at Cublington
2 p.m. "An Hour before the Cross" at Wingrave

EASTER DAY (30th March)

Cublington Parish Church.....The Parish Communion 8.45 a.m.
Wingrave Parish Church.....The Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.
Aston Abbots Parish Church...The Parish Communion 11.15 a.m.

Evensong for the United Benefice, Cublington Parish Church...6.00 p.m.

SUNDAY LESSONS

(ASB)

6th April 1st after Easter (602) "The Bread of Life"
1 Corinthians 15(53-58) John 6(32-40)
13th April 2nd after Easter (607) "The Good Shepherd"
1 Peter 5(1-11) John 10(7-16)
20th April 3rd after Easter "The Resurrection and the Life"
1 Kings 17(17-24) John 11(17-27)
27th April 4th after Easter "The Way, the Truth, and the Life"
2 Corinthians 4(13)-5(5) John 14(1-11)

Note These readings from the Alternative Service Book can be useful if we read them as part of our preparation for Holy Communion. Please keep this sheet as the lessons are usually one month in advance.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (7th March) Meetings as follows:

Aston Abbots, 2.45 p.m. (Speaker, Mrs. Dorothy Heffer of Leighton Buzzard)
United Reformed Church, Wingrave, 7.30 p.m. (Speaker, Mrs. Ann Marsh of Wingrave)

FUNERAL

After a Service in Wingrave Parish Church, interment in the Churchyard of Rosa WOODRUFF on Tuesday, 18th February.

"May God bless us with faith in the resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ, and the hope of rising to new life. To us who are alive may he grant forgiveness, and to those who have died a place of light and peace. As we believe that Jesus rose from the dead, so may we live with him for ever in joy"

CHURCH NEWS

The Annual Church Meeting on February 10th. saw some changes to the P.C.C. Clarrie Spike is moving from the village after living here for over forty years. For the last three he has been out treasurer and we are very grateful for the care and diligence with which he has looked after our funds. We wish him well in his new home in Chlemsford. We are very fortunate that Steven Richardson has volunteered to take on the treasurer's job and delighted that both he and Helen are joining the P.C.C. Clarrie presented the accounts to the meeting (see next page) and they show a very healthy state of affairs. Kay Dines has also left the P.C.C. but will continue as sacristan with Nora Little's aid.

AS Easter is so early this year we must draw your attention to two important family services. The first on March 9th. is Mothering Sunday when normally we would have posies for all the children. We must hope we can still do this but the way the weather is just now we will be very fortunate to have the flowers in bloom - we shall see. Whether we have posies or not we will have a christening and I expect we will have a good congregation. The second family service is on GOOD FRIDAY 28th. MARCH at 11 a.m. Those of you who have been to one of our Good Friday services will know how "good" they are. Do come and enjoy both the service and the hot cross bun!

Finally a quote from 'Faith in the City'; "A Christian community is one that is open to, and responsible for, the whole of the society in which it is set, and proclaims its care for the weak, its solidarity with all, and its values which lie beyond the mere satisfaction of material needs." How do we measure up ?

CHURCH SERVICES

	<u>Sidesman</u>
MARCH 2nd. : Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. * 1 Peter 2(19-25); Matthew 16(13-28)	Mr. J. Ford.
MARCH 9th. : MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 a.m. * Micah 4(1-5) ; Luke 18(15-23)	Miss S. Lovell.
MARCH 16th. : Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. * Jeremiah 31(31-34) ; Mark 10(32-45).	Mr. C. Higgs.
MARCH 23rd. : Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. * Philippians 2(5-11) ; Matthew 21(1-13).	Miss G. Ford.
MARCH 28th. : GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY SERVICE 11.00 a.m. * To be arranged.	The Churchwardens.
MARCH 30th. : EASTER DAY HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. * 1 Corinthians 15(12-20) ; John 20(1-10).	The Churchwardens.



ASTON ABBOTTS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1985

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
BALANCES brought forward: Bank current account	402.35	
Bank deposit account	982.60	
		1384.95
RECEIPTS: Collections and free-will offerings	1604.22	
Income tax refunds - covenants	297.16	
Graves maintenance	122.00	
P.C.C. fees	87.00	
Fund raising:		
Share of village festival	200.00	
Wingrave fete stalls	24.65	
Harvest sale	103.00	
Whist drives	171.85	
Sales of plates	60.00	
" " Christmas cards	33.50	
Interest: Bank deposit	69.50	
2½% Consols	0.40	
		<u>2773.28</u>
		4158.23
PAYMENTS: Diocesan Quota	989.00	
Vicar's expenses	473.00	
Repairs and maintenance	576.42	
Electricity	171.28	
Insurance	80.53	
Organ tuning	35.00	
Cleaning	78.00	
Deanery fees	18.00	
Stationery and sundries	108.08	
Donations	225.00	
		<u>2754.31</u>
		1403.92
BALANCES 31 DECEMBER 1985: Bank current account	1052.10	
Bank deposit account	351.82	
		<u>1403.92</u>

Car. W. Watts...
Treasurer

The above Receipts and Payments Account has been prepared from the books and records of the Aston Abbots Parochial Church Council and is in accordance therewith.

D.J. Watts
D.J. WATTS FCA FCCA

[Signature]
10/2/86

The Chronicle:

Advertisement Rates for 1986

FULL PAGE	: Back	£50 per annum.
	: Inside	£25 per annum.
HALF PAGE	: Back	£25 per annum.
	: Inside	£12 per annum.
QUARTER PAGE	: Back	£12 per annum.
	: Inside	£ 7 per annum.
EIGHTH PAGE	: Back	£ 7 per annum.
	: Inside	£ 5 per annum.
ALL OTHER ADS.	: Inside only	£5 per annum.

Please send copy and cheque, made payable to
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ASTON ABBOTTS CHURCH ROOM

AVAILABLE FOR WEDDING RECEPTIONS: BIRTHDAY
 PARTIES: FOLK EVENINGS: DANCES: BINGO ETC...

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 IT MAY NOT PAY....BUT YOU
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Medicines for Muheza.

Some weeks ago Elizabeth Hills visited the village during her leave from her work at Hospitali Teule Muheza in Tanzania. She explained, with the aid of slides, the desperate struggle they have to secure what we would take for granted.

We used to manage to scrimp and half-starve the patients on the allocation for food, but this time we are Sh300,000 overspent on diet. So now we are off on economies again and already the patients are complaining about the yellow ugali. But they are still getting meat one day per week. The cost of daga (the little dried fish) shot up a month or so ago, but it has come down again. The National Milling branch has closed down in Muheza so we shall have to buy our maize flour in Tanga. Last year we were not allowed a permit to buy maize from villages at harvest time. I don't know if we shall get one this year, but it would save us money.

The supply of food is not something that you and I can help with at this distance but a hospital also needs drugs and in Tanzania not only are they expensive but always in short supply:

We are almost out of chloroquine. We begged ten tins from Bombo Hospital on Thursday, but there is none spare in the District and Magunga Hospital came to us on Friday looking for chloroquine. We had ordered sufficient from Medical Stores to last until the July issue but they only issued 80 tins instead of the 180 we ordered.

There has been no anti-snake serum available for about three months; every time someone has gone to Dar they have tried to get some. One boy with a viper bite is likely to lose his leg. Another boy of 18 died. He arrived two hours after the bite unable to swallow his saliva and soon stopped breathing. We put him on the ventilator although I did not know what prospect there was of survival with no anti-snake serum. On the fourth day he started to respond and could just move his fingers but he died during the following night.

The shortage of goods is a perennial problem in all so called Third World countries but so is transport. Petrol is expensive and spare parts often stolen at the docks as black market prices are so high. The Land Rover, towards which many of you will have contributed, arrived in Muheza but short of all the spare parts that accompanied it as well as a few of its own original parts!

To keep Hospitali Teule in Muheza going is a constant struggle and my admiration for people like Dr. Elizabeth Hills knows no bounds. It has always seemed immoral (perhaps obscene would be better) that civil servants can obtain national honours for doing their job, but Elizabeth Hills, who has dedicated her life to helping others at great material cost to herself, should be ignored. Much as I admire our sporting heroes, who is the more deserving of our recognition, Sebastian Coe, already publically acclaimed and financially rewarded (five figure fees for every appearance) or Dr. Elizabeth Hills, unknown and virtually unpaid?

If you can, please support Dr. Hills and give generously to the Medicines for Muheza appeal.

INSIDE THE BACK PAGE

A LETTER FROM LANCASTER.

WAITING FOR THE TIDE TO TURN.

Have you ever had that feeling that the worlds against you, that somehow, for some reason, the fates have you marked down for punishment? Consolation from friends, sympathy from acquaintances, can help; as does the realisation that others have been down that road or are even further down the road than you are.

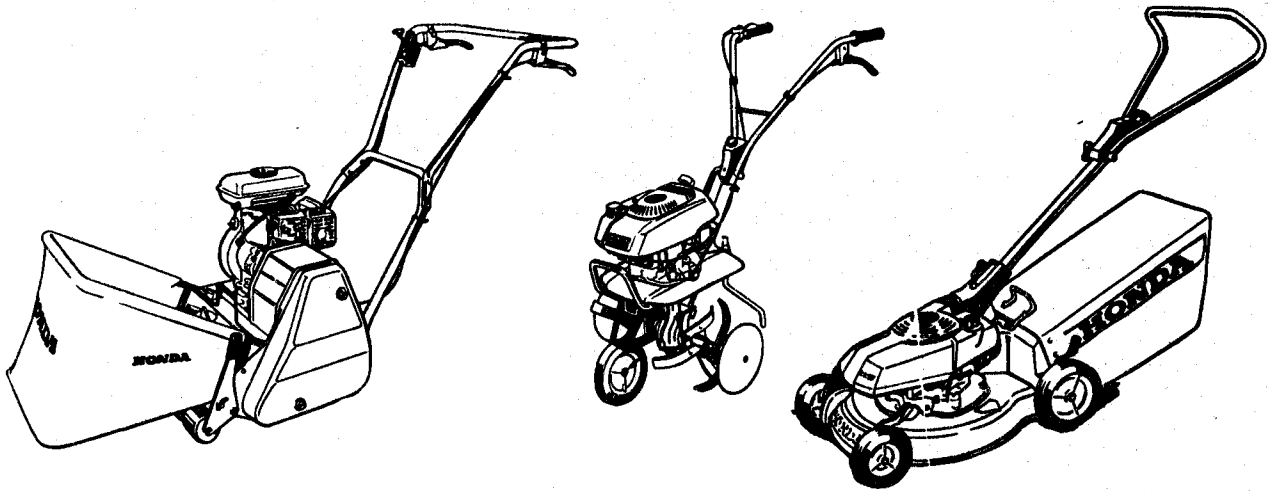
But roads are not really the problem, its the damn vehicles needed to journey along them. The constant toing and froing from Lancaster has rapidly highlighted the shortcomings of my vehicles. The need for new tyres, a new clutch, new windscreen wipers and endless quantities of petrol have all taken their financial toll. The final straw was the involuntary visit to a roadside field through a sturdily built fence. Those of you who travel from Cublington to Whitchurch will have noticed the two gaps in the fence on the left hand side as you go down Cublington hill, the second of those is mine. This piece of landscape redesign occured one Friday morning in early February. The irony is that I had survived five hours of torture during the journey from Lancaster the previous day on roads best described as dangerous - more realistically perhaps as deadly. I had spent the evening praising the qualities of my car. To add insult to injury (which is not strictly true as no one was injured) I was on my way to the garage to pick up Anita who had taken her car in for urgent repair - a repair, by the way, which we were told was only a temporary solution to a potentially terminal disease.

You might say all this is just part of lifes rich pattern, and of course you are right, but when it coincides with the tele going on the blink, and a burst pipe causing the old kitchen ceiling to sag and finally burst in a spectacular waterfall reminiscent of Niagara, I feel the fates are inflicting an unfair revenge. Either, I have had so many good times that a little lesson on disaster was required, or I am in for a wonderful summer. Somehow I feel its the former rather than the latter.

Common sense tells me there is always somebody worse off than yourself and doubtless you are saying - he should worry; if he had my problems he would really have something to occupy his mind. I accept the point and wait patiently for the tide to turn.

Abbottsburry.

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