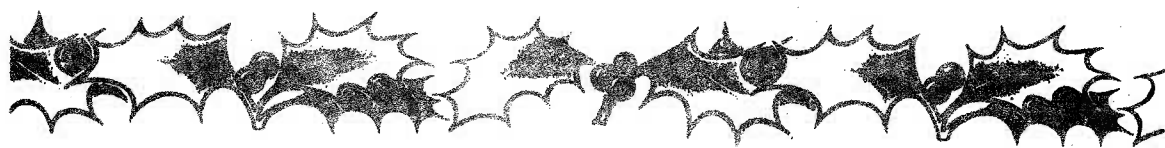


# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



## **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**



*Inside:*

**The Estone Chronicles  
BOOK OF THE MONTH**

**CHURCH NEWS**

**UPDATE**

**Quiz**

**Tuesday Club**

**Ladies Club**

**INSIDE THE BACK PAGE**

**DECEMBER 84 20. 16**



# Editorial

Thanks is once again due; this month to "Mary-Helen" for the much needed fund raising effort that added £20 to The Chronicle fund and to the Tuesday Club for their donation of £6. This is very much appreciated. In next months issue I will present the Chronicle's accounts so far but we are at the moment running at a loss. Increased advertising would help, so if you are involved in business please think seriously about supporting your Parish magazine with an advert - five, ten or fifteen pounds for a year's (more for the back page!) exposure must be a bargain!

This month's issue features an article on the Wingrave - La Bouexiere twinning. Having been involved in hosting the young French footballers recently, I can only urge you to banish any doubts and fears you might have and become involved. Our thanks to the open minded view of the Twinning committee who could easily have taken a parochial attitude and declared a Wingrave only policy.

The name of the "Church Room" seems to have support on both sides but my support goes to the views expressed by Betty Bennett in a letter to the Editor -

"Surely since the Church Room was 'born' the Church Room, it must remain so. This was made quite clear by the Vicar at the first Church Room Committee Meeting. It is for the use of all in the Village, but so is the Churchyard, and I hope it is not suggested this should be known as the Village Yard!"

Finally may I wish everybody a very happy Christmas.

*Graham Parker*

---

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

1. By telephone to Graham on Aston Abbotts 325.
2. By dropping a note through his door - The Cloisters.
3. Use the box in the Village Shop.

## DEADLINE DATE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE

By the 14th December please.

---

Published by Graham Parker for Aston Abbotts Parish Council.  
Printed by THE SQUIRREL PRESS, Waddesdon School, Waddesdon.  
Newspaper cuttings reproduced by kind permission of the  
Bucks Herald and the Bucks and Beds Observer.

---

# NOTICEBOARD

## Aston Abbotts bingo

The first Good Samaritan bingo evening of the new season was held last Thursday in the Church room, Aston Abbotts.

The caller was Mr. C. Higgs, and the door steward Mrs. L. Scutchings. The committee served refreshments in the interval.

Prizewinners were, Lines: Mrs. P. Rickard (2), Mrs. Bailey, Mr. H. Goldney.

Miss D. Wiggett, Mrs. Fletcher, Mrs. W. Evans. Houses: Mr. W. Evans, Mrs. J. Hedges, Mrs. R. Higgs, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. P. Rickard, Mrs. Lovell.

Special: 1 Mrs. Searle, Mr. Evans, 2 Mrs. P. Dixon. Raffle: 1 Mrs. E. Naylor, 2 Mrs. J. Hedges, 3 Mr. W. Evans. Football pontoon: Mrs. M. Coleman.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

in aid of

ASTON ABBOTTS

METHODIST CHAPEL

SATURDAY 1st. DECEMBER

2.30 p.m.

Usual home made produce fancy goods and handicraft stalls: Refreshments available.

CHILDRENS STALL in aid ETHIOPIAN FAMINE RELIEF

Contributions for the above to Karen or Mark Brandon.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Aston Abbotts Women's Fellowship met in the Methodist schoolroom when Mrs. D. Heffer presided and welcomed the speaker, Mrs. D. Scott from Soulbury.

In her talk Mrs. Scott posed the question, Who is Jesus? She illustrated her points with stories from the Bible and happenings in her own life. Mrs. Scott also accompanied the singing of hymns at the piano.

Tea and biscuits were served at the close.

## Whist winners

WHIST players met at Aston Abbotts recently when Mr L. Scutchings was MC.

Prizes were won by: Mrs Brackley, Mr Hodges, Mrs C Griffin, Mr L. Scutchings, Mrs P Rickard and Mrs E Naylor; special, Mrs Tappin, Mrs W Evans; raffle, Mrs Wesley, Mrs H Wesley and Mrs P Kempster.

## MARY - HELEN COFFEE MORNING

## A craft party in village

CHRONICLE, the Aston Abbotts parish magazine, benefited from a recent coffee morning and craft party in the village.

The party was held by Mary Helen at White Wheels and raised £20.

Raffle prizes were won by Mrs J Turnham, Miss R Watts, Mrs M. Bowell, Mrs Jones, Mrs D Scutchings, Mrs M Poulter, Mrs J Loader and Mrs B. Brandon.

## Tuesday Club

The next Coffee Morning for the Tuesday Club is to be held on Tuesday 11th. of December, as, with the free bus to Tesco's now running on a Wednesday many of the people attending the club thought this may be a better idea. The next meeting is going to be a 'party' so anyone coming is requested to bring a glass.

**Editor's Note:** Could this return to a Tuesday be related to 'Peterborough's' comments in the Daily Telegraph of the twelfth of November:

## Percolating through

FROM THE PARISH magazine for Aston Abbotts, Bucks: "By popular demand the Tuesday afternoon club has become a coffee morning and in future will meet on Wednesdays."

## PETERBOROUGH

## BONFIRE NIGHT

Another success. The idea of people bringing one large firework rather than several small ones certainly makes for a better display. Thanks to PETER KNIGHT and his helpers for a splendid bonfire, and thanks also to the ladies for the spuds and soup. Thanks to everyone for turning up ... see you again next year.

## CHRISTMAS SHOW

A last reminder that the 8th. Annual Christmas Show takes on the 6th., 7th., and 8th. of December. Tickets are still available for the 6th. and 7th., but hurry please.

Tickets from: Chris Brandon (425).

## ASTON ABBOTTS METHODIST CHAPEL

DECEMBER EVENING SERVICES at 6 p.m.

2nd. : Mrs. Green.

9th. : Mr. Smith.

16th. : Rev. Barrie Heffer.

23rd. : CAROL SERVICE Jonsthan Rodell.

30th. : Mr. Rixon.

# Ladies Club

The meeting on the 25th. October was a splendid one with Mr. Lawrence telling us how he became interested in making candles and how much time and effort went in to the final products, specimens of which he brought along to show us and to sell. I don't think he was left with many to take home again!

The A.G.M. was well attended on the 8th. November. The following people were elected (or re-elected) to serve next year:

Chairman: Mrs. Newell.

Vice Chairman: Miss. Bennett.

Secretary : Mrs. Dines.

Minute Secretary: Mrs. Christopher.

Treasurer: Mrs. Rickard.

Hall Rota: Mrs. Doggett.

Outings Arranger: Mrs. Fox.

The rest of the committee comprises: Mrs. Smith; Mrs. Roff; Mrs. Hill;  
Mrs. Richmond; Mrs Ford.

A 'Bring and Buy Sale' followed the elections, with tea to round off the proceedings.

The outing to Northampton will be on 22nd. November, no doubt by the time you read this, a good time will have been had by all.

On to December and Mrs Rickard is going to give us some tips on Christmas cookery on the 6th. Our annual Carol Service will be held this year on the 20th. on the Methodist Chapel and Mrs. Heffer has kindly agreed to take the service for us.

That will complete our meetings for 1984. A happy Christmas to you all.

---

## ASTON ABBOTTS CHURCH ROOM

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

MAXIMUM 60 PEOPLE.

FURTHER DETAILS FROM DORIS SCUTCHINGS ON  
ASTON ABBOTTS 243.

COST: £2.50 per hour + metered electricity.  
£1.50 per hour + metered electricity  
for residents of the parish.

---

# UPDATE

## OUR REGULAR NOTES ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Among the topics discussed at the Parish Council Meeting held on Friday 16th. November were:

MOAT LANE - the promise of chevrons at the dangerous Lines Hill corner had again failed to materialise. When questioned about this those in positions of authority at the County Council could not understand why nothing had happened, as instructions had been given. The Parish Council was given to understand that the chevrons would be in place forthwith - perhaps before you read this!

The state of WINGRAVE ROAD also came in for lengthy discussion. Several accidents had already taken place as a result of the liquid mud that covered the road in an already dangerous place. One parishioner was actively considering pursuing a civil case against the contractor. The task of keeping the road clear was beyond the token one man and his broom provided by the contractor. The police had been called on several occasions and had expressed concern. Must we wait for a more serious accident before action is taken? The meeting resolved that as much pressure as possible be exerted through the District and County Council representatives, the police and our direct lobbying of the contractor.

COUNCIL HOUSES. The Wing Association of Parish Councils had requested members "to take a survey of Council housing in their villages to see if ... sub-standard conditiond as existed in Leighton Road, Wing also occurred in their villages". If such instances were found the Association would exert pressure to have the housing improved. The Wing case of 'sub-standard conditions' related to the lack of indoor toilet facilities, which it is understood do not exist in Aston Abbotts. However the Parish Council would like to hear from Council tenants who consider that their housing is in any way sub-standard. Please speak to any member of the Parish Council and/or write with details to the Clerk.

### ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

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

Your District Councillor is Bryan Round, Fernleigh, Nup End Lane, Wingrave. (Tel: Aston Abbotts 6217).

Your County Councillor is Reg Keen, 18 Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond, Milton Keynes. (Tel: Soulbury 467).

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE. The question arose as to the future of the telephone exchange when we moved to the new numbers early next year. The likelihood is that British Telecom will put the building and land up for sale to the highest bidder sometime in the spring. However the useful possibilities of such a property seem limited, other than as a store of some sort. One suggestion was that if B.T., with its new corporate image, could be persuaded to hand over the building to the village it could be used as a surgery for visiting doctors. Parishioners views on this would be much appreciated.

LA BOUEXIERE - WINGRAVE TWINNING. What are we doing talking about this ... well Bryan Round, your District Councillor and a member of the Wingrave Twinning Committee, spoke of the exchanges that had already taken place, including the recent hosting of the La Bouexiere junior football team. This very successful event had involved families from Aston Abbotts and Cublington and the Wingrave Twinning Committee now wanted to extend the opportunities to become involved to everyone in Aston and Cublington. The Parish Council responded enthusiastically to the idea. An article on the twinning arrangement appears on another page.

# Praise for village conservation plea

**ASTON Abbotts Parish Councillors and residents won acclaim last week for producing a detailed report for conservation area status within the village.**

Cllr. Reg Keen told members of Aylesbury Vale District Council's development and recreation committee that five people, parish councillors and residents, had produced a remarkable document.

And he urged support for their bid to create a conservation area in the village, mainly a Victorian rural settlement, which has about 100 houses and a population of just under 300.

Cllr. Mrs. Zena Williams also welcomed the report talking in glowing terms of the "very, very beautiful cottages around the green" in the village.

Members agreed that officers should investigate the possibilities of extending their conservation programme to include Aston Abbotts and other suitable areas in the district.

A report will be prepared on their findings for a later meeting, but in the meantime members agreed to thank Aston Abbotts Parish Council for drawing their attention to the particular characteristics and features of the village, and expressed appreciation for the manner

in which its case was presented.

A preliminary appraisal by officers suggests that parts of the village may be worthy of conservation area status, but members were warned there are wider considerations.

While free to bring more areas into such a status, members were advised to be cautious as an arbitrary selection of villages or parts of villages is not likely to serve the best interests of the district as a whole.

And officers warned that in the long-term this could have the effect of devaluing the status of existing conservation areas.

Nevertheless Aston Abbotts is delighted with the warm reception its report received at the council meeting, as Mr. David Watts, clerk to the parish council, explained.

"We don't expect it to go through in its entirety. There is always the possibility of changes, but we have made a good start," he said.

The idea to go for conservation status was born over a year ago at an Aston Abbotts Parish Council meeting after concern was expressed about planning applications for the centre of the village.

"We had a couple of infilling applications which have been passed, but which we don't consider

really adds to the area. There has been the feeling that more control over it was needed," he said.

But Mr. Watts was keen to point out the parish council is not out to stop progress and seeking more power to keep new development out of the village. There is room for more housing.

"But we want to make sure it is in keeping with the village," he said.

With these ideas in mind a sub-committee was formed following that parish council meeting to

look into the idea of conservation status for the village.

The chairman at the time — the council has a change every year — was Cllr. Graham Parker who did all the work of preparing the document and used private funds to ensure the right type of presentation.

He was assisted on the sub-committee by Mr. Watts and two residents, and together they set out their ideas based on other conservation documents previously prepared by Aylesbury Vale District Council.

A copy of the document was then circulated to each household in the village for comment and, while the response was limited, there were a few additional suggestions which were added.

There are four blocks of identical cottages in the village which are interesting for that reason, and because they have been well served, said Mr. Watts.

Also there are quite a few cottages and a couple of chapel buildings which were built 1840-1870.

*Next Parish Council Meeting:  
— Friday JANUARY 18th.  
8pm. Church Room.*

**Your Village Shop**

**OSBORN'S**

**THE GROCERS**

**'use it or lose it'**

## LEAVE YOUR HOME IN SAFE HANDS

Homeminders will take care of your home, property and pets, while you're away.

■ Daily checks, routine chores, all part of a dependable, affordable keyholding service.

■ Ease the worries of going away with Homeminders!

6, Vicarage Lane, Wing,  
Leighton Buzzard,  
Beds., LU7 0NU Tel: Wing 546

**HOMEMINDERS**

Yew Tree Cottage, Church Street,  
Wingrave,  
Aylesbury, Bucks.  
Tel: Aston Abbotts 565





# Entente is growing ever more cordiale

## WINGRAVE - LA BOUEXIERE TWINNING

After considerable effort Wingrave has, this year, formerly established a twinning arrangement with the town of La Bouexiere near Rennes in Brittany. A small group from Wingrave initiated the scheme by visiting Brittany earlier in the year and then hosting a returning group from France. During the summer a party of thirty five left Wingrave for a weekend in La Bouexiere, and those who can recall events after the first few bottles of wine informed the others of what a great time they had all had.

The success of these visits led to the idea of an international football match for the youngsters and La Bouexiere's under twelve football team were duly invited. They were picked up one wet and windy Friday evening in Portsmouth and brought back to homes in Wingrave, Rowsham, Aston Abbotts and Cublington. The weekend that followed was an unqualified success and those who participated were all eager for the return match to be held over the weekend 23 - 24 February next year. Few of those who came could speak English, even fewer of those hosting could speak French, but all communicated, made friends and above all enjoyed themselves.

As a result of yet another successful venture the Wingrave Twinning Committee received requests to extend the exchanges to include Aston Abbotts and Cublington, to which they immediately agreed. That committee is now organising another exchange between youngsters aged 10 or over. Many children have already made friends in La Bouexiere and know exactly whose house they would like to stay at and which French child they want to welcome here. Others will want to be put in touch with a suitable exchange partner. This can be done!

The dates of this exchange will be:

5 - 15 April 1985 Wingrave children to visit La Bouexiere and stay with families.

22 July - 1 August 1985 Children from La Bouexiere to visit England, and stay with families in our villages.

### ARE YOU INTERESTED ?

So far no arrangements have been made about travel or accompanying the party and if your child goes you may be asked to help, e.g. by driving to the Channel port.

The price would be only the group-rate fare, plus insurance, plus a little pocket money. At a guess - and at this stage it can only be a guess - the fare and insurance might come to £15 - £25. Each family would be expected to pay for its own child or children, and to entertain a French child or children in July.

The group is not expected to be large this first time, probably numbering 12 to 20. If you would like your child to go please let Jean Keighley know (The Old Vicarage, Wingrave; Aston Abbotts 235) by 31st. December at the latest. Those going will be on a first come first served basis.

This, then, is an exchange for youngsters, but if you would like to become involved in the adult visits or would just like further information please let me know or ring Jean Keighley.

Graham Parker.

# The Estone Chronicles

## "ASTON ABBOTTS MEMORABILIA"

This month an extract from THE BUCKS ADVERTISER and AYLESBURY NEWS of Friday 21st. of December 1934.

THE BUCKS ADVERTISER AND AYLESBURY NEWS.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21st, 1934.

## Around The District

### ASTON ABBOTTS

**Children Entertained.**—The children of the village were entertained to an excellent tea on Tuesday evening at the Church Room by the kind courtesy of the Wingrave and Aston Abbots Branch of the British Legion. The evening was spent in games and songs. Mrs. N. Clarke, Mrs. F. Halsey and Mrs. W. Humphreys were responsible for the comfort of the children at tea and a happy time was spent by all. The children gave three hearty cheers for the British Legion and the National Anthem brought the evening to a close.

**Whist Drive.**—Owing to the dampness of the evening there were only six tables in play at the whist drive held in the Church Room on Thursday, December 13th, when the Vicar, the Rev. White Morris, acted as M.C. and Mrs. Morris presented the prizes. The winners were as follows:—Ladies: 1, Mrs. Clarence Brock; consolation, Miss Wiggins. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Greenall; consolation, Mr. Geo. Ridgway. Mr. Williams, Mr. C. Brock and Master Don Hinds tied in the highest score first half, and on cutting the prize was won by Master Don Hinds, aged 12 years.

**Concert.**—The entertainment event of last week was a variety concert given to a full house by R. Winter's Entertainers, of Berkhamsted, on the evening of Friday week. The Vicar, Rev. White Morris, occupied the chair, and judging by the applause every item was thoroughly appreciated. While all the artistes were good it is hardly fair to single out one for special praise, but it may be stated that as a comedian R. Winter himself evoked roars of laughter. The proceeds were devoted to the School Fund which has been very much depleted recently owing to structural repairs having to be done to the roof and chimney of the School.



# BOOK OF THE MONTH

## A CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

A selection of twenty five books for Christmas to suit all (well, almost all) tastes.

### CHILDREN'S BOOKS

#### GRANDPA

John Burningham. Cape £4.95.

A moving yet unsentimental look at the special friendship between a little girl and her much loved Grandpa.

#### SPOT GOES TO SCHOOL

Eric Hill. Heinemann £5.95.

Everybody knows Spot the puppy, a best seller for years; and what better way of breaking the going-to-school ice than with this most appealing book.

#### MOSES THE KITTEN

James Herriot, Michael Joseph £4.95.

The Vets first venture into children's books; an ordinary story well told with superb watercolour drawings - of actual locations - by Peter Barrett.



### OLDER CHILDREN

#### THE NEW KIT WILLIAMS

Kit Williams

If the Masquerade fever tantalized you here is another challenge! The title of this book is not to be found on the cover, but hidden within the pages there are clues to lead you to the answer. Even without the lure of the quest this is a unique and beautiful book.

Cape £5.95 0 224 01906 6

#### BMX FREESTYLE

Dave Spurdens

The exciting world of free wheeling! Thrilling photos of the BMX 'Skyways' stunt team in action plus advice for the amateur rider on how to perform one of the safer stunts.

Hamlyn £3.99 0 600 34775 3

#### WORLD SOCCER SKILLS

Dave Spurdens

Forget about the tactics, let's have the tuppenny ball players back! Step-by-step action photos and instructions show how to develop the skills of outstanding contemporary players.

Hamlyn £5.95 0 600 38552 3

### BIOGRAPHY

#### LIFE'S RICH PAGEANT

Arthur Marshall

This is the first full-length book by the much-loved "star" of *Call My Bluff*. Published in his fiftieth year of broadcasting, it is his own story told in his own inimitable and amusing way. A most enjoyable read.

Hamish Hamilton £8.95 0 241 11306 7

#### SO MUCH LOVE: An Autobiography

Beryl Reid

Who can forget her superb cameo role in *Tinker Tailor*? This most popular actress recounts with humour her life on stage and screen in a book that is delightfully refreshing and readable.

Hutchinson £7.95 0 09 155730 5

#### ATTLEE

Kenneth Harris. Weidenfeld £5.95.

Comprehensive account of the man who emerged from the shadow of Churchill to lead the great post-war Labour government. A moving and eloquently sympathetic account.

### NOVELS

#### EMPIRE OF THE SUN

J.G. Ballard. Gollancz £8.95.

The Booker favourite that failed to win; based on events witnessed personally by Ballard after the Fall of Singapore in the last war.



## PROOF

Dick Francis. Michael Joseph &8.95.  
The usual mix that has brought success in the past for Francis and pleasure to his readers. He is a master of the thriller.

## WATERLAND

Graham Swift. Picador £2.50.  
A personal favourite, now in paperback, traces the history of the Fenland family of the narrator Tom Crick. A superb read.

## STARS AND BARS

William Boyd. Hamish Hamilton £8.50  
Another personal favourite from a man who could become one of the truly great novelists of our time. Henderson Dores, a shy Englishman, goes to America to overcome his disability, and soon finds his English sensibilities under attack. Beautifully written and uproariously funny.

## SHAME

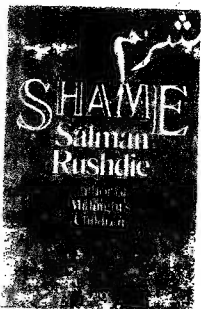
Salman Rushdie. Picador £2.95.  
Now in paperback this is the brilliant fable set in a not-quite-imaginary Pakistan, with versions of Zia and Bhutto in leading roles.

## MONEY

Martin Amis. Cape £8.95  
A typical fast moving Amis novel.

## THE FOURTH PROTOCOL

Frederick Forsyth. Hutchinson £9.95.  
Another Forsyth saga, fast moving, gripping adventure that we have come to expect from the best seller of them all.... why not wait for the paperback version next year.



## HUMOUR

### THE PETERBOROUGH BOOK 2

Michael Green(ED). Sphere £1.50.  
We don't get a mention this time but maybe we will be in Book 3. This selection includes odd items from local papers, bizarre signs seen on holiday and selections from the rest of the fun that Daily Telegraph readers already enjoy.

### THE GROWING PAINS OF ADRIAN MOLE

Sue Townsend  
Adrian is now 15, the difficult age. Pandora and Sharon Botts occupy a lot of his thoughts. His parents are terrible. This is the diary of an intellectual.

### BATCHELOR BOYS, THE YOUNG ONES' BOOK

Rik Mayall, Ben Elton & Lise Meyer.  
Sphere £2.95.  
Based on the cult T.V. series. About as childish, crude and highly funny as usual.

## TRAVEL

### ON THE SHORES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Eric Newby. Collins £9.95.  
Newby fans will love this ... a real joy.

### RIVER JOURNEYS

Russell Braddon et al. B.B.C. £10.95.  
The book of the T.V. series, well written and well illustrated.

### FELLWALKING WITH WAINWRIGHT

Wainwright & Brabbs. Octopus £9.95.  
Stunning photography coupled with vintage Wainwright. The perfect portrait of the Lake District.

## SPORT

### ARLOTT ON CRICKET

Edited by David Allen. Collins £12.95.  
Sorry to draw your attention to the world's greatest game yet again but this is a marvellous collection of his best writing on the game. Only Cardus can match him.

### OVERT

Steve Ovett. Collins Willow &8.95.  
A glimpse into the life of a private man but a public figure.

### BENSON & HEDGES CRICKET YEAR 3RD. EDITION

ED. David Lemmon. Pelham £12.95.  
A noble challenger to Wisden; a complete record of all first class cricket played around the world from Oct. 83 to the end of the English season in Sept '84.

# QUIZ

Something to exercise the mind over Christmas! A test that originates in America - a fact worth remembering when attempting some of the questions.

The test does not measure your intelligence, your fluency with words and certainly not your mathematical ability. It will, however, give you some gauge of your mental flexibility and creativity. In the three times that I have used this exercise I have found few people who could solve more than half the 24 questions on the first try. Many, however, report getting answers long after the test had been set aside - particularly at unexpected moments when their minds were relaxed, and some reported solving all the questions over a period of several days. Take this as your personal challenge.

Instructions: Each equation below contains the initials of words that will make it correct. Finish the missing words. For example: 26 = L of the A. would be 26 = Letters of the Alphabet. Now have a go at the rest.

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| (a) 4 = S of the Y. _____                  | (m) 10 = M went to M. _____           |
| (b) 7 = W of the W. _____                  | (n) 3 = RM _____                      |
| (c) 1001 = AN _____                        | (o) 4 = Q in a C. _____               |
| (d) 12 = S of the Z _____                  | (p) 24 = H in a D. _____              |
| (e) 54 = C in the P<br>(with the J.) _____ | (q) 1 = W on a U. _____               |
| (f) 9 = P in the SS _____                  | (r) 22 = Y in the L<br>of a CP. _____ |
| (g) 88 = PK _____                          | (s) 57 = HV. _____                    |
| (h) 13 = S on the AF _____                 | (t) 11 = P on a FT. _____             |
| (i) 18 = H on a GC _____                   | (u) 1000 = W that a P is W. _____     |
| (j) 32 = DF at which WF. _____             | (v) 29 = D in F in a LY. _____        |
| (k) 90 = D in a RA _____                   | (w) 64 = S on a C. _____              |
| (l) 200 = P for PG in M. _____             | (x) 40 = D and N of the GP. _____     |

I do not pretend the test is easy and would like to encourage you all to 'have a go'. As an incentive I am offering a £5 book token (or cash if you insist) to the first correct entry out of the hat at the next Parish Council Meeting on Friday 18th. January.

Entries to Graham Parker or hand them in at the Post Office.

Answers to last months questions : On Prime Ministers.

- Who was the youngest PM ? William Pitt the Younger aged 24.
- Who was the oldest to take office ? Palmerston aged 70 (oldest to take office as PM for first time.).
- Who was the oldest PM to retire in office ? Gladstone aged 88.(sorry 84)
- Which PM had the shortest term of office ? Earl of Bath, from 10 - 12 February 1746.
- Which PM had the longest tenure of office ? Walpole with 21 years.

Which Prime Ministers wrote :

- Full Circle - Anthony Eden.
- The Past Masters - Harold Macmillan.
- A History of the English Speaking Peoples - Winston Churchill.
- Sybil - Benjamin Disraeli.
- The Governance of Britain - Harold Wilson.

# CHURCH NEWS

Over the weekend 3rd/4th November five of the congregation attended a conference held at Stowe School. No doubt many of you have visited the school and know what a magnificent setting for a conference it provides. We went to talk about the ministry of the church in rural areas. Through various 'workshops' we heard what other villages do faced with similar situations to our own. An important point is that with fewer clergymen than there used to be and, sadly, the prospect of even fewer, we must all accept that the church in the village means all of us, however loosely connected to the church we may be. As the Bishop of Buckingham reminded us, the Church of England has always been so, a parochial church that is concerned with all in the parish. We therefore thought of the village community as a



REMBRANDT'S drawing of Christ as a gardener appearing to Mary Magdalene. One of more than a thousand illustrations in Bob Haak's *The Golden Age: Dutch Painters of the Seventeenth Century* (Thames and Hudson, £40).

whole. How do we best care for each other "loving our neighbours as ourselves"? Do we do enough for the young and the not so young, the sick, the newcomer, do we pray enough? The P.C.C. will discuss these things. Meantime it must be good if apart from being the best kept village we are also a village which keeps best care of all its members.

The 57 who came to the Wine & Cheese supper enjoyed a splendid evening, not only was there plenty to eat but Victor's slides were superb, ranging from bull finches in the Murray's garden and little owls in the Abbey grounds, to Red Square in Moscow and the mighty Annapurna herself. They really were a treat and we hope it won't be too long before we see some more. Incidentally we also raised over £80.

This month our services include the Carol Service on Sunday 16th. December at 3.p.m. with tea and mincepies; and, on Christmas Day the Family Service at 10.00 a.m. which last year was a most memorable occasion. It would be very good to meet you all at church on that most special of days.

## SERVICES

December 2nd. : 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion	<u>Sidesmen</u>
Readings: Isaiah 52(7-10); Luke 21(25-33).	Mr. C. Higgs.
December 9th. : 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion	Mr. C. Spike.
Readings: 2 Timothy 3(14) - 4(5); John 5(36-47)	Mr. J. Ford.
December 16th. : 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion	Churchwardens.
Readings: 1 Corinth. 4(1-5); John 1(19-28).	
3.00 p.m. CAROL SERVICE	
December 23rd. : NO SERVICE	
December 25th. : FAMILY SERVICE followed by HOLY Communion	Churchwardens.
Readings: Isaiah 9(2, 6-7); Luke 2 (8-20).	
December 30th. : NO SERVICE.	

December 1984

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Tel. A.A. 623

A local superstore has suddenly discovered that the rural parishes could be of use to their commercial enterprise. So much so that free transport will pick-up we 'carrotcrunchers', if we are able to stand at the right place on the right day at the right time, for us to do our shopping and make the effort an all-round viable proposition.

If the big store can see our potential, so can the Church in our Arch-deaconry. Well, sort of woken up to the fact that Christians in the country districts are worthy of some attention. So, a conference held recently in Stowe School was attended by nine delegates from our three parishes (you will read more from them in this magazine). They met with more than a hundred others to think about the future "ministry" of the Church. It certainly won't be as it is now. A shortage of clergy, among other things, is gently pushing us to understand more about the way the Church is to 'survive' in rural communities.

There is, of course, the Tesco method: close the country church buildings and worship in centres. Indeed, some run off and do this already! Yet, I reckon each community needs its own Church just as I believe that each community needs its own magazine, its own shop - not to speak of its own pub! If this is not to be so, then our villages will become mere dormitories for us all as we struggle to find our centre in one gigantic, depersonalising, demoralising, urban conurbation.

For centuries the history of the Church in the parishes has had as its focal point the PARSON. Seen to be the "Person" who has represented God and the Church. An exaggerated inheritance worth some severe pruning, for we are all PARSONS - "Persons" in our own right. Increasingly, now, we must understand that the Church in any community is the 'People of God'.

SO, A VISIT FROM A CHURCH MEMBER IS A VISIT FROM THE CHURCH.

If the clergyman can make the visit, well and good, but as he becomes more and more remote because there are so few of him (excuse the grammar!) the role of the laity comes into its own rightful place - returns to New Testament Christianity where the difference between clergy and laity is barely defined.

It will not be long, I suspect, before our own three parishes become part of a greater whole, with one priest for six or seven, or, more parishes. Please God the Church (building and people) will be still there.

BUT THAT WILL DEPEND ON ALL OF US.

.....

I have been asked to comment on the new Bishop of Durham's statements on the Faith. I can only say that he is obviously entitled to his own belief, just as a certain pathologist has a right to his thoughts on the reasons for 'cot deaths'. However, when it comes to speaking these thoughts out loud, then responsible leadership demands careful and considered comments.

Bishop Jenkins is highly thought of as a modern theologian, but I believe he should have used his intelligence to realise how hurtful and damaging comments about the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection could be to those who don't take part in his seminars. After all, they are only his thoughts. So, if you believe, as I do, in the most perfect miracle of the Incarnation (God became man in Jesus Christ) then to believe in the miraculous Birth and the physical Resurrection would seem to present no difficulty whatsoever.

Anyway, I believe in the narratives of the Nativity as recorded by SS. Matthew and Luke - simple minded I may be. So I hope you will join me this Christmas time and come with a childlike faith even unto Bethlehem to see this thing that has come to pass which the Lord has made known to us.

## SPECIAL SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS TIME IN THE PARISH CHURCHES

ASTON ABBOTTS:	December 16th	3.00 p.m. Carol Service
	Christmas Day	10.00 a.m. Family Service
		10.30 a.m. The Christmas Communion
CUBLINGTON:	December 23rd	3.00 p.m. Carol Service
	Christmas Day	8.45 a.m. The Christmas Communion
WINGRAVE:	December 16th	6.00 p.m. Christingle Carol Service
	December 20th	2.30 p.m. Childrens' Event Afternoon
	December 21st	2.30 p.m. MacIntyre School Service
	December 23rd	10.00 a.m. Junior Church: "Nativity"
	Christmas Eve	11.00 p.m. Midnight Mass: Christmas Communion
	December 30th	United Benefice Eucharist at 10.00 a.m.

NOTES Gifts of toys brought to Cublington Carol Service and Wingrave Junior Church "Nativity" on Sunday 23rd December will be given to the MacIntyre School.

The children from our village School will read lessons and sing special carols at the "Christingle" on Sunday 16th December, when the collection is given for the Church of England Childrens Society.

Young children are particularly welcome to come on Christmas Day to the Family Service at Aston Abbots at 10 A.M., when they are invited to bring their Christmas toy/s.

Please note the new time for the Christmas Eve Communion in Wingrave Parish Church at 11 P.M. The Wingrave Singers will lead carols from 10.30 p.m.

After the United Benefice Eucharist on Sunday, 30th December, at 10 A.M. a glass of wine and mince pies will be served as we prepare to celebrate coming of the New Year a couple of days early!

### SUNDAY LESSONS (ASB Year 1)

30th December	"Naming of Jesus" (752)	Acts 4(8-12)	Luke 2(15-21)
6th January	The Epiphany (460)	Ephesians 3(1-12)	Matthew 2(1-12)
13th January	Epiphany 1 (463)	Acts 10(34-38)	Matthew 3(13-17)
20th January	Epiphany 2 (467)	Acts 26(1,9-20)	Mark 1(14-20)

HOLY BAPTISM At the Family Service on 25th November in Aston Abbots Parish Church:

LLOYD FREDERICK, son of Michael and Elaine HARRIS

HOLY MATRIMONY Wingrave Parish Church, 3rd November:

Richard Martin AMOS and Sally Anne SMITH

FUNERAL Cublington Parish Church, 16th November:

Sidney Richard HALSEY

ETHIOPIAN APPEAL As a result of cash collections and sales at our Harvest Thanksgiving celebrations in the parishes, we have been able to send nearly £300 to Christian Aid. These are not the final figures and we will publish as soon as they are known. Meanwhile the crisis in that part of Africa continues so we must think again of ways in which we can help.

FAMILY SERVICES A reminder that the First Sunday of the Month is now reserved for Cublington's Service for Parents and Children at 10 o'clock.

CONFIRMATION 1984 A note of those confirmed from our parishes on 28th November will appear in the January issue.

O-FIVES meet on two Thursday afternoons each month in Wingrave Parish Church: usually the second and fourth. Time: 2 o'clock.



# INSIDE THE BACK PAGE

## A Mantelpiece of History

Another weekend almost over and the television has the usual Sunday evening choice of heavy programmes. The South Bank Show wins this week simply because it features Alan Bennett. How many of you remember 'Beyond the Fringe', the revue that revived revues in the sixties? Jonathan Miller, Peter Cook and Dudley Moore went on to greater public fame while the fourth member, Alan Bennett was to achieve critical acclaim for his writing, but is less well known to the general public.

The programme featured Bennett meandering through his life with a self-deprecating style that made you warm to a man whose talent is to observe and write in a moving and witty style about everyday life. At one point he took the part of one of the characters he had created who found himself examining the mantelpiece in his father's home in the 1950's. The catalogue of contents provided an intimate insight into life in that decade. Bennetts dry Yorkshire delivery, with his distinctive inflection and careful use of the language, somehow makes the simplicity of life seem vital, humorous and full of interest.

The mantelpiece has all but disappeared in this Economy 7 age, but those of you who still have a fireplace, I wonder what treasures and oddments lie hidden on your mantelpiece? If you were to make a detailed list of all the items you find and then look at it again in ten or twenty years it would create a picture illuminating your life a decade or so ago.

Our mantelpiece is formed by an old railway sleeper, one of a job lot bought by my father-in-law, and deposited with other 'will come in useful sometime' purchases, behind one of the older barns at the farm. We could not afford a 'real' beam, and so acquired the sleeper that still retains the holes drilled at each end to take the bolts that held the rails in place.

On this apology for a mantelpiece stands an Arabic brass plate, lodged precariously against the chimney wall, a gift from a brother teaching in Saudi Arabia; a brass candlestick, now much dented by its repeated visits to the floor, and a packet of cigarettes - Lambert and Butler extra mild, a pathetic attempt to placate any anti-smoking concern. Slotted behind the plate is an assortment of documents that must not be lost, but I can never remember which documents I have put there and thus always look elsewhere first.

The plate also hides letters from friends far afield that must have a reply. One is from Mia, who flew back from Bermuda to be a bridesmaid at our wedding, another from an American friend unseen for nearly ten years. Mia, by the way, is still in the Caribbean, married to an archtypal entrepreneur who has a host of small businesses scattered about the islands. They live in Christmas House on the island of Provinciales, having moved there in the hope that a promised tourist boom would make their fortune. We have been saying for months that we must reply to these but as usual, they have had to wait for the annual Christmas contact letter.

Wedged behind that battered candlestick are renewal notices for magazines, bills that must be paid sooner or later and a couple of bookmarks, examples of another of those odd items that are collected with intermittent fanaticism. Scattered along the rest of the surface is some odd change; a fifty pence piece, a couple of pennies and one of those sensibly sized twenty pence pieces - new coins that remain alien to those of us who remember, with affection, the coins of yesteryear ... the tanner, the bob or an 'arf crown. Progress robs us of so much comforting familiarity.

The shelf litter also includes an elastic band, a menu from the Chinese take-away, a couple of conkers, a drawing pin, an empty coffee mug and a box of matches for those detested cigarettes. What would Alan Bennett be able to make of all this? Not much I suspect but certainly far more than I can.

*Abbottsbury.*



# Peter Arnold



*'Bringing back stray cattle across the head of Ullswater' Watercolour. Thomas Bushby (1861-1918). Signed, dated 1902, inscribed 'Ullswater'. 14ins. x 21ins.*

Fine 19th and 20th century Watercolours and Paintings

Wingrave, Aylesbury, Bucks.  
(Tel: Aston Abbots (029676) 568)

## Mary-Helen Crafts

GIFT CRACKERS for all occasions

SOFT TOYS  
TEASEL MICE  
PATCHWORK  
CRAFT PARTIES  
LACE and BOBBIN MAKERS

White Wheels  
Aston Abbots  
Aylesbury  
Bucks  
Aston Abbots 376

Aston Abbots 542

Aston Abbots 425

**BIGNELL & BRANDON**  
CARPENTERS & GENERAL BUILDERS

51 Church Street  
Wingrave  
Aylesbury

12, Bricstock  
Aston Abbots  
Aylesbury

Try  
**Len Scutchings**  
Tel: Aston Abbots 243

Estimates Free

For Additional Electrical Sockets  
and Lighting Points  
Immersion Heater Replacements  
Domestic Rewiring