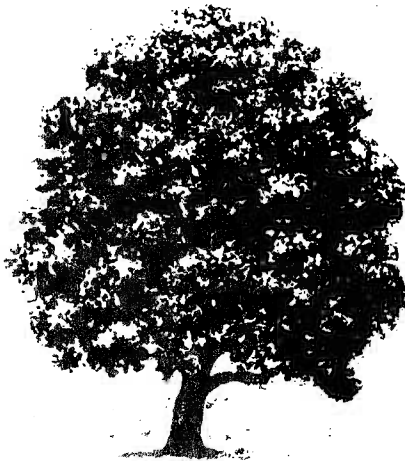


# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



**Inside :**

**CHURCH NEWS**

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**INSIDE THE BACK PAGE**

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**BOOK OF THE MONTH**

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*The Rothschilds* of  
Buckinghamshire

**MARCH 1985 No. 19**





## Editorial

My thanks to Longmoor Farm Enterprises, who have stepped into the advertising space on the back page. We still need more!

My thanks also to Shirley Ford who has kindly lent me a vast array of documents relating to the village. These and Shirley's history of the village will be appearing in future pages of the Estone Chronicles.

Could I also take this opportunity of wishing Mrs. Goldney a speedy recovery after her long awaited operation. This should perhaps appear elsewhere in the magazine but it gives me the opportunity to say that if you would like to wish people well or thank somebody for a kindness given why not do so in The Chronicle. Our sister magazine The Cublington Crier has a regular section with news of birthdays, welcomes to new arrivals in the village and best wishes to those celebrating an anniversary, so why not The Chronicle? Please let me know of any such events.

Congratulations and thanks to all of those who are involved in the re-launch of an Aston Abbotts Youth Club. I hope it will be the great success their effort deserve and become an established feature of our village life.

Finally, I have just received a most moving letter and donation from a reader who wishes to remain anonymous. To that person, my thanks.

*Graham Parker*

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### DEADLINE DATE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE

By the 23rd. March please.

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### 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.
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# NOTICEBOARD

## WHATS ON

**SATURDAY 9th. MARCH : GRAND JUMBLE SALE**  
2.30 p.m. AT WINGRAVE COMMUNITY CENTRE.  
Raffle, cake stall, competitions and teas.

**SATURDAY 16th. MARCH : MOTHER'S BAZAAR**  
11.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. at the WINGRAVE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE in aid of the Parish  
magazine.

## Ladies Club

### The art of peg dolls

On the 31st. January we had a very interesting demonstration by Mrs. Humphreys from Tring on the making of peg dolls. She concentrates on Victorian servants but will make special ones to order. The detail she manages to get into such tiny dolls is amazing.

The meeting on the 14th. February was held at Mrs. Bellingham's house. The weather was bitterly cold and we were very grateful for her kind invitation to hold the meeting there. I think not only the water pipes would have been frozen in the Church Room that day! Mrs. Esther Smith talked to us about her great aunt Lydia, an eccentric lady to say the least.

On the 13th. March we are holding a Social Evening at 7.30p.m. in the Church Room.

The remaining meeting in March, on the 28th. we are to be entertained by two ladies, Jill and Eileen. I cannot divulge the nature of the entertainment as I don't know!

## Tuesday Club

MARCH 12th. 10.30a.m. in the CHURCH ROOM there is to be a magazine exchange.  
Hostesses: Mrs. Fox; Mrs. Harris and Michele Hinds.  
EVERYONE WELCOME.

## BEST KEPT VILLAGE CUP

The Cup awarded to the village in the summer has been moved for the second half of the year to the Royal Oak from the Bull & Butcher. The Parish Council would like to pass their thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Naylor at the Bull & Butcher for taking such good care of the cup whilst it was on display at their premises.

## RECREATION GROUND

THE RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE ARE LOOKING FOR A WILLING VOLUNTEER TO MOW THE RECREATION GROUND DURING THE SUMMER.

A ride-on mower, hopefully soon to be changed for a larger model, is available. A small honorarium of £50 per annum is offered with the post, but we have to say that this is not really a true reward for the effort that would be required, but we are sure that whoever was disposed to offer their services, would receive not only the thanks of the Recreation Ground Committee, but of all users of the field.

COULD ANY VOLUNTEERS MAKE THEMSELVES KNOWN TO DAVID WATTS (376), JOHN WHYTE (685) OR CHRIS BRANDON (425) BY EARLY MARCH PLEASE.

## FOR SALE

SNOOKER TABLE ( $\frac{1}{4}$  size) £40.  
SIDEBOARD £10. WARDROBE £10.  
ELECTRIC SINGER SEWING  
MACHINE £15.  
CONTACT: ASTON ABBOTTS 200.

## FOOTPATH RAMBLE

SUNDAY 24th. MARCH.  
THE GREEN 2.15 p.m.

# BOOK OF THE MONTH



**ILLUSTRATION** by Marie-Helene Jeeves from *The Nouveaux Pauvres* by Nicholas Monson and Debra Scott (Quartet Books £5.95), a guide to downward nobility. The first Lord Nelson won Trafalgar — the ninth earl is a policeman, as are Lord Loughborough and Lord Strathnaver. Lord Kingsale builds silage pits in the Somerset village where he lives in a cottage. One of his ancestors swapped Killbriain castle for a rare white stoat. Some Nouveaux Pauvres survive better than others. Vanessa Llewelyn, wife of baronet's son Dai Llewelyn, had piranha-like shoals of bailiffs outside their Harley Street front door when a court case went bad, leaving a five-figure sum to find. "I worked out a way of smuggling the silver out of the house. Each time I'd go out with the baby, I'd hide some cutlery or a candlestick beneath the pram's mattress. It must have been slightly uncomfortable for the baby, but after a dozen or so excursions to relatives' houses, our Georgian silver was completely safe." Clearly a woman of resource.

**Your Village Shop**

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**THE GROCERS**

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# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## 7.30p.m. Church Room

### FRIDAY MARCH 8th.

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 last year took on the responsibility for electing 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 1984 Fete Committee.
4. Election of the 1985 Fete Committee.
5. Distribution of money raised by the 1985 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, then 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 or leave it in the Chronicle box at the shop. 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.

The meeting will be followed by a Parish Council 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 member/s of the 1985 Fete Committee:

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I would like to nominate the following as member/s of the 1985 Church Room Management Committee:

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When nominating please ensure the individual is prepared to stand.

I would be willing to serve on the Fete Committee and the Church Room Management Committee.

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

Please PRINT name alongside signature.

## A New Youth Club Formed.

A new Aston Abbotts Youth Club has been recently formed for children aged between the years of 9 and 16. Meetings will usually be held on a Friday evening between 7-9 pm in the Church Room, and there will be a 30p subscription each week per child to cover running costs.

Activities will include:-

Table Tennis	Card Games	Crafts
Snooker	Swimming	Cycling
Cooking	Cricket	Chess
Darts	Rounders	Discos
Computers	Volley Ball	Walks
Games	Beetle Drives	Barbeques etc;

The meetings planned for March are:-

1st March - General Activities

6th March - (Please note this is a Wednesday) emphasis on cooking

15th March - Emphasis on computers

22nd March - General Activities

29th March - Disco. This will be a ticket only disco and will take place between 8-10 pm. The tickets will cost 50p each, including refreshments.

Further details of the Club and any offers of help should be directed towards Bridgit Brandon on AstonAbbotts 425.

## The not-so-wild West comes to Wing

### Bunting gets in on the act...

THERE was plenty of horse-play last weekend as Wing Secondary School staged their musical comedy The Sheriff of Wing City.

For one of the show's stars was Bunting the pony who proved to be a huge hit with delighted audiences.

The successful western spoof tells the story of a town—Wing City—run not by a ruthless gang of outlaws, but by a Ladies' Committee.

The committee, led by Ann Marie (Emma Pilgrim), arranges tennis and croquet matches for the peace-loving cowboys and indians in this most unpredictable of one horse towns.

It is a touching, comic tale of long lost love for the

Hero, Bobby the Kid (Adam Farr), and romance is also in the air for the Sheriff (Michael Wells) who marries his Deputy — Davy Dawg (Louise Hickson).

There is even a happy ending for the Baddy, Six Gun Pete (Nicky Sabatini) who becomes a reformed character and mends his evil ways.

And all the hours of hard work put in by more than 80 teachers and pupils were certainly worth the effort, with the show an almost complete sell-out.

The show was directed by Jill Sawford. Musical Director—Sarah Watts; Co-ordinator — Elizabeth Stokes; Choreographer—Lin Cox.

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# The Estone Chronicles

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## ASTON ABBOTTS MEMORABILIA

An occasional article by L.O.Mebuty.

Another cold spell, more snow, and for the first time in ages my garden looks as good as my neighbours. Everybody struggles to get about, in fact the best laid path leads to Lines Hill. Just what are the kids carrying to take part in the annual Cresta run? Plastic sledges ..what a great idea; light to carry, and don't they go. Gone are the two lumps of four by two with a few slats across the top. The only trouble with the plastic ones is that they are only one seaters. We used to cram anything up to eight people on ours. I'm sure we didn't go as fast as the modern ones but it certainly seemed it at the time, and you could guarantee to lose a couple of passengers on the way down.

We often went in the dark, so you had to be sure to locate the sunken water trough before you started your run, and remember to duck at the bottom to get beneath the barbed wire. Tired and wet we would trudge back home and get the bricks in the oven for bed time. My kids still don't believe we used bricks for hot water bottles. Wrapped in a piece of cloth, they stayed warm for ages. No duvets then either, you got as many blankets as you could lay your hands on, and topped them off with an overcoat, or jacket, or anything. Into bed and try not to move for fear of part of the pile on top of you sliding to the floor.

For the first time in years I used a paraffin stove in the garage to keep the frost at bay. The first smell took me back to a shed in the garden of 2 Wingrave Road. Friday night was haircut night. A knock on the shed door, to be greeted by Joe Clarke, scissors in hand. Take your turn in the queue on the benches at each side of the shed, and huddle round the Aladdin stove for warmth. Joe, a gardener at the Abbey, pruned your hair to any style you wished, so long as it was a short back and sides. Your turn, and the sheet goes round you to stop the hair going down your neck, although it never did work. When you got home you found hair in places where you didn't even know you had places. The scissors would snip away and your head was manoeuvred this way and that so you could study the sides and floor of the shed. All done, and the carpet of hair on the floor was a bit deeper for your custom. You payed your sixpence (2½p.) and went back into the cold night wishing he hadn't cut it quite so short. Happy days.

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*Next Parish Council Meeting:*

**FRIDAY MARCH 8th.**

*8pm. Church Room.*

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Haddenham Church.

## Portraits of Buckinghamshire

No. 3. The Church at Haddenham.

"A good church with a green and a pond nearby is always picturesque, and on a fine day, with the sun shining, the numerous ducks upon the pond at Haddenham give this open space, sometimes called Church Square, a very distinctive appearance. The many old houses and cottages around, and the lynch gate to the church, add to the charm"

Clement Shorter in his 'Highways and Byways of Buckinghamshire' (1910).

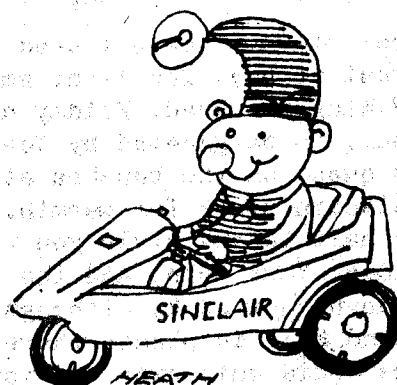
Sketch by Frederick Griggs.

### WANTED : A CARTOONIST FOR THE CHRONICLE

A look at the lighter side of life through the eyes of somebody in the village. One of you out there has the talent - maybe more than one - so why not give it a go; this could be the start of a whole new career.



'Good heavens - a ponk!'



Above, a couple of observations from The Spectator magazine.

## 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.



# QUESTIONNAIRE

THE CHRONICLE has now been in existence for eighteen months or so and I would like to find out what YOU think about the magazine, and how you think it can be improved. If you can spare the time to complete this questionnaire I would be very grateful. Please return it direct to The Cloisters, Church Row or via the boxes in the Village Shop and the Post Office. The questionnaire can remain anonymous if you wish.

## PART 1

Please tick the appropriate column.

	<u>Very Much</u>	<u>A Little</u>	<u>Not at All</u>
1. Do you enjoy the magazine?	_____	_____	_____
2. Have you enjoyed or found useful the following items that have appeared at various times in the previous issues:			
Noticeboard	_____	_____	_____
Update	_____	_____	_____
The Estone Chronicles	_____	_____	_____
Book of the Month	_____	_____	_____
Quiz	_____	_____	_____
Inside the Back Page	_____	_____	_____
Aston Abbotts Cookbook	_____	_____	_____
Miscellany	_____	_____	_____
The Rothschilds of Bucks.	_____	_____	_____
Portraits of Buckinghamshire	_____	_____	_____
Gardening Notes	_____	_____	_____

## PART 2

If you have any ideas for topics you would like covered please mention them below. If you can provide material for the magazine please let me know or post them through my door. All contributions very gratefully accepted.

PLEASE PULL THE PAGE FROM YOUR MAGAZINE, COMPLETE AND RETURN DIRECT OR VIA THE BOXES IN THE VILLAGE SHOP OR THE POST OFFICE.  
MANY THANKS.

# A GUIDE TO ASTON ABBOTTS

The idea of producing a "Guide to Aston Abbotts" has been discussed by both the P.C.C. and the Parish Council. The booklet would be for both 'newcomers' to the village, and the increasing number of visitors - both those visiting residents and the ever more discerning tourist. The guide would include essential information on clubs, societies, shops, bus timetables, services available (doctors, dentists, schools), all with a contact name, address and telephone number. It would be nice if it could contain other items of interest - perhaps village walks, describing the route with notes on points of interest. Illustrations - black and white photographs or better still pen and ink sketches would help liven up the pages. Perhaps even a brief history of the village.

Your ideas would be welcome.

Please use the space below to put forward your ideas. If you are a member of an organisation please use the space below to describe your organisation: times of meetings: types of activity; and perhaps add the name, address and telephone number of the organisations contact person.

PLEASE PULL THE PAGE FROM YOUR MAGAZINE, COMPLETE, AND RETURN DIRECT TO THE EDITOR OR VIA THE BOXES IN THE VILLAGE SHOP OR THE POST OFFICE.

MANY THANKS.

# *The Rothschilds* of

## Buckinghamshire

by JOHN CAMP.

### PART THREE

In 1851, just about the time Sir Anthony Rothschild was moving into Aston Clinton house, his brother Mayer decided to purchase the hamlet of Mentmore, just across the fields, and build himself a handsome home in the vicinity. Quite apart from moving out of London and becoming a 'country gentleman' as his mother had wanted, Mayer needed a larger house as a repository for his noted collection of objets-d'art. At Mentmore he accordingly pulled down the existing village and rebuilt it in the fake Tudor style that was to become the trade mark of the Rothschilds in Buckinghamshire. In the meantime he had commissioned the famous architect Sir Joseph Paxton (designer of the 1851 Great Exhibition in Hyde Park) to build him a suitable house close by. The result was Mentmore Towers, based on a Jacobean mansion in Nottingham called Wollaton Hall.

It was completed in 1855 and here Mayer and his wife came to live with their only child, Hannah, at the time only four years old. She grew up at Mentmore a pretty and intelligent girl but somewhat lonely and not very much liked by her cousins at Aston Clinton who were already in their teens by this time. By the time she was twenty six Hannah had grown up into what the Bucks Herald described as 'a typical Mediterranean beauty' but had unfortunately lost both her father and her mother. As one of the richest women in Britain (her fortune was estimated as over £2 million in cash as well as Mentmore and its treasures) she was sought after by many young members of the aristocracy. Eventually, in 1878, she married the young Archibald Primrose, fifth Lord Rosebery, and a member of an ancient and exceedingly wealthy Scottish family whose home was at Dalmeny just outside Edinburgh. Hannah was criticised by many Jews for marrying out of the faith, but the Church of England wedding took place in the parish church of Mayfair, in London, the area where Rosebery had his town house. It was a very grand affair with the best man being the Prince of Wales himself and the bride being given away by the Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli.

Hannah, as a dutiful wife of a Victorian aristocrat, was expected to produce a boy to inherit the title as soon as was humanly possible. In 1879 she gave birth to a girl, which did not amuse her husband, and in 1880, to her sorrow, gave birth to another girl, which annoyed him even more. At last, in January 1882 she gave birth to a boy, Harry, and just to underline her success gave birth to a second boy, Neil, in November of the same year. She certainly had little time for macramé or flower arranging during this period, but at least she had satisfied her somewhat despotic husband.

Hannah died in 1890 and after much argument was buried in the Jewish cemetery at Willesden Green rather than at Dalmeny. Rosebery himself never liked his eldest son very much, due mainly to the fact that young Harry looked a typical Rothschild rather than a Primrose. The younger son by eleven months, Neil, was his father's favourite but was killed in the First World War while serving in Palestine in the Bucks Yeomanry. He is buried at Mentmore. Lord Rosebery, who was to become Prime Minister after Gladstone in 1894, died in 1929 and Harry became the sixth Lord Rosebery. He divided his time between Mentmore, Durdens at Epsom and his house in Newmarket. All his life he was connected with rac-

ing, being Steward of the Jockey Club for many years. Indeed, the Rothschild and Rosebery families were so interested in horses that Disraeli had once described them as two of the most 'stable' families he knew.

Harry died at Mentmore in 1974 at the age of 92. As he had made no provision in his will for death duties his demise precipitated the great Mentmore Sale of 1975 at which the contents of the house were sold for over £6 million. After the sale the house itself remained empty for two years but was eventually bought in 1977 by the Transcendental Meditation movement who have spent over £100,000 refurbishing the building, replacing curtains, carpets and tapestries and even manufacturing reproduction Louis XVI furniture for the many rooms.

Today Mentmore is the World University of the TM movement. Members of the movement believe that if one is taught to meditate twice daily in the unique TM way each person so doing will become a better human being, more reasonable, more understanding and less aggressive. The more people who become like this in any community, so the theory runs, the nearer the world will come to being free of strikes, wars and disputes of any kind. At Mentmore one can either take a course in TM and learn how to meditate daily, or one may take a more advanced course enabling the pupil to become a TM teacher and go back to his own locality to found a branch of the movement there.

Mentmore is open to the public every Sunday in the year from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. In it you can admire the huge 45 ft-cube main hall, the great marble staircase, the Rubens fireplace and the largest panes of glass ever used in a building up to that time. It is very well worth seeing, and you will not be subjected to a blast of TM propaganda. However in the well equipped laboratories you will be shown evidence of the effect of meditation on the brain and body, which may give you something in which to ponder when you leave.

Though Mentmore is no longer a Rothschild or a Rosebery property, mementoes of the families can still be found in the locality. Hannah, who was a very able administrator and, like all the Rothschild's, extremely generous, built Wingrave's first school in 1875, today known as the Church Rooms at the beginning of the Tring road. In 1876 she built several houses along Winslow Road and around the recreation ground, all in her favourite mock Tudor (as at Mentmore village) with white plaster and black beams, each house being embellished by a stonework medallion on the wall with the legend 'H de R - 1876'. In 1922 her son, Harry, who was at the time Lord Dalmeny, gave the recreation ground to the inhabitants of the village in perpetuity. Before that his father had built a home for stable lads at Ledburn, now the Hare and Hounds, and had provided Mentmore with a fine village inn, The Stag, originally a gamekeeper's house. With memorials such as these the Rothschild and Rosebery families are unlikely to be forgotten in the district.



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THE CHURCHES IN WINGRAVE WITH ROWSHAM, ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON

March 1985

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Tel. A.A.623

A little girl appeared one evening on my door-step, when I was a vicar in Luton. "Please," she asked, "Mum said for me to come and get the injection form for my baby brother." For a fraction of a second I was puzzled; then, it dawned on me. Of course, Mum wanted her baby boy "DONE" (as some say). The errand child had let slip the parent's confused association between christening by the local clergyman and inoculations by the local G.P.

Frequently we are asked by parents, who do not come to Church, to christen their very young children. The answer is never a final "No", but there is a request to think seriously about the meaning of this Church Sacrament of Baptism or Christening.

Some may find it difficult to know why we marry without conditions of Church membership (although we are sad about that) yet take a different line on Christening. The answer lies in two words: Blessing and Commitment. Marriage simply involves a blessing on the union. Baptism, on the other hand is concerned with commitment to Christ and his Church, a commitment not merely for this life but for all eternity.

"Don't do what I do, do what I tell you," so the Victorian parent, I'm told, might say to his offspring. We would believe that such instruction is morally indefensible. Yet, many parents are saying exactly this when they impose baptism on their children. They force on the helpless child a discipline and commitment for which they have little or no respect themselves.

Indeed, there have been many occasions when I have been trying to explain the nature of the Sacrament, only to be castigated by parents on the nature of the Church: consisting of a "lot of hypocrites". At the height of their indignation, they seem to forget that I 'go to Church' so I must be one of those "hypocrites". Oh, well, never mind, I've been called far worse things than that. But, I say, what a Church for the child to be baptised into - all those....a lot of...

It really is a relief to know, then, of parents who do take infant baptism seriously, and who want to associate themselves with the living Church. They are saying, in effect, 'I want my child to become part of my life in every way, so, naturally, I want them to be involved in what I DO MYSELF.'

Much superstition still surrounds the practice of infant baptism. So much so that I strongly believe it would be better to wait and Christen or Baptise at an age when personal choice could be made. I certainly admire and greatly respect parents who do make the conscious decision to wait. Thus Baptism and Confirmation would come together. A practice of the early Church, incidentally, where these two Sacraments belong, anyway - together.

Whoever could believe that a baby who dies unbaptised would be kept out of the Kingdom? Whoever could believe that three drops of holy water sprinkled on a forehead is all that lies between the soul and eternal death? Don't you believe it! This smacks more of magic than the miraculous.

If we must baptise the innocent, then the confusion and superstition will continue. I can't help feeling, however, that in so many cases the helpless babies are getting an exceedingly mild injection of Christianity so that when they grow up, they are found to have been inoculated against the real thing!

Yours sincerely

FR. JOHN HEFFER

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 5th	S. Mary the Virgin, Mursley
March 12th	S. Faith, Newton Longville
March 19th	S. Michael & All Angels, Stewkley
March 26th	S. Mary, Great Brickhill

Thursday Mornings All Services begin at 11.00 a.m. in Wingrave Parish Church, beginning 28th February. A 30 minute Devotion.

MOTHERING SUNDAY(March 17th)

Cublington Parish Church, Mothering Service: 10 a.m. )  
 Aston Parish Church, Mothering Service: 11.15 a.m. ) The Rector  
 The Revd. Canon John Scammell will celebrate and preach at the  
 Wingrave Parish Communion, 10 a.m.  
 Posies will be given to the children for their mothers  
 at all Services on that day.

MAUNDY THURSDAY(April 4th) The Devotion at 11 o'clock will be followed by the Commemoration of the Last Supper and the Holy Eucharist in Wingrave Parish Church; also the Stripping of the Altars.

GOOD FRIDAY(5th April)

11.00 a.m. A Service for Parents and Children, Aston Abbots Parish Church.  
 Followed by refreshments with HOT cross bun.

Cublington Parish Church at 12 Noon: "The Good Friday Devotion"  
 Wingrave Parish Church at 2 o'clock: "An Hour Before the Cross"

EASTER DAY(April 7th)

Cublington Parish Church	Holy Communion(said)	8.00 a.m.
Wingrave Parish Church	The Parish Communion	10.00 a.m.
Cublington Parish Church	The Family Service	10.00 a.m.
Aston Abbots Parish Church	The Parish Communion	11.15 a.m.

Evensong for the United Benefice in  
 Aston Abbots Parish Church.....6.00 p.m.

EASTER TIME reminds us of New Life, both in this world and the next.  
 For those who have been bereaved, joy can be tinged with  
 sadness. The following message is for you:

"DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL. I have only slipped away as into  
 another room. I am I and you are you. Whatever we were to  
 each other, that we are now. Call me by my old familiar  
 name, speak to me in the easy way you always used. Put no  
 difference in your tone; wear no false air of solemnity or  
 sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we  
 enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.  
 Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.  
 Let it be spoken without effort, without shadow. Life  
 Means all that it ever meant; the same that it ever was;  
 there is absolutely unbroken continuity. What is death but  
 a negligible accident? Why should I be out of your mind  
 because I am temporarily out of your sight? I am waiting  
 for you (if that is what you want) somewhere very near;  
 just, as it were, round the corner. This is an interval.

ALL IS WELL."

SUNDAY LESSONS ASB

31st March (527)	Philippians 2 (5-11)	Matthew 21(1-13)
7th April (574)	Isaiah 12	John 20 (1-18)
14th April (602)	1 Peter 1 (3-9)	John 20 (19-29)
21st April (608)	Isaiah 25 (6-9)	Luke 24 (13-35)

FUNERAL After a Service (21st February) in Wingrave Parish Church  
 burial in the Churchyard: May Louisa BANDY  
 "May she rest in peace"

# CHURCH NEWS

At last we can hope the cold is behind us and we can look forward to spring with its freshness and flowers. We must all be thankful about that.

The Church at this time reminds us to be particularly thankful also to our mothers by celebrating Mothering Sunday which is on 17th. March. There will be a special family service at 11.15 and posies will be given to all the children. We do look forward to another splendid congregation.



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTS, BUCKS.

Before then there will be the annual Parish meeting on March 8th. in the Church Room, when we shall all have to decide whether we have a village festival this year. The Church greatly benefits from this not only in cash terms, but in acknowledging that the whole village is at one at the time of its Patronal Festival.

Whilst we still have to meet a half of the cost of our rewiring, our accounts (which can be seen on page 16) show what regular giving and an enthusiastic P.C.C. can do. As we have said before, we are a very fortunate village indeed, so perhaps this year we should consider whether some of the festival profits should go, say, to Muheza or to the Ethiopian appeal. Please support the Parish Meeting and be prepared to help with the organisation of the festival itself .... we need your ideas.

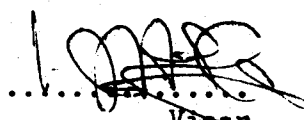


## SERVICES FOR MARCH

- |             |  |                                 |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------|
| March 3rd.  | : 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion  | <u>Sidesman</u><br>Mr. J. Ford. |
|             | Readings: Genesis 6(11-22); Luke 19(14-48).                            |                                 |
| March 10th. | : 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion  | Mr. C. Higgs.                   |
|             | Readings: Genesis 22(1-13); Luke 9(18-27).                             |                                 |
| March 17th. | : MOTHERING SUNDAY.  |                                 |
|             | 11.15 a.m. Family Service with Holy Communion - with special readings. | Mr. C. Spike.                   |
| March 24th. | : 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion  | Miss. G. Ford.                  |
|             | Readings: Exodus 6(2-13); John 12(20-32)                               |                                 |
| March 31st. | : 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion  | Mr. J. Ford.                    |
|             | Readings: See Vicar's sheet.   |                                 |

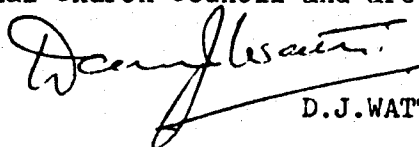
ASTON ABBOTTS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILRECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1984

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
BALANCES brought forward: Bank current account	233.72	
Bank deposit account	583.79	817.51
	<hr/>	
RECEIPTS: Collections and free-will offerings	1275.41	
Graves maintenance	14.00	
P.C.C. fees	88.50	
Weddings fees	54.85	
Income tax refunds - covenants	245.46	
Parish Council grant	75.00	
Historic Churches Trust	250.00	
Fund raising events:		
Cheese and wine parties	189.17	
Coffee morning	70.00	
Flower festival	246.05	
Share of village festival	243.00	
Harvest sale and raffle	165.11	
Whist drives	98.82	
Share of Wingrave fete	51.64	
Sale of waste paper	8.08	
Interest: Bank deposit account	48.81	
2½% Consols	0.40	
	<hr/>	3124.30
		<hr/>
		3941.81
		<hr/>
PAYMENTS: Diocesan quota	896.00	
Vicar's expenses	468.00	
Repairs and maintenance	525.64	
Electricity	131.71	
Insurance	77.77	
Organ tuning	34.00	
Deanery fees	12.00	
Flower festival expenses	137.20	
Stationery and sundries	100.30	
Donations	150.00	
Bellringers	24.24	
	<hr/>	2556.86
		<hr/>
		1384.95
		<hr/>
BALANCES 31 DECEMBER 1984: Bank deposit account	982.60	
Bank current account	402.35	1384.95
	<hr/>	<hr/>

  
 18/1/85  
 Vicar

  
 Treasurer

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

  
 D.J. WATTS FCA FCCA



# QUIZ

This is the fifth in our first winter series of six quizzes. Again my thanks to Colin for this months contribution. I would like to get a stock in for next winter so if you have any ideas or come across some good quizzes please let me know.

## MORE ABOUT BUCKS.

1. Which County did Linslade move to from Bucks ?
2. Where is the original Friends Meeting House ?
3. Name a Bucks village, other than our own, whose church is called ST.James ?
4. Where can you see fibreglass cows ?
5. Where are the famous beech woods of Bucks ?
6. In what year did the 'Great Train Robbery' take place ?
7. Which village has a thatched tree ?
8. Who was the Dinton Hermit ?
9. Which poet lived at Olney ?
10. Where was Gray's 'Elergy' written ?
11. Which Roman road runs through Stony Stratford ?
12. Where is the 'Temple of British Worthies' ?
13. Where is 'Penwick Furlong' ?
14. Which Church has a three-decker Jacobean pulpit ?
15. Which year was Aylesbury Market Clock erected ?
16. Where would you find 'The Old Hat' ?
17. Where is Tickford Bridge ?
18. Who sold Mentmore Towers ?
19. Whose phone number is Aston Abbotts 623 ?
20. What was the name of Sir James Clark Ross's wife ?

## FEBRUARY QUIZ

Answers: 1. Friends of the Vale of Aylesbury. 2. Witchert 3. Notley Abbey, Long Crendon. 4. The Verney family. 5. Lee Common, Great Missenden. 6. 1926. 7. Rex Whistler. 8. Brill - Quainton Road. 9. Needle Making. 10. Arctic explorer. 11. Bill Benyon and Timothy Raison. 12. Three ornamaental trees were planted by WARA. 13. Desmond Fennell. 14. Buckingham. 15. High Wycombe. 16. Cublington. 17. It is a restaurant in Old Amersham. 18. The Age of Enlightenment. 19. Olney. 20. Cherries.

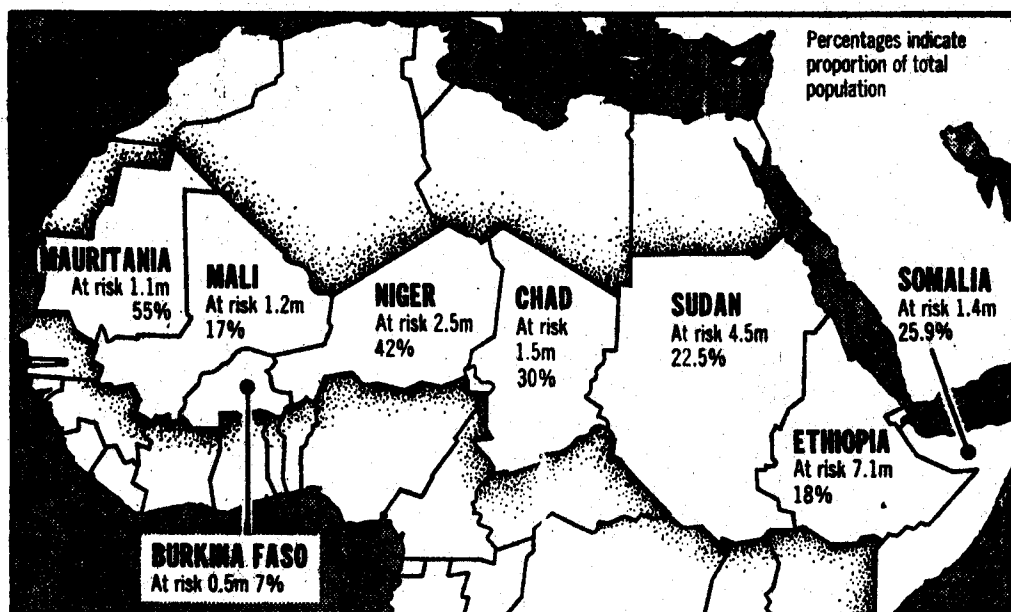
## THE BIBLE CAKE

My thanks again to Colin for this classic test. Answers next month.

1.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Judges, Ch 5 v.25.
2.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Jeremiah, Ch 6 v.20.
3. 1 tbs. 1 Samuel, Ch 14 v. 25.
4. 3 Of Jeremiah, Ch 17 v.11.
5.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. 1 Samuel, Ch 30 v.12.
6.  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Nahum, Ch 3 v. 12 (chopped)
7. 2 oz. Numbers, Ch 17 v. 8 (blanched and chopped)
8. 1 lb. Kings, Ch 4 v. 22.
9. Season to taste with 2 Chronicles, Ch 9 v. 9.
10. 1 pinch of Leviticus, Ch 2 v. 13.
11. 1 tsp. Amos, Ch 4 v. 5.
12. 3 tbs. Judges, Ch 4 v. 19.

Beat 1. 2. and 3. to a cream. Add 4 one at a time, then add 5. 6. and 7. Beat again. Add 8. 9. 10. and 11., having prevoiusly mixed them. Add 12. Bake in a moderate oven for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

# THE FAMINE IN AFRICA...



## ...and where it is getting worse

**THE GEOGRAPHY of famine:** the map above shows the most vulnerable region of Africa, the belt stretching across the continent south of the Sahara. Known generally as the Sahelian countries, they are now deep into a drought that has persisted, with minor remissions, for 15 years. In all the countries on this map, the suffering is expected to worsen. In four - Sudan, Ethiopia, Chad and Somalia - civil wars exacerbate the drought's effects. In Ethiopia, the UN conservati-

vely estimates that 300,000 people have died since February last year.

No rains are due in the Sahel until late spring - if they come at all, for the region has known droughts that have lasted for 19 years - and the main harvests, such as they may be, are not due until November.

Bordering countries to north and south are also vulnerable: the UN's latest estimates say that the drought threatens 33.5m people and identifies 20 countries as "critically affec-

ted". Even where the drought has broken, the emergency remains acute until the next harvests. In countries such as Angola and Mozambique (where 3.5m people are at risk), conflicts make victims almost impossible to reach.

While all statistics concerning Africa are very approximate, the scale of the emergency is almost certainly beyond the capacity of the international system to cope. Many thousands more will die of starvation.

## PLEASE HELP

SAVE THE TELEPHONE BOX .... continued from page 19

In 1935 Scott simplified his design to make the more common No.6 Jubilee kiosk. This is smaller than the No.2 kiosk, with the fluting omitted and altered, and more moderne proportions given to the glazing bars. Both kiosks seem solid and monumental and they have a strong, yet refined architectural presence whether they are sited in cities or in the remote country, where they can act as a symbol, a beacon of civilisation.

Now, there can be no objection to replacing these old boxes when they are past repair - that is the nature of slow change. And very properly, the GPO introduced a new cast iron kiosk in 1968 designed by Bruce Martin with large panes of glass. This is the design we have in Aston Abbotts. It is good of its sort, also painted red, also clearly a telephone box.\*

These red kiosks, of varying design, have now become part of our townscapes and we should be the poorer to see them all disappear. Even British Telecom concede that the Scott kiosks 'may be kept where there are special local reasons such as in conservation areas'. But what of our Martin kiosk? Are we to submit to the new yellow box, which has to be imported from America :. and have a life expectancy of fifteen years compared to the present boxes which have lasted fifty years, some for seventy? Your views would be much appreciated.

*Abbottsby.*

\* The idea for the article, the extended quote and the illustrations are taken from Gavin Stamp's essay in *The Spectator* of 9th. February 1985.

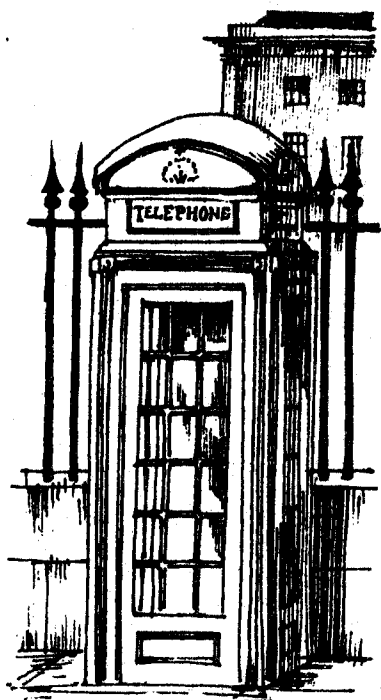
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## Save the telephone box

In another sad attempt to create a new identity, British Telecom is about to commit an act of visual vandalism. Like all acts of vandalism it is beyond the comprehension of any sane person. British Telecom intend to scrap every old telephone kiosk in the country; all 76,500 of them, in an orgy of destruction that will cost £35 million.

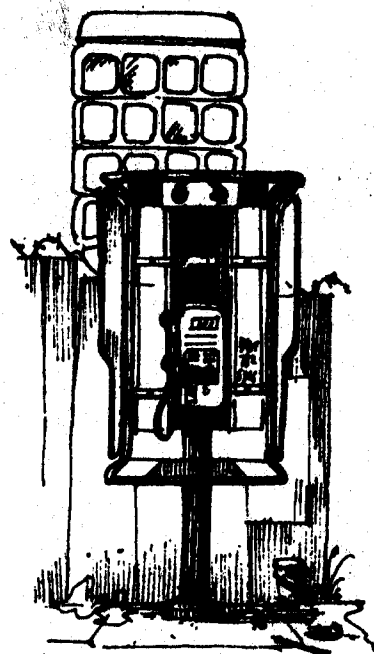
The distinctive red box that has become a part of our heritage will be replaced by the pedestal mounted monstrosity illustrated opposite.

Perhaps that is a bit strong. The modern, open canopy style does suit the steel and glass of a new city like Milton Keynes but would hardly compliment the village scene of Aston Abbots.



British Telecom claim that the new design is vandal resistant and requires less maintenance; small comfort when you have to use one in driving winter rain. But again we must be fair. British Telecom do recognise that they will still have to provide some boxes with doors. These will be readily recognisable, as you will already have seen them on the streets of New York in 'Taxi' or 'Cagney and Lacy'. The thin steel frames with large sheets of glass which stop short of the floor so as to make them easier to clean, will be the new style.

Well, not a total disaster you might think; cold feet but at least you will be reasonably dry. True, but we do have the change in colour to consider. Red is out. The new design will include a yellow stripe around its flat top and across the middle of the door.

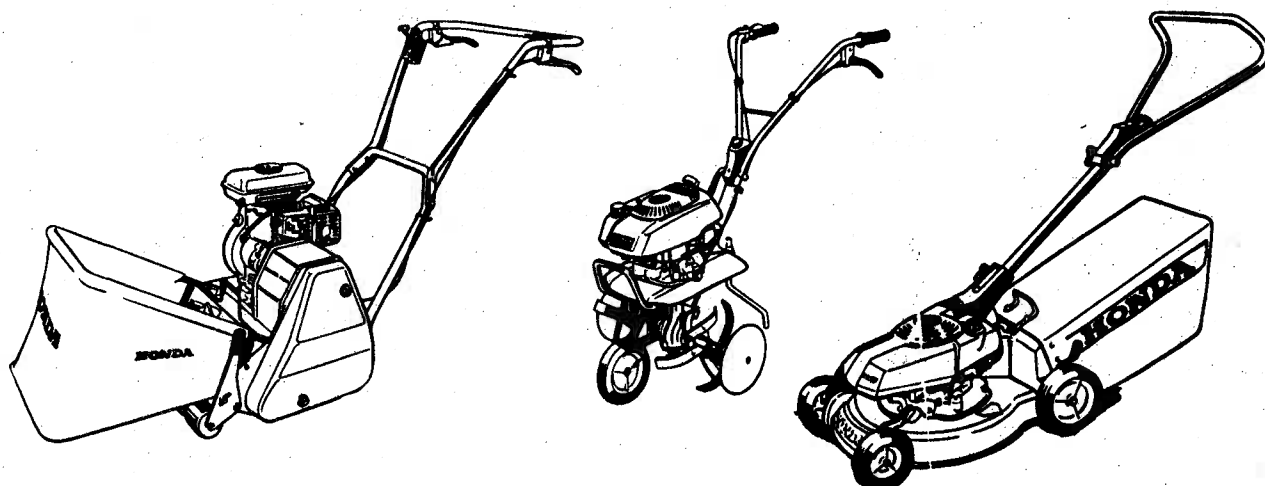


Why does this have to happen? How can the £35 million cost be justified? I urge all of you who invested in the British Telecom bonanza to use your power as shareholders and protest at this unnecessary outrage.

The familiar red box is worthy of preservation. It is perfectly adequate for modern use, shields the user from the worst of our weather and happens to be one of the best British designs of this century. 'The first standard kiosk was introduced in 1921 by the GPO who, to secure a high quality design, held a competition in 1924. This was won by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, the distinguished architect of Liverpool Cathedral who would go on to apply his skills to such different jobs as Battersea Power Station and the rebuilding of the House of Commons. His design was manufactured in cast iron in 1927 as the No. 2 kiosk, with its domed top, Georgian glazing bars, fluted window surround and harmoniously integrated lettering and crown motif.

Continued on facing page.

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