

The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



December No. 28.



Editorial

The usual catalogue of apologies and thanks. Apologies to "Mary Helen Crafts" for omitting to mention their Craft Party in last month's issue. This was akin to shooting yourself in the foot as funds were being raised on behalf of The Chronicle. I have been asked to thank the 'faithful few' who attended for their very generous support - and the Chronicle is very grateful of the £10 received which has gone to offset the cost of the photograph included in our last issue.

By the way, perfect copies of the photograph (unfortunately many had slight overprinting in the Chronicle copies) are available from me at a nominal sum.

CAROL SINGING - 20th. DECEMBER : Can I urge everyone to support the Youth Club's efforts as they have offered all the proceeds to the Chronicle !

My thanks to David Watts for the Parish Council notes - your usual correspondent was unable to attend.

On page six 'Terry Bill Cheek' writes in appreciation of those who organised the bonfire, and I would like to add my thanks for an excellent evening.

Now for a little self congratulation. I mentioned last month that we had not been selected as one of the winners of the Village Ventures Competition, which was true; but we have received a "Highly Commended" award and a cheque for £25. To all who have helped make that possible - my thanks.

Between Christmas and Easter I will be attending Lancaster University, returning hopefully each weekend. This will mean that deadline dates will be more important than ever !

In the meantime a very happy Christmas to everyone.

Graham Parker.

DEADLINE DATE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE: I would like to have this printed before the end of this school term - 20th. December. Thus I cannot guarantee inclusion of material delivered after 15th. December !

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

Thursday 5th. BINGO CHURCH ROOM 8 p.m.
Thursday 12th. WHIST DRIVE CHURCH ROOM 7.30 p.m.
Saturday 20th. CHRISTMAS BINGO CHURCH ROOM 8 p.m.
Thursday 26th. BOXING DAY FOOTPATH WALK DEPART THE GREEN 11 a.m.

CHEAP DAYS OUT ON THE BUS DURING DECEMBER

United Counties "EXPLORER TICKET" Buy on the bus.

Depart ASTON ABBOTTS 7.55 then 8.45 to LUTON :

Return LUTON 2.37, then from Aylesbury home on 4.10 or 5.10.

Depart ASTON ABBOTTS 7.55 then 8.40 to READING.

Return READING 3.20 then 5.10 from Aylesbury home.

Or: Purchase an "EXPLORER CARD" from the office in the Bus Station and:

Depart ASTON ABBOTTS 7.55 or 9.16 then 8.35 or 9.35 to OXFORD.

Return OXFORD 2.05 or 3.35 then 4.10 or 5.10 from Aylesbury home.

Depart ASTON ABBOTTS 9.16 then 9.52 to WATFORD.

Return WATFORD 3.05 then 5.10 from Aylesbury home.

Depart ASTON ABBOTTS 8.19 (10.13 or 11.59) to L/Buzzard then 8.49 to Northampton

or 9.06 or 10.00 to Luton.

Return Northampton 2.45 Change Wingrave X-Roads - bus to village depts. 4.33.

Return Luton 11.35 Change L/Buzzard then 12.50 home OR

Return Luton 4.35 or 5.05 change L/Buzzard then 6 p.m. home.

LADIES CLUB

The A.G.M. on the 7th. November was fairly well attended. The Officers for next year are:

Chairman : Mrs. Newell.
Vice Chairman : Miss Bennett.
Secretary : Mrs. Dines.
Minute Secretary : Mrs. Christopher.
Treasurer : Mrs. Rickard.
Hall Rota : Mrs. Doggett.
Outings Arrange : Mr. Fox.

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

We had a successful "Bring & Buy Sale" in the form of an auction, Mrs. Rickard being a very competent auctioneer. Tea and cakes brought the afternoon to an end.

The shopping trip to Oxford went off without a hitch on November 21st.

On December 5th. we have Dorothy Eyres to talk to us on "The Natural History of the Chilterns" and on the 19th. there will be the annual carol service in the church at 2.45 p.m., conducted by the Rev. John Heffer. That will conclude the meetings for 1985.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL.

NOTICEBOARD

(CONTINUED)

WINGRAVE CHURCH OF ENGLAND COMBINED SCHOOL

PARENT GOVERNORS

As you may know from a recent school newsletter Yvonne White and I were elected as the two Parent Governors for Wingrave School. As we would like to ensure that we reflect parental opinion we would invite parents to contact us should they feel the need. Yvonne's telephone number is 681548 and mine is 681555.

The first Governors meeting for 1985/6 was on Tuesday 29th. October and the next one is scheduled for 25th. February 1986.

IAN BLOOD.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

in the

METHODIST CHAPEL

on

SATURDAY 7th. DECEMBER AT 10.30 a.m.

Home made produce : Fancy goods : Bring & buy.

Proceeds in aid of Chapel Funds.

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT US.



With best wishes
for Christmas
and the New Year

Juan and
Brigitte

Bric-a-Brac



now at the
Village Shop
Aston Abbotts

People

5.

OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE
PEOPLE AND EVENTS.

Edited by Bridget Brandon.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Wyatt of Firs Cottages on the birth of their twins - a boy and a girl. Could this be a record. I haven't spoken to anyone who remembers twins being born in the village; unless of course someone knows different.

BIRTHDAYS

Belated: Esther Chesher 26th. Nov.
Radar 12th. Dec.
Margaret Chesher 18th. Dec.
Andrew Lovell 25th. Dec.
Pauline Dixon 16th. Dec.
Alison Hewitt 11th. Dec.

OUR BEST WISHES: to Mrs. Goldney for a speedy recovery following her recent knee operation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

" RUFF JUSTICE "

To the writer of 'Notice' on last months "PEOPLE" page, may I say firstly that they are barking up the wrong tree. It is true that I have been known to wander round the village on several occasions, probably eight or canine times, but I'm sure you will appreciate that I am merely checking on the welfare of my fellow furry friends. It does me good to know that Roly is getting his Kennomeat, Nellie is getting her Chum and Gipsy is getting her oats (porridge with plenty of milk, you understand).

Regarding the fee charged for my trivial pursuits, sure I do it for free, although on the odd occasion I do get tit bits thrown at me (buckets of water, bricks etc.) I know most villagers are fond of me. I've even been stroked with a size nine welly, although I have to admit I would have preferred it at my head end. There are one or two seedier places in the village (no doubt the writer of 'Notice' lives in one of them) where I prefer not to go alone. When I do venture near them I usually take my pal Prince with me, and we take it in turns to see that the lady dog of the house is satisfied with her lot. Anyway. I think the whole thing was in very paw taste and I'm dog tired of it. I wish these tails about me would cease.

Yours growlingly,

RADAR.

P.S. My master says do I get a prize for being the first dog to have a letter published in the Chronicle ?

BONFIRE NIGHT

THERE IS SOMETHING THAT IS PECULIARLY BRITISH IN THE ANNUAL RITUAL THAT BRINGS OUT ALMOST 100 PEOPLE TO THE RECREATION GROUND TO WATCH, IN AN ICY COLD WIND TWO ELDERLY SCHOOLBOYS SETTING FIRE TO THE BIGGEST LOT OF FIREWORKS THAT THEY COULD LAY THEIR HANDS ON !

FEET WERE FROZEN, BACKS TURNED AGAINST THE WIND, BUT STILL THIS SILENT BUT GOOD HUMOURED CROWD TOLERATED, FIRST THE CATHERINE WHEELS WHICH SEEMED RELUCTANT TO ROTATE, THEN THE BRANDON ROCKET, WHICH ON A BETTER NIGHT WAS BIG ENOUGH TO REACH THE MOON, BUT ON THIS NIGHT REFUSED TO IGNITE UNTIL A BLOWTORCH WAS APPLIED TO IT.

TRICIA WEBB KEPT MUTTERING SOMETHING ABOUT THE SOUP WAS IN AN OLD BOILER, BUT IT WAS TOO COLD TO ASK ANY MORE QUESTIONS.

BRIDGIT WAS AS USUAL ORGANISING THE EATS ,SPUDS AND SAUSAGES AND TOSSING CARELESS REMARKS TO THE CROWD, SUCH AS 'BRING YOUR *!@%\$!%** CUPS BACK !'

THE BONFIRE SEEMED TO ATTRACT THOSE WHO HAD NOT EITHER DIED FROM ASPHIXIATION IN THE SMOKE OR BEEN ZAPPED BY ONE OF THOSE TERRIFYING WIZZER THINGS.

SOMEONE DID REMARK THAT THE ROCKETS WHICH WENT OFF WITH A SERIES OF BANGS SOUNDED A BIT LIKE GINGER WITH HIS SHOTGUN, BUT, THESE WERE PROBABLY MORE ACCURATE.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE NIGHT HAS TO BE JOHN (IS THAT YOU BEHIND THE SMOKE?) WHYTE WHEN HAVING CAREFULLY PINNED AN ENORMOUS FIREWORK TO THE GOAL POSTS, REALISING JUST HOW BIG IT WAS , TRIED TO BEAT A VERY HASTY RETREAT, GOT HIS FOOT CAUGHT IN THE REMNANTS OF THE FOOTBALL NET AND FELL FLAT ON HIS BACK, WITH SPARKS SHOWERING ALL AROUND HIM.

A VERY PRETTY SIGHT JOHN, BUT NEXT YEAR DO TRY AND STAY ON YOUR FEET

A FINAL VOTE OF THANKS TO THOSE WHO ORGANISED AND BUILT THE BONFIRE, SERVED THE SOUP AND FOOD , AND TO CHRIS AND JOHN FOR LETTING US WATCH THEM ENJOYING THEMSELVES.

TERRY BILL CHEEK

CHRISTMAS SHOW

12 TH, 13 TH AND 14 TH DECEMBER 1985

SO HERE WE ARE ABOUT TWO WEEKS AWAY AND AT LONG LAST THE WHOLE THING STARTS TO TAKE SHAPE.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT ANDY FORD HAS BEEN ABLE TO FIND YET ANOTHER ACT TO DO....OR IS IT THE SAME ONE ??

SUCH IS THE POWER OF THE CHRONICLE !!!!!

THIS SHOULD CAUSE A RUSH FOR THE FEW REMAINING TICKETS !

YES, AT THE TIME OF WRITING THERE ARE A FEW TICKETS REMAINING FOR BOTH THE FRIDAY AND THURSDAYS PERFORMANCES.

CHRIS IS AWAITING YOUR PHONE CALL ON 681425 OR PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO MOLEST HIM IN THE STREET !

WHAT'S THE SHOW'S THEME THIS YEAR I HEAR YOU ASK ? THE ONLY THING I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT REHEARSALS HAVE HAD A SLIGHT WHIFF OF THE ORIENT...WELL I THINK IT'S THE ORIENT !

THOSE OF YOU HAVE NOT YET BOUGHT YOUR TICKETS GIVE CHRIS A RING, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT....AND YOUR MONEY

THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE ALREADY BOUGHT TICKETS....WELL I DID WARN YOU !

TICKETS: £1.50 AND £1.00 FOR KIDS AND DAP'S ANY TIME NIGHT OR DAY 681425 RING NOW..OR PREFERABLY AT 2 IN THE MORNING !

CHERRY TILL-BEEK



UPDATE

OUR REGULAR FEATURE ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES.

Amongst the topics discussed at the Parish Council Meeting held at The Methodist School Room on the 8th. November were:

Planning Applications: Confirmed that a house at the rear of 27 The Green had been refused as had a farm house at Badgers Oak Farm, although it was understood that in the latter case a re-application with better presentation of viability might succeed. The Council also considered the plans for houses on plots 1; 2; and 3 at Church Farm. These were generally approved subject to the following observations: (a) separate agricultural access not approved, and garage should be re-sited to permit access to field through the new development; (b) height of buildings should not exceed height of existing Church Farm; (c) colour of roof tiles should be unobtrusive; (d) suggested that windows to be of similar design for each plot.

Tipping at Oxley Platt: Licence for tipping of waste soil etc. is in order and conditions are being observed. Mr. Page has particularly asked that any complaints should be directed to him immediately, and he will deal with them.

Lighting: Instructions have been given for improvements to lights in Wingrave Road and the work should be carried out shortly - hopefully before Christmas.

Litter : There were complaints of domestic rubbish being dumped in fields - the Council could not deal with specific cases, but urged greater care and vigilance generally.

Public transport: Bus routes are to be surveyed for viability - the message is "USE THE BUSES OR YOU MAY LOSE THEM"

YOUTH CLUB

On December 20th, the Youth Club is going carol singing! We meet at the Church Room at 7.00, and we hope to finish at 10.00 approximately. Parents and friends are very welcome to join us, and the collection will be donated to the Chronicle.

Other activities for December are as follows:

December 6th - Christmas Party
 December 13th - Closed for Village Show
 December 20th - Carol singing

The Youth Club will close for two weeks over Christmas, and will re-open in the New Year on January 10th.

May all the Committee Members take this opportunity to wish everyone in Aston Abbots a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, and to thank them for all the help and support they have given during the past few months. Thank You.

TSP

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M. Talbot

QUIZ

This month we make use of an original approach to public relations by the Sheffield based company WATSON'S ANODISING LTD.

ENGLISH IN THE RAW

Potential customers of Yorkshire companies might like to test their understanding of the language spoken by us, and this language course in Yorkshire Dialect is an essential part of our trading policy. Unfortunately if you cannot understand it then you are not allowed to do business with us.

TRANSLATE INTO ENGLISH (N.B. 'g' is always hard as in 'got')

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Intitot ? | 26. Nardendes, wot dardooin ? |
| 2. Giuzit | 27. Asta seenim ont telly ? |
| 3. Sumatsupeer. | 28. Corforus arpastate itmornin. |
| 4. Gerartnit. | 29. It dunt marrer. |
| 5. Gerritetten. | 30. Lerrus gurrat pixchers. |
| 6. Supwidee ? | 31. Asta gorratanner ? |
| 7. Smarrerweeim ? | 32. Eenose nowt abartit. |
| 8. Lampgorrit. | 33. Eez gunna gerra lorra lolly forrit. |
| 9. Azeegeniter ? | 34. Lerres geronthus. |
| 10. Gesit mester. | 35. Eedursnt purrizeead undert watter. |
| 11. Eez gooinooam. | 36. Eesezeeantaddit. |
| 12. Astha gorrit reight ? | 37. Cowurreewes-wurree weeizen ? |
| 13. Isthemun. | 38. Ateldim burreewunt lissen. |
| 14. Asta gorrit withy ? | 39. Lerrim purrizaton. |
| 15. Purremineer. | 40. Astle clowte thee if that dunt gioer. |
| 16. Ayanpt eared nowt. | 41. Tintintin. |
| 17. Thaafter gerra newun. | 42. Gerrarry targithi and weeit. |
| 18. Eesezitintitiz berraberritiz. | 43. Eeez gorross at oam. |
| 19. Lerrus gerrus andzwesht. | 44. Thawanster wesh thi eeroils aht. |
| 20. Sumonemz gorragerroff. | 45. Middadz gorrajag. |
| 21. Weev gorra gerrus imbux. | 46. Thakkan if the wannts. |
| 22. Thamun gerrit lernt. | 47. Eez nobutta babbi. |
| 23. Shut thigob. | 48. Tantad nowt dunnatit as I nose on. |
| 24. Aberritinterz. | 49. Cantha kumtower owse tuneet ? |
| 25. Owzeeno ? | 50. Weerz gaffer ? |

This quiz has been consumer tested and extensive trials indicate that the greatest level of amusement can be gained after generous imbibing of the amber fluid.

My thanks to Watson's Anodising Ltd. of the River Works, Grange Lane, Sheffield, who are "Quality Nameplate Manufacturers", as well as dealing in "scales, dials, self adhesive labels, screen printing and contract colour anodising." Well - a little advert was the least we could do for such an original approach to public relations.



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| QUARTER PAGE | : Back | £12 per annum. |
| | : Inside | £ 7 per annum. |
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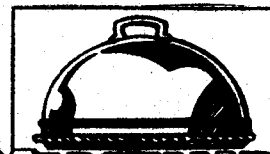
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Headmaster: I. Andrew B.Ed.
 Telephone: AYLESBURY (0296)
 688264 (2 lines)



WING COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL
 AYLESBURY ROAD
 WING
 LEIGHTON BUZZARD
 BEDS LU7 0NY

A LETTER FROM WING.

The past year has been an interesting one from the point of view of the extension of the school into the local community. We now have a Swimming Association, a Tennis Club in process of being formed, other ideas being discussed, members of the local area offering to help by speaking to pupils about work, members of the school interested in helping people in the villages. There also seems to be a great interest in the events which are organised by the School and P.T.A. for the benefit of the School and the local community. The Attic Auction, Craft Fair, Car Boot Sales, School Play, Musical Events and Bygones Evening have all been very popular and I hope are becoming regular features in the yearly calendar. We take the view that the School has an active part to play in the life of the local community and that the closer we work together the more likely the education we offer will be relevant to our young people.

This is just a beginning. There are many other ideas which we have not yet started to tackle and some areas of concern that must be solved. I have been very pleased with the response of many people in the area who have talked to me about the school. Problems can be considered and solutions looked for once they are raised. You may also have some good thoughts and ideas that could be considered if you will raise them with me or representatives of the P.T.A. My idea in visiting Parish Councils, Village Schools and writing in the magazines is to open up regular communication with you all.

To those who have, or have had, young people at Wing School I would like to make a special plea. Somewhere at home your son/daughter may still have some books that should be returned to school. It is very easy to forget to return them at the correct time and then not know how to return them later. Each year money has to be spent on replacing books when we would rather buy new sets. If every pupil who left school over the last four years had two books outstanding then this would mean a 1,000 books could be returned and some pupils may have more than two.

Your help in returning school or library books would be very much appreciated. Table will be available for the books to be left on without any explanation being required so any present pupil could be asked to return them for you if your son/daughter has left. Alternatively a phone call to School will be passed to the nearest P.T.A. Committee Member so that arrangements can be made to collect books. This could provide an excellent Christmas Present to the School and could tidy up some rooms at the same time.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year and I look forward to meeting you at some future activity.

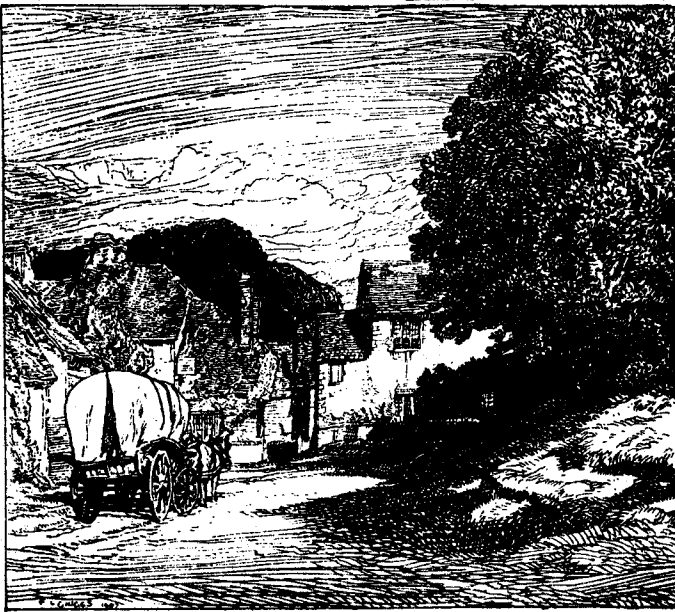
IVAN ANDREW
 12/11/85

Portraits of Buckinghamshire

No. 9 OIVING

Sketch by F.L.Griggs(1907) in Clement Shorter's "Highways & Byways of Buckinghamshire" (1910). The scene is little changed today, with the Black Boy inn remaining all charm on the outside but recently renovated inside in the worst possible taste - a classic example of creating kitsch out of character.

Oving was famous as a place at which five ancient roads met, but today is a quiet, prosperous village standing high above the Vale of Aylesbury, with magnificent views to the south and west.



Oving



With the Compliments of
the Regional Information Officer

A FURTHER BULLETIN FROM THE DHSS TO
REMIND EVERYONE OF THE HELP THAT IS AVAILABLE

Help for handicapped people

There is a booklet published by DHSS which is a brief guide to the range of benefits and services which are there to help if you are, or someone in your family is, handicapped. It covers all kinds of cash benefits and health and social services. It cannot give full details of everything, but it tells you where to go for more advice and help.

The booklet which is called "Help for the Handicapped" (HB1) gives information on attendance allowance, invalid care allowance and mobility allowance and much more. Did you know that you may be given exemption from road tax if you are getting mobility allowance or even if you are not currently getting mobility allowance you may still be exempted from road tax. To find out more about it ring, write or call to your local social security office and ask for leaflet HB1.

The booklet also contains information for the deaf or hard of hearing, and the blind or partially sighted.

If you have a particular problem which you would like to talk over with someone why not discuss it with one of our experts on Freephone. All you need do is dial 100 and ask the operator for Freephone DHSS.

Bookshelf

A Classic Travel Writer's Grand Tour

The outsider won the Booker prize and New Zealand celebrated. It's been quite a month for the Kiwi nation: the Rugby League side retained their number one world status (even if it was by virtue of a drawn series); their cricket team defeated Australia, in Australia, for the first time (and by an innings) and Keri Hume carried off the most prestigious prize in the literary world. Not bad for a country with a population less than a third the size of London.

With the Booker decided Christmas cannot be far away and the problem of Christmas presents looms large. A book can often solve the problem - having the ability to cater for all tastes at all prices. One of the most popular styles of writing is almost peculiar to British taste - the travel book. Not only do British authors dominate the market but nowhere do travel books sell as well as they do in England - but that should not surprise us, as we buy more books per head of population than any other country on earth. Perhaps it's the dismal climate that makes us enjoy slouching in an armchair beside a fire that is roaring so much you wish you had had the chimney swept in the summer. If you would like to escape to another world I can recommend any of the following:

'HANNIBAL'S FOOTSTEPS' by Bernard Levin (Cape £10.95)

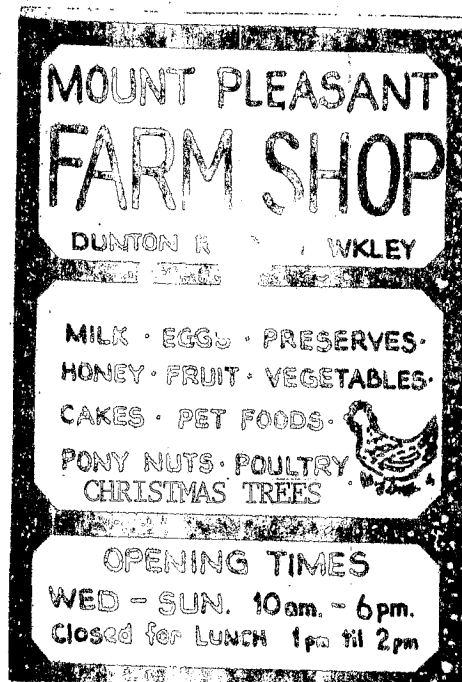
'SLOW BOATS HOME' by Gavin Young (Hutchinson £12.95)

'ON THE SHORES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN' by Eric Newby - or indeed any book by Newby, most of which are available in paperback editions.

Newby is undoubtedly the grandmaster of his art and this classic travel writer has just published his own grand tour of the art in:

'A BOOK OF TRAVELLERS' TALES' (Collins £12.95).

In this volume Newby has collected the best travel writing from every age. With over 350 authors represented it really is a book to dip into rather than read from cover to cover, but every dip brings up a refreshingly different adventure.



14.
THE CHURCHES IN WINGRAVE WITH ROWSHAM, ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON

December 1985

THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Tel. Aylesbury 681623

By all means, let's go to the Midnight Mass at Christmas. We can enjoy the mystic meaning of the birth of the Christ-child. There is something about that Service which never fails to attract. Even those who don't find regular church-going meaningful, or who find faith in God in Jesus Christ difficult.

Many come because...well...the Festival seems to really begin in the dark of Christmas Eve, waiting for the Light of the world to shine. Too, we can sing the old familiar carols. And, as the candlelight procession moves towards the blessing of the Crib, a solitary voice is heard: "Once in Royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed..."

Dare I mention the word? Yes, I will: there is a kind of 'magic' in the air. Lights shine into the darkened corners of our ancient parish church. A profusion of candles. Crowds of folk. There's a spirit in the air. Let us hope it's the Holy Spirit - though I sometimes suspect otherwise!

Yet, and yet, there is always something missing, or, should I say SOMEBODY is missing. I know what it is. It's not anything at all. It is.....

CHILDREN

On occasions they are dragged sleep-eyed from their beds to attend, but mostly the Midnight Mass misses out the children. But, isn't it all about a Child? "And a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 6, v.11).

So let's go to the Midnight Mass, but don't forget the children. And Christmas Day, for that matter.

Christmas Day, Christmas MORNING IS AN OPPORTUNITY WITHIN OUR THREE PARISHES to let the children really understand what the Festival is meant to be... ..the Birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we propose to use the same format as in previous years. Those who want to worship on Christmas Day as a family (or otherwise) can do so in Aston Abbots Parish Church, where it has proved highly successful. The Family Service at 10 a.m. lasts about 40 minutes. Then there is an opportunity to receive the Christmas Holy Communion for those who stay.**

I am asking for four children from each of the parishes to act as Stewards: to welcome those who come to Church, and to lead worshippers to their seats ... "A little child shall lead them." A child from each parish will read part of the Christmas narrative, specially chosen lessons for that Service.

We shall also have a large Christmas Card (the biggest card you've ever seen). More of that at the time, and, naturally the Christmas tree with its hidden chocolate-coloured secrets.

Christmas Day worship has often been neglected. If we attend the Midnight Mass, then fall into bed and slop around late in the morning - WHAT has happened to the Day? Then children who have become bored with new toys by 8 a.m! will wonder if Jesus Christ has anything to do with Christmas at all.

This is our opportunity to help them. To support the families. "Let the children come to me," said Jesus. Doubtless they brought their toys as well. So let them do this on Christmas Day this year.

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEFFER

** If Holy Communion is received at the Midnight Mass, it is permitted to receive again at a later Christmas Day Service.

CHURCH NEWS

The Hallowe'en Barn Dance gave a great deal of enjoyment to everyone. As always on these occasions the caller and the band were crucial and it must be said that 'Kelly's Eye' were very good indeed. Aston Abbotts was very well represented, in fact we sold the most tickets, and the church will receive a proportionate share of the modest profit.

Our Carol Service this year will be on Sunday 15th. December at 3p.m., do come and swell the joyous sound of the Christmas carols, and to enjoy the mince pies and tea! It has now become a firm tradition that we host the Christmas Day Family Service for the three parishes at 10 a.m. This service is especially for children (though I suspect adults enjoy it as much) and plans are being laid to make it even more special this year. Last year remember we had chocolates on the Christmas Tree and even some grown-ups got some! Incidentally I do hate the abbreviation Xmas because it takes Christ right out. When I was at school 'X' was always the unknown in algebra! The whole point of CHRISTMAS is to celebrate Christ's coming into this world and bringing His love into our lives and hence into the life of the world, so let us not use Xmas.

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1st. December : Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. Readings: Romans 13(8-14); Matthew 25(31-46). | <u>Sidesman</u> Mr. J. Ford. |
| 8th. December : Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. Readings: Isaiah 64(1-7); Luke 4(14-21). | Mr. C. Higgs. |
| 15th. December : CAROL SERVICE 3 p.m. | Churchwardens. |
| 22nd. December : Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. Readings: Zechariah 2(10-13); Matthew 1(18-23). | Miss G. Ford. |
| 25th. December : FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE 10 a.m. Readings: See Rector's Notes. | Churchwardens. |
| 29th. December : No Service. | |
| 5th. January : Family Service 11.15 a.m. | Mr. C. Spike. |



SERVICES AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL FOR DECEMBER.

- 1st. Rev. Barrie Heafford.
 8th. Mr. R.P. Edwards.
 15th. Whitchurch.
 22nd. UNITED CAROL SERVICE 6.p.m.
 Mr. Prebble. Everyone very
 welcome.
 29th. Rev. Barrie Heafford.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS TIME IN THE PARISH CHURCHES

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| ASTON ABBOTTS: | December 15th | 3.00 p.m. | Carol Service |
| | Christmas Day | 10.00 a.m. | Family Service |
| | | 10.40 a.m. | The Christmas Communion |
| CUBLINGTON | December 22nd | 3.00 p.m. | Carol Service |
| | Christmas Day | 8.45 a.m. | The Christmas Communion |
| WINGRAVE | December 15th | 6.00 p.m. | Christingle Carol Service |
| | December 22nd | 10.00 a.m. | "Nativity Scenes" (Junior Church) |
| | Christmas Eve | 11.00 p.m. | Midnight Mass & Christmas Communion |
| | December 29th | United Benefice Eucharist at 11.00 a.m. | |

NOTES Gifts of toys brought to Cublington Carol Service and Wingrave Junior Church presentation of the Nativity are given to MacIntyre School.

The children from our School will read lessons and sing special carols at the "Christingle on Sunday, 15th December. The collection is given to the Church of England Children's Society.

Young children are welcome to come on Christmas Day to the Family Service at ASTON ABBOTTS at 10 o'clock, when they are invited to bring and show their Christmas toys (See Rector's Message).

The Midnight Mass has a starting time now of 11.00 p.m. in Wingrave Parish Church. The Wingrave Singers lead carols from 10.30 p.m.

The three parishes come together in the United Benefice Eucharist on Sunday, 29th December at 11.00 a.m. (not 10 o'clock). A glass of wine and other suitable beverages will be served after the Service as we prepare to celebrate the New Year - three days early!

THE LESSONS

(ASB, Year 2: page 443)

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| | Christmas Midnight | Isaiah 9(2, 6-7) | Luke 2(1-20) |
| | Christmas Day | Hebrews 1(1-5) | John 1(1-14) |
| | Christmas Family Service | Isaiah 9(2,6-7), Luke 2(1-14), Luke 2(8-20) | |
| 29th December | Christmas 1 | Romans 12(1-8) | Luke 2(22-40) |
| 5th January | Christmas 2 | "The Holy Family" | |
| | | Isaiah 60(1-6) | Matthew 2(1-12) |
| 12th January | Epiphany 1 | "Revelation: The Baptism of Jesus" | |
| | | Ephesians 2(1-10) | John 1(29-34) |
| 19th January | Epiphany 2 | "Revelation: The First Disciples" | |
| | | Galatians 1(11-24) | John 1(35-51) |

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Cublington Parish Church

30th November

Ian Michael TAYLOR and WENDY O'CALLAGHAN

FUNERAL

After a Service in Wingrave Parish Church, interment in the Churchyard Gordon William FLETCHER 7th November.

"We remember all those who have died in the peace of Christ; those who have confessed the faith, and those whose faith is known to God alone."

A PLUS FOR JESUS If you feel the need to abbreviate the word "Christmas", please think what you're doing. "X" stands for the unknown quantity, and Christ is certainly not that for Christians. So, why not write it this way: "Tmas". The Cross of Jesus Christ is a universal sign, and he wants it to be a 'plus' sign for us all. What do you think?

Wishing you a happy Tmas!

INSIDE THE BACK PAGE

'If a thing can go wrong, it will'

Murphy's Law

If you drop the Sunday roast as you take it out of the oven, or the fresh pint of beer smashes to the ground as you make your way from the bar, you will know it can be explained by Newton's Law Of Gravity; but it takes Murphy's Law to explain why it is happening to you.

How many times have you dropped your morning toast? Inevitably - or so it seems - the toast will land buttered side down. Once again Murphy's Law seems to apply. But in this case research has shown that buttered toast does fall butter side down more often than not (3 out of 5), due to the aerodynamic consequences of the weight of the butter! You can't blame poor old Murphy for that.

Sodde's Law

SIR: It is high time that due credit was accorded to Professor Sodde of Liechtenstein for the laws incorrectly ascribed in THE LISTENER to American airmen and Scots caber-tossers. The laws in question are:

1. All constants are slightly variable.
2. Nothing is as simple as it seems.
3. Everything costs more than you can afford.
4. If anything can go wrong, it will.
5. If you try to please everyone, someone won't like it.
6. If you fool around with a thing long enough, it will break.
7. It is easier to get into something than get out of it.
8. Nothing ever works out as it should.
9. If you explain something so clearly that no one could possibly misunderstand it, somebody will.
10. Whatever you want to do, you will have to do something else first.
11. Anything cut to length will be too short.
12. If a law is only applicable to a special case, it will be universally applied.

The Professor's famous experiment with buttered toast (his factor of root-3 has since been discarded) is universally misunderstood. So is the Professor. Br Austin (Letters, 23 February) may have something when he contends that the laws cannot be proved, and it would certainly be Sodde's Law if this were so.

William Simcock
Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancs.

SIR: Your correspondents who are interested in Murphy's, Sod's and McPherson's laws may like to know of Isted's Law, which was enunciated by G. A. Isted, a much-respected electrical engineer under whom I once had the privilege of working. The law states that if two wires are to be connected to two terminals and nothing further is known, the wires will inevitably be connected the wrong way round. To avoid this, Isted would reverse the connections before switching on. The ploy seldom failed.

D. J. Brockington
Galleywood, Essex

Whenever discussions begin on these universal laws passions are always aroused. The result is often an entertaining and enlightening letters column as can be seen from the sample (below left) that appeared in the Listener magazine some time ago.

There are vast numbers of these universal laws established over the years by personal observation or experience. The best known, other than Murphy's, is probably Parkinson's Law:

"Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion".

Parkinson was responsible for a whole series of laws that we have all had experience of, but did not realise were unstoppable natural phenomena; such as:

"Expenditure rises to meet income".
and:

"Individuals are promoted until they reach their level of incompetence".

Other laws that have been published include:-

Beifeld's Principle. The probability of a young man meeting a desirable and receptive young female increases by a pyramidal progression when he is already in the company of (1) a girlfriend, (2) his wife, (3) a better-looking and richer male friend.

—Ronald Beifeld

Corcoran's Law. All papers that you save will never be needed until such time as they are disposed of, when they become essential.

—John Corcoran

Falkland's Rule. When it is not necessary to make a decision, it is necessary not to make a decision.

—Lucius, Second Lord Falkland

Historian's Rule. Any event, once it has occurred, can be made to appear inevitable by a competent historian.

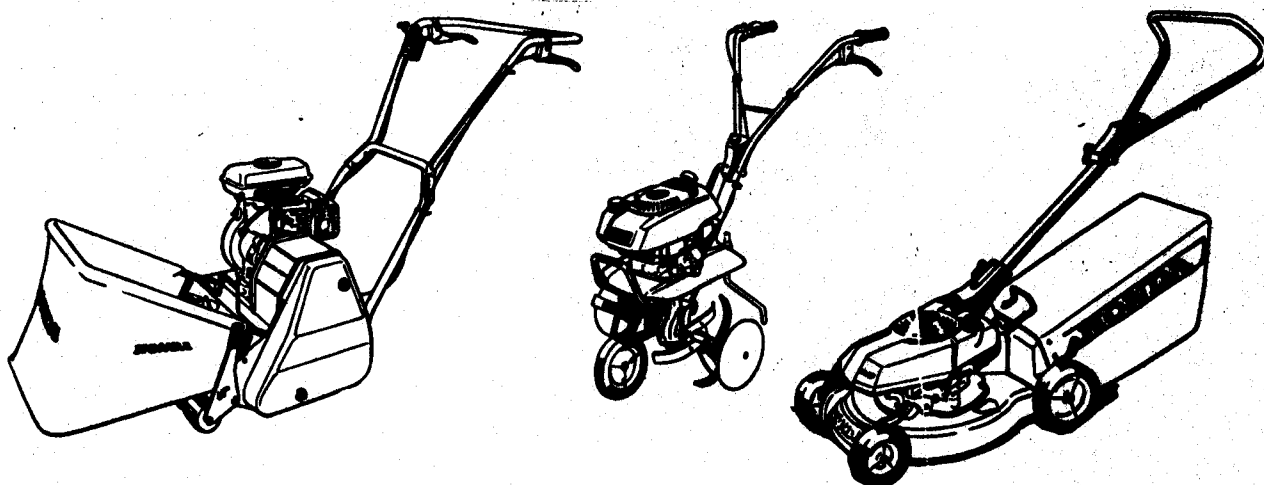
Wing-Walking, First Law of. Never leave hold of what you've got until you've got hold of something else.

—Donald Herzberg

If you know of other laws the Editor would be delighted to pass on the information to the public at large.

Abbottsburry

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