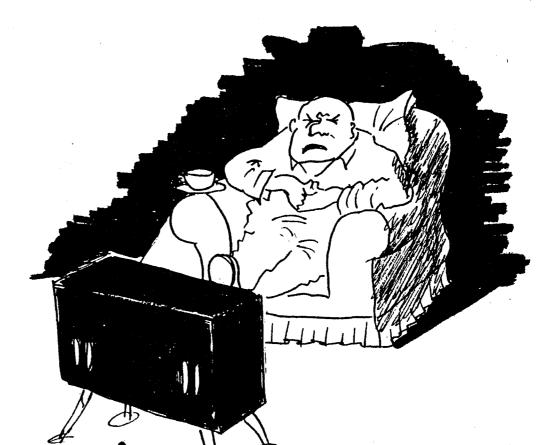
The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



CAN'T GET THE OLD MAN AWAY FROM THE TELE !!

> STOP PRESS OFFICIAL GO ARREAD FOR GAS

February 89

P0.65



Editorial

Unconfirmed reports suggest that all may not be lost in the great gas race sources close to the action tell me that Regional gas boys have recommended to their headquarters that they go ahead and lay pipes into Aston but we must await the final decision from Southampton. By all accounts we managed to muster twenty seven households to agree to installation but the clinching arguement appears to have been an undertaking from the Council ti install gas as they modernised properties in the village. If Southampton give the go ahead then we will have to thank those who have worked hard to badger British Gas (Southern) into agreement.

My thanks once again to Andy Bystra for his adverts for the forthcoming entertainment to be held on February 25th to raise much needed funds for the Chronicle. This really will be a night to remember so please give us your support and ring John Whyte and book your tickets!

Porthon Penler.

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE 25th FEBRUARY - EARLIER IF POSS.

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. Leave a note in the Village Shop or at the Post Office.

Published by Graham Parker.

Printed by THE SQUIRREL PRESS, Waddesdon School, WADDESDON. Distributed free to all households in the Parish of Aston Abbotts. If you would like extra copies please inform the Editor.

THE SUNDAY CLUB

The Sunday Club has now started.

Sunday Club is held at the Methodist Chapel at 10 a.m. Sunday mornings. We are also involved in a Family Service in the Church once a month.

The Sunday Club is for children aged 3 upwards, <u>all are welcome</u> from either Church or Chapel.



INFO

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

SUNDAY 5th: RAMBLING CLUB MEMBERS MEET AT GREAT BRICKHILL at 2 p.m.

SUNDAY 26th: RAMBLING CLUB MEMBERS MEET AT LINSLADE CANAL BRIDGE 2p.m.

THURSDAY'S 2nd & 16th: WHIST DRIVE in the CHURCH ROOM at 7.30 p.m.

THURSDAY 9th: BINGO CHURCH ROOM 7.30p.m.

THURSDAY 23rd: TWENTIETH CELEBRATION

SPECIAL BINGO - DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED.

FRIDAY 3rd: PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 8 p.m. in the CHURCH ROOM.

SATURDAY 4th: CHEESE & WINE PARTY in the CHURCH ROOM in aid of the

St JAMES CHURCH.

SATURDAY 11th: RAMBLING CLUB BARN DANCE

EVERYONE WELCOME TICKETS £1.50 (Licence applied for) Tickets from Colin 681343 At the Church Room 8-11.45.

NOTICE

Complaints have been received about dogs worrying sheep and in one case a sheep was killed. If you want to keep your dog make sure its kept under control. Use footpaths over the fields properly and keep your dog on a lead, then your dog will be saved from the gun.

Colin Higgs.

HELP LINE

In an emergency (a prescription needs collecting: hospital visit has to be made: form needs filling: a pipe has burst or whatever) please ring any of the following numbers for help:

Les Smith, 'Gatesgarth', Lines Hill (Tel:681368)
Peter Dines, 87 The Green. (Tel:681459)
Colin Higgs, 6, Wingrave Road. (Tel:681343)
John Whyte, 14 Bricstock. (Tel:681685)
Graham Parker, The Cloisters, Church Row (681325)
David Watts, 'White Wheels' (681376)
Rosemary Franklin, 3 Church Row. (681319).

Can we add your name to our Help Line list? If so just contact any of the above.



LADIES CLUB NOTES

Thirty members were present at our first meeting in 1989 on January 12th to hear Miss Cuthbert give a talk entitled 'Aylesbury in the 20's This reawakened many memories for some members.

It was with great sadness that members of the Ladies Club have learnt of the death of their former treasurer Mrs Ruby Rickard. She had been a member for many many years, always prepared to work hard for the Club as a member, committee member and Treasurer. She will be remembered for her kindness and cheerfulness, and will be very much missed.

LADIES CLUB SPRING LUNCH
9th MARCH in the CHURCH ROOM
12.30 - 2.30p.m.
Members £1.50. Guests £2.50
Children £1.00. These prices
include a glass of wine.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS 9th. Mrs Taylor - Tonga
23rd. Mr Lamb - Jewellry.

GARDENING PROBLEMS ?

THEN CONSULT NORMAN TAPPING, 14 MILL LANE, WINGRAVE TO REMOVE WEEDS FROM YOUR GARDEN.

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People

OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE Edited by Bridget Brandon.

BIRTHDAYS

CONGRATULATIONS

to ADRIAN DIXON who won the recent pool tournament at Wing Youth Club, and now goes on to play at the regional heat in Chesham in March.

BELATED THANKS

to Tony Hinds for running the bar at the Christmas Show.

BEWARE - TYRE SLASHER AT WORK

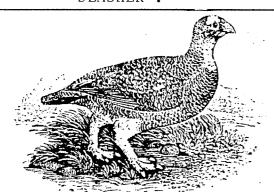
Were you aware that there appears to be a tyre slasher at work in the village ?

Slashed tryes have been reported at various times of cars around the Green, but, as always, it has been impossible to detect a culprit(s).

Most attacks seem to occur on a Saturday night.

Two more cars were attacked on 21st January 1989.

SO ... WATCH OUT FOR THE PHANTHOM SLASHER !



RUBY RICKARD

Ruby Rickard died on the evening of Tuesday 17th January after a long battle against illness. Cheerful and optimistic throughout her struggle Ruby will be sadly missed by her many friends in the village. Percy has asked me to thank everyone for the many kindnesses shown during Ruby's illness. The help and support of so many friends was much appreciated.

Graham Parker.

IN MEMORIAM

UMPLEBY, Margaret, who departed this life on January 29th 1988. Still missed very greatly by daughter, sonin-law and grand children.

WELL NEIL IS WORKING ON IT: SO





RUNNING WILD

The Aston Abbotts Running Club, I heard someone call it. The fat getting fit said another. The latter is nearer the truth I think, as no sooner had they passed my front door, fooling my wife into thinking a roadroller had gone by, than I had to check my house insurance to see if I was covered for such an eventuality as hundredweights of heaving blubber possibly causing subsidence to the foundations or cracks appearing in the brickwork. Needless to say I wasn't, so I am now applying to the Thames Valley Constabulary to get the road closed from 11 o'clock on Sunday mornings - if the Fete can do it, I don't see why I shouldn't. Have some people honestly got nothing better to do on Sunday mornings than run around aimlessly, puffing like winded wallabys, no doubt using it as a feeble excuse to line the pockets of the local landlords by drinking gallons, getting paraletic, and telling their mates how fit they are. If you would like to find out more about this madcap band (and the lady opposite) why not join them next Sunday at 11 round at the Rec.

STAN STILL.

F.A.J. Megram

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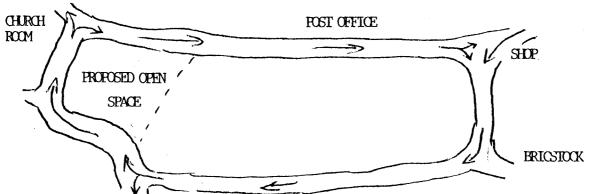
Free Estimates.

RESTORATION OF THE GREEN UNDER TURF



ne of the more original suggestions for the conservation of our lovely village is to turn the village Green back into a proper pedestrian way.

The proposal entails closing many of the roads that criss cross the Green and re-routing the traffic. One popular suggestion is to set up a giant roundabout starting at the shop, going via Brie



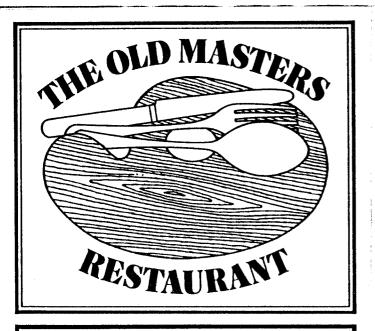
stock, Moat Lane, the Abbey Entrance, the Church Room, and then back past the Post Office to the shop. This brave plan would have the effect of controlling traffic flow, but giving a large open area for public use in the middle of the village. If you have any views on this plan please write to the Chronicle.

TIME TO SPARE?

WHY NOT VOLUNTEER? Ring Aylesbury 81666

> Aylesbury Vale Volunteer Bureau Walton Parish Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 7QX





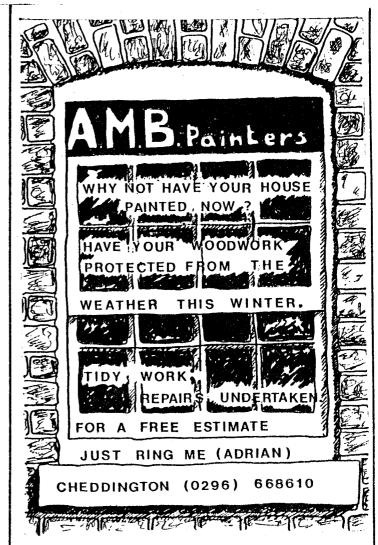
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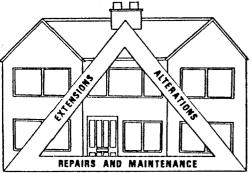
Phone John Whyte on 681685 for your reservations.

To add to the fun a prize is being offered for the most exotic apple pie To enter please ring Tony (Dame) Hewitt on 681390

Rumour has it that first prize will be an album of Christmas show hits with econd prize two copies:



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QUIZ EVENING A GREAT SUCCESS

The Club held its third 'Annual' Quiz Evening within a year on the 28th January and welcome over 180 people to the Community Centre in Wingrave in an attempt to raise money for the Easter visit to France. The French trip is being subsidised by the Club to the tune of nearly £800 and thanks to the generosity of those who came last Saturday we raised in the region of £600 in one night.

JANUARY RESULTS

UNDER 12's

8th. JAN: WINGRAVE 6 BROOKLANDS 0

D.Springett 3, M.Hewitt, K.Pretty, A.Duncan.

15th. JAN: WOODSIDE 1 WINGRAVE 4

D.Springett 2, M.Pope, J.Dixon.

22nd. JAN: ALL SAINTS O WINGRAVE 4 (CUP)

D.Springett 2, K.Pretty, A.Duncan.

29th. JAN: WINGRAVE 6 BROOKLANDS 0 (CUP)

A. Duncan 2, L. Brecey-Wright, J. Dixon, M. Hewitt, S. Christie.

The Under 12's have developed into an excellent side and now lie second in the League. If they can win their four remaining League matches then they will win the League — at the moment its an unbeaten run of eight matches.

UNDER 14's

8th. JAN: WINGRAVE 16 ARROWS COLTS O

A.Bishop 8, C.Arnold 3, D.Perry 2, D.Arnold, E.Kitchener, P.Garrett.

15th. JAN: WINGRAVE 3 CORINIHIANS 1

A.Bishop 2, D.Perry.

22nd. JAN: WINGRAVE 3 CORINIHIANS 1 (CUP)

A.Bishop 2, P.Garrett.

29th. JAN: STOCKLAKE 3 WINGRAVE 0 (CUP)

UNDER 16's

8th. JAN: STEEPLE CLAYDON 2 WINGRAVE O

15th. JAN: WINGRAVE 2 TRING TOWN COLTS 3 (CUP)

D.Lemmon, M.Brown.

22nd. JAN: Match postponed pitch waterlogged.

29th. JAN: STOCKLAKE O WINGRAVE 6

M.Brown 3, S.Megram 2, A.Parker.



With Thanks...

Peter asked me (see Church Notes) to put together a page of the 'thank-you' letters received for recent Church donations. So here it is and thanks to you all for your generosity.

atron: The Rt. Hon. Str Ian Gilmour, Bart, M.P.

Dear Mr. Brown,

On behalf of the Association, I write to thank the Aston Abbotts Parochial Church Council for their most generous donation of £40 - receipt enclosed.

For your information, I enclose a leaflet on the work of our Centre and the B.A.B. in general. This gift will be used to further the work for blind people in Buckinghamshire.

To all concerned, very many thanks once again and best wishes for 1989.



Local for this project.

Our Severous contribution will be much some in this way and

ce aga...

che present we are alming to develop a more adequate interpreting service thank your members for thinking of his in this will be much Ton towards our work with dear people. Trom Aston Abbotts **Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital**

Aston Abbotts PCC,

Toar Aylesbury,

49 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3HZ Telephone: 01-430 1768 Fax: 01-831 1938

The Wishing Well Appeal FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF

Patrons: Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales

Dear Nr. Brown

Thank you so much for your generous donation of £40.00. Your contribution is very much appreciated and will go towards the redevelopment of this fine Hospital, which will provide greatly improved conditions for future generations of very sick children from all parts of the world, their parents, and those who care for them.

It occurs to me that you may wish to hear news of the progress of the redevelopment of the Hospital. Unless I hear to the contrary, I shall arrange for copies of the progress reports to be sent to you.

Thank you again for your support in helping Great Ormond Street get

CHURCH CHARMAN: THE ARCHRISHOP VICE CHAIRMAN: SIR RICHARD O'BRIEN

Buckinghamshire Association

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Anna-Jane Hay

I should like to express our very grateful thanks for your donation Dear M. Bown i should like to express our very grateful thanks for your donation to the Diocesan Appeal for the Church Urban Fund amounting to 100

We have quoted a Cash Book reference at the top of this letter for

audit purposes.

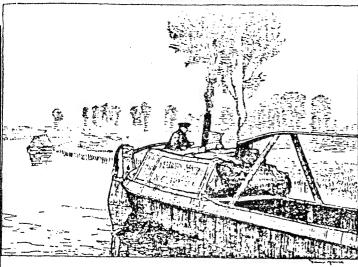
Again, very many thanks.

Mo tilay gul

erian EBBS Administrative Director



UNKNOWN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



THE MYSTERY OF THE HORSE'S TAIL

JOLVERTON is a village with an ancient church upon the Grand Union Canal. It was once a quiet and unimportant place-happily unimportant-and is still-so far as old-time Wolverton is concerned. However, the coming of the railway made a New Wolverton and great works for the construction of railway carriages brought industrial expansion and alas the usual unlovely accompaniments of such " progress" of the middle nineteenth century.

In one of my waterside explorations in Buckinghamshire I came upon Wolverton at twilight. Perhaps this new Wolverton looks at its best in the gloaming with a Scotch express tearing through it casting fiery lights into the still surface of the canal. The spire seen against the evening sky is that of St. Alban's, a church built for the new Wolverton, or Railway Wolverton, in 1843. The old church of Wolverton, Holy Trinity, is spoken of as comparatively out in the country, so inverted have become the relative positions of ancient and of modern Wolverton.

It soon became too dark for me to do any more sketching and I fell into conversation with the manager of a wharf. He told me a few things about Wolverton which gave me a less depressing view of it than its visible aspect warranted.

"There is comparatively little unemployment in Wolverton. The railway-carriage works alone employ about 3,000 hands. There are some big printing works in the town; a great many girls are employed in the latter."

A canal-boat passed carrying an emblem which I had seen twice before—a horse's tail hung over the rudder. I looked at it in bewilderment and then appealed to my informant on matters of Wolverton and the waterway as to what it was and what it meant.

"They're very superstitious, sir; that's what they aresuperstitious."

This was no explanation, however, and I failed to get one.

"They're superstitious, sir; that's what they are, superstitious." No further inquiry could elucidate the matter or artistic, of the horse's tail.

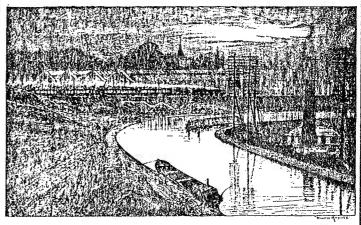
Sometimes I have observed that it is a cow's tail. I can even give you a tariff of the cost of these tails, obtainable, uncured from slaughter-houses; and cured, and therefore more expensive, from a firm in Birmingham. Were it not that Birmingham is hardly the place to go to for magic, I should imagine that some trust in magic was the basis of the belief that a tail on the hind-quarters of a canal-boat is, in some way, efficacious in steering the same through all difficulties. A cow's tail will do at a pinch, but a horse's tail, especially one that is white, is regarded as a mascot of the first water.

I cannot tell you whether or not the hanging of a horse's tail upon the rudder has some deep and esoteric significance, but I can affirm—certainly on parade occasions, and with the older skippers-that a "monkey-barge" without one is no better than a cat without whiskers.

Captains of canal-boats that belong to the generation of an education that made them efficient watermen, but did not teach them to read and write, still cling to the horse's tail, as they still believe that horse-towing is more seemly than motor-boat towing-behind a spluttering engine. Yet there are modernist youngsters, who set out without a tail, and never bother their heads about it. It will therefore be with the die-hards of canal navigation that we shall find the explanation of the custom.

I approached such a one near Berkhamsted, and engaged him in conversation. Incidentally, I find that cubist art must have had its origin upon the Grand Union Canal.

"I paints a bit myself," said my friend of the "monkey-



barge." "When I'm in the mood for it, in the manner o' speaking. I remember once't, when we was moored at a place near Great Linford, a-getting a paintin' fit on me. The birds was a-singin' and the sun a-shinin', and I couldn't stand it no longer, but got 'old of a paint-pot and painted green triangles and blue squares all over that thwart-some on 'em are there now, but they've been done over ag'in."

I have often enjoyed reading and re-reading the explanations of art critics as to the meaning of the more "extreme ' forms of "non-representational art," and always end up in a fog, in which "self-expression" seems to be the only landnor throw any light upon the real or supposed virtue, magical mark. Here, then is a classic example of self-expression in the arts taking the form of diamonds and coloured squares.

UNKNOWN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



As to life upon these inland waters, my friend could spin me many a yarn. "Fifty-two hours from London to Birmingham," he said, " is the quickest time. Sixty-two hours is the slowest. If a captain is more an' sixty-two hours, he's 'ad up on the carpet by the Company, and got ter hexplain what he's bin doin' of.

"Life on a canal-boat, sir? Well, there's many a worse one. The like of us can't live in Buckingham Pallis, and here alongside the water there's plenty of room for the kiddies to run about. One of my boys draws an' paints—he painted that 'orse" (pointing to a panel of the stern cabin) " and he done pigs and cows and flowers. I can only do squares, and diamonds, and stripes—ain't got the knack of it like 'e 'as.'

"There are three of us to work a boat," the skipper continued, "and that gives one of us a chance of a sleep, 'cos we never stops on a Birmingham voyage.

"There are five locks in London, and altogether a hundred and forty between London and Birmingham. The difference between a flyin' boat and one of the slow ones is only about ten hours, 'cos the motor-boats can't travel fast on account of washing the banks down, and sometimes there ain't more than six inches o' water under the bottom of a boat that's loaded down."

All this information was very instructive, but, try as I would, I could find no response to my inquiries concerning horses' tails. The Chinese paint eyes on the bow of their junks to enable them to steer. " If he no eye, how can him see?" they reply to the tourist inquirer. Is this tail some dim folk-lore idea of giving luck to the steering?

I thought I had found a clue when the young wife of one of the skippers began telling me about her grandfather, who, like herself, had been born and bred on the canal. She narrated many customs of the water-gipsies, and I asked her point blank what was the origin of the custom of carrying an animal's tail. "Well, sir," she replied, "would you like to see a boat all painted up and not have a tail? It wouldn't seem right somehow."

This is as far as I got, and I am still making inquiries. How does a horse-shoe bring good luck? Why is it a misfortune to walk under a ladder? Why should we be pleased if a black cat follows us, and why should we turn our silver at the first sight of a new moon?

I cannot answer these questions, nor can I think of any explanation at all of the utility of a horse's tail upon the rudder of a boat. My wharf manager's philosophy leaves us where we were before.

"They're very superstitious, sir; that's what they aresuperstitious."

[Extract from 'Unknown Buckinghamshire' by Donald Maxwell, published by John Lane, The Bodley Head, in 1935]

Portraits of Buckinghamshire



The gateway to St Nicholas' churchyard, Great Kimble—or 'Kimble Magna', as it was known formerly.

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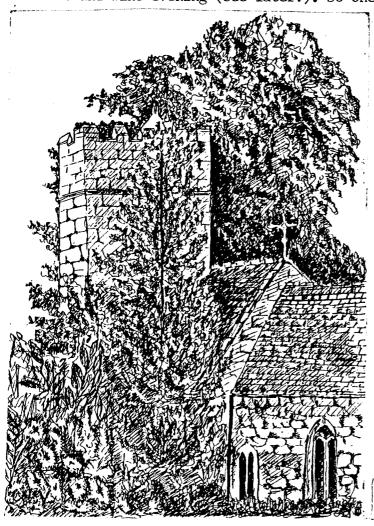
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CHURCH NEWS

First I have asked Graham if he will print elsewhere some extracts from the thank you letters we have received from our Christmas charities because these are really to the whole village. Almost everyone contributes one way or another to the church funds either directly through the envelope scheme or through giving when attending church or by supporting some function or another ranging from the fete to the harvest supper to a cheese and wine evening (see later!). So one way or another the gifts were from us



all. Isn't that how it should be? As I have said before the church is for us all and I dare to say there is not one person who would not feel the village a poorer place if the building itself were closed and unused.

The annual PCC meeting is to be held in the Church Room at 8p.m. on Tuesday 21st February.

There we shall elect the Churchwardens for the coming year, receive the audited accounts and generally deal with business. All are very welcome indeed, so why not come along and air your views?

Finally I hope this will appear in time for you to ask Doris if she has any tickets left for our Cheese and Wine Evening with competitions and raffle. This will be in the Church Room, on Saturday 4th February starting at 7.30. Judging by last year rarely will three pounds be better spent! Just right before some lent discipline!

Sidesman

John Ford.

Colin Higgs.

Tony Hewitt.

Alison Hewitt.

Peter Dines.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

5th. : FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 a.m. FEBRUARY

Philemon 1-16 496 Mark 2(13-17)

12th FEBRUARY : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. [Lent 1]

Hebrews 2(14-end) 505 Matthew 4(1-11)

19th FEBRUARY: HOLY COMMUNION 11.15a.m. [Lent 2]

1 John 4(1-6) 509 Luke 19(41-end)

26th FEBRUARY: HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m.

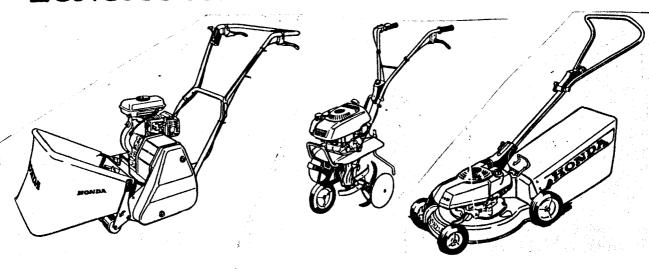
[Lent 3] Colossians 1(24-end) 514 Luke 9(18-27)

5th MARCH : MOTHERING SUNDAY : FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 a.m. Sarah Lovell.

METHODIST SERVICES

5th FEBRUARY: A.Pape Family Service 11.15 a.m. 12th FEBRUARY: Mr.J.Windle 6 p.m. 19th FEBRUARY: Mrs J. Wadsworth 6 p.m. 26th FEBRUARY: Rev Peter Lemmon at Weedon at 3 p.m. 5th MARCH: Family Service at Parish Church as above.

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