

December 1969

'We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man.... one, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh but by taking of the manhood into God'.

I'm dreading another Christmas. Not the real Christmas; but the normal Christmas of endless compulsory presents given and received, the Christmas used by the commercial world as a stimulant for a spending spree, the Christmas of carols churned out without meaning, the pathetically inadequate cliches resurrected every year of 'Christmas spirit', 'the season of goodwill', 'essentially a family occasion', 'Christmas is the children's time'. To look at Christmas mainly like this is heathen, but then England today is mostly heathen. But for Christians to portray Christmas in this way is humbug.

Most of what people take for Christmas could be thrown out without altering it in essentials one iota: holly, bells, Santa Claus, the hymns and carols, Christmas trees and cards - even the stable, shepherds and angels could go. The one thing is that GOD BECAME MAN.

What that says for the dignity of each one of us, what that says for the Christ-like nature of every human being, the way it asserts the goodness and value of all creation, what it promises for man's salvation and what it all says about the love of God - these are our thoughts on our Lord's birthday.

'May he who shared our humanity make us partakers of his Divinity'.

A LOSS TO THE VILLAGE

J.S.N.

Mr Charlie Jerram's death in Amersham Hospital in the early morning of Tuesday 11 November was very sad news, although it was known that he was seriously ill. He has done a great deal for the village especially in helping to found the Village Horticultural Society and working as its secretary for 21 years from 1945. Although almost in his 74th year, he was manager at Cherry Tree Farm. It is especially sad for his wife and family as they were looking forward to his retirement in a few months' time. Our deepest sympathy is with his wife. May perpetual light shine upon him.

Mrs Jerram and her family especially wish to thank, through this Newsletter, all their relations, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy and for the lovely flowers which they sent.

REPORT ON MAGILA, 1969

The help for Magila hospital has been continued during 1969. Sister Edith Frances has sent news of baby Grace, the present occupant of the Coleshill Cot. She is said to be 'a dear little girl, growing fast and full of laughter. She is beginning to walk, takes a few steps, totters,

and now she goes with a bump! She roars with laughter, gets up and does it all over again. There are now 29 of these babies in the unit. Some of the older children have gone to foster parents, but their places are filled at once.

In addition to financial help, 17 beautifully made blankets have been sent to Africa or are on their way there to the great delight of the maternity unit. In view of the fact that these blankets weigh about 15lbs, perhaps it is not grasping to say that we are once again short of wool! A few children's frocks and sunsuits bought at the Church Pete in the summer were included in the blanket parcels and Grace is now the proud possessor of two or three new frocks. We hope for a photograph of her wearing one of them.

The Green Shield stamps scheme has been very successful this year and by the end of December we expect to have collected 27 books (34,560 stamps) - the best we have done so far. These have helped greatly in providing Dr Ursula Hay - the Medical Officer at the Hospital - with some additional and much needed surgical instruments.

Finally, we hope to be able to send a little money to the Hospital to buy small Christmas presents and Christmas fun for the 29 babies who have no mothers to care for them, including a special gift for our Baby Grace. I shall be most grateful for any small donations for this purpose.

ALL SAINTS' STUDY GROUP

M. Williams.

Our discussions of the passion narrative in St Mark's Gospel, i.e. chapters 14 & 15, have been very enjoyable and profitable. Our third meeting will be at 8 p.m. on Thursday 11 December at the Old Parsonage. The subject that will then especially engage our attention will be the Last Supper - the Eucharist - in its fundamental context of the Passover and the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Do come, even though you may not have come before.

THE REV. & MRS J.E. CHARRINGTON

Parishioners who have lived here more than 7 years will remember the Revd J.E. Charrington who was priest-in-charge of Coleshill with Winchmore Hill from 1954 to 1962, when he left to become Vicar of North Marston with Granborough, between Aylesbury and Winslow. He and Mrs Charrington have now retired to a new bungalow at Whitchurch, and their address is now The Clergy Bungalow, St James' Close, Pangbourne.

THE NEWSLETTER APPEAL

The appeal fund is coming along well thanks to a response from the whole village and from Winchmore Hill. The final total will be announced next month. This issue is the last one to be typed and duplicated by Mrs Dryden whom once again we wish to thank for her years of devoted labour. We are most grateful to the good people who have offered to take over her work.

## COLESHILL W.I. - A.G.M.

The President, Mrs Harrisson, welcomed a guest, Mrs Adams, and final arrangements were made for the Bazaar to be held on Saturday 29 November at 2.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Mrs How then gave an interesting account of the Annual Meeting of the Buckinghamshire Federation of Woman's Institutes which she attended as our delegate. Mrs Collier, the hon. secretary, gave details of the past year's activities and Mrs Browne, the hon. treasurer, presented a very satisfactory Balance Sheet.

Mrs Harrisson, retiring President, gave a short address in which she said it had been her privilege and pleasure to act as President for the last 3 years but thought it was time to hand over to someone else. It was with great regret that she must also come off the Committee as she had moved from the village. Miss Boston thanked Mrs Harrisson most warmly for all her hard work and then presented her with a tray as a small token of the gratitude and affection of all the members.

In a ballot, Mrs Collier was elected and welcomed as the New President. Miss Sybil Boston kindly agreed to act as Hon Secretary and Mrs Browne to continue as Hon. Treasurer. Three new members were also welcomed to the Committee, namely Mrs Morrison, Mrs Post and Mrs Plumridge.

### NATIONAL SIGN-IN FOR WORLD POVERTY

The British Council of Churches asks everyone who is concerned about world poverty to sign a petition during December asking the Government to devote 1% of our national income to overseas development. A copy of the petition and a sheet for your signature will be on the church notice-board. It certainly merits your conscientious thought and attention.

### CHRISTMAS CRIB

Gifts of money left at the Christmas crib in church will be divided equally between Shelter and Magila Hospital, that is, between needs at home and overseas.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Miss Lo'veday Pusey would like to give advance notice that some of the young people of the village will be singing Christmas carols round Coleshill in the evening during the week 21 - 27 December.

### NO GOOD AFTER THIS MONTH

Please remember - halfcrowns cease to be legal tender on Thursday 1 January. You would be wise to spend or exchange those in your possession before Christmas. Children's money boxes, collecting boxes for charities and odd jars and tins in the household are particularly the places where halfcrowns can hibernate the whole winter through and so safely escape the fearful furnaces of the Royal Mint, but be no use to you.

### IN AMERSHAM HOSPITAL

We're glad to report that Mrs Ellen Saunders, the widow of our late churchwarden, Mr Cyril Saunders, has now been transferred to Amersham Hospital where she is doing well. This will make it easier for villagers to visit her. She's in Milton Ward.

Mrs White of Lourdes, Barrack Hill, was also in hospital for a few days but is now quite her old self again and looking forward to her daughter's wedding in early February. Another happiness for Jacqueline is her appointment as manageress of her hairdressing shop, which is pretty good for someone of only nineteen.

### SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY

The Village School will put on a Nativity play in preparation for Christmas in church on Tuesday 16 December at 7 p.m. Everyone will, of course, be very welcome.

### MR. JACK MEAD

Coleshill was very shocked to hear of the sudden death of Mr Jack Mead at about 5.30a.m. on Tuesday 11 November at the age of 59. Mr Mead belonged to an old Coleshill family; his grandfather, Mr Slade, kept the forge at the Bit which was pulled down only recently. Mr Mead came to the Captive-Oak Market Garden in Magpie Lane 12 years ago and worked extraordinarily hard with his wife in building up the business which included 600 hens. May he rest in peace. And our prayers and sympathy are with his wife, who has asked for this notice to appear in the news-letter: 'Kate Mead wishes to say how deeply touched she has been by all the messages and letters of sympathy she has received since the death of her dear husband Jack Mead, and she will answer the letters as soon as possible'.

### BONFIRE ON THE COMMON

Many people have said how much they enjoyed the bonfire on 5 November and the splendid firework display. We are especially grateful to all the young people who built the fire, to Mr Young and Mr Nicholls for their help with the fireworks - and indeed for providing so many of them - and to Mr & Mrs Gorman for their help in clearing up at the end.

### NEW PRIEST

St. Michael's Church, Jew Beaconsfield, is among Anglican churches our closest neighbour on one side of the parish and it has just got a new priest-in-charge, Fr R. Woodward. It is our hope and prayer that he will have a very happy and fruitful ministry here, much blessed by God.

## MOTHERS' UNION ACTIVITIES

Twenty-one people went on the Mothers' Union outing to Nashdom Abbey near Burnham in November. We sat in the chapel, which is very plain and white, to hear the **guestmaster** talk about the life and work of the monks, and then we walked through the **grounds** and admired the beautiful **Lutyens** house. After tea and time to look at the wide display of books and cards we went back to the chapel for the service of **vespers** which was mostly sung in Latin. And then after thanking the monks for their hospitality, we returned home by coach.

The regular November meeting gave us another **enjoyable** afternoon when Mrs Cobb came from Long Crendon to talk about the life of **Florence Nightingale**. Her talk was most lively and **stimulating**, and made us **reali**: to the full how lucky we are to have all the benefits of modern medicine and nursing which Miss **Nightingale** did so much to bring about.

There will be no meeting in December and **wecshall** meet next in Mrs Jean **Antosiewicz's** house, 12 The Bit, on Thursday 15 January at 2.30p.m.

## RECENTLY MISSED

One Familiar figure we have missed **recently** is Miss Poll, Mrs **Rupert's** faithful '**Nanny**'. She had a bad turn three weeks ago, but although **she's** 91 she has made a very good recovery and can now spend most of the day out of bed. **No-one** could give her more devoted care than Mrs **Ruperti** and her family.

Miss **Williams** has also had to stay indoors for some time with an attack of bronchitis, but she **hasn't** allowed it to interfere with her **mul-**tifarious activities and is now, we are glad to report, much better.

## CATERER EXTRAORDINARY:

Among the gifts of food which were brought to the village hall for the All Saints' Day party the contribution from Mrs Appleby of **Tackley, Winchmore** Hill was especially outstanding. Although Mrs Appleby **can** only get about with the help of metal **supports**, she is a faithful member of the **Mothers'** Union and when it comes to making sausage rolls and cakes she puts many of the able-bodied among us to **shame**.

## TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

An Otto all-night **stove**. It will burn any solid fuel and keep in all night. In good condition. Can be collected any time from the Old Parsonage (Tel. 6272).

## RELIGION.

Three men were on a raft drifting towards the Niagara Falls. Said one: 'Can anyone sing a hymn?' 'No.' 'Can anyone say a prayer?' 'No.' 'We must do something religious - let's take a collection.'

Told by George Lewis, the husband of George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans)

## HALLOWE'EN PARTY

About 100 people attended the Hallowe'een party on 31 October, the avowed intention of which was to raise funds for the repairs to the floor. The Committee were anxious about the floor letting them down, but on the evening it was firm, clean and brilliantly polished. For this the Committee is deeply indebted to Messrs Rann, Smith and White for the many hours which they put in and for the great skill which they exercised.

By tradition Hallowe'een is consecrated to harmless revelries and so there was a witch on the stage, spooks, spiders and cobwebs - due to Mr Donald Slack, as scenic manager - a most popular tombola kindly provided by the W.I., and equally popular bar run by Mr Knight - to whom best wishes are extended upon leaving the 'Magpies' - musical effects by Mr Woolacott, and competitions - racing targets arranged by the Misses Boston, guessing the identities of people when very young and naming bottles (empty) run by members of the Committee.

The evening closed with a lively witch who, when she had taken off her disguise, turned out to be Miss Philippa Rann, 'Miss Colehill' a few years ago.

The Committee extends thanks to all the helpers who made the evening such a success and to the donors of some generous gifts. In all, the proceeds amounted to over £60, which goes towards replacements, polishes and gadgets for the floor cleaning apparatus.

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DANCE

The much improved village hall floor had to stand up to hundreds of feet on Friday evening 14 November when another successful dance was organised by Mr Percy Moutier, landlord of the Red Lion. The hall was crowded, and after all the expenses are covered there will be a profit of at least £25 which will be given to the village hall funds.

## FORTH COMING EVENTS

Dec.

- 4 (Thurs) Mobile Library
- 11 (Thurs); W.I. Drama group production at 2.30  
Study group at the Old Parsonage at 8p.m.
- 16 (Tues) School Nativity Play at 7p.m.
- 18 (Thurs) Mobile Library
- 25 (Thurs) THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Eucharist at 9a.m; & 7.30a.m. at Winchmore Hill (please bring a candle to see with). Mid-night Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's.

Times of services during the Christmas Octave and of confessions will be given in the church porch.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, COLESHILL

**Priest-in-Charge:** The Revd. J.S. Nightingale, The Parsonage (tel. 4229)  
**Pro-Churchwarden & Secretary:** N.N. Nicholls, Orchard House (tel. 6734)  
**Pro-Treasurer:** R.G. Stubbings, Springfield, Tower Road (tel. 4738)

**Every Sunday:** 9.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION  
10.15 a.m. Sunday School  
6.00 p.m. Evensong

**Every Tuesday:** 10.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION

**Every Wednesday:** 7.30 p.m. HOLY COMMUNION

**Every Friday:** 12.00 noon HOLY COMMUNION

Morning and Evening Prayer each day at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

For other services, please see the weekly notices in the church porch.

ST. ANDREW'S MISSION CHURCH, WINCHMORE HILL

HOLY COMMUNION on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10.30 a.m.



ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, AMERSHAM

**Rector:** The Revd. A. Campbell, M.A. (Cantab), Beaumont, Hervines Road, Amersham (7135) or St Mary's Parish Office, Church Street, (tel. 4712)

**Sunday Services:** 8.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION  
10.00 a.m. Children's Service  
11.00 a.m. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays:  
HOLY COMMUNION (New Service)  
2nd & 4th Sundays: Mattin  
6.00 p.m. Sung Evensong

**Every Wednesday:** 10.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION.