

December 1973

THE RECTOR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

How very welcome Christmas is. A tremendous bright light of happiness in the middle of so much darkness, greed, selfishness and envy. This year particularly we ought to welcome the great festival with all we can contribute to its joy. We remember the Angel's words "behold I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all people".

That means each of us - you and I.

I hope everyone of you will come and worship the Child Jesus on Christmas Day. Remember we come to church to give not to get, and as we give our worship and adoration so we bring others to know the great gift of love which God gave the world on this great occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Campbell

DEDICATIONS AT ALL SAINTS'

On Sunday, 25th November, before the Service of Holy Communion, the Rector dedicated two very beautiful and useful additions to the Church.

In his introductory remarks, the Rector said it had been a laudable custom of the Christian Church for worshippers to give gifts of beauty and usefulness to the Church in thankfulness, gratitude and remembrance of occasions or people in their lives. These gifts are held in trust by the Church and beautify and enrich our worship.

He then dedicated the new Sanctuary paving in memory of Muriel Margaret Malyan and two beautifully carved oak Communicants' Kneeling Stools in memory of Agnes Mary Allinson.

It was a happy occasion when we welcomed Miss Malyan's cousin. Mrs. Harvey and Miss Allinson's two sisters who had journeyed from Windsor. They were welcomed and thanked by the Rector.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES'

<u>Christmas Eve.</u>	11.30 p.m.	Holy Communion at St. Mary's
<u>Christmas Day.</u>	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Mary's
	9.00 a.m.	Family Communion at All Saints'
	10.00 a.m.	Carol Service at St. Mary's

THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

A leaflet describing some things they do

Pastoral reorganisation.

The rather forbidding term "pastoral organisation" means simply the administrative areas into which the Church of England is divided. These consist at present of 2 provinces, 43 dioceses 107 archdeaconries, 750 rural deaneries and 14,000 parishes. "

Until the 18th Century, while movement was restricted to walking or using horses, the ordinary church-goer's horizon was, limited to his own parish church. But with the Industrial Revolution in the 19th Century, and the coming of railways, motor-cars and motor-buses, cities began to grow, villages became towns, and the population shifted, It is still shifting, but nowadays at a much faster pace.

It is obvious, therefore, that with the years the areas of division have needed to be altered, most frequently by amalgamation of parishes. Because the Church of England is "the Established Church" legal processes are necessary and ensure that all concerned are consulted on any such alterations this is provided for in the Pastoral Measure, which took the place of earlier legislation on 1 April 1969.

The Commissioners do not initiate proposals for these changes. This is done locally by the diocese. But the Commissioners have the task of putting the proposals into legal form and, if anyone objects, of investigating the matter and deciding whether the proposals as they stand should go forward to be confirmed by Her Majesty in Council. To do this with understanding, some of the Commissioners, clergy and laity, and their staff may visit the parishes to see the situation for themselves and to discuss the proposals with those who are unhappy about them.

The various stages in the process may appear to be elaborate. But this is deliberate because insufficient consultation and hasty decision-making may cause long-standing resentment and injury to the Church and its work.

It may be of interest that in the last four years some 1,050 matters of pastoral reorganisation have been completed.

Redundant churches.

A number of churches are no longer required for worship and become redundant. The future of every such church is of vital interest and importance, not only to Church people, and the Commissioners are responsible for making the final decision between putting the building to a suitable new use, transferring it for preservation to the Redundant Churches Fund, which receives grants for the purpose from the Commissioners and the Government, or demolition.

A large proportion of the Church of England's 17,000 places of worship are interesting historically or architecturally. The Commissioners are advised on the historic and architectural qualities of the building by an independent body, the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches. The Commissioners make proposals for each redundant church and must consider any representations which may be received from parishioners, other interested parties or the general public.

Since 1 April 1969, 262 churches have been declared redundant. So far suitable uses have been found for 69 of these, 22 have been transferred to the Redundant Churches Fund and demolition has been authorised in 49 cases.

Parsonage houses and Glebe.

The Commissioners do not own parsonage houses but they are involved when old ones have to be sold or modernised or new ones bought or built. During the year to 31 March 1973, they approved 95 schemes for building new parsonages, 693 alteration schemes, 53 purchases and 167 sales, after considering any objections received.

Each rector and vicar ought to have a suitable house in which to live, remembering that, as well as being his home it is a place in which he does much of his work. It needs to be neither too large nor too small, comfortable and labour-saving. In 1953 dioceses estimated that some 4,000 houses were unsuitable. Twenty years later the number of unsuitable houses was estimated to be 1,500 and the Commissioners have launched a special scheme to finance a programme of dealing with these houses as an urgent matter.

Land or other property given by past benefactors for the endowment of a "benefice" - that is, the freehold office of a rector or vicar - is known as "glebe". This is owned by, the rector or vicar, not by the Commissioners, but the Commissioners have a duty to consent before it can be sold or leased. During the year to 31 March 1973, 414 sales and 65 leases were completed.

Three Committees of the Commissioners are responsible for carrying out these duties: the Pastoral Committee, the Redundant Churches Committee and the Houses Committee. A considerable proportion of the Commissioners' staff, both administrative and professional, is engaged on the day-to-day work involved.

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VILLAGE HALL

At a meeting of the Village Hall Committee on the 19th November, it was reported that on the recommendation of the Fire Service, a switch had been fitted to the battery system which provided emergency lighting to the notices marked "EXIT" in the case of a breakdown of the main source of power.

ALL USERS OF THE HALL ARE REMINDED THAT THIS SWITCH, CLEARLY MARKED NEXT TO THE SWITCH CONTROLLING THE HEATING SYSTEM, MUST BE SWITCHED ON TO ALLOW THE NOTICES MARKED "EXITS" TO BE ILLUMINATED DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS.

The Committee received a splendid preliminary report from the sub-committee considering the idea of lining the roof to save heat and looked forward to a final recommendation.

On account of the current situation as regards petrol, it was reluctantly decided to postpone the Whist Drive which was to be held on the 5th December.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR MAGILA

Very many thanks for generous gifts to this fund. A cheque for £10 has been posted to Sister Edith Frances and the pleasure at its receipt will certainly be equalled by the children's delight.

They will have an exciting Christmas.

HOLY BAPTISM

We welcome all those newly baptised at All Saints' into the fellowship of Christ's Church.

October 20th Neil Hector Harben Valentine
November 24th Thomas Patrick Panton

DEATH

Regretfully the death is reported of Alfred E. Williamson on the 25th October. He was always ready to assist the Church's functions and deep sympathy is extended to his widow and family.

NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parishioners will have noticed that the outside of the Parish Room has recently been repainted. What is not so obvious from the outside is that the internal walls have also been painted, and thanks to some of the ladies of the Village - the Misses Boston, Mrs. Grindley and Mrs. Stevens - there are now some bright curtains to make the Room more attractive. Thanks are also due to Mr. Nicholls who put up the new curtain rails, with the help of Mr. Stevens, who also cleaned all the paintwork.

This has been a real community effort by Villagers to improve the Village Room and the Council would very much like to see this Room put to greater use. With the installation of electric power points, more adequate heating is possible.

Through the generosity of the Chiltern Society, to which the Parish Council is affiliated, several clumps of daffodil bulbs have been planted at suitable points in the Village. These will make most attractive splashes of colour next Spring which we shall appreciate.

HOME. SAFETY

During the second half of November a campaign was conducted in Amersham and Wycombe in conjunction with the local Pharmaceutical Committee towards the return to chemists' shops of all unused and unwanted pills, capsules, tablets and medicines. Coupled with this was a competition for school children to make up a slogan pointing out the danger of leaving such medicines lying about. There were a good many entries, several coming from Coleshill, and ten were chosen as being worthy of a prize.

Old drugs are a potential danger to all - particularly young children. Last year, 25,000 patients under five were admitted to hospitals in England and Wales suffering from the effects of accidental poisoning, 25 of these died.

Elderly people are sometimes unsure which bottle of medicine has been prescribed for what illness. There can be no danger from unused medicines which have been destroyed.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU NEVER KEEP OLD DRUGS LYING ABOUT ESPECIALLY • -
IF THERE ARE CHILDREN OR ELDERLY PEOPLE IN YOUR HOME. -

OXFAM

Amersham now has a permanent Oxfam shop located at 105 Sycamore Road. If anyone has any saleable goods, could they please take them to the shop or contact Mrs. Richardson, Amersham 6670.

"THE HOLLOW CROWN"

The newly formed Coleshill Village Drama Group (the successor of the W.I. Drama Group) made its debut in the Coleshill Village Hall on the evenings of 9th and 10th November with an excellent production "The Hollow Crown".

Large audiences on both evenings witnessed a very varied unusual and amusing programme of drama, mime, dancing and "readings" from the writings of famous folk on episodes in the lives of some of England's best-known Kings and Queens.

Miss Patsy Wright-Warren, the producer, is to be congratulated on a first rate production which was particularly noteworthy for its slick timing, really splendid costumes, clever staging which included a wonderful four foot crown shown in the first and last scenes, and the sensitive acting of the performers, set off by delightful contemporary music and songs.

Without detracting in any way from the excellent performances of the other actors, perhaps those stand out in the memory were 'The Ballad of Henry II and Queen Eleanor' (Dora Post), Henry VII's 'Secret Memorandum to Naples' (Hugh Jones), Mary Tudor's speech denouncing Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion on her proposed marriage to Philip of Spain (Daphne Farmer), the ageing Queen Elizabeth being "importuned with love" (Elizabeth Harvey), Fanny Burney being questioned about the Arts by George III (Rita Rann), Charles I's "Trial and Execution" and Sir Belvedere in the Excalibur scene (Stephen Hichens), and Ann Chenevix-Trench as young Victoria describing her Coronation.

Impressive also were the extremely able performances of Denys Jones and Hugh Jones in their varied roles.

The children with their dances and mime were natural and delightful and gave the impression of enjoying their parts as greatly as did their audiences.

Cast: Ann Chenevix-Trench, Daphne Farmer, Elizabeth Harvey, Helen Hichens, Stephen Hichens, Sandy Hutcheon, Denys Jones, Hugh Jones, Dora Post, Rita Rann, Aleida Vince.

Children: Caroline Bowler, Leon Brown, Eileen Davis, Susannah Davis, Anna Hensburgh-Porter, Michael Nicholls, David Ruffett, Clement Schéffelaar, Ber, L Smith, Colin Smith, Jane Swerling, Melanie Weller.

Stage Manager - Sybil Boston.

Wardrobe Mistress - Pat Emblow assisted by Carol Easton.

Lighting - Hugh Jones assisted by boys from the Pembroke School.

Sound Recording - Richard Farmer.

The Drama Group also wish to thank all those who helped behind the scenes and in front of the house, and with refreshments.

After expenses, the Drama Group were able to forward a very nice cheque to the Village Hall to go towards the fund to reduce the loan in connection with the heating system.

1st COLESHILL GUIDE COMPANY

On the 5th November, the District Commissioner enrolled eight Guides and presented Patrol Leaders stripes to Susan Ware, Snowdrop Patrol, Amanda Rees Kingfisher Patrol. She also presented a second stripe to Mandy Reavey, Snowdrop, and Lee Speller, Kingfisher. The Patrol Leaders are elected by the Company and the seconds chosen by the Patrol Leaders. The ceremony was watched by parents and the Brown Owls from the 1st Coleshill and 2nd Amersham-on-the-Hill Brownie Guide Packs.

On Sunday, 11th November, we attended the Remembrance Service and later with the Brownies planted Mulberry Trees on Coleshill and Winchmore Kill Commons.

On Monday, 10th December, together with the Brownies, we are holding a Bring and Buy Sale in the Village Hall at 6.15 p.m. for funds for the new hostel for paraplegics at Stoke Mandeville. Please support our efforts.

On Sunday, 23 December, we hope to go carol singing at Coleshill House together with the Brownies at 3 p.m.

H.S.M.C.

BROWNIE NOTES

Since I last wrote, we have acquired a helper, Mrs. Eyres, and we are truly grateful for her help and sincerely hope she will continue to come, when she is able to, for a long time to come.

On November 10th, a party of Brownies, one Guide, one mother - Mrs. Dowson, Tawny Owl and I went to Guide Headquarters. We had a tour round and pocket money was spent in the shop. We had a picnic lunch in St. James' Park, saw the pigeons in Trafalgar Square and also a small visit to the National Gallery.

11 Brownies have passed their Safety in the Home Badge. This number includes 3 seven year olds, 2 Brownies have their Writer's Badge and one her Thrift Badge and one her Knitters Badge. We end this term on the 10th December with a Bring and Buy Sale together with the Guides. Please come - details under Guide notes.

Next term starts 14th January.

P.S. Owing to the transfer of a Brownie and one recruit, we now have 2 vacancies.

G.R.

COLESHILL W.I. A.G.M.

Not always a popular occasion, Coleshill Women's Institute had a good attendance for their Annual Meeting on 9th November.

The Secretary's report, clear and comprehensive, was followed by the President's report. Mrs. Ovington thanked her very able Secretary, Mrs. Powell-Price and the Committee for their loyal work during her year and bade us all remember the good things of life are free and what W.I. friendship can and should mean to us. She then left the Chair.

After Mrs. Brown's brief but very appreciative remarks and thanks to the President for her leadership during the past year, the new Committee, headed by Mrs. Ovington as President, Mrs. Powell-Price as Hon Secretary and Mrs. Brown as Hon. Treasurer were immediately reinstated with the exception of Mrs. Morrison who was leaving Coleshill at the end of the year. We shall all miss her welcoming smile at the Register Table and her excellent and reliable co-operation whenever needed. We wish her well in her new home. Mrs. Higgs was elected in her place.

The W.I. need new members and would ask particularly if the younger generation could find the time to join them.

AMERSHAM AND CHESHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

On Wednesday, 19th December, the Amersham and Chesham Choral Society will hold a carol concert at the Parish Church of St. Mary's at 7.30 p.m. in aid of charities.

ORGAN RECITAL

Most happily the Coleshill Village Drama Group have arranged with two most eminent people, Patricia Scanlon and Ralph Davier, to give a recital in the Village on Friday, 21st December, and permission has been granted to use All Saints' Church for the purpose, at 8 p.m. Music lovers can therefore look forward to the evening with great pleasure.

Patricia Scanlon is a mezzo soprano of considerable range and dexterity and works frequently for the BBC and at the Royal Opera House. She has given recitals and concerts and appeared with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the Guildford Festival in 1971.

Ralph Davier received diplomas as organist and Master of Choristers at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm. He has given innumerable recitals throughout Scandinavia and regularly for the Nobel Prizegiving. He is an expert on organ building and last November he inaugurated a newly rebuilt organ on the occasion of the Swedish Government's Act of Homage to H.M. King Gustaf VI on his 90th birthday.

Admission will be by programme 75P available from:

The Reverend Allan Campbell M.A., Beaumont, Hervines Road, Amersham
Tel: 7135.
Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey, 1 Amber Cottages. Tel: 3274
Mrs. A. Chenevix-Trench, Windmill Farm. Tel: 5439

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

December

Wed. 5th Coffee Morning, The Windmill, 10.30 a.m. in aid of the Chiltern Samaritans.
Mon. 10th Brownie's Bring and Buy Stall, Village Hall, 6.15 p.m. for funds for the new hostel for paraplegics at Stoke Mandeville.
Thur. 13th Mobile Library Van, Coleshill.
W.I. Christinas Party
Fri. 21st Organ Recital, All Saints'
Mon. 24th CHRISTMAS EVE
Tue. 25th CHRISTMAS DAY
Thur. 27th Mobile Library Van, Coleshill
Sun. 30th Carol Service, All Saints' 3.00 p.m.

Next Mothers' Union Meeting - Thursday 17th January 1974°
At the home of Mrs. Douglas Pusey.

THE PARISH OF AMERSHAM WITH COLESHILL

Rectors The Reverend Alien Campbell M.A. (Cantab)
Beaumont, Hervines Road, Amersham. (Tel. 7135)

ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, AMERSHAM

Sunday Services: 8.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
10.00 a.m. Children's Service - 1st Sunday in the
month this service is
Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m. Holy Communion Holy Communion
Christmas Day 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion Series III
10.00 a.m. Carol Service
11.00 a.m. MATTINS
6.00 p.m. Evensong
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

ALL SAINTS' COLESHILL

Sunday Services: 9.00 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION
10.15 a.m. Sunday School
Christmas Day 9.00 a.m. Parish Communion
Sunday December 30th 3.00 p.m. Carol Service

St. Andrew's Mission Church, Winchmore Hill

2nd and 4th Sundays 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Christmas Day No Service

Pro-Churchwardens N.R. Nicholls, Orchard House (Tel, 6734)

D. Powell-Price, Coleshill Lodge (Tel. 3949)

Hon. Treasurer: A.M.V. Panton, Wallers Oak (Tel. 6183)

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. J. Dryden, 14 Woodside Close, Amersham. (Tel. 3449)

Brownies: Monday Evenings in the Hall at 5.30 p.m.

Choirs: Thursday Evenings in Church at 7.00 p.m..

Mothers' Union: The 3rd Thursday afternoon of every month at 2.30 p.m.