

The Rectory
Church Street
Amersham

December 1988

THE CHALLENGE OF THE STABLE

What will your thoughts be as you gaze at the crib this *coming* Christmas? Perhaps they will take you back to your childhood? Or maybe they will take you forward in time *instead*, to your own children or grand-children and their future? But what will you see as you look at the familiar sight of the crib? Something just *for* children or a piercing insight for all time?

How could it be that the Creator of the whole universe was content for his head to rest in a cattle stall and be among the animals of a stable? *We* can be sure that it was no accident that it happened like *that*, so there must be deep truths within it for us to learn. Is it not above all a lesson about humility? "He did not count equality with God a thing to be *grasped*, but emptied *himself*, taking the form of a *servant*, being born in the likeness of men. And being *found* in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, " (*Phil, 2, 6-8*). The humility of his whole life was there at the *beginning*, there in the whole idea of God becoming man.

We so easily attach importance and worth to houses and *jobs*, wealth and status. On those *counts*, Jesus fails *badly*. Why do we then find it so hard to draw the inevitable conclusion that our scale of importance and worth must be wrong?

I came across these words of Morris *West* the other *day*: "Perhaps that is part of the meaning of pain - that it challenges our arrogant possession of life; that it confronts us with our own frailty and makes us aware, however dimly, of the sustaining power of the Creator. " *Isn't* this also what the stable does? It reveals the frailty of each of us, coming naked into the world, powerless and *vulnerable*. But it also reveals the strength of human life when it *is* totally dependent upon '*the sustaining power of the Creator*'.

For the homeless Christ to make his home in us - that is the way of his humility and the challenge of his stable *birth*.

Anthony Priddis

NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Patronal Festival. This year we celebrated our Patronal Festival on 6th November which was the Sunday after All Saints' Day. At the evening service we welcomed members of St Ilary's congregation who came up to celebrate with us and stayed to socialise over coffee afterwards.

Hymn Books. We have now started using our new hymn books - Ancient and Modern Revised - and consequently have a wider selection of hymns to choose from. Anyone who would like to donate one or more books - the cost is £4 each - should contact Don Urry.

Chalice Bearers. As two of our original chalice bearers have left the village, the Bishop has approved two new ones - Ann Chenevix-Trench and Anne Trotman.

Churchyard. Although the interior of the church is always beautifully decorated and very well kept, the same cannot be said of the churchyard. So we have decided to seek offers to 'adopt' a part of it. Any gardeners who feel that they are underemployed (!) are urged to consult the chart in the church and put their names against one or more of the 'plots'. We also have periodic working parties (great fun), so if you would be prepared to join the next one (date not yet arranged), would you let Dumpy Swerling or Patsy Wright-Warren know.

All Saints' Harvest Charity. In this fourth year of supporting the tuberculosis eradication scheme at Raphael - the Ryder/Cheshire centre in Northern India - you excelled yourselves and we were able to send them £680. This was enormously appreciated and enables them to buy food and clothing for some of the very poor people who suffer from TB. Both General Bakhshi, the director of Raphael, and Mr Humphrey, at Headquarters, have asked me to "pass on to everyone concerned the Mission's heartfelt gratitude."

P.W-W.

HOLY BAPTISTI

On 25th September 1988, CLARE, daughter of Andrew Thomas and Kim Alison Hilton of Winchmore Hill.

IN MEMORIAM

13th October 1988, Joan Kunzer of Rosary Cottages, Coleshill.

Mrs Emily Stevens. We were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Emily Stevens. Emily and Pop came to live at the original 'Cotswold' in 1959. She immediately became involved in the life of the village. In the early days, Emily was instrumental in re-forming the Coleshill Residents' Association and the running of the combined Village Fete and Horticultural Show. Through her love of people she was soon acting on our behalf through the Parish Council and later became our representative on the District Council.

One of her greatest delights was being involved with children, becoming a Governor of the Village School and Brudenells. Later Em found much enjoyment through her interest in embroidery on canvas and examples of her work are to be seen in local churches. Coleshill and its residents have benefited considerably from the care and attention she gave in both her public and private life.

A memorial service was held on 30th September in the Village Church to give thanks for the life of Emily.

NEWS FROM FRIENDS

It does not seem possible that by the time you read this we shall have been away from Coleshill more than 9 months. We have no regrets to our move, every day is a new experience, it has been very enjoyable.

The garden has been quite a picture, seeds I saved in Coleshill have done well and the plants we bought with the tokens from the church are taking hold. We are now helping in our new church and there is quite a lot for us to take part in. We have had several of the family to stay, and we should be pleased to see any of you. I do not know when we shall be down, as the long drive is a bit of an ordeal when my hip is not in order.

May we take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas with all its blessings, just in case we do not make it before.

Len & Jean Bristow

* * * * *

We were pleased to meet so many of our friends when we came home in October and once again experienced the warmth of the people of Coleshill. The pace of life is much slower here in mid-Wales and we do have time to stand and stare, but I am still surprised when I attend the 'Out-Patients' Department of the local hospital, not only to be seen on time, but often to discover I am the only patient!

We would like to say a special 'thank you' to those who work on the Village Newsletter. Since leaving Coleshill, we still receive our copy, which is read several times from cover to cover, before being passed to our daughter. I always read the Brownies' activities first, and Bob turns to the Cricket Club news! We do appreciate this link with our old home.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Bob & Mary Tilson

COLESHILL C.E.

As reported in the last newsletter, our Fete, Barbecue and Sports was held on 16th July and we now know that a grand profit of £369 was made.

In September, 4th year pupils were taken to the Abbey Centre, Aylesbury after school, to visit the Maths Exhibition 'Take 100' to which we had contributed two entries. Open Assembly - Harvest Festival, was conducted in school by Revd Priddis on 28th September. This was also attended by children from Winchmore Hill Playgroup and Toddlers Group with their parents. The sale of produce raised £50 which has been sent to National Children's Home.

All children went by mini-coach to the Chiltern Open Air Museum at Chalfont St Giles for a Harvest Activity Day. Various crafts were available for the children to try and some country activities were demonstrated (blacksmith, observation hive, spinning, etc).

On the evening of 10th October, a meeting was held in school when Mrs Janet Jones, Senior Health Promotion Officer talked to the parents about 'Kidscape', a programme to help children keep safe. She showed a video of the programme in action. Representatives from Jordans School also attended. On 4th November we visited the Chair Museum in High Wycombe and studied the making of Windsor chairs in former times.

Forthcoming events.

School Concert. Tuesday 6th December at 7.00 pm. Everyone welcome.

Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 10th December, 10.30 am.
Please come along and support your local school.

HARVEST SUPPEPI

It was shortly after 7 pm on Friday, 7th October, that the first arrivals for the supper were welcomed at the Village Hall by George Plumridge 'on the door', and Doug Pusey in charge of the sherry bar. The tables, to seat 134, were laid ready, decorated with very attractive centre pieces, kindly made by a number of volunteers. Behind the scenes Dumpy Swerling and her team of helpers, after days of preparation, were putting the final touches to the supper, which this year was to consist of chicken casserole and vegetables, the usual delicious variety of sweets and puddings, followed by coffee.

The Revd Anthony Priddis said how pleased he was that the supper was enjoyed by so many at a major village celebration. He welcomed the guests - Michael Tagent and his wife, Harry Cordwent and his wife, and Brian Oxley, and passed on the best wishes of Canon & Mrs Harrison and Canon & Mrs Hickin who were invited but could not accept. To long applause, he thanked all those who had helped in the arrangement for the evening.

After supper, much appreciated entertainment was provided by the Choir, directed by Ruth Murphy, together with a highly professional monologue from Patsy Wright-Warren. Reproduced below is the 'hymn' from the Choir's programme. The evening closed with community singing led by Lindsey Haubner with Ruth Murphy at the piano.

D.C.U.

Church Restoration Fund Appeal;

The church's whole foundation
Is suffering from damp,
That's why the congregation
Is scared of getting cramp.
It isn't very funny -
There's fungus in the apse:
We'll have to raise some money
Or something will collapse.

There's woodworm in the organ,
Which makes a frightful squeak,
The roof has death-watch beetle,
Which causes it to leak.
The buttresses are crumbling -
The mortar's giving way -
The congregation's grumbling
That they will have to pay.

The lectern needs re-gilding,
The hymn books need some glue,
The pulpit needs rebuilding -
• The Rector fell right through.
A minor conflagration
: .. Reduced the pews to ash ...
The church's restoration
Will need a lot of cash.

#####

1st COLESHILL (ALL SAINTS) BROWNIE GUIDE PACK

We were very sorry to lose the services of Tawny Owl (Sue Miles) at the beginning of term. We are very grateful to her for all she did for the pack during the two years she helped out. We are very pleased that Helen Spencer has agreed to be our Snowy Owl.

Our numbers have grown since the last newsletter, and we now have sixteen Brownies, Gemma Ruskin from Araersham, Penny Cutler from Winchmore Hill, Katie Cannon and Stephanie Newell from Old Amersham, and Rebecca Pyle from Coleshill have all recently joined us.

We spent an evening with all the other Brownies in the district at school in Araersham, and ran a sideshow. We have attended family services at All Saints.

Currently we are practicing for a short entertainment when we entertain parents and friends at a tea party. We are planning to sing carols at Rushymead before Christmas and take part in the Christingle Service on December 11th.

Brown Owl

1st COLESHILL GUIDES

Since our last news at Easter we have been busy working as usual on our efforts to raise funds either for good causes or our Company "(also a good cause we hope!!) but also on our guiding activities.

In May we hosted a fashion show where all the guides modelled their own 'creative bad taste' designs for the village, family and friends. We also put on afternoon tea and ran some stalls. We raised £15 for charity. We helped at the Coleshill Fete by running the Aunt Sally Stall - some of us even volunteering ourselves to be the target. We ended the summer with a Fancy Dress Party. Our other activities have included campfire cooking on the common, orienteering, and studying for badges such as Writers, Hostess, Friend to Animals, Childcare and Collectors.

Now we are busy rehearsing for our CHRISTMAS SHOW which we are putting on for the village on SUNDAY, 4th DECEMBER at 3.30 pm.

We welcome a new guide, Sarah Ilott from Winchmore Hill, who will be enrolled on Monday, 5th December.

K.H.

MAGPIE CLUB

Tuesday, 20th December 2 p.m. Meet at the Village Hall for carol singing. Please bring some mince pies or scones (wrapped) for distribution.

Thursday, 29th December 3-5 pm Party in village hall for children under 10 years old. Please bring a contribution for tea.

We hope these two events will be well supported. If you have queries, 'phone:

Mary Sadler (Am 726277)

COLESHILL W.I.

Our members have been very active since the last newsletter. In July a guided walk was made to Dancers End, a visit to Audley End to see an exhibition of Patchwork Quilts and a visit to London to see 'Les Miserables'.

As usual in August we entertained our friends from the Deaf Club of Acton to lunch and tea. The Group Garden Party was held at the home of Mrs Joan Adamson on one of the sunniest days of the year. A most enjoyable Croquet Tournament was held at the home of our member, Mrs Betty Joseph. Congratulations to our members Mrs Christine King and Mrs Kay Vines who went on to the finals at High Wycombe and came second.

A successful coffee morning held in aid of Kidney Dialysis raised the sum of £166. Also in September an outing was made to Bath.

At the October meeting Miss Ann Trotman, the President, gave us the sad news of the death of two members, Mrs Joan Kunzer and Mrs Margot Hesford. Both were well-loved members and are greatly missed.

A Mini-Bazaar held on the morning of 19th November in the Village Hall was a great success. Also a very jolly Cheese & Wine Party was held in the evening of the same day. Over 100 members and friends attended and were entertained by Mrs Stella Richards and her puppets. The money raised from these two events will go in support of our list of charities for 1989. During the year 1988, we made donations to St Francis Hospice, R.U.K.B.A., The Stokebury Day Centre, R.N.L.I. and ScanAppeal, etc.

The next event for the year will be the Christmas Lunch on December 8th.

The Speakers at our meetings have been varied and interesting, and we have a good programme of talks arranged for the coming year. New members and guests will be given a very warm welcome.

P.W.

N.S.P.C.C. NEWS

The House-to-House collection which took place in October totalled £162,95 - our thanks to all those who contributed.

Our "Auction of Promises" which was held in the Village Hall on the 18th November was a 'sell-out'. Although we do not have a final figure as yet, we anticipate that it will be in excess of £4,000 which is a record for our branch of the NSPCC. Many thanks to our friends who gave so generously and also supported us on the night - it really is a wonderful result.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Once again we invite you to join us at a CHRISTMAS TEA to be held in the Village Hall immediately after the Carol Service on the 13th December. (Contributions of cakes would be very welcome - please phone Gillian Bungey - Amersham 726234).

TICKETS : £1.00 per head on sale after 1st December, from either:

Coleshill Stores Or Rosemary Valentine (Am.725794)

Thursday, 22nd December. We hope to be singing Carols in the village (weather permitting!), and this year will be in the Tower Road and Village Road area.

G.M.B.

COLESHILL VILLAGE DRAMA GROUP

Our next production is a psychological thriller, "Pack of Lies" is a tale of mystery, intrigue, spies and surveillance. It's based on a pre-Glasnost case of 1961. - The play was first performed in London in 1983, and starred Judi Dench and Michael Williams. They were unavailable to appear on JANUARY 26th, 27th & 28th in the Village Hall, so the stars of Coleshill, flushed with their success in "Babes in the Wood" are retreading the boards.

Trenchcoats and "Strand" cigarettes are not compulsory for the audience.

S.H.

COLESHILL TENNIS CLUB

Coleshill Tennis Club is still going strong and we are now starting a new season of social events, the first being a Christmas Disco in the village hall for children 14 years and under, on Friday 2nd December. This will cost them £1, entitling them to a glass of punch on arrival and a burger in a bun. Further squash is on sale. Tickets are available from Jean Dover (724831) and Sue Miles (721717).

Adult frivolities will be in the New Year with another "Swinging Sixties Night" on Saturday 11th February for St Valentine's Day. Details to be announced later.

Many people in the village have benefited from our monthly 100 Club draw, but we welcome further subscribers. Please let me know -

David George (722535)

COLESHILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The annual village show, held on 3rd September and very kindly opened by Mrs Diana Heimann, was extremely successful. The range, quality and number of entries made a superb display in the Village Hall and amply rewarded the hard work of the Committee and Judges.

Congratulations to all the entrants, particularly the children, and well done the prizewinners, who were:

The Grindley Challenge Cup	- Mr S W A Mallett
The Jerram Challenge Cup	- Mrs D Heimann/Mr 3 Whitefield
	(Mrs J G Ferguson
	(Mrs L Haubner
	(Mrs P McNeil
The Woolacott Vase	
The Cotswold Challenge Cup	- Mr E Miles
The Coleshill Challenge Cup	- Mrs C V Cossey
The Edmond Waller Challenge Cup	- Mrs B M Plumridge
The Wheatsheaf Children's Cup	- Sarah McNeilly
The Ovington Rose Bowl	- Mr K J Glover
The Windmill Bowl	- Mrs P McNeil
The Clifton Cup	- Mrs L Haubner
The Le Mead Cup	- Mrs M Long-Drown.
The Wand-Tetley Book Award	- Ian Dover

This year's activities' ended with "the Greenfingers Stall by the village pond on October 8th where a considerable number of plants changed hands. The committee's sincere thanks are expressed to our Chairman for not only nominating an almost dry morning for the event, but also inviting us to a super lunch - thanks very much Ewart.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our 1989 Spring meeting - details later.

J.S.

COLESHILL VILLAGE HALL

Details of the specification and the contract, for the installation of ventilation equipment have been agreed with the contractor, and an order has been placed with them. We hope that the work will be completed early in the New Year.

We were very pleased to be judged 'joint winner' in the Buckinghamshire 'Best Run' Village Hall Competition, which had attracted 35 entrants out of 70 Halls in the County. As well as receiving a plaque and cheque for £200, we were prompted to complete a number of minor improvements before the judging. Our special thanks are due to Jean and Alan Dover and to the ladies on the Committee for their hard work in getting the Hall to a very high standard. Some may be pleased to know that the competition will not be repeated for another two years!

The Annual Jumble Sale was held towards the end of October when a sum in excess of £170 was raised for the hall's funds. Jackie Ferguson kindly organised the event and our thanks are due to her and her band of helpers for their strenuous efforts.

P.M.L.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

A good deal of time in Council meetings this year was taken up by the question of the proposed tennis club, which concerns the Council both on planning/amenity grounds and because the Council is the owner of the land where the courts would be sited. The Council supports the project in principle, but is concerned to make sure that it shall be for the benefit of Coleshill people in general and not become the preserve of a minority, nor used mainly by outsiders. We were also anxious to make sure that the club would be financially viable in the long term, and would not fade away and leave derelict courts as an eyesore. As landlords we shall be able to see to it that the terms of any lease ensure this and other conditions for the general good.

The development of the former garden of Hillside, Barrack Hill, has also given us concern. Fortunately the District Council has agreed with our view that four houses would be too many, and the development is to go ahead with three. We were able to get the developer to move piles of bricks on the verge of the road while planning consent was awaited. Objection was also made to the proposed demolition of Porch House Cottage (formerly Chapel Field) and its re-erection as a larger building on a more prominent site. It seems that this objection will succeed.

We have had less success in our efforts to curb the Use of our lanes by heavy lorries - in which it seems that the law cannot help us - and to have a speed limit imposed through the village. To have any success with this we need incontrovertible, detailed evidence of frequent and dangerous speeding, and so far this has not been produced. Ridiculous as it may seem, it is illegal for a Parish Council to erect roadside signs of any kind.

Minor matters have included provision of a public telephone by The Magpies (turned down by British Telecom as unlikely to be profitable), the defacement of public footpath signs (the highway authority has been asked to restore them) and the flooding of the road by the pond (the highway authority has taken action)

So you could say we win some, we lose some. That's local government!

J.C-T.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

••• DEC 2 Fri Tennis Club Disco
4 Sun Guides Christmas Show Village Hall 3.30 pm
6 Tues School Concert 7.00 pm
10 Sat School Christmas Bazaar 10.30 am
11 Sun Christingle Service 5 pm
18 Sun Carol Service 3.00 pm NSPCC Christmas Tea 4.15 pm
20 Tues Magpies Carol Singing 2.00 pm
29 Thurs Magpies Children's Party

JAN 1989

15 Sun SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION St Mary's. 10.30 am
26/27/28 Coleshill Village Drama Group Production

FEB 11 Sat Tennis Club Swinging Sixties Night

SUNDAY SCHOOL. There is a Sunday School and creche in the village, catering for children aged 0 - 11. This meets every 4th Sunday in the month, with the exception of August and December. The children go to the village hall just before 9 am where they have their own religious instruction and activities. They then join their parents in church prior to the communion. Children unaccompanied can sit with the Sunday School and then be fetched from outside the church at 10 an.
For more details, please phone: Rosemary Valentine - Am 725794.

THE PARISH OF AMERSHAM WITH COLESHILL

The Reverend Anthony M. Priddis, The Rectory, Church Street, Amersham, Bucks
Tel: Amersham. 729380

St Mary's Church, Amersham

Sunday Services 8.00 am Holy Communion
10.15 am Family Communion (with Creche, Sunday School and Young People's Church)
11.30 am Matins (with Holy Communion 1st Sunday in month)
6.00 pm Evensong
2nd Wednesday of each month 10.00 am Holy Communion

15th January 1989: There will be a Service of Confirmation by the Bishop of Oxford. 10.30 am

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, COLESHILL

Sunday Services 9.00 am Parish Communion
6.00 pm Evensong (1st Sunday in month only)
Family Services: 9.00 am 2nd Sunday in month

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Sunday 11th December 5.00 pm Christingle Service
Sunday 18th December 3.00 pm Carol Service
CHRISTMAS DAY: 9.00 am Parish Communion

Tel

Pro-Wardens - R. Valentine, Friars Vane, Coleshill 725794
- J. Chenevix-Trench, Windmill Farm, Cole. Shi. ll 725439
Hon. Treasurer - D.C. Urry, Ardlair, Coleshill 727420
Hon. Secretary - Miss P. Wright-Warren, 1 Amber Cottages, Coleshill 433356

Brownies - Monday Evenings 5.30 - 7.00 pm Coleshill School
Guides - Monday. Evenings 7.00 - 8.15 pm Village Hall
W.I. - 2nd Thursday of each month (except August) 2.30 pm Village Hall
MOBILE LIBRARY - This calls at Cole. hill every other THURSDAY, stopping at:
The Church 3.45 - 4.00 pm
Hill Meadow 4.00 - 4.15 pm
Next visits: DEC 8th & 22nd; JAN 5th & 19th; FEB 2 & 16th.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Jack Adams
Joan Allan
Geoffrey & Nancy Alpe
Peter & Jennifer Brock
John & Julie Burton
Adrian, Sue & Simon Caddy
John & Ann Chenevix-Trench
Kitty Clifton
Doris Coleman
Ronald & Mary Colles
Hilda Collier
Nancy Collier
Catherina Cossey & Family
Leslie & Jean Croydon
David & Marigold Curling
Norman & Minnie Darvill
Tony, Pat, John & Fiona Dawson
Jan Day
Christina (Deaky) Deacon
Jim & Alison Dening & Family
Charles & Anna-Marie Desoutter
The Dover Family
Ted, Ann, James & Robbie Downie
Jonathan & Lindsey Eardley & Family
Albert & Louise Edwards
Jack & Pat Emblow
Robin & Jacky Ferguson & Family
David & Chris George & boys
Peggie Cow
Maisie & Andrew Grant
Lena Grayer
Harold & Win Grindley
John Guest
Rodney & Renee Gunn
Denis & Chloe Hall
Florence Harris
Jack & Lindsey Haubner & Family
Les & Joy Hicks
Roger & Jean Higgs
The Horsbrugh-Porters
Bill & Barbara Houlton, Auntie & boys
Hugh Jones
Teddy & Betty Joseph | Peter & Ann Lawrence & Family
Marjorie Long-Brown
David & Ineke McCammon & Family
Judy McLean
George & Pat McNeil
Violet Martin
George & Ruby May
Henry & Diana Maynard
Ron, Ruth, Gregory & Alex Murphy
Nita Ovington
Alastair & Christopher Panton
Philip & Hazel Pearce
Tony & Stella Platzer
George & Barbara Plumridge
Peg Pomeroy
Derek, Alex, Susannah & Philip Pond
Dora Post
Margaret Price
Micky Prothero
Doug & Jessie Pusey
Roger Pusey
Jim & Pleasance Riley
Gillian, Colin & Clare Sach
Nick & Mary Sadler & Family
John & Helen Savory
Ewart, Jean, Beryl & Colin Smith
The Spencer Family
Sidney Stevens
Mollie K. Stone
Pam & Paul Stubbings
The Swerling Family
Peggy & Ann Trotman
Donald & Anita Urry
Richard & Rosemary Valentine & Family
Betty Waite
Sidney & Ann Ware & Family
Chris & Mary Wege & Family
Doreen Wheldon
Catherine Wicks
Mercie & Martin Williamson
Reg Woolacott
Spike & Phyllis I/right
Patsy Wright-Warren |
|--|---|

The above have advised that they do not propose to send Christmas Cards locally but extend to all friends their very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Agnes & Don Fisher (ex Chase Close) send best wishes and Christmas Greetings to all friends in Coleshill. (via Bill & Barbara Houlton)

The Committee & members of COLESHILL CRICKET CLUB would like to take this opportunity of wishing our Vice Presidents and supporters a Merry Christmas and happy and prosperous New Year.
