

December 1981

The Rector's Letter

My dear Friends,

I write to wish you all a very happy Christmas on this most wonderful day.

The compilers of our Prayer Book took great thought for Christmas Day and set aside the four Sundays before this Special Festival as a period of individual and corporate preparation for this great day. It is not unusual to prepare for a great event, whether it is an examination, a game, or even a tea party or supper party when we entertain our friends. Preparations have to be made, otherwise the great event will not be a worthy one.

At Christmas we are urged - even expected - to prepare our lives, and our thoughts, so that they may be worthy of the precious gift which God gave us on that first Christmas Day, and this gift is new each Christmas Day because it brings us the tremendous news that God loves each of us as individuals. The question of distance does not affect God or us. The world of Jesus is one; he is my beginning and my end.

It is right we should "rejoice and make merry" at Christmas time. This is our outward form of celebration, and nothing should be too good for that. However, we must remember that is only part of our celebration and indeed the second part. The first part is that we come with great humility, and joy, to meet Jesus at the Holy Communion Service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day - that is our first duty as Christians, and a Must.

I look forward to seeing you at "the Lord's Table" on the Lord's special day.

The Poet Laureate - Sir John Betjeman - draws our attention to this in one of his poems:

"No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple shaking bells
Can with this single truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine,
And lives today in Bread and Wine."

Let us then meet and partake together.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Campbell
Rector

CONFIRMATION

The Bishop of Oxford will take the Confirmation Service at St Mary's on Wednesday 24th March at 7.30 p.m.

This will be the first visit to the Parish by the Bishop of Oxford, who was consecrated our Diocesan Bishop in Christ Church Cathedral at Oxford on the 28th October 1978. I hope all of you will make a special effort to be present, and welcome him to the Parish - 'Amersham with Coleshill'.

Confirmation Candidates. The Rector would like to hear from all those who want to "be confirmed" - both young and old. He will then arrange instruction either corporately or individually.

AT ST MARY'S:

Saturday 12th December at 8 p.m. The North Bucks Choral Society will sing carols

Thursday 17th December at 8 p.m. Dr Challoners Carol Service

Sunday 20th December at 6 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

HOLY BAPTISM

On 19th September, Stuart Alistair Harben VALENTINE, son of Mr and Mrs R Valentine of Friars Vane, Coleshill.

On 13th September, Natalie Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs D G LOVE of The Wattles, Magpie Lane, Coleshill.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Van Hooven - Ruperti

The marriage took place at All Saints' Church, Coleshill, on Saturday 17th October between Axel van Hooven and Susan Pamela Ruperti.

The couple met in Hong Kong in April, Susan having been living there for 2 years working as a maternity nanny, and Axel visiting there on a business trip from Bermuda.

Susan was invited to spend a two week holiday in Bermuda, and it was from there the couple announced their engagement.

Axel and Susan will be living in Bermuda for the next few years.

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On 24th October, at the Church of St John the Baptist, Little Missenden, Brian Hugh JAMIESON, eldest son of Mr & Mrs Hugh Jamieson of Hill Meadow, Coleshill, to Vanessa CAM, eldest daughter of Mr & Mrs Cann of Holmer Green.

IN MEMORIAM

Arthur James Roberts died peacefully in his sleep on 27th July aged 87 years. He was born and educated in Liverpool and lived most of his adult life in Birkenhead. He specialised in Marine Insurance. Arthur served in both World Wars, after which he returned to his appointment in the Sun Alliance.

When he retired he came South with his sister Lena and stayed with his sister Maude in London, and at times with his other sister Lilian in Whitchurch, until they found their house in Chase Close, Coleshill in 1962, where he lived until his death. He was cremated at the Chiltern Crematorium on 3rd August.

On 1st November Ann Margaret Comerford died at the Chalfont and Gerrards Cross Hospital aged 66.

On 9th November, Joan Margaret Fox, widow of Alan Geoffrey Fox, died at her home, Tara, Chase Close, after a long illness courageously borne. The funeral service took place at St John's Methodist Church, Amersham on the Hill, followed by cremation at the Chilterns Crematorium. We extend our sympathy to her son Christopher and her daughter Judith.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH COMMITTEE

Mrs H Collier has been elected as a member of the Committee.

The appointment of Mr L Bristow as caretaker and cleaner of the Church was confirmed.

THANKS

Many thanks to Mr Bill Dean, formerly of Coleshill, for his most generous donation to the Church. Mr Dean now lives in Hereford.

ALLOTMENTS

There are one and one half allotments vacant for rent either as one whole allotment and one half allotment or as three half allotments.

Will anyone wishing to rent one whole or one half of an allotment please apply to Mr S C WARE of Nightingales, Barracks Hill, Coleshill, Tel: 7135» before 31st December 1981.

The annual rent for a whole allotment is £5.00 and £2.50 for half of an allotment.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The following have advised that they do not propose to send out Christmas Cards locally, but extend to all their friends all their very best wishes for Christmas and a Happy New Year:

Jack Adams
Ada Aldridge
Peter & Joan Allan
F.G. Appleby & the girls
Sybil Boston
Eva Brackley
Leonard & Jean Bristow
Trixie Browne
John & Ann Chenevix-Trench
The Coales Family
Hilda Collier
Nancy Collier
Jack & Catherine Cossey & family
Geoffrey & Hilda Cropper & family
David & Marigold Curling
Norman & Minnie Darvill & family
Jan Day
Christina (Deaky) Deacon
Jim & Alison Dening & family
Charles & Anna-Marie Desoutter
Keith & Natalie Dipple
Jonathan & Lindsey Hardley
Louise E Edwards
Jack & Pat Emblow
Robin & Jacky Ferguson & family
Peggy Gow
Maisie & Andrew Gray
Lena Grayer
Win & Harold Grindle
John Guest
Rodney & Renee Gunn
Dennis & Chloe Hall
Graham & Celia Hankinson
Florence Harris
Elizabeth Harvey
Jack & Lindsey Haubert & family
Eric & Anne Hearne
Desmond & Margot Hesford
Michael & Li Hesford
Roger & Jean Higgs
Bill & Barbara Houlton & family
J Gibbon How
Sandy Laing Hutcheon

Hugh Jones
Anne Kempster
Joan Kunzer
Marjorie Long-Brown
Pat McCann
Judy McLean
George & Ruby May
Henry & Diana Maynard
Kathy Monk
Willie Northcliffe
Nita Ovington
Alastair, Pat & Christopher Panton
Hazel & Philip Pearce
Tom & Stella Platzer
George & Barbara Plumridge
Peg Pomeroy
Ernest & Dora Post
Margaret Price
Mickey & Huw Prothero
Kathleen Richmond
Jim & Pleasance Riley
Eric & Dorothy Rodnight
Nick & Mary Sadler & family
Ewart, Jean, Beryl & Colin Smith
The Spencer Family
Marjorie Steel
Mollie K. Stone
Bob & Pan Stubbings
Anne Swain
The Swerling Family
Henry & Violet Tapping
Peggie & Ann Trotman
Donald & Anita Urry
Richard & Rosemary Valentine & family
Betty Waite
Sidney & Ann Ware & family
Chris & Mary Wege
Doreen Weldon
May Williams
Mercie & Martin Williamson
Reg & Betty Woolacott
Spike & Phyllis Wright
Patcy Wright-Warren

Grateful thanks for several anonymous donations towards the Newsletter, and with the proceeds from the above greetings a cheque for £27 is being sent to the Hon. Treasurer, All Saints' Church.

HARP

"NEARER TO GOD IN A GARDEN THAN ANYWHERE ELSE ON EARTH". How true was this on the afternoon of Sunday 16th August when, at the kindly invitation of Reg and Betty Woolacott we were allowed to roam their Garden of Eden, delightful to the eye and delicious to the taste, the proverbial "Apple" being replaced by a luscious Tea. This generous gesture allowed Mr and Mrs Woolacott to hand £76.50 to HARP, the musical strings of which were the only "missing link" to a perfect afternoon - Thank, Thank, Thank you, Reg, Betty and Amy.

J.D.

A GIFT OF FLOWERS

No Village Hall meant no Village Show this year - perish the thought! The gardens still looked lovely, the vegetable patches were abundant with rows of splendid crops and the flower arrangers had itchy fingers so something had to be done!!!

When a garden 'open day' was first suggested it was thought that perhaps eight or ten owners could be persuaded to open their gardens. In fact twenty volunteers stepped forward which caused the only complaint of the weekend - not enough time to see everything! The church looked lovely with every available surface full of colourful arrangements which could be admired at leisure before following the 'garden trail' around the village. The gardens on show were large, small, colourful, practical, enviable, unenviable, old and established, young and hopeful, flat, hilly, expansive or 'cuddly', but they had one thing in common - they were all loved by their owners who showed them off with pleasure and pride. The sun very kindly shone throughout the weekend and much gossiping was enjoyed in lovely surroundings before many weary 'trailers' collapsed into Wheat-sheaf Cottage Tea Garden for welcome cuppas and home made scones and cakes. The Horticultural Society were not sure if the idea would work but everyone seemed to enjoy the experiment, so we hope to one day have a repeat show, perhaps at a different time of year to show off a different season of growth.

We thank everybody who so generously made the weekend possible by providing flowers, cakes, time and especially their garden. The weekend raised £106 towards the Horticultural Society's Funds.

L.H.

The Green Fingers Stall at the Pond made £25 towards the Horticultural Funds.

MAGPIE CLUB

We had a full programme of events during the summer holidays.

The Mothers challenged the children to a cricket match. The Mums put up a very good fight with Helen Spencer being 'our man of the match' but in spite of this we were beaten! We picnicked by the River Chess and played rounders - the outfielders included a couple of horses.

Ann White kindly lent us her barn so we were able to have a bangers and beans lunch.

We had a very good picnic on the common followed by a swim at the Valentine's and Ferguson's pools.

Our trip to Littlehampton was very good. Once again after days of sun we travelled in rather miserable weather, but things brightened up once we got there. The only hitch was losing one of the residents from Rushmead just as the coach was about to leave, A quick search found him down a side road as he had lost the coach.

On about the hottest day of the summer we decided to go on a walk along the Ridgeway Path. We all had a most enjoyable time and the only casualty was a foot with a couple of blisters.

We ended the holidays with a picnic at Speen and a visit to the Horse Sanctuary.

D . S .

MAGPIE FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship still continues to meet every Friday fortnight during term time. Although we have sadly lost a few of our older members, we have gained some enthusiastic younger ones. Our activities have been many and varied. This term we have covered many of the Old Testament stories, some of which we had great fun acting. At half term it was our turn to be entertained when forty three of us (parents and children) went to Elgiva Hall to see the Chesham Methodist Players perform in 'Old Father Time'. This was much enjoyed by all,

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**** CHRISTMAS PUDDING A LA COLESHILL ****

Like all good cooks, the Drama Group started thinking about their "Christmas Pudding" in October. We wanted it to be enjoyable. Not too stodgy, not too spicy - a tasty bit for everyone!

It will be ready for serving in the Church on Monday 21st December at 7.30 p.m. We hope you can come along and enjoy our mixture of Christmas songs, sketches and general merriment in this week of celebration. There will be no charge and we look forward to seeing everyone - young and old.

L.Ho

VILLAGE HALL PROGRESS REPORT

What a pleasure to report that the village hall no longer exists! Villagers may have noticed that it was demolished and the site cleared towards the end of October. Now the new village hall can begin to arise.

The morning of Sunday, 25th October, was enlivened by the Mile of Two Pence Pieces event organised by Peter Lawrence. Raffles and mulled wine contributed to the convivial atmosphere. In the end the coins didn't stretch for a mile - they ran out after a quarter of a mile - but everybody's efforts with their collecting tins over the summer raised some £400 for the Village Hall Fund. Many thanks to all.

May we remind you that there are supplies of 'Village Hall' postcards remaining unsold from last year. If you want some more, there are some jolly robin cards and plenty of gateway cards left. No fixed price, but a suggested contribution of 5p per card to Village Hall Fund. Available from Little Hertfordshire House, Tel 3779.

COLESHILL CLUB

On a lovely August afternoon all members enjoyed a circular coach tour finishing up at Marlow for tea.

During the winter months and while the new hall is being built it was decided to suspend the club.

In January we have been kindly invited by Mr and Mrs Weedon to have a New Year's Party with games. We hope all members will be able to come. Transport is being kindly taken care of by Mr Weedon. Details after Christmas.

A Happy Christmas to you **all**.

E.M.M.

COLESHILL CRICKET CLUB

The Cricket season closed in mid-September. We had several new fixtures on Sundays and played away more frequently with success, having only lost two games.

The two Saturday teams now include many youngsters who play their cricket with enthusiasm. The 2nd XI finished third in their league divisions.

The pavilion work is completed, apart from showers being fitted. This is scheduled for 1982. The Bar is open during the winter months, on Friday evenings and Sunday lunch-times. The members have a social evening on Friday evenings which is well attended. Vice Presidents have the rights and privileges of members to make use of the club's bar on these occasions and are very welcome.

M.E.T.

1st COLESHILL GUIDE COMPANY

Our Company Sports were held during the weekend camp in Captain's garden. Overall winner was Kirn Ferguson of the Kingfisher Patrol. At sunset on the first day we enrolled Ruth Bayley and Victoria Hesford of the Kingfisher Patrol and Emma Norcliffe of the Snowdrops.

We were delighted to be joined by some of the original guides who were in the Company fifty years ago and we entertained them with a short sketch. Whilst serving refreshments we were able to hear their experiences as Coleshill Guides. At this last meeting of the summer term we said our farewells to Mrs Timms our Unit Helper and thanked her for all her help during the past terms.

Alexandra Hesford became Patrol Leader of the Snowdrop Patrol at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Our new District Commissioner, Mrs Plumbley, joined us for our second meeting of the new term and we are pleased to be able to welcome Mrs Gill Meade who has kindly offered to be our new Unit Helper.

At the local Association's Annual General Meeting we set a semaphore message to music as our part of the entertainment for the evening.

We held a Halloween and Pot Luck Supper and each invited a guest to join in the fun.

D.J.B.

1st COLESHILL (ALL SAINTS) BROWNIE PACK

First, we report another kind donation of £25 from the Chiltern Traction Engine Club for the Brownies and Guides, many thanks; and also many thanks for the continued gift - for nearly ten years - of the weekly Brownie magazine from Mr and Mrs Bowler.

We have been joined by Emma Ferris, Winchmore Hill and Kirsty Goode, Amersham. We have a full Pack, 24, and a waiting list. Brownies gained 65 Interest badges during the year.

Roadway Philippa Wyatt, Booklover Louise Wyatt, Athlete Tanya Conyers-Silverthorne Madeleine Fielding, Louise Wyatt, Kate Lee, Sophie Dening, Sarah Oakden, Anne Rimmer, Amanda Valentine. Cook Lisa Hart, Madeleine Fielding. Writer Venetia Hawkes, Jesters Tanya Conyers-Silverthorne, Sarah Oakden, Melinda Vicary, Anne Rimmer, Joanna Matthews. Tawny, Mrs. Tilson, gained her Adult Leaders' Certificate and her warrant as an Assistant Brownie Guider.

During the summer the Cricket Club kindly lent us their grounds for a Sports Meeting, which was fun, Lois Plumridge, who was a Brownie and Guide with us, came along to help. And one meeting was taken up by a lovely hike through woods. Brownies decorated a pedestal in Church, entirely by themselves, the result being lovely, far better than Brown Owl had imagined. This term we sang with actions My Bonnie lies over the Ocean, dressing up in pretty hats and dresses, at the L.A. A.G.M. in Amersham. We had a jolly Halloween party, eating buns oh strings and ducking for apples. We are going to have a Christmas party and sing carols at Rushyhead.

On Saturday 23 January we hope to hold a Swiss Coffee Morning at Coleshill School in aid of needy Guides and Brownies, as a Thinking Day venture. Please come and support us.

H.J.M.C.