

A WHITE CHRISTMAS?

Is it going to be a white Christmas this year? We certainly seem to have colder weather earlier in the year than usual, and even snow in November! Perhaps there will be a white Christmas.

We all love to see a white Christmas, even if we may not like to be out in it. Somehow it seems to fit with our picture of what a Christmas should be like. Maybe we even tell ourselves that it was like that when we were young: maybe it even was.

Snow covering all the ground and the roof-tops; Christmas lights twinkling away; holly berries showing red under their white-hatted leaves; carol singers round the Christmas tree; hot mince pies....oh yes, we love it like that!

Part of the attraction of the snow is its unspoilt newness when it first falls, covering everything with its whiteness. What is underneath can be forgotten, at least for a bit. We can pretend for a moment that all is as we should like it to be.

Alas the snow, too, becomes tarnished, trodden down, unsightly and messy when it melts. It does not stay the way we imagine it. That is the trouble with all our romantic dreams: the reality is never quite what we had hoped for. With one exception.

The untarnished child who lay in the manger and whose birth is the whole cause of our Christmas celebrations did fulfil all that was hoped for. Others tried to tread him down, to spoil him, to make him take on all the faults of the world he had entered. But they failed. He remained untarnished, a sign of hope and a person of hope for all time.

Whether it snows or not this Christmas, the only way to make our world look the way we want it to look, is to let the way of the Christ-child be our way. His love is not a covering that will melt and fade, but one that will stay and endure. It will also change all that it falls upon. It may not make it white, but it will make it beautiful.

Anthony Priddis

NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Services

At our 9am morning service on Sunday. 5th December, there will be a special preacher, Mrs Kim Gibson, who will be speaking on behalf of the Dover Word Ministries, a charity for young people in need.

There will be a charity tea after the Carol Service in the Village Hall.

The Christmas services have been arranged as follows:

Christingle Service	Sunday 12th December	-	5.00 pm
Carol Service	Sunday 19th December	-	3.00 pm
Christmas Day	Saturday 25th December	-	9.00 am
Boxing Day	Sunday 26th December	-	9.00 am

New carol sheets have been prepared by Ruth Murphy and her colleagues at St Mary's, and will be ready in time for Christmas.

Jackie Ferguson

Jackie was specially remembered at our last All Saints' Church committee meeting on 14th October. She had been a member of the committee since 1981, and will be missed here as well as in her many other activities for the church.

Churchyard

A new seat has been donated by Mrs Carter in memory of her sisters, Mary and Maisie Lane, and will be placed just to the west of the main door into the church.

Harvest Charity

The very successful gala concert performed by the drama group and produced by Teddy Joseph in aid of the TB work at the Raphael Home in India, together with a tombola and raffle, resulted in a profit of £1,057.08. This amount has been matched from church funds, and a further £537.50 in donations brings the total to £2,651.66.

Harvest Lunch

This was a successful experiment which will be repeated next year on the first Sunday in October. It made a profit of £67 which has been donated to Dr Oliver's Renal Unit at the Churchill Hospital in memory of Jackie Ferguson, who had always been so much involved with Harvest Thanksgiving.

R.A.L.T.

CHRISTIAN AID, COLESHILL

The present committee are retiring after ten years of planning the fund raising in the Village. Over this period £9,151.45 has been raised for Christian Aid. We very much hope that there is someone who would be willing to form a new committee, with good ideas for fund raising. Please contact Ann Trotman (433545) or Dumpy Swerling (873931). It's hard work but a lot of fun. Christian Aid week in 1994 is 16-21 May.

HOLY BAPTISM

On 19th September 1993, ALEXANDRA LOUISE, daughter of Peter and Ann Oakley-Smith of Aylesbury.

On 7th November 1993, DOMINIC MICHAEL, son of Andrew and Susan Tixerant of Village Road, Coleshill.

HOLY MATRIMONY

On 23rd July 1993, Nicholas Mark Philbidge married Christina Susan Connor, both of Brentford Grange Farm.

IN MEMORIAM

10th July 1993, Audrey Hamilton of Coleshill House

25th September 1993, Jacqueline Grace Ferguson of Magpie Lane

JACKIE FERGUSON Jackie's untimely death at the age of 55 has left all those who knew her in the village absolutely stunned.

Jackie and Robin came to the village in 1963 and their three children, Kerry, Kim and Joanna, have grown up here. Jackie was a teacher before she married and she continued occasional supply teaching after that, and in earlier days she helped run the Sunday School.

Her talents as a flower arranger were superb. She was involved with church flowers for years, and as a result the church always looked beautiful at major festivals and weddings. She also organised the flower rota. In her quiet way she was always so encouraging to everyone, but it was that tactful little adjustment here and there that always put the finishing touch to an arrangement.

But it was for her fantastic courage that we will always remember her. Sadly her first kidney transplant wasn't a success, and it was soon obvious that she was going to have to dialyse several times a week. Robin built a room at home for her and it was at this stage the trio of Rita, Pat and Sylvie sprang into action. They committed themselves to helping her dialyse at home twice a week. This enabled her to lead a near normal sort of life. Having said that, there were enormous problems she had to put up with, but Jackie being Jackie she never complained. She used to say that dialysing was like having a small party and catching up with everyone's news. She always made light of these endless hours of treatment.

Then there was the excitement when she was offered a second transplant - after the operation the ghastly times when it looked as though it wasn't going to work and then the relief when all looked well, and for those two years when things looked so much better - all then so devastatingly to be shattered.

Jackie will also be remembered for what she did for other people. Whenever there was a crisis Jackie was there, thoughtfully popping round with a cake, a pie or some other practical help. Her care of other people was incredible, often when she was far from well herself.

Jackie was a prime example of how a life should be led through her steadfastness, thoughtfulness, care and loving kindness she showed to everyone. In the last couple of years, it was lovely to see the pleasure she got from being a grandmother, and little Tanya Marie obviously just adored her.

We have all lost a very dear friend, and we all miss her more than words can say.

THANK YOU

Every year there are many people in this village who contribute greatly to our community and largely go unthanked. As an inhabitant of the village, I would like to offer a great big 'Thank-you' to all those who give their support and time to our church, school, clubs, societies, councils and all other aspects of our life here, that makes this village such a great place to live. Sometimes, sadly, our thank-yous come too late.

A Villager

EASTER BREAKFAST - MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL

Many of you were present at the Easter Day Breakfast which successfully raised funds for the Mount Vernon Hospital Chemotherapy Unit. Fund raising continued throughout the earlier part of the year with donations received from the W.I., the Horticultural Society and Stoke Place Country Club who organised a most enjoyable quiz evening. Jane McNeilly bravely hosted a Junior Tennis Tournament and family and friends in Seer Green raised an amazing £1,000 with another quiz supper.

I was able to present the Hospital with cheques totalling £8,000.17, and during the summer months the new Chemotherapy Unit was built and decorated. It is a tremendous improvement on the previous facilities and nursing staff send their thanks to Coleshill and all those who supported this very worth while cause.

Alex Pond

NSPCC

Raising money for charity is never easy, especially during a recession! However we have been very grateful for all the marvellous support you have shown us in the village. With your help we have raised £550 during our coffee morning, £250 in our House to House collection, and £540 from our Quiz evening at Stoke Place - a total of £1,340 so far. Thank you.

Our carol singing will take place on December 21st - anybody welcome. We meet at 7 pm by the church, and will be singing around the centre of the village this year.

If anybody would like to join our small committee they would be very welcome..

S.H.

MAGPIE CLUB - CHRISTMAS 1993

Tuesday 21st December 1.30 pm - Carol singing. Meet at the church. Please bring 4 mince pies in a plastic bag as a gift. (Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult).

Thursday 30th December 3 - 5 pm - Christmas party for under 10's with an entertainer in the Village Hall. Please bring a contribution of food for tea and £1.00 per child towards costs.

Friday 21st January 1994 at 12.30 pm - Lunch (all welcome) in the Village Hall. Please bring a contribution of food and a donation towards costs.

Madeleine	728561
Margaret	727519
Nicky	721724

COLESHILL C.E. FIRST SCHOOL

At the end of last term our Sports Day, Fete and Barbecue proved to be an excellent day with over £600 profit being made. It ended with 200 balloons being released with the winning balloon reaching Calais. Our end of term outing was to the London Butterfly House, Syon Park, and it proved an interesting day.

We had a packed hall, including many ex-pupils, for our Summer Concert at which the children sang songs from round the world and performed a playlet about mini-beasts.

We sadly said good-bye to 11 of our children as they moved on to their middle schools in September.

This term our Parents and Friends' Group organised a Car Boot Sale in the playground at which £127 was raised. They also held their A.G.M. after which Miss Ann Trotman showed slides and talked about the flora and fauna of Colehill, which was extremely interesting. Afterwards refreshments of cheese and wine were enjoyed.

We have received six new programmes for our BBC computer as a result of our collection of Tesco tokens last term and we would like to thank all those who kindly collected tokens on our behalf.

Our Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, 4th December, starting at 10.30 am, and we shall be delighted to see you all.

COLESHILL & WINCHMORE HILL YOUTH CLUB

The Junior Youth Club, for 10 to 13 years old, continues to run every Friday evening in the Village Hall, from 6.30 - 8.00 pm led by Steve Francis and Penny Ware, and would welcome new members. Membership costs £1 and each session is 50p.

Since September we have had a disco, swimming outing, quiz night and Hallowe'en party, amongst other activities. We have lots more ideas on things to do - but we do need more adult help, both on the night and behind the scenes. Do you have a skill or hobby you'd enjoy sharing or showing off? Could you help with the tuck shop or with publicity? Would you consider organising an outing or helping with the transport?

Offers large or small - Penny is waiting to hear from you! (Tel: 722486)

1st COLESHILL BROWNIES

We now have ten Brownies who have spent this term working very hard on their journey work, and on preparations for the Christmas party that we give each year for the Contact Group. Natalie has earned her Footpath badge and Eleanor and Lucinda their Road badge.

The pack took part in the District Brownie Revels which was in the form of 'mini Olympics' and very proudly came home with the District Shield. At the end of last term some girls attended the County Fun Day and at the end of term we had a Teddy Bears' picnic when we said Goodbye to Ellen, Susannah, Jennifer and Rachel who have gone up into Guides. The girls attended Church Parade in October, where they once more read the lesson and prayers. We were joined then by Clare who had just been enrolled as a Rainbow. We look forward to singing carols at Rushmead and attending the Christingle Service.

This term ends on 13th December and we re-open on 10th January.

There is room for a few more girls next term, if you need any more information please contact me.

Anne Lake (726852)
Brown Owl

COLESHILL W.I.

As usual, Coleshill W.I. has had an action-packed programme during the past four months. The Festival of Feasts & Flowers at Haddenham drew visitors from all over the County and beyond. Coleshill's contribution, a tableau depicting a rush-strewing ceremony, was much admired and chosen to be displayed also at the Bucks County and Wycombe Shows.

The usual party for the St Saviour's Club from West Acton was held in August. Home lunches were again on the menu, proving very popular and an enjoyable way of fund raising. Various outings were enjoyed by members, notably a visit to both Houses of Parliament, an outstandingly well organised event.

Mrs Adamson, who has long been associated with the Chess Group, and is now a member of the Institute, has been very hospitable in having her usual Garden Party for the now dwindling Group, and also hosted a lunch party for the Committee and Home Lunch Hostesses and their spouses. She is now planning a Pancake party next year.

Other activities have included a Meat & Herb day, with demonstrations, and a talk on the Real Meat Co which produces meat free of additives and antibiotics, and "Up, Up and Away", a journey through the stars and galaxies.

Jackie Ferguson had not long been a member of the Institute, but was already well-known by most of the members for her other activities in the village, and her loss has been deeply felt.

Rosemary Saunders has retired as President, tribute being paid to her energetic and caring four years in office. Her committee were particularly grateful for the meetings which managed to combine business with a certain amount of hilarity. Muriel Jones is the new President, and four new committee members are replacing those who have decided to resign. Their past hard work has been much appreciated by the Institute.

Talks on Corn Dollies, by Mrs V Mann and the joys and tribulations of being a trainee nurse in the second World War by Mrs L Roberts were well received, and W.P.C. A Brown made a great impact with her descriptions of the work of the Family Protection unit. She was rightly proud of the work the unit is doing in this area.

The Institute is thriving. with 56 members, but mindful that some of the new additions come from Institutes in the group which have foundered for want of support, particularly those willing to hold office, so it is grateful to Muriel Jones, President; Helen Savory, Secretary; and Sue Bullough, Treasurer and the Committee, who are all keen to keep it in existence.

J.P.

COLESHILL VILLAGE DRAMA GROUP

Since the last newsletter, we have had several play readings and the odd theatre outing, but right now, dates for your diary are THURSDAY 20th, FRIDAY 21st, and SATURDAY 22nd JANUARY. On those three evenings the Drama Society will be presenting "Boeing Boeing", a popular and well-loved farce from the 60's.

It is set in Paris and revolves around airline schedules. At the time of curtain-up, timetables have for sometime allowed various air hostesses to spend time in a certain gentleman's flat without meeting each other. As new 'planes are introduced, however, the earlier neat arrangements start to come under strain. Come along and see the outcome - tickets on sale soon!

Further details on this and other Drama Group activities from Dick Ware (722486) or Julia Murray (729266).

POPPY APPEAL

We collected a record £390.50 and the British Legion is most grateful for the generosity of donors, and the great efforts of the collectors.

A.G.U.

COLESHILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Annual Show on 4th September was very successful. Although the vegetable classes do not attract so many exhibitors as say 5 years ago, nevertheless the standard achieved by those who did enter was very high. To some extent this was true of the flower section with some very fine blooms giving a fine show of colour in the hall.

The flower arrangers were out in force with a big increase in entrants and a very encouraging standard. The children's classes were on the small side but some fine entries. Cakes, pastries, preserves etc were all well supported and some very close judging resulted. All in all the committee felt well rewarded for their hard work in putting on the Show, and of course many congratulations to the very worthy cup winners.

The Greenfingers stall in October was very generously supported by donors of plants - purchases were lesser in number. When one considers the enormous prices charged by garden centres, the herbaceous plants available at a tenth of these prices are a tremendous bargain. We hope more people will turn up next year.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event, the Spring Lecture meeting in May 1994.

J.S.

COLESHILL TENNIS CLUB

As most of you will be aware, work on building the tennis courts has begun and will now be left to "weather" over the winter. The top surface will be laid in the Spring ready for the season, when landscaping will also take place.

We look forward to many of you joining as members and enjoying the long awaited game of tennis on our own courts.

If anyone requires further information, please contact David George, Sharon Hall or any other committee member.

D.G.

C H R I S T M A S G R E E T I N G S - 1993

Joan Allan
 Tony & Kate Barber
 Peter & Jennifer Brock
 David & Sue Bullough
 John & Julie Burton
 John & Ann Chenevix-Trench
 Walter & Evelyn Clayton
 Kitty Clifton
 Ronald & Mary Colles
 Nancy Collier
 Catherina Cossey & Family
 Leslie & Jean Croydon
 Marigold Curling
 Minnie Darvill
 Tony, Pat, John & Fiona Dawson
 Christina (Deaky) Deacon
 Jim & Alison Dening & Family
 Peter & Barbara Dodds
 Alan & Jean Dover & Family
 Ted, Ann, James, Robbie & Nicky Downie
 Jonathan & Lindsey Eardley & girls
 Louie Edwards
 Jack & Pat Emblow
 Robin Ferguson & Family
 Bernard & Joan Frost
 David & Chris George & boys
 Mr & Mrs Gibbon How
 Maisie & Andrew Grant
 Howard & Catherine Green
 John Guest
 David & Sharon Hall & girls
 Denis & Chloe Hall
 Jack & Lindsey Haubner & Family
 Les & Joy Hicks
 John & Lavinia Horsbrugh-Porter
 Bill & Barbara Houlton & Auntie
 Geoff & Ginny Jordan
 Teddy & Betty Joseph

Chris King
 Peter & Ann Lawrence & Family
 Marjorie Long-Brown
 David & Ineke McCammon & Family
 George & Pat McNeil
 George & Ruby May
 Henry & Diana Maynard
 Simon, Ros, Lucinda, Charlie & Olivia Morris
 Ron, Ruth, Gregory & Alex Murphy
 Michael & Madeleine Murray & Family
 Philip & Hazel Pearce
 Tony & Stella Platzner
 George & Barbara Plumridge
 Peg Pomeroy
 Derek, Alex, Philip & Susannah Pond
 John & Jean Powell
 Margaret Price
 Micky Prothero
 Jim & Pleasance Riley
 Colin, Gillian, Clare & Fiona Sach
 Nick & Mary Sadler & Family
 John & Helen Savory
 Ewart & Jean Smith & Family
 Cecelia Spackman
 The Spencer Family
 Mollie K. Stone
 Les & Joan Street
 Pam & Paul Stubbings
 All the Swerling Family
 Peggy & Ann Trotman
 Donald & Anita Urry
 Richard, Rosemary, Amber, Neil & Stuart Valentine
 Betty Waite
 Dick, Penny, Tessa & Dickon Ware
 Sidney & Ann Ware & Family
 Chris & Mary Wege & Family -
 Spike & Phyllis Wright
 Patsy Wright-Warren

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

Bob & Mary Tilson send Christmas Greetings to all friends in Coleshill

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COLESHILL CRICKET CLUB The Chairman, Committee and members would like to
 wish all our Vice-presidents, supporters and friends
 a very Happy Christmas

When all donations are received from the above greetings, a cheque will be
 forwarded to the Treasurer of All Saints' Church.

THE PARISH OF AMERSHAM WITH COLESHILL
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The Reverend Anthony M. Priddis, The Rectory, Church Street, Amersham Bucks

Tel: Amersham 729380

The Revd Dr William Brierley

Tel: Amersham 433198

St Mary's Church, Amersham

Sunday Services	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Family Service (with Sunday School & Creche)
	11.45 am	Matins
	6.00 pm	Evensong

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER (Candlelit) 6.00 pm FESTIVAL OF CAROLS & LESSONS

FRIDAY 24th 4.00 pm BLESSING OF THE CRIB
11.30 pm MIDNIGHT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, COLESHILL

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
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Sunday 12th DECEMBER	5.00 pm	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
Sunday 19th DECEMBER	3.00 pm	CAROL SERVICE
CHRISTMAS DAY	9.00 am	PARISH COMMUNION
BOXING DAY	9.00 am	PARISH COMMUNION

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Pro-Wardens	- Mrs D. Swerling, Hobbs Hole Cottage, Bottom House Farm Lane, Chalfont St Giles	873931
	- Miss P. Wright-Warren, 1 Amber Cottage	433356
Hon. Treasurer	- D.C. Urry, Ardlair, Coleshill	727420
Hon. Secretary	- Miss A. Trotman, Lawyers Cottage, Magpie Lane	433545

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Brownies	- Monday Evenings: 5.30 - 7.00 pm	Village Hall
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 in Coleshill every Wednesday morning 9.35 - 9.50 am
stopping alternately at Village Hall and Village Way.