

**A HISTORY**  
**of the**  
**PARISH OF BUCKLAND**  
**in the County of**  
**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**Dedicated to The People of The Parish of Buckland,  
without whom there would have been no story.**

Photograph on front cover showing All Saints' Church, Buckland,  
floodlit for the Son et Lumière Performances in July 1984.

*Taken by Andrew Muir.*

This is not the story of a famous village, or a famous family and the village which grew up around its exploits. This is merely the gentle, continuous story of an oddly shaped Chiltern Ribbon Parish, that now for the most part dreams peacefully between the Chiltern Beechwoods and the Vale that looks towards Oxford and through which runs one of the oldest highways in the country, the Lower Icknield Way, that carried the life blood of Britain in pre-Roman times.

It is the quiet stories such as these which are the mainstay of life in this country, and in addition, albeit briefly, Buckland Parish has had connections with a surprising number of events of national significance.

Since the dawn of time animals and men followed the straggling Icknield Way which runs through our Parish, in search of water, shelter and food. Later the Roman Legions marched through, on their way to one of their most decisive victories, at Wheathampstead. Certainly one of their number did more than march through, since Roman coins have been found in the village centre.

In the 9<sup>th</sup> century the Danes built a Camp on Cholesbury Common, overlooking what was then our own Buckland Common. Quite a Model Camp it was, with ramparts, so that sentries on duty could keep a wary eye on the natives.

Buckland Parish features in detail in Domesday, and the Waste to which the parish was laid by William of Normandy is shown by the fact that before his coming the annual income was £10 and after his coming it was £3.

Until 1067, the Parish was in the See of Dorchester, but in the year following the Conquest of our Islands, it was transferred to the See of Lincoln, and our own Bishop Wulfin was ousted in favour of Bishop Remigios, who had come over with William.

In those days there was probably a small wooden place of worship on the very site of All Saints' Church.

For the next two hundred years or so, the people of Buckland went quietly about their business for the most part. Some of the Sons marched away on the Crusades, with their comrades in arms from Aston Clinton, but for the rest there was the seed to plant, the crops to tend, the animals to care for and the continual struggle to provide for the family.

For such a long, thin, straggle of a Parish, however, there are a surprising number of connections with the greatest in the land.

First the Vitipont family were Lords of the Manor. With a name like that they must have come over with William, either that or hot on his heels. After the Vitiponts came the Clifford family. At much the same time one Rosamund Clifford was mistress to Henry II. It is left to the reader to decide if there was any connection.

After the Clifford family came the Leyburns, and then by marriage the Manor passed to le Despensers, who have part of the Parish named after them in the hills at Spencer's Green.

There stood in Buckland then a great Mediæval Manor House, surrounded by a moat, in the field behind Moat Farmhouse. The foundations of the Manor House are there still, deep in silent waters that tell no tales.

The great Barn which stands now, just by the farmhouse, was probably built about this time, its massive cruck framing hauled into place with the aid of stout men from the village.

**W**ith the ever changing kaleidoscope of history, the Kings of England have, since William of Normandy died, had to learn that they are not divine, not bound to win any fight they choose to wage. John was forced to sign Magna Carta; Henry III was forced to agree the Provisions of Oxford and later the Statute of Marlborough. About the time he was signing the latter document, Hugh le Despenser the elder was born, possibly even in the Manor House of Buckland, and in the big open field opposite, which was then divided into strips, Hugh may have played and grown up alongside his great friend Edward, who would one day wear the Crown of England and be Edward II.

In the timeless way of all small boys they may have echoed the battles their fathers had fought, at Newport, at Kenilworth and at Evesham, running and tumbling and making more noise than anyone who does not know small boys can possibly imagine.

With those joyful shrieks as a background accompaniment, the Elders of the Parish of Buckland gathered together to agree that *now* was the time and *here* was the place to build their Church. With very little actual money, but with flints from the hillsides and stones quarried from the mines at nearby Totternhoe, and with much faith, the Herculean task was begun.

They had just a plain, basic plan, that their Church should be low in stature, with simple proportions, a central aisle with a roof of carved oaks, two clerestory windows on each side, single headed; in the north wall of the Chancel was to

be a lancet window; the nave and the aisle were to be divided by three arches, each resting on a circular column with octagonal capitals. In the north side a door would lead to the rood loft, and in the north wall a Great Door, whilst inside should be some one hundred sittings. The year was 1273.

The first Priest was presented to the Church of All Saints, Buckland, early in 1284, but something went very wrong, for Robert de Thame, on being presented by Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln, to the Chapels of Bierton, Quarrendon, Buckland and Stoke, near Aylesbury, all appropriated to the Community of the Chapter of Lincoln, renounced or left his Living immediately. The records do not say that he died and the only conclusion remaining, for the times, was that Robert de Thame had lost his faith.

A little while later Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln, again presented a Priest to the Livings of Bierton, Quarrendon, Buckland and Stoke, one Adam de Berington, who took up his vocation. An Enquiry at the time into the wealth of Buckland found that *“the Proceeds of the Altarage were worth in common years 6 marks, but these same proceeds consisting of all manner of obligations, mortuaries, tithe of wool, lambs, milk, flax, hemp, pigs, geese, eggs, foals of horses, calves, gardens and crofts which are dug with foot and spade, and also in the tithe of pigeons.”*

Now at last with a Priest the Church of All Saints was dedicated, in the year 1284.

**W**hilst the Church of All Saints was being built, Hugh le Despenser was enjoying mixed fortunes; acquisitive he certainly was, which lead finally, in the year 1321, to his banishment, along with his son Hugh the Younger. Edward II was forced to take this step against his greatest

friend, and within the year had recalled them, and in so doing raised Hugh the Elder to the Earldom of Winchester.

No doubt on their banishment the Despencers took with them servants and friends, perhaps from Buckland, and in their absence, save for a handful of servants, the great Manor House stood empty.

Finally in 1326, with the invasion of England by Edward's wife, who had always been a driving force against the Despencers, father and son were executed.

In the year following Buckland went quietly about its business, hoping no further notice would be taken and that it might be allowed to live in peace. The yearly cycle of the village was geared to the land: to ploughing and sowing; to tending, reaping and storing against winter storms.

In 1327 Taxes were demanded, included amongst those named are Stephen le Dancer at 1s 4d and Richard Dene at 1s 2½d. The most southerly part of the Parish is called Dancer's End - was it named after Stephen? Or he after the Parish? And until the beginning of 1984 Dene House stood just beyond Moat Farm, the back of Dene House was certainly three hundred years old, perhaps even older.

**T**he kaleidoscope of history moved again. Edward III seized power; the life of Mediæval England continued, interrupted at times by wars and rumours of wars, by plagues and by bad landlords. Somewhere in this period the East Window of the Church of All Saints was added, as was the South Door.

With the death of the Despencers the Manor of Buckland passed to another branch of their family and out of the limelight, but there was a strange twist of fate in store. On

22<sup>nd</sup> November 1428, a boy was born, the second child, but eldest son of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury and Alice Montacute. About this boy's childhood little is known, except that it is most likely he passed it in the various Manors of his mother's family. Later he must have spent time in London, where his father was a Member of the Council of Regency.

The fortunes of the Houses of Neville are based on an interminable story of fortunate marriages. But then too so are most of the powerful families in England.

The great friend of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, was Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, directly descended from the Henry of New-burgh, to whom William Rufus granted the County in 1190, nearly 300 years before. Richard Beauchamp married Isabel, Heiress of Despenser, and they had a son, Henry, and a daughter, Anne. The friends planned that Richard Neville's daughter Cecily should marry Henry Beauchamp, and Richard Beauchamp's daughter Anne should marry Richard Neville's son, Richard, thus uniting two of the greatest and most powerful families. And then the pattern of the kaleidoscope changed.

For Henry Beauchamp, friend of Henry VI, possessed of Warwick Town and Warwick Castle, as well as broad tracts of land throughout the country, whilst by his mother's family possessed also of five Manors in Oxfordshire, the Forest of Wychwood, the Baronial Seat of Hanslope and, in Buckinghamshire, seven Manors more, died, suddenly, aged 23, leaving only a small frail daughter, who herself died before reaching her 7<sup>th</sup> birthday. Suddenly and unexpectedly Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, inherited through his wife Anne Beauchamp, all these lands and possessions. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1449, he was created Earl of Warwick and Newburgh and Aumarle and Salisbury, Premier Earl of

England, Baron of Elmly and Hanslope, and Lord of Glamorgan and Margannoc and he owned too, besides those five Manors in Oxfordshire, seven Manors more in Buckinghamshire, included amongst them being Drayton Beauchamp, Aston Clinton and Buckland.

Now in the 15<sup>th</sup> century the tragic and seemingly endless Wars of the Roses are played against the backdrop of the whole country with, often, brother against brother. York against Lancaster. All England has to choose between personal loyalty to the King, or opposition to the avaricious ministers with whom he has surrounded himself.

Dreaming beneath the summer skies and the winter storms, the Church of All Saints is now, incredibly, nearly two hundred years old. The Manor of Buckland being held by Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury and Warwick (*Warwick the Kingmaker!*)

With all his possessions, his titles, lands and wealth, there is no proof he came here, but on the other hand he may well have done so. The forests of the Chilterns had receded little since the Roman Legions marched through. Wild Boar still roamed the woods; deer grazed the upper slopes of the Chilterns in summer, and in winter were forced down to the valleys scavenging for food and shelter. In the summer, beneath leafy trees, cool in the glades, perhaps the Lord of the Manor spared a day from the affairs of state to hunt the wild boar, or fish for the wily trout lurking in the natural pools.

An uneasy peace fell over all the country.

In Buckland the piscina and rood loft were added to the Church. The year was 1471, and Warwick's sun was setting. There was an undignified scramble for the throne, and then



the Battle of Barnet, at which Edward IV killed his one time friend, the Earl of Warwick.

How did that news reach this Parish? Was it a whisper round the Manor and then the cottages and outlying farms? Was it shouted abroad by a Rider galloping through? However the news reached this Parish, changes inevitably followed. All Warwick's possessions were seized by the Crown and Edward IV, forgiving his brother Clarence, divided the Manor between him and another brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

It is quite possible that Richard came here, for he was, although only 19 at the time, keenly interested in all matters of state and management, certainly he would have checked rent roles and taxes levied. Richard too, was anxious for another link, a more personal one, with the dead Earl of Warwick. He wanted to marry Warwick's youngest daughter, the teenage widow of the Lancastrian Prince of Wales.

A full year went by before Richard persuaded his brother and part of the price of his marriage was that Richard agreed to surrender the Earldoms of Salisbury and Warwick wholly to Clarence. The Clarence who was so soon to be attainted.

**N**ow the devious Henry Tudor mounts the stage. Across the fields the once great Mediæval Manor House of Buckland is crumbling and decayed. The once deep moat is silted and weedy. Standing the other side of the great barn, using sturdy timber from some sea going ship, is the house we now call Moat Farmhouse.

The shape of the village centre changes, it no longer looks the typical Mediæval Village, but more as we know it today.

1522 and amongst the names listed in the Text of the Master Certificate Book, for Buckland, one catches the eye:

*“Sir John Hampden Knighte, paying 13s 4d in rent. This money to be used for the upkeep of the armoury.”*

11 more years slip by. 1533 is a momentous year, with the birth of Princess Elizabeth and the Granting of the Manor of Buckland to the Greenway Family from Dinton.

In this and the following years, along with every other Church in the country, Buckland came under scrutiny, to see what treasure she owned. The Manor House is now only habitable in part, but the Church of All Saints, low of stature and simple in design, nearing her 300<sup>th</sup> birthday, waits quietly to see what else may come.

In 1545 a certain Benedict Lee of Hulcott, by his Will dated 21<sup>st</sup> February 1545, bequeathed a legacy to Buckland Church in the shape of five tenement houses, built on the east side, contiguous to the Church Yard, called Church Houses, and appropriated to the use of poor families, placed there by the Overseers and without payment of rent.

However it was asserted that the inmates of the cottages, in consequence of this housing, were rather a benefit to the Parish than to themselves, since they were expected to do such work as they might be given, about the Parish.

**T**hrough the years the Church of All Saints had been given, or acquired, various vestments, some of rich materials, all kept in the Church, but, in the *“sixth year of the Reign of our Sovereine Lord, Edward VI, by the Grace of God of England, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith and in earth of the Church of England and also of Ireland, Supreme Head of All,”* an inventory of these things has been made and one Hew Horwood and one George Warsitter, backed up by men of the King’s Militia, arrive to take the treasures *“into safe custody”*.

The list of items is impressive and sad: *“One cope of green silk, three vestments of blue damask, another of red satten, a third of white fustian, two altar cloths of lymen, two painted cloths of canvas hanging before the altares, 4 lyttle candlesticks of latten, a pixe, a cross and a sensore of latten, two lymen towels and a surplice”*.

Sadder still at the end of the document, added in a different hand, are the words: *“And a Challis of fyne sillver and 6 js from the Church Boxe”*. One imagines the Priest having been forced to part with the vestments and the altar hangings yet desperately trying to keep as part of his Sacred Trust the Chalice of fine silver and the 6 shillings in the Church Box. Was he given away by a watching villager? Or just found out and forced to hand over his Church’s last precious goods. And when the “men of the King’s Militia” rode away, in all probability they dragged him away too, to explain to their “masters” what he meant by trying to defraud them of their “right”.

The Manor of Buckland continued to be a Royal Possession. In 1553 on the succession of Mary she granted it to one Nicholas Twyddell for a period of 21 years, but in the following year, 1554, with her new husband, Philip of Spain enjoined as joint owner, she granted the Manor to Sir Anthony Brown, Viscount Montague, for a period of 21 years. The fate of Nicholas Twyddell is not clear.

In 1591 the Manor changed hands again, this time being granted by Elizabeth to William Tipper and Robert Dawc. It is difficult to find any trace of these two. The name Dawc is more commonly found in the Midlands, a sure sign that the country was more mobile, in those, the really Golden years of Elizabeth’s Reign. Certainly most of the notables of this and later centuries would have passed through the Parish, on the Roman Road between, for example, London and Stratford.

About this time too, with the country more stable than it had been for many years, the Church of All Saints acquired a new Chalice, to replace the one “taken into safe keeping”. The new Chalice was one of striking simplicity and beauty. Struck in London somewhere between 1558 and 1560, with the date stamp of 1561, the Chalice is charming in its 400 year old simplicity and splendour.

**T**he Accession to the throne of James I brought few changes to the Parish of Buckland, but more houses and cottages that are still standing, were built. Church Farmhouse, The Old Duke’s Head, Yew Tree Cottage, the Old Plough, all survive to tell their tales. Other farms and houses there were, but they have not been so fortunate. The Dormer family had succeeded to the Lordship of the Manor.

In 1625 Charles I came to the throne. Charles who was both too good and too bad to be King.

Ruling, or attempting to rule, without Parliament, Charles pushed the people too hard. In 1634 he introduced the penal Ship Tax, and by the following Spring Buckland, along with all England, was assessed. The long list of sums demanded totalled £17 5s 3d, an horrendous total for the time. In line with many another towns and villages, the lists for Buckland are heavily marked, “*in arrears*”. The underground murmurings of discontent and anger grew, and civil war brewed.

Here, in leafy Buckinghamshire, the whole cauldron boiled over and England rose against the King, inspired by the stand made by John Hampden. It is not generally appreciated but although he was tried in Great Kimble for refusing to pay taxes, those taxes were levied on other lands of his,

at Stoke Mandeville, which was then, still, linked with Buckland, sharing a Priest.

Throughout the land there was fear and brutality and brother against brother.

But however much England might have turned against Charles, she soon found that in Cromwell was a far, far greater tyrant. In 1660 Charles II was restored to the throne of his father and England learned to live again at peace.

Being at peace, Buckland turned her attention to her Church of All Saints, now needing repair. In 1637 a survey had noted: *“There wanteth a rising part to the Communion Table and it standeth in the middle of the Church.”*

In 1675 the first of the three Church Bells was hung - a Treble by Ellis and Henry Knight. Eight years later a second bell was added, this by George Chandler of Drayton Parslow and in 1708 a third, also by George Chandler, a tenor, completed the trio.

The Lordship of the Manor of Buckland. with the death in 1709 of Charles Dormer, Earl of Carnarvon, went, by the marriage of his daughter to Philip Stanhope Earl of Chesterfield, but shortly after that the Court of Chancery directed that the Manor be sold, and this time it was acquired by George Hassell of Cholesbury, (who lived to a grand old age, dying in 1821, and leaving his Estates by Will to John Atkinson and others, solicitors in London).

While these and other events were taking place, the Seasons turned, and turned again, with ploughing, sowing, reaping, storing. All Saints' Church neared its 500<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the first German George, who loathed England and all the English, came to the throne.

In 1723 another Charity was bequeathed to the area. William Hill settled on the Poor of Buckland £1 per annum to be distributed at the discretion of the Parish Officer, and also One Great Coat Annually, in the same manner as in diverse other places in this county. That Charity, some 250 years on, still makes its payments.

By now only the foundations of the Manor House remained, many of the barns and buildings which belonged to it had also been allowed to fall down. But more new houses were built: the Manor Farmhouse, near the Church, Neild's Farm, Lower Farm, Jessamine Cottage (now demolished) had already been built in the centre of village and up in the hills at Dancer's End, dating from 1700, the proud and very beautiful Dancer's End House.

As the 18<sup>th</sup> century drew to a close, however, the Church of All Saints seemed at the end of its earthly life, the Tower was crumbling, the roof leaked, the windows fitted so badly that rain poured in, the seats were crumbling with worm ... Somewhere, on the wind, perhaps a great sigh was heard, that a building created by men with nothing but the skill of their hands and the love of their hearts to give, should be allowed to fall to pieces because no one cared.

**T**he outside world was pressing now on the peaceful Parish, the canals linked the country with the town, and the final Great Inclosure of the Country, which changed the entire face of the landscape, took place. Being such a long Parish, the Inclosure of Buckland took place over a considerable period of time, the final Act being in 1842, when Buckland Common, still part of the Parish came under the Auctioneer's Hammer:

*“Mr. W. Brown has received instructions from the Commissioners for Inclosing Buckland, to submit for Sale by Auction, at The Bell Inn, Aston Clinton, on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1842, at One of the Clock, about 80 acres of Freehold land, being the Greater Portion of Buckland Common, which it is intended to divide into convenient Lots varying from One Acre to Six. The High Road from Chesham to Wendover and Aston Clinton adjoins the said Common and other Roads have been set out Conveniently for the Occupation of each Lot.”*

*“Printed Particulars with a Plan annexed thereto are in the course of preparation and may be obtained from the Place of Sale, George Inn, Aylesbury, George Inn, Chesham, and of Mr. Faithfull, Solicitor, or Mr. W. Brown, Land Agent and Surveyor, Tring.”*

**A**s the world intruded more, the Church of All Saints grew more dilapidated. No longer was there any visible trace of the Manor House, although materials from it may have been used in the building of other houses. Field Corner, originally called Cottage Farm, West Cottage, Queensmeade, all now stood, soon to be joined by Prune Cottage, Pedlar's, Ticehurst and March Cottages (the last two originally a row of four), and then Church Leys originally built as two cottages. The Plough still served ale, and was a good place to meet and discuss weighty matters, often best resolved over a glass of cheer! The row of cottages called Wharf Row was built. Model Row commenced and a neat, red-brick Methodist Chapel occupied a prominent position. Buckland now, at least in its own eyes, was a place of some importance, and in line with this, some 600 years after it was first built and dedicated, was finally granted separation from Stoke Mandeville. Early in 1860, being granted a “Vicarage” in its own right, Buckland saw the Rev. Edward Bonus, Scholar, installed.

For the first years of his incumbency Rev. Bonus lived at Hulcott, dividing his time between the two Parishes, striding over the fields between, many of which he bought.

For a man who made his mark so very positively on Buckland, the Rev. Edward Bonus is very difficult to research. Extremely wealthy he undoubtedly was, buying up most of the cottages in the village and arrogantly stamping them with "his crest" (which does not appear to be registered with the College of Arms), despite the fact that many of them were already two or even three hundred years old. From what source came his wealth? Arrogant he undoubtedly was, instructing his Parishioners to "*attend services or else*", but at the same time taking long sabbaticals abroad and in his absence locking "his" Church against all comers. Conceited he was in the manner of many Victorians, presuming to know best in all matters of taste to the point that he presented to the Church a Chalice and Patten of his own designing and used it in all its hideous Victorian clumsiness instead of the delicate, simple and beautiful Elizabethan Silver Chalice. Domineering he was when, so legend says, he found his trousers streaked with mud following a walk from Hulcott, and so removed them and gave them to a villager with instructions to have them sponged clean and pressed ready for his return home. Presumably he conducted whatever service he had come to take wearing only his surplice! He lived apart from his wife for much of the time, irritated with her for not meekly bowing to his every whim, while she stayed in Gloucestershire and let his frequent letters and "instructions" flow over her, keeping up her own interests in needlework and just sitting, with her hands folded. Pretentious he was, as when he designed his own Vicarage, Buckland House, deliberately building it to look older than it actually was. Minutes of the Parish Meetings also show that



he was not above fencing off one of the village ponds, as a handsome addition to his own garden. Self-deceptive he was too, for he claimed to have “designed” the new altar he had installed, brought, undoubtedly at great expense from Italy. Yet it is, according to modern day church architects, one of a standard pattern bought almost “off the shelf” in Italy.

With all his faults, Bonus pulled the crumbling Church back from the brink, spending his own money on restoration, and, rather less fortunately, refurbishment, to include many Victorian monstrosities such as the planted gargoyles, the “painted windows”, pews and the replacement of the simple 17<sup>th</sup> century altar (now used as a table in the vestry) with the ornate stone one still there today.

Bonus it was, as well, who decided the village needed its own school, and organised a subscription list for this purpose, commencing with Queen Victoria, to whom legend says he wrote pointing out that the legacy she had received from one Chapman Neild had enabled her to purchase the Balmoral Estate, and Chapman Neild had owned considerable property in Buckland ... Queen Victoria knew when not to argue, she sent £25 to head the list of Subscribers; Buckland got its School, together with a School Cottage for the Headmaster or Headmistress, both designed by George Levy.

Unable to keep his finger out of any pie, The Rev. Bonus was on the first Buckland Parish Meeting, although not, possibly to his chagrin, as Chairman.

The Minutes of those early Meetings refer to Meetings declared Void through being incorrectly advertised, held on the wrong date, or with the wrong people present; the subject matters are much as they are now, footpaths blocked when they should be open, the judicious moving of

boundaries to acquire a little more land here and there, at the expense often of the verges, the village pond.

Reading those early Minutes is engrossing, so much so that with a start one realises one has reached the First or even the Second World War. The Meeting has recorded with great regret, the demise of its first Clerk, who held the post for over 30 years, various Chairman, and Members, but there is not so much as a word about Edward Bonus, and the reader sets aside the big, marbled covered old book, and makes a little pilgrimage to the Church where, sure enough, is the big brass plaque reading:

*“In Loving Memory of Rev. Edward Bonus, M.A., LL.M., Well nigh Half a Century Rector of this Parish. He Restored this Church, Rebuilt the Tower, Placed the Painted Windows, and Designed and gave the Beautiful Altar. Erected also for the Children the School Buildings near by. Died 1908.”*

The Rev. Edward Bonus has been dead for many years, and there is not so much as a mention in the Parish Minutes, despite that *“well nigh half a century”* and the impressive list of achievements during his time as Rector (he seems to have made himself Rector, he was installed as Vicar).

With all his influence, all his enormous wealth, with all the money he undoubtedly spent in Buckland, one is left to wonder if even the magnificent brass plaque was designed and executed by the Rector himself, leaving only the date to be completed, as appropriate.

All Saints' Church now looks as we know it today. The Asquat tower has been restored, the fanciful gargoyles added, a Latin inscription has been worked into the stone, the Vestry has been built, and the Village in general looks nearly as we know it now.

But back in 1914 dawn some of the darkest years ever seen by the Church of All Saints and the Parish of Buckland, despite its long history, when the young men marched away and of the sons who left Buckland, eleven never returned. With a population in the order of perhaps 200 at most, spread between the canal in the north and the Common in the south, this may well have been most of the young men of fighting age. And those who came back would never be the same again.

But peace did, finally, come again, and with it the village trod more firmly into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Electricity arrived; piped water was brought to the village; the dusty road, ankle deep in mud in the winter with its patchings of hints in the worse of the ruts, was coated for the first time with a thin layer of tarmacadam.

In 1930 the Parish was outraged at being told by the Aylesbury Rural District Council that Buckland Common should more naturally form one Parish with Cholesbury and Hawridge. The Clerk to the Parish Meeting was instructed to write in no uncertain terms, that the Members objected "Most Strongly" to any alteration in the Boundaries, but to no avail, for by the Bucks Review Order of 1934, the Parish of Buckland was divided and part was formed with Cholesbury and St. Leonard's into a new Parish.

At the same time the Parish for so long in the See of Lincoln was transferred to the See of Oxford.

In less than five years more sons of Buckland marched away, leaving families without fathers, sons, brothers, husbands. Five of those who marched away did not return.

**F**amilies come and go, more now perhaps than ever before, houses and farms change hands. A few years after the Celebrations of VE and VJ Days, the Village joined in the country's celebrations for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. In 1964 the Parish became a United Benefice with Aston Clinton and Drayton Beauchamp, sharing a Rector. In 1973 Celebrations took place for the 700 years since the building of the Church commenced. In 1977 there were the Celebrations to mark the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, and, incredibly in 1984, 700 years had passed since the Church was first Dedicated and presented with a Vicar.

The Parish is changing and will go on changing. Nothing stays quite the same, new faces come and old friends depart, but the spirit is the same; Town Planners have not yet succeeded in destroying that, and this very brief history is a small attempt to record some facts and some folklore about this Parish - Buckland - the Land of Royal Charter!

