

**CHAPTER 12.**  
**THE PARISH MAGAZINE**

There has been a Parish Magazine circulated in the village for well over 100 years. Whether the circulation has been continuous is difficult to determine, but there is no reason to suppose the contrary. Even during and immediately after World War II the Church still managed to put out a monthly 'bulletin' in spite of severe paper shortages.

A publication entitled 'Bushbury and Essington Parochial Magazine' was circulating in Essington in 1887 - price one penny. A similar magazine in the Record Office at Stafford is dated 1880. It contained local church news on the inside covers, whilst the bulk of the magazine held national Christian news, exhortations, and fictional stories 'with a moral'.

How long this publication lasted is not certain but there is in the records a quick reference to it in the 1920's. There is also mention of a Church publication in 1912 when, at the annual vestry meeting, a resolution was passed 'That the cost of the tracts known as 'The Monthly Visitor' be no longer paid for out of Church expenses', but one suspects that this paper was running alongside whatever magazine was in circulation at the time.

In the 1920's and 1930's the magazine was of the type well remembered by older residents. It usually contained a Vicar's letter, flower rotas, collections, local advertisements, births, marriages and deaths - and not much else. One gets the impression that they were publications written by church people, for church people and were bought by church people, plus others who bore some goodwill to the church and regarded payment as a sort of indirect contribution to church funds.

In 1962, however, the mould was broken when St. John's went in for a newspaper style magazine known as the National Christian News, which contained eight pages of national interest and two pages of Essington Church news. About this time, too, in a spirit of ecumenism, the Methodists at Allen's Rough and Essington Wood were invited to contribute news and articles.

This paper proved popular with circulation increased from 150 to 400 per month and lasted until 1967 when escalating costs and uncertain delivery dates caused St. John's Essington to 'go it alone'.

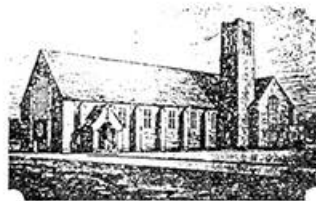
This was a brave decision at the time for a printing machine and accessories had to be bought at a time when not much money was available, no-one had any great experience of printing and there was no way of knowing what the reaction in the village would be.

In the event, the experiment proved to be a huge success with circulation leaping first to 750 and later to 900 copies per month. At one period it could claim 'World Wide Circulation' with copies being posted each month

# Essington Church Magazine

DECEMBER, 1927. PRICE 1/6

President—The Rev. S. A. CARTERSON, M.A., Lowerfield House, Essington.  
 Vice-President—Mr. H. COOK.  
 Treasurer—Mr. C. TOWN.  
 Secretary—Mr. C. H. MOSE.  
 Church Gazette—Miss P. HAINES.  
 Representatives on PARISH COUNCIL—  
 Messrs. H. COOK, J. C. TOWN, J. WILSON,  
 W. SHERRIN, C. TOWN, W. HAINES, J. HAINES,  
 J. HAINES, W. SHERRIN, J. and P. TOWN.  
 CHURCH DAY SCHOOLS—  
 Managers—The Vicar, Rev. S. A. CARTERSON,  
 Messrs. J. C. TOWN, W. HAINES, W. SHERRIN, J. HAINES.  
 Head Master—Mr. HAINES.  
 SERVICES—  
 Holy Communion—1st and 3rd Sundays in the month, at 8 a.m.  
 2nd Sunday in the month at 11 a.m.  
 Family at 11 a.m.  
 Morning Prayer, at 11 a.m.  
 Evening Prayer, at 6.30 p.m.



Vicar—The Rev. R. P. GAVENDISH, M.A., Lowerfield House, Essington.  
 Evangelist—J. EVENSON, Newton.

Vicar's Warden—Mr. C. TOWN.  
 People's Warden—Mr. J. F. HAINES.  
 Organist & Choirmaster—Mr. P. HAINES.  
 Organist—Mr. J. HAINES.  
 Parochial Church Council—  
 Messrs. H. COOK, J. C. TOWN, J. WILSON,  
 W. SHERRIN, C. TOWN, W. HAINES, J. HAINES,  
 J. HAINES, W. SHERRIN, J. and P. TOWN.  
 Secretary—Mr. C. H. MOSE.  
 Magazine Correspondent for Newton—  
 Mr. EVENSON, Long Lane, Newton.

## THE ESSINGTON PARISH CHURCH BULLETIN

MARCH 1944. PRICE 2/6

Vicar—The Rev. J. H. SPENCER, B.A., Lowerfield House, Essington.  
 Vicar's Warden—Mr. J. F. HAINES.  
 People's Warden—Mr. J. F. HAINES.  
 Organist and Choirmaster—Mr. P. HAINES.  
 Organist—Mr. J. HAINES.  
 Parochial Church Council—  
 Messrs. H. COOK, J. C. TOWN, J. WILSON,  
 W. SHERRIN, C. TOWN, W. HAINES, J. HAINES,  
 J. HAINES, W. SHERRIN, J. and P. TOWN.  
 Secretary—Mr. C. H. MOSE.  
 Magazine Correspondent for Newton—  
 Mr. EVENSON, Long Lane, Newton.

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 4, 5, 6 & 7, CROSS STREET, WILLENHALL.  
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1927

1938

1944

# MAGAZINE



of  
**St. JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH**  
 ESSINGTON

1953



1877



1967

## ESSINGTON PARISH NEWS



1976

## The Magazine



of the parish of  
 of  
**St. John the Evangelist**  
 ESSINGTON

AUGUST 1986

15p

## THE MAGAZINE OF The Parish of Essington



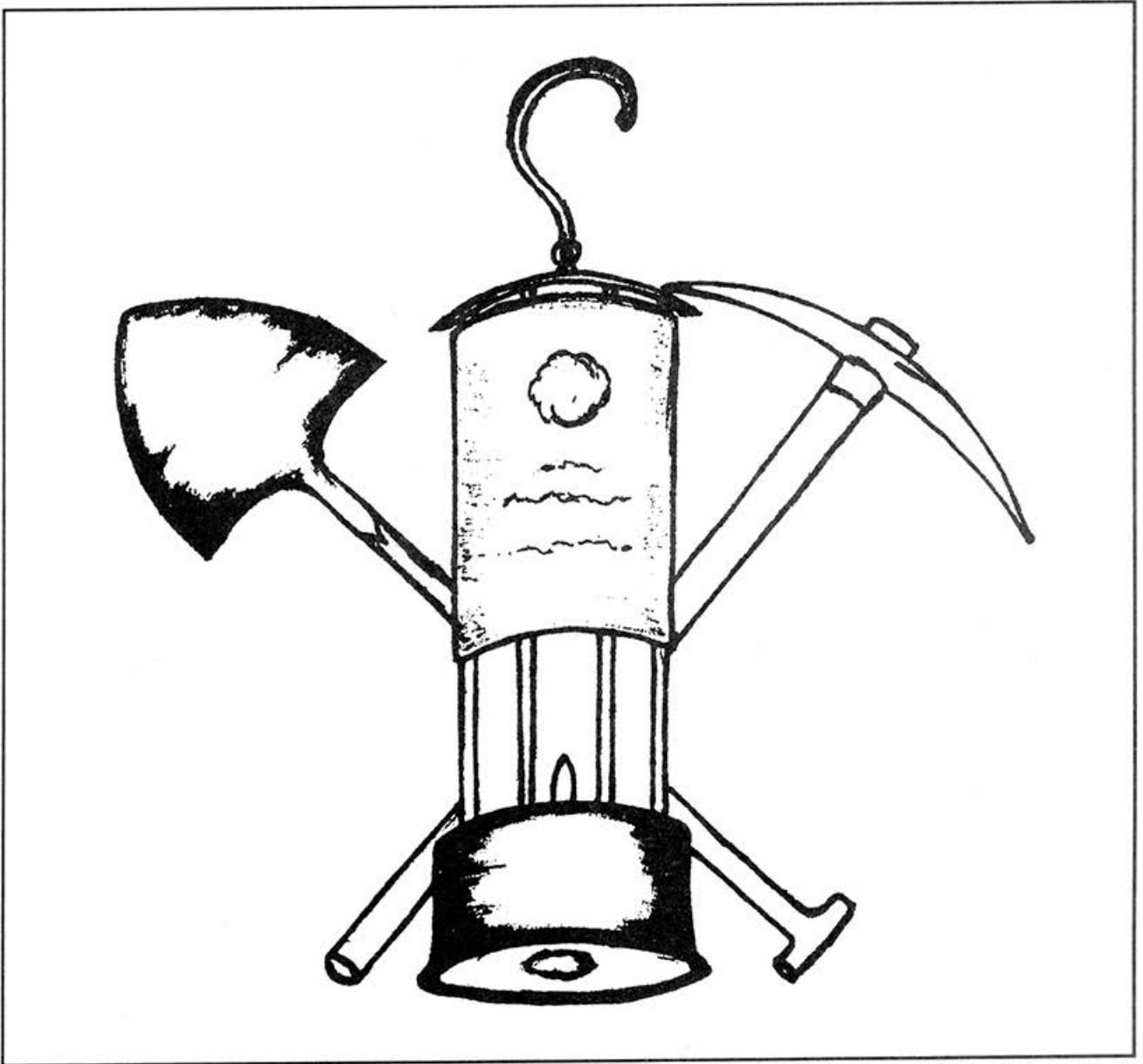
May 1992

15p

to former Essingtonians resident in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and Canada. On one occasion the magazine reached Canada before it was delivered to the relatives in Essington! Unfortunately, escalating postal costs put a stop to this experiment but it was exciting while it lasted!

Part of the success of this new style, home-printed magazine stemmed from the fact that it contained not just 'Church News' but village news generally. Scouts, School, Senior Citizens Clubs, Football clubs, Parish Council - all were included and it became as much a sort of Parish Newspaper as a Church Magazine.

This type of monthly publication has not changed much since 1967 - apart from shape and size - and this philosophy still forms the basis of the present day magazine.



END OF AN ERA.

This is the front cover of a Supplement published by the Church Magazine in 1969 to mark the closure of the Hilton Main Colliery - and thus the end of deep mining in Essington.