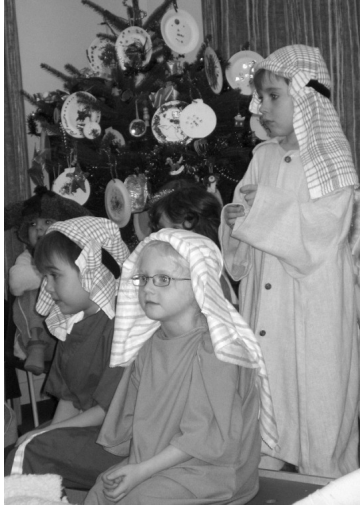


Phyllis is Back in Christmas Past

The excitement of Bonfire Night is over and Christmas will soon be here, all the children in St. Mary's school are full of excitement, first we must learn our lines for the nativity play; mother has said we could use my fur coat as a baby wrap, somebody has lent a doll with a china head as baby Jesus.

Other mothers have spent hours shaping white netting over wire and trimming them with silver tinsel to make angels' wings. Little ballerina type dresses have been stitched, cut down from old blouses and skirts to make costumes for the angels. Fathers' old gabardine trousers have been stripped down and remodeled to make clothing for the Shepherds and Kings and Joseph. Grannies have produced treasured old pots from their



cabinets, to use as gifts for the precious Baby. Mrs. Archer has tutored us all to sing *Away in a Manger* and we are all ready to perform before the Reverend Winsor Cundell, and other local dignitaries.

But the ultimate prize is the next day, when we will sit down in the large room that was once the upper school room for the fourteen year olds (before they went to

Burford) and all enjoy a Christmas dinner beautifully cooked by Mrs. Wiggins and Mrs. Souch.

I can't remember if we had a small present, but possibly a sweet or two to take home for Mother, but that was school in the 1950s and we all went on to Church or Chapel Sunday Schools to sing carols before Christmas.

Phyllis Clarke

What's Going on at Shipton Post Office?

You may well have been forgiven for thinking that it was April 1st or Red Nose Day recently when you popped into Shipton Post Office. Shana, Jacqui and Julie were all dressed up in their best fancy-dress clothes for a very good cause.

They managed to boost the coins dropping into their collecting box for Helen and Douglas House to a magnificent £320. Well done girls and thanks to all their generous customers. Just be warned, anything could happen over the Christmas period!

Christine Halliday

