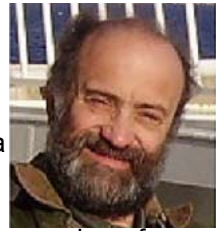


From the Vicarage,



Since I last wrote an article for the village magazine a great deal has happened in the life of the Church. We have had Easter for a start – the greatest of all the Christian festivals. It seemed odd this year with the school children not being on holiday, but it was a good time with some very memorable moments. A highlight for a number of us was the Passover Supper we held on Maundy Thursday evening. This took place in Ecton Village Hall, but was for all three of our villages. We were most grateful to Sheila Addison for organising the ceremonial meal and its explanation, and to Fiona Major from Ecton with a great team who served an excellent meal. This is but one example of a whole series of events that took place, leading us through Jesus' passion, death, and on to the resurrection on Easter Morning.

On a less celebratory note, we have been hit again by lead thieves at both Wilby and Doddington churches, although again Ecton seems to have escaped so far. We would ask that all readers remain very vigilant and please report anything suspicious to the police, one of the church wardens, or to me – whatever the time of day. In broad daylight thieves will often come for a reconnaissance visit to prepare for an attack. We would far rather be alerted to something that in the end is a false alarm than to miss the opportunity to protect the Church property and apprehend those responsible.

Plans are now being laid for more events during the summer, for many of which we hope that more folk from the village will join us. Just one example is that very soon we shall be publishing details of this year's holiday club for primary-age children. This has been organised for primary-aged children in Doddington and Wilby for the last few years and this year we shall be inviting children from Ecton to join in. Called 'Waste Watchers', this year's theme will be on looking after our planet and will take place at Croyland School, Wellingborough, August 18th –22nd. As last year there will be much fun and games, laughter, craft, and a full day out, as well as Bible teaching, worship, and learning more of how God wants us all to live. Make sure you book your child's place when the application forms are released.

In the world arena, in the past month we have all been appalled, I've no doubt, at the manner in which the Zimbabwean elections have been conducted. The refusal to publish a result of the presidential election is totally inexplicable. At best it is very childish, and at worst, I suspect something rather more sinister. By the time you read this we shall no doubt have moved on again, but as people who have had family in that country for a couple of generations now, Jo's heart and mine are especially torn. We must pray very urgently for the people of Zimbabwe, many of whom have a strong Christian faith, which, praise God, carries them through.

With very best wishes,

Chris Pearson