

From the Vicarage,



I am writing this month following Easter. In our group of three churches we had a very full programme and I must say I have been very grateful for a few days' break to recover since! As always it was a wonderful time, though, not least in the events that took place at Ecton. Two in particular stay in my mind, both of which took place on Good Friday. Sadly, the first I was unable to attend because of duties elsewhere, but people are still talking about the wonderful Family Service on Good Friday morning. This was led by Tony Green and Christine Burnett (another Reader from our area) and I understand there was a large congregation with lots of children present – whoever said there were no children in Ecton?

Secondly, on Good Friday afternoon we were privileged, at our 'Hour Before The Cross' to have a visiting minister to lead us through our meditation. Charles May, a retired clergyman from Peterborough, is a very old friend of mine and it was a delight to receive from him this year. The service was divided into two parts and He spoke very movingly of the place of the crucifixion and the person crucified. Then as usual the Church was beautifully decorated with flowers for Easter Day and we are most grateful to all those who worked very hard to achieve such a lovely effect and atmosphere for our worship.

At the end of May comes Ascension Day (Thursday 21st) and Pentecost (Sunday 31st). These are both important events in the annual calendar and on both occasions this year the special services for our group of churches will be hosted at Wilby. Do come and join us (see the services list for full details).

Since I last wrote there have been more important world events. We have been shocked by not one, but two helicopter crashes, one including fatalities. There were also the terrible earthquakes in Italy. Our hearts go out to those who were injured as well as to the relatives of those who were killed. We have been remembering them in our prayers both in Church services and through our regular prayer list on the weekly notice sheet.

With Easter past, and somewhat later than last year, our thoughts are turning towards what the summer holds for us. I am very much enjoying time in the garden as I'm sure many of our readers are, and perhaps we are planning holidays too. For the youngsters, of course, there are important things at school before then – exams, or S.A.Ts. perhaps, sports days, and all the other things that the summer term regularly holds. One piece of advance news for children – we shall again be holding a Holiday Club during August for all primary age children. This will take place in the Memorial Hall at Great Doddington, but as last year children from Ecton will be most warmly invited. This takes place in the week beginning Monday August 24th and full details will be published, together with application forms, straight after half term.

For the grownups, perhaps as well as the gardening there is Spring Cleaning at this time of year, or even the need to wield a paint brush! There is always so much to do, our lives always seem over-full these days. However, it's really important to find space in all the busyness, just to stop and reflect. We all need that whether we have a Christian faith or not. It's so easy in our busy world to lose our sense of perspective and then things get out of proportion and the wrong things gain the most importance.

With very best wishes,

Chris Pearson