

ECTON  
CHURCH AND VILLAGE  
NEWS





December **1987**

January **1988**

FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

"AN ADULT CHRIST AT CHRISTMAS"

"CHRISTMAS is really for the children" - so runs the oft-quoted phrase of adults trying either to justify the outward show of Christmas or to express an inward, unspoken, yearning to return to the faith of their childhood where "the sun always seemed to shine, despite the weather!" Christmas is thus, for many, a break in the dullness of Winter, a chance to forget the everyday world around them, and for a brief day or two, indulge in an almost make-believe sort of existence. They know it cannot last, but it's something to look forward to, and at least gives the excuse for a party.

But is that really Christmas? Can the stories of angels and wise-men, shepherds and a manger appeal to the adult men and women of a God who knows and loves his people? Yes, I believe they can; and yes, there is more to Christmas than a childish yearning for the good old days.

The message of Christmas is the message of the Church, with the hope that in our own lives the recognition that there is an adult message in Christmas will lead us to proclaim that revelation to others, that they too may respond in faith.

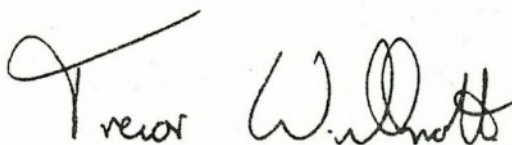
For the first Christians, Christmas was not a very important event. In their preaching, and lives, the most important fact of faith was the resurrection of Jesus. "This Jesus God raised up ..... God made him both Lord and Messiah ..... this Jesus whom you crucified." As more attention was focused on Jesus' ministry, and on his proclamation of the kingdom through words and action, so the Church recognised that the resurrection was the unveiling of a worship that had been there from the moment of this birth. The Jesus on the Cross is the same Jesus who was born in the stable, to whom in worship came the shepherds and the wise-men. The story of Jesus' conception and birth has nothing to do with fairy-story beginnings that are satisfying to emotion and sentiment, but everything to do with the Gospel. The birth of Jesus is not only gospel - the good news of our salvation - it is the essential Gospel story in miniature. In that birth in Bethlehem, as in the resurrection, the good news of God's love and salvation is proclaimed to others, and in both cases, this led to a twofold response: some drew near to him and became disciples; others rejected him and came to hate him.

The shepherds came and found the Angelic sign verified: "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens". The wise-men saw the star, and set out on a journey of exploration whose ending would be a cross. Herod the King was frightened by this birth possessive of his own authority, a man who lived for himself, and so he came to hate the child who spoke of "greater love has no man that he lay down his life for his friends".

Christmas is the good news for everyone - God has made himself present to us - Emmanuel - in the life of one who walked on this Earth, indeed, so truly present that this one, Jesus, was his Son.

To worship at the Cradle is to worship at the Cross of Jesus receiving his life into our lives. So let's unashamedly put an adult Christ back into Christmas, and proclaim Him to his World.

Margaret and Elizabeth join me in sending you our prayers and best wishes at Christmas time.



RECTOR

FROM THE COLLECTION PLATE

October 25th  
November 1st  
November 8th  
November 15th



£114.70  
£124.89  
£152.43  
£158.55

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are hoping to provide a creche in school on Saturday 5th and 12th December from 9.00a.m. until mid-day, for parents who wish to do Christmas shopping. All proceeds will go to the school fund.

We are looking for volunteers to help supervise the children for an hour or more. Everything will be organised; you come and have fun with the children. Could you help with woodwork, or read some stories? Any budding Lego experts?

If you are interested please contact Jan Lennon, The School House, Tel no. 410658.

## HELP YOUR POST OFFICE TO HELP YOU

Place your order in advance for stamps, etc., for your business requirements.

Save your time and tempers - no annoying queues - ready as soon as you call in.

TELEPHONE NORTHAMPTON 415017

or call at: ECTON POST OFFICE  
Franklins Close



Opening Times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday  
9.00a.m. to 1.00a.m. - 2.00p.m. to 5.30pm.

Wednesday and Saturday  
9.00a.m. to 12.30p.m.

## RECTOR'S NOTES

It seems strange writing of Christmas while we're still in November, still to experience the "thrilling sounds of Advent", but such is the printing schedule! December as always will be a busy month.

December 13th will be "Christingle" Sunday, when our prayers and money will go to the Church of England Children's Society. The Eucharist that day will be celebrated at 6.00p.m. in the place of Evensong.

December 20th The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.00p.m.

December 21st Carol Singing around the village. Another chance to air your lungs. Meet at Ecton House at 6.30p.m. Dress warmly and bring a torch. Carol Sheets will be provided. We shall end with some warming refreshments back at the House. The collection will be given to Great Ormond Street Hospital. We shall on this occasion be joined by the Ecton Handbell Ringers.



Christmas Eve 11.30p.m. The First Communion of Christmas.

Christmas Day 9.30a.m. Family Communion  
5.00p.m. Said Evensong

I will readily bring Communion to anyone who is unable through illness to come to Church over Christmas. If anyone wishes to make their communion, or talk about preparation for Christmas, please speak to me, and arrange a convenient time.

January will begin with great celebrations for the Meakins family, and for all the congregation, as Stephen Daniel will be baptised at the morning service on 3rd January.

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Anyone who would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Christmas flowers should give it to Margaret or to the Rector. If you would like to give this donation in memory or in thanksgiving of a particular person, please add the name with your donation.

We shall decorate the Church for Christmas on Saturday, 19th December at 10.00a.m. All offers of help and greenery and flowers, will be much appreciated.

### FLOWER ROTA

The flower rota for 1988 is now at the back of the Church. A suggestion has been made that following major festivals i.e. Easter, Harvest, etc., two people be responsible the following week for clearing away and arranging new flowers. It is helpful if those doing the flowers sign up for two weeks at a time.

MARGARET WILLMOTT

## READERS DIARY

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Dec 6th Martin Stears  
Dec 13th Margaret Willmott  
Dec 20th Zara Hunwicks  
Dec 25th Dennis Strange  
Dec 27th John Strange  
Jan 3rd Stephen Meakins  
Jan 10th Paddy MacQuire  
Jan 17th Mary Strange  
Jan 24th Andrew Currah  
Jan 31st Martin Stears  
Feb 7th Ted Langley



## RECIPE CORNER

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### MERRY CHRISTMAS PUNCH

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Makes 4-6 Servings

1 Bottle Medium Dry White Wine  
2 tablespoons Cherry Liqueur  
2 tablespoons Gin  
2 tablespoons Caster Sugar  
2 teaspoons Blade Mace or  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon  
Ground Mace  
Cocktail Cherries and Lemon Slices  
for garnish

Place the wine, liqueur, gin, and sugar in a saucepan. Crush the mace blades and add them, or the ground mace, to the pan..

Heat the mixture to just below boiling point for 5 to 10 minutes. If mace blades are used, strain the liquid through a fine sieve, discarding the mace. Serve the punch hot in warmed glasses with cocktail cherries and lemon slices.

SHIRT SALE (Now converted to Towels!)

Thank you to everyone who supported the shirt sale. Although not an overwhelming success, those who came along managed to find a bargain or two and since the evening we have managed to recover the initial outlay.

We did have a number of shirts left over but the manufacturer Viyelles were kind enough to allow us to exchange them for other goods - so now I'm the proud caretaker of a large supply of towels and tea towels.

Not wishing to bore you all on the subject as I had to with the shirts, I shall just mention that we have a potential of some £200 profit, so why not volunteer to buy one or half a dozen now without being approached.

There are various colours and prices from £1.20 for a tea towel through to £5.75 for a bath towel.

Please give me a ring on 406038 or call in to 17 West Street.

These will make ideal last minute Christmas gifts.

SHEILA INGRAM

ECTON CRICKET CLUB

The Cricket Club committee will be held in the Rectory Room on 7th December.

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

New President Mrs Millie Harlott was in the chair at the November meeting, when a new hobby was introduced to members by Mrs Kendall - Torry, called "Japanese Punch Embroidery". She showed how beautiful pictures can be made using special needles and thread from Japan, where the craft began 200 years ago. Several interesting Japanese articles were brought for the competition which was won by Mrs D Cross; Mrs A Treloar; and Mrs M Harlott.

(Herewith are the names of last month's competition winners of the "Best Hat for a Special Occasion". First was Mrs V Middleton; second Mrs D Cross; third Mrs A Treloar. Unfortunately omitted from report.)

A trading stall has been introduced to feature at monthly meetings, and members with a surplus of anything may like to bring it along. This will be much appreciated and will help funds.

Also please note that the next meeting on Tuesday, 1st December will be in Ecton House, at 7.30p.m. Mrs M Barhen of Mears Ashby will be demonstrating ideas for delectable buffet meals and sweets with a seasonal flavour. The competition is for the "Best homemade Cracker".

And a seasonal postscript - "Wishing all readers a Very Happy Christmas from Ecton WI".

J KNIGHT

# Fcton Village Playgroup



We would like a kind person with time on their hands to come along to our playgroup Tuesday and Friday mornings. We love having stories read to us, and its good to have someone to help us put on our aprons or play a game

# Ecton Village Playgroup

Every Tuesday & Friday

Come along

To the Playgroup if you are  
Over 2½

No need to delay

Please

Let



All of

Your children have a

Great time with

Really caring staff at

Our Playgroup, if

U are interested

Please contact me, M. Tinst  
tel 412233

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH



WHEN Sunday 9.30a.m. - 10.30a.m. (except Parade Sunday).

WHERE Rectory Room - to the left of the Ecton House car park which is opposite the church.

Children's Church welcomes all children of school age. Each Sunday we begin with a short time of worship, followed by a Bible passage, after which the younger ones work on activities, while the older ones explore and discuss the passage further.

All good parents take an interest in their children's development, and Christian Education should be an important part of that development. If you will bring your children, we will welcome them and would hope to lay the foundations of their Christian faith. We are looking forward to meeting some new faces!

TONI MAIN  
(Tel no. 405322) MARMALADE

Last year we raised a substantial amount of money for the Festival Fund by making marmalade.

If anyone would like to make marmalade again in the New Year, I am sure there will be a ready market and profits could again swell our Festival Funds. Anyone making marmalade, please ask for reimbursement of expenses from Margaret Willmott. If anyone has any spare jam jars, please could you leave these at Ecton House to provide a fund for those in production.

## MUMS AND TOTS

Christmas will soon be here and so will Father Christmas! All children under school age are warmly invited to the Mums and Tots Christmas Party on Thursday, 17th December, in the Rectory Room at 2.00 p.m. (please note earlier time). If you are hoping to come, please tell Jan Lennon at The School House (tel no. 410658) so that Father Christmas will have plenty of presents.

Mums and Tots meets in the Rectory Room (opposite the church) every Thursday during the school term from 2.30 p.m. Everyone with pre-school children is very welcome to join us.

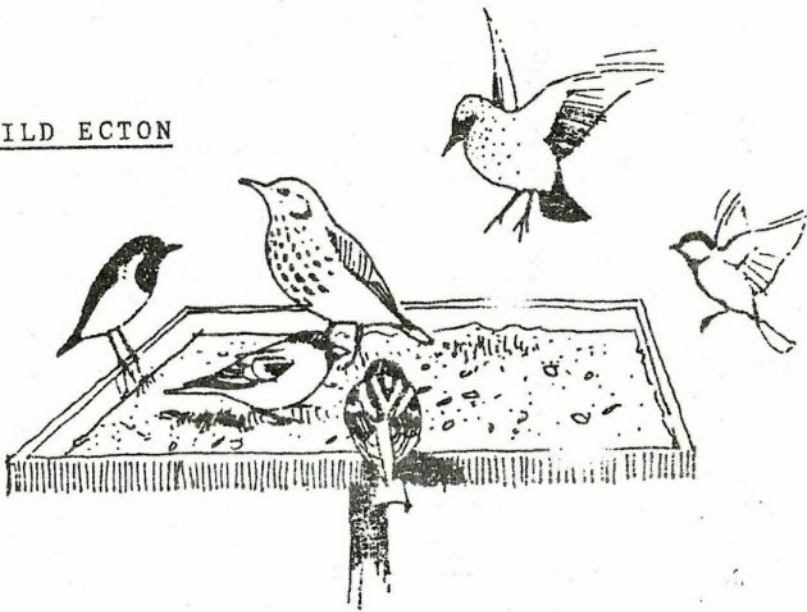
### ROTA FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

December	3rd	Jan Scriven
December	10th	Yvonne Miller
December	17th	Christmas Party
January	7th	Joy Day
January	14th	Linda Richards
January	21st	Gerry Collins
January	28th	Jan Lennon
February	4th	Margaret

Willmott



## WILD ECTON



All of us like to see birds in our gardens and the onset of Winter gives us the opportunity not only of attracting them but at the same time of helping them to survive the worst of the weather.

A simple bird table will attract a variety of birds and it can be sited near a window so that you can birdwatch in comfort. Provide a variety of food such as table scraps, seeds and nuts and you will soon have visitors such as the Songthrush, Blackbird, Robin, Chaffinch and Greenfinch as well as, in the hardest weather, Fieldfare and Redwing. Of course you will have to put up with Sparrows and Starlings as well!

In addition a wire bird feeder filled with nuts will soon attract Blue and Great Tits as well as other would-be acrobats.

It is just as important to provide water, not only for drinking but also for bathing; an old galvanised or plastic dustbin lid makes an ideal birdbath but keep it topped up and free of ice and your birds will become regular visitors once they have discovered it.

So lets make Ecton a sanctuary for birds this Winter - they will provide a lot of pleasure for you in the process.

RODNEY INGRAM

SACRISTANS ROTA

(B) Mrs Treloar	December 5th
(A) Mrs Baylis & Mrs Van Leersum	December 12th
(B) Mrs Baylis & Mrs Van Leersum	December 19th
(A) Mrs Aveyard & Mrs Maud Dicks	January 2nd
(B) Mrs Aveyard & Mrs Maud Dicks	January 9th
(A) Mrs Cross & Mrs Mary Dicks	January 16th
(B) Mrs Cross & Mrs Mary Dicks	January 23rd
(A) Mrs Treloar	January 30th
(B) Mrs Wilson & Mrs Willmott	February 6th

A volunteer is needed to help Mrs Treloar during the Winter. Please speak to Margaret if you can help.

## YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club now meets on Wednesday evenings at 7.00p.m. until 9.30p.m.

We would really like to have some new people coming along where you will find table-tennis, snooker, pool, darts, etc., at your disposal. The evening costs only 30p and you would be made very welcome.

The Senior Club still takes place on Tuesday evenings at 8.00p.m. and you can be sure of some friendly company; why not come along.

The next Lunch will be on the 25th November from 12.00 mid-day to 2.00p.m. The menu - soup, sausage, mash and beans, sweet, coffee or tea. Please book if possible.

The December Lunch will be on the 16th December as this is a Christmas Dinner, will you please try to make a definite booking.

Thank You.

D BRAY

## MOTHER'S UNION

Our Christmas meeting will be on Tuesday, 15th December from 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. in Ecton House. Please bring your service books as we shall begin as usual with a short service. Don't eat too much lunch!

We shall meet again on Tuesday, 12th January at 2.30 p.m. (weather permitting) when we shall hope to watch a video.

MARGARET WILLMOTT

## MULLED WINE

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- Makes Approx 2½ pints
- 1 Bottle Red Wine
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  pint Water
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  pint unsweetened Orange Juice
  - 3 tablespoons Caster Sugar
  - 2 Cinnamon Sticks
  - 1 teaspoon Ground Coriander
  - 1 teaspoon Whole Cloves
  - $\frac{1}{4}$  pint Brandy
  - 1 Cinnamon Stick per glass for decoration



Place the wine, water, orange juice, caster sugar, two cinnamon sticks (roughly broken), coriander and cloves in a large saucepan. Heat the liquid to just below boiling point for 5 to 10 minutes. Add the brandy.

Strain the liquid through a fine sieve discarding the spices. Serve in warm glasses, decorating each one with a whole cinnamon stick.

## COFFEE ROTA

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Janet Robinson & Jean Leigh	December 6th
Johan Pinney & Pat Baylis	December 13th
Nick & Mary Green	December 20th
Marian Gleave & Sylvia	
Johnson	January 3rd
Tricia Fuller & Jackie	
Nelson	January 10th
Audrey Treloar & Ingrid	
Cartwright	January 17th
Millie Harlot & Dora	January 24th
Alice & Wynne	January 31st
Janet Robinson & Jean Leigh	February 7th

COPY FOR THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Should be delivered to Ecton House  
by Saturday 16th January.  
Enquiries: tel. 407888



CLEANING ROTA

(R) Mrs Harlot & Mrs Wright	December 5th
(L) Mrs Wilson & Mrs Hunwicks	December 12th
(R) Mrs Dicks & Mrs Cartwright	December 19th
(L) Mrs Baylis & Mrs Stears	January 2nd
(R) Mrs Robinson & Mrs Haycox	January 9th
(L) Mrs L Johnson & Mrs Richards	January 16th
(R) Mrs W Johnson, Mrs Rands & Mrs A Johnson	January 23rd
(L) Alice and Wynne	January 30th
(R) Mrs Harlot & Mrs Wright	February 6th

COFFEE MORNING

I am organising a Coffee and Mince Pies Morning in aid of The Children's Society on Thursday, 3rd December at 10.15 a.m. in Ecton House. We will have a raffle and a cake stall and all contributions for these will be much appreciated.

This will not only be an opportunity to get together socially but also, for those who have them, to return collecting boxes in aid of the Children's Society (and perhaps collect one if you don't have one already!). If you are unable to come to the Coffee Morning, perhaps you could give your collecting box to me in church on either 29th November or 6th December.

INGRID CARTWRIGHT



OVER 60's CLUB

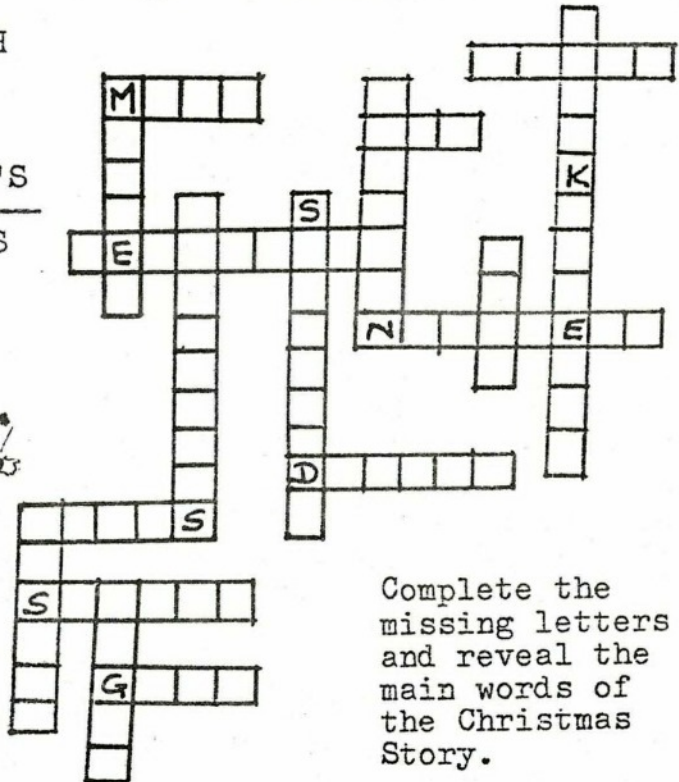
We held another successful Whist Drive, which after expenses raised £ 35.50 for funds. I would like to thank those who have given prizes for the Whist Drive also the Christmas Raffle.

The Christmas Dinner is on Friday 18th December, meet 6.30 pm for 7.0 pm. Will you please give names to Mrs. Reynolds or myself by Monday 14th December.

December meetings are on the 7th and 14th.  
January meetings are on the 4th and 18th.

EDNA WELCH

CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTMAS  
SCRABBLE



Complete the missing letters and reveal the main words of the Christmas Story.

DIARY for DECEMBER and JANUARY

December

- Tuesday 1 7.30pm W.I.
- Thursday 3 9.30am Holy Communion  
2.30pm Mums & Tots
- Sunday 6 2nd SUNDAY in ADVENT  
9.30am Parish Communion &  
Children's Church  
O.T. Isaiah 64.1-7  
Gospel Luke 4.14-21  
6.00pm Evensong
- Monday 7 2.30pm Over 60's Club
- Tuesday 8 2.30pm School Carol Service  
8.00pm P.C.C. meeting
- Thursday 10 9.30am Holy Communion  
2.30pm Mums & Tots
- Sunday 13 3rd SUNDAY in ADVENT  
9.30am Family Service for Christ-  
ingle & Parade Service  
6.00pm Holy Communion  
O.T. Malachi 3.1-5  
Gospel Matthew 11.2-15
- Monday 14 2.30pm Over 60's Club
- Thursday 17 9.30am Holy Communion  
2.30pm Mums & Tots Christmas Party
- Friday 18 7.00pm Over 60's Christmas Dinner
- Sunday 20 4th SUNDAY in ADVENT  
9.30am Parish Communion &  
Children's Church  
O.T. Zechariah 2.10-end  
Gospel Matthew 1.18-23  
6.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons  
and Carols

Thursday 24 CHRISTMAS EVE  
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

Friday 25 CHRISTMAS DAY  
9.30am Family Communion  
Epistle Titus 2.11-14  
Gospel Luke 2.8-20  
5.00pm Evensong (said)

Saturday 26 ST STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR  
9.30am Holy Communion (in House  
Chapel)

Sunday 27 SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS (ST JOHN)  
9.30am Parish Communion &  
Children's Church  
Epistle I John 2.1-11  
Gospel John 21.20-end  
NO Evensong

Monday 28 HOLY INNOCENTS  
9.30am Holy Communion (in House  
Chapel)

Thursday 31 9.30am Holy Communion

1988

January

Sunday 3 2nd SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS  
9.30am Family Communion, Holy  
Baptism & Parade Service  
Epistle Revelation 21.22-22.5  
Gospel Matthew 2.1-12, 19-end  
6.00pm Evensong

Tuesday 5 7.30pm W.I.

Wednesday 6 EPIPHANY  
9.30am Holy Communion

Thursday 7 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 10 1st SUNDAY after EPIPHANY  
9.30am Parish Communion &  
Children's Church  
Epistle Ephesians 2.1-10  
Gospel John 1.29-34  
6.00pm Evensong

January (contd.)

- Thursday 14 9.30am Holy Communion
- Sunday 17 2nd SUNDAY after EPIPHANY  
9.30am Parish Communion &  
Children's Church  
Epistle Galatians 1.11-end  
Gospel John 1.35-end  
6.00pm Evensong
- Thursday 21 9.30am Holy Communion
- Sunday 24 3rd SUNDAY after EPIPHANY  
(EVE of CONVERSION of ST PAUL)  
9.30am Parish Communion &  
Children's Church  
Epistle Philippians 4.10-20  
Gospel John 6.1-14  
6.00pm Evensong
- Thursday 28 9.30am Holy Communion
- Saturday 30 Safari Supper
- Sunday 31 9th SUNDAY before EASTER  
(SEPTUAGESIMA)  
9.30am Parish Communion &  
Children's Church  
Epistle I Corinthians 2.1-10  
Gospel Luke 8.4-15  
6.00pm Evensong
- February
- Tuesday 2 7.30pm W.I.
- Thursday 4 9.30am Holy Communion
- Sunday 7 8th SUNDAY before EASTER  
(SEXAGESIMA)  
9.30am Family Communion &  
Parade Service  
Epistle II Corinthians 12.1-10  
Gospel Mark 7.24-end  
6.00pm Evensong