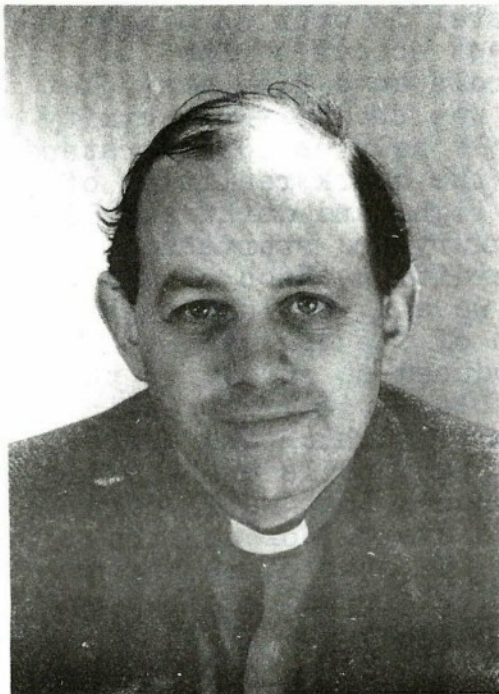


ECTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS



FROM THE
RECTOR'S STUDY



MARCH 1989

O Lord God,
whose glory has shone upon us
in the face of Jesus Christ,
and whose nature is made known to us
in the mystery of his Cross;
number us we pray,
among his faithful followers
for whom nothing matters
but the doing of your will,
in your way,
for your world,
through the same Jesus Christ our
Lord.

This year Easter is upon us almost before the last echoes of the Christmas carols have died away. Yet in a strange way the very proximity of those carols help us to understand more clearly the stark realities of God's story, light and darkness, life and death, luxury and starvation, heaven and perdition. Each of the carols which we sing so lustily, has also the echo of the end result of that life produced so rudely in the Bethlehem stable. It's like reading a mystery story in which the writer, on the first page, tells us "who did it", and then hopes that we'll carry on reading the story. For us, the child born in the stable, is the same man crucified, alone and humiliated, on the cross outside the walls of Jerusalem.

The Passion of Christ demands of us more than the brief response of our surface emotion. As we read the story again, and enact each of its incidents through the events of Holy Week, we must be struck by the fact that two thousand years have not made much difference to humanity. The violence, the power games, the washing of one's hands, the crowds of ordinary, decent, frightened women and men yelling the slogans of the moment "crucify, crucify", have been and still are repeated today. Yet if we dare to be involved in the words and events of that Passion, we begin to glimpse something of the divine wisdom and strength and love.

But how can we involve ourselves in an event nearly 2,000 years ago ? I suggest by being more deeply involved in our world today. We must learn to see the sufferings of the hungry, and oppressed, and powerless in the light of this crucifixion. Bishop John Taylor writes of this event "Here every human suffering and every human evil is focused into one single event in the dying of the Son of God. As the light and warmth of the sun spread across the landscape is concentrated through a lens to produce one point of intense heat, so on the Cross of Jesus we see all the wrongs and injustices of the long human story, all the agonies and griefs of the human race, focused upon this one sufferer: the Lamb of God who carries the sin of the world.

The danger of Easter is that we water its significance down in our attempt to make both its suffering and its hope more manageable for the church to be engaged in a series of religious exercises for the improvement of our own souls. Christmas and Easter are no mere interludes - chances to forget the world, with its evil and horrors, but focuses for us both of our inherent inhumanities but also, more powerfully, of God's love for his world. In the passage of 2,000 years, we have learnt much, discovered much, yet at the same time are more capable of our own self-destruction than ever before. So again with John Taylor..

"For in the world as it is today nothing can avail to save us but an act of God making available once more to humanity the divine wisdom and strength and love" So Christmas and Easter binds those who dare into that love whose purpose is to give of itself for the needs of the world.

May God bless you and your homes this coming Eastertide.

Treas W. D. Smith

Rector

From The Registers

BURIALS

Feb 6th Richard Charles Pinney

From The Collection Plate

JANUARY

22nd	£132.01
29th	£176.95

FEBRUARY

5th	£162.59
12th	£229.12



HISTORIC CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST

Secretary: Major R. I. Radford, M.B.E., A.C.I.S.

Tel: 01-736 3054

FULHAM PALACE, LONDON, SW6 6EA

27 January 1989

The Rēvd T Willmott MA
Ecton House
Church Way
Ecton
Northants NN6 0QE

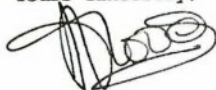
Dear Mr Willmott,

I have received with much pleasure your donation of £75.00 on 28 Dec 88, to the funds of this Trust from the Parochial Church Council of ECTON, St Mary Magdalene.

It was kind of you and your colleagues to let us have this gift and I would like you to know how much we appreciate your support of our work. Please convey to all concerned my warm thanks on behalf of the Trustees.

With all best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

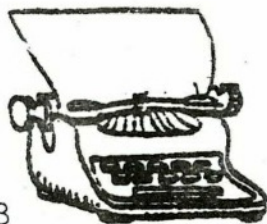


pp Secretary

COPY FOR THE APRIL MAGAZINE

Should be delivered to Ecton House
by 12th March.

Enquires :- Tel. Northampton 407888



Mums & Tots

ROTA FOR MARCH

2nd Janet Scriven
9th Janet Stock
16th Margaret Willmott
23rd
30th HOLIDAY

Mums and Tots meet in the Rectory
Room from 2.00pm -- 3.30pm on
Thursdays.

All mothers with young children
welcome.

Coffee Rota

MARCH

5th Nick & Mary Green
12th Tricia Fuller & Mavis Ahead
19th Janet Robinson & Jean Leigh
26th Johan Pinney & Pat Baylis

APRIL

2nd Audrey Treloar & Ingrid
Cartwright

Rector's Notes

.....And any other duties that may be required....., so ends the Archdeacon's charge to a newly elected churchwarden. The 'catch all' phrase, which picks up anything left out of the already exhaustively described duties of the churchwarden.

At our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on April 14th, the responsibility for the election of the wardens for the next year, lies with every one on the Electoral Roll. This year, David Dicks completes much more than the 5 year 'tour of duty' which 2 years ago we agreed should be the most we could ask or expect of a warden. In his time as warden, David has been assiduous in carrying out not only the more public face of his duties, but also in these myriad of often unspoken, and unknown, tasks which help to serve the Church so well. A familiar figure on the roof, cleaning out the gutters, as well as offering wise, but gentle, counsel to the P.C.C., David has also been a wise and trusted friend to the Rectors during his time of office. Thanks indeed are due to him and to Mary, for all that they have done, and continue to do, for the well being of the Church and Parish.

Nave Target

Since the publication of the February magazine, the central aisle of the Church has been sumptuously re-carpeted. The previous carpet, which is now being used at the back of the Church, was a gift of Joyce Orford's grandmother and Joyce has given the new one in memory of her parents and brother. The benefit of the new carpeting is already being felt and we are grateful to Joyce for her gift.

Thanks are also due to the additional gift which has enabled us to extend the nave carpet to include the area under the nave alter. The P.C.C. has also carried out a great deal of work to the flag stones at the back of the church, and 'filled' in some of the traps in the side aisles ! all of which have helped to make the Church both more attractive and safer.

Our thanks also to Alice Adams for the gift of a pyx; the small box in which the sacrament is carried to sick people in the congregation.

LOOKING FORWARD

March 5th is MOTHERING SUNDAY. During the Parish Communion and Parade Service I shall baptise David Peter Toplam. Please pray for him and his parents in their thanksgiving.

HOLY WEEK begins on Palm Sunday on ~~March 19th~~. The morning service that day begins outside Ecton House (weather permitting) with the Blessing of the Palm Crosses. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday there will be a celebration of Holy Communion and Meditation on the Gospel.

MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 23rd

Holy Communion of the Last Supper will be celebrated at 8.0pm, followed by our customary vigil through to Good Friday. The Church will be open all night and throughout Good Friday for you to come and pray.

GOOD FRIDAY

- 9.0am Ceremonies of the Day
- 10.30am Family Service
- 2.00 - 3.00pm An Hour by the Cross

EASTER DAY

The Church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday 25th. If you'd like to contribute to the cost of the flowers, please let me know.

Easter Morning Communion at 9.30am will begin in the churchyard with the blessing and lighting of the Easter Candle. The candle given to every newly baptised person in the year which follows is lit from this candle, and its lighting on Easter Day reminds us of our own baptismal promises.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Friday April 14th. The meeting enables us to both look back at our year's activities and to lay some plans for the future. There will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 7.0pm to be followed by a Fish and Chip Supper and the Meeting. If you'd like to come to the supper, please add your name to the list in Church. The A.P.C.M. will begin at approx 8.30pm. Nominations for the election of one churchwarden may be made on the sheet in the church; Henry Pinney will be confirmed in office, and the new warden will serve for a maximum of five years. A reminder that only those whose names are on the electoral roll can elect or stand for office. Elections for P.C.C. and sidesmen's rota will also take place during the course of the A.P.C.M.

Cleaning Rota

MARCH

4th	Mrs Dicks & Mrs Cartwright	(R)
11th	Mrs Harlott & Mrs Wright	(L)
18th	Mrs Wilson & Mrs Hunwicks	(R)
25th	Mrs Baylis & Mrs Stears	(L)

APRIL

1st	Mrs Robinson & Mrs Haycox	(R)
8th	Mrs Johnson & Mrs Richards	(L)

From the Mouths of Babes

A child on the way home from school decided to call in the church and have a look around. When he arrived home he told his Grandmother he had been in God's house. "Oh" said Grandma: "And did you see God?". "No" replied the little boy, "but I saw his wife scrubbing the floor". M.E.

Said a little boy to his vicar:

"I don't pray every night because there are some nights when I don't need anything".

Endeavouring to impress the children with joyous exultation of Hallelujah, the Sunday School teacher said, "What word do church members shout with joy?". "Bingo" replied one youngster.

From the Notices

The minister announced that the sermon on Sunday would be shorter than usual — five minutes at the most. The choir then rendered the Anthem 'IT IS ENOUGH'.

READERS ROTA

MARCH

5th	Paddy Macquire
12th	Dennis Lennon
19th	Howard Carter
26th	Henry Pinney

APRIL

2nd	Alice Adams
-----	-------------

ECTON CHURCH DIRECTORY

RECTOR	The Reverend Trevor Willmott 32 West Street, ECTON NN6 0QF Tel: Northampton 416322
CHURCHWARDENS	Mr David Dicks Field House, West Street ECTON Tel: Northampton 407145 Mr Henry Pinney 91 Henshaw Road WELLINGBOROUGH Tel: Wellingborough 77021
PCC Secretary	Mr L Murdin 20 Church View, ECTON Tel: Northampton 409422
Treasurer	Mr J Strange Silver Howe Barton Fields, ECTON Tel: Northampton 409306
Stewardship Recorder	Miss M Gleave 19 Church View, ECTON Tel: Northampton 407889
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Mary Dicks Field House, West Street ECTON Tel: Northampton 407145
Organist and Choirmaster	Mr S Kidney 65 Northampton Lane North MOULTON Tel: Northampton 42463
Magazine Editor	Mr M Stears 10 Lady Winefrides Walk GREAT BILLING Tel: Northampton 407888
Magazine Distributor	Mrs P Baylis 34 West Street, ECTON Tel: Northampton 407707

PARISH AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Parish Council	<u>Chairman</u>	Mr J E Beesley Tel: Northampton 810577
Ecton Primary School	<u>Headmaster</u>	Mr D Lennon Tel: Northampton 409213
Children's Church	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs T Main Tel: Northampton 405322 Every Sunday (except Parade Service Sunday) 9.30 a.m in Rectory Room
Mother's Union	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs M Willmott Tel: Northampton 406442 2nd Tuesday in month 2.45 p.m in Rectory Room
Ecton W.I	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs G Harlott Tel: Northampton 405938 1st Tuesday in month 7.30 p.m in Rectory Room
Over 60's	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs E Welch Tel: Northampton 406163 Twice monthly on Monday's 2.30 p.m in Rectory Room
Youth Club & Senior Club	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs D Bray Tel: Northampton Y.C Monday 7.00-9.30 p.m S.C Tuesday 8.00 p.m at Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
Mums & Tots	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs J Lennon Tel: Northampton 410658 Every Thursday 2.30-4.00 p.m in Rectory Room
Playgroup	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs M Tinston Tel: Northampton 412233 Tuesday & Friday 9.15-11.45 a.m at Youth Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
Cricket Club	<u>Secretary</u>	Mr J Collip Tel: Northampton 405688
Brownies	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs T Fuller Tel: Northampton 403137
Bell Ringers	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs M Strange Tel: Northampton 409306

Over 60's Club

There will only be one meeting in March on the 13th. The A.G.M. is on the 3rd April.

We have two outings arranged on Thursday 18th May to Hampton on the Hill for lunch, leave the village at 10.00am, return 3.0pm. Inclusive cost is £5.

On Wednesday 28th June we go to Hunstanton. Leave at 9.30am return 7.0pm. Fare is £5.

Will anyone interested please contact Mrs Reynolds or Mrs Welch.

WHIST DRIVE

Thursday 16th March 7.30pm. Rectory Room.

Edna Welch.

Flower Rota

MARCH

4th - 18th LENT
no flowers

25th EASTER

APRIL

1st

2 people needed

8th Kathy Stears

15th Kathy Stears

22nd Miss.M.E.Gleave

29th Miss.M.E.Gleave

Cyril Easthaugh – just the Bishop we needed

by Basil Marsh
Arch Deacon of Northampton

There is to be a Memorial Service in the Cathedral on Saturday 25th February at 12 noon to recall and to thank God for Bishop Easthaugh's ministry to the diocese between 1961 and 1973.

Those were very much years of crisis, during which a diocese of quite small villages and only two sizeable urban centres was transformed by a doubling of its population and the large expansion of five of its towns. With a poor economic base worsened by the obliteration of the shoe industry, and no tradition of lay initiative, it was a bit like being required to make bricks without straw.

Cyril Easthaugh proved to be just the sort of Bishop the diocese needed at such a time. He created a large and resourceful team of clergy and laypeople and gave it real confidence and enthusiasm. He built what have proved to be enduring bridges between the diocese and other churches, and between the diocese and local authorities. But perhaps his greatest work was by sensitive and generous pastoral care to make the people of the diocese a loving and happy family. In this, he was wonderfully helped by Lady Laura. A great many people will always be grateful for their personal ministry.

We shall bring to the Cathedral on February 25th personal memories of kindnesses and inspiration we have had from Bishop Cyril; perhaps these will be the most enduring ones, and rightly so, for it was not by policies, strategy or tactics that we were enriched but by the quality and charisma of the man himself.

Sacristans Rota

MARCH

4th	Mrs Aveyard & Mrs Maud Dicks	(B)
11th	Mrs Cross & Mrs Mary Dicks	(A)
18th	-----do-----	(B)
25th	Mrs Treloar & Miss Gleave	(A)

APRIL

1st	Mrs Wilson & Mrs Willmott	(B)
8th	-----do-----	(A)

A Lenten meditation to challenge us all

One of my (I hope not very sinful) boasts is that someone doing the same job has lived on the site of my home since the year 900. Certainly, part of the house dates from 1200 and the last Abbot was the first Bishop so there has been this continuity. Because my predecessors were Benedictine Abbots, I have recently taken up reading the Rule of Saint Benedict, which would have been read daily by my predecessors and is still read in Benedictine monasteries all over the world.

Although it was written in the 6th Century parts of it are astonishingly up-to-date and I offer for Lent a piece of advice Benedict gives to the newly-appointed Abbot: "He should know that he ought to be of profit to his brethren rather than just preside over them."

May I suggest as a Lenten meditation that we consider, all of us, how we may be of profit to those around us. It is a strangely challenging and worrying thought.



Life is made up of comings and goings. A parent dies and a grandchild is born. So also with Bishops. We welcome Paul Barber and say farewell to Cyril Easthaugh – loved and remembered by so many. Although he was not of my Communion and I knew him for only a brief time, I recollect Frank Thomas, the Roman Catholic Bishop

of Northampton. A lovely and gracious man who by his presence brought a blessing to those of us from other Churches as well as his own.

May they rest in peace.



Many of you have told me what a splendid Christmas you had. Certainly, the fact that it fell on a Sunday seemed to bring a lot of blessings all round. Do you think that it would be a good idea if we followed up the suggestion of one or two clergy that we petition that Christmas might always be celebrated as a religious festival on a Sunday – as the original date was chosen haphazardly and is in no way scriptural? People have said to me that a Christmas Sunday would help housewives, work and the Churches. What do you think? Is it just a rash idea?

William.

SAFARI SUPPER

Talking to another priest recently who was asking for advice on how to organise a parish social and that is a parish 15 times larger than Ecton. I was conscious of how easy it is to take for granted the enormous fund of ability and willingness which exists in our own. We organise a Festival to raise thousands of pounds; a Safari Supper to help people to get to know each other better; a series of Lent discussion groups, almost as if we'd be doing it all our lives !. More importantly perhaps we've discovered one of the clues to the gospel "Christ speaks to the whole of our lives, in such a way that faith should be fun."

Thanks to the generosity of time and spirit by Sheila Ingram and Zara Hunwicks, we had another very enjoyable Safari Supper last month, the 6th since we begun and raised over £200 towards the Tower Restoration.

Ecton Fellowship

Our March meeting will take the form of an extended service for Lent. This will be on Tuesday March 14th at 2.30pm in the Rectory Room. The basis for the service will be the New form of Evensong.

All Ladies are welcome to join us.

Margaret Willmott

*A LITTLE BOY was asked to recite
Psalm 23. Either he did not know it at all
or he knew it very well. He said, 'The
Lord is my Shepherd . . . I'm not going
to worry!'*

DUTIES OF CHURCHWARDEN

At a recent meeting of the P.C.C. it was suggested that it would be helpful if the duties of Churchwarden be included in the magazine for the information of members. of the church and parish.

The Churchwardens are officers of the Bishop. They must discharge such duties as are assigned to them; they must be foremost in representing the laity in cooperating with the Rector; they must use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them.

Duties

The following list of duties is not exclusive. It includes the chief duties assigned by law and those usually assigned by custom.

As ex officio members of the Parochial Church Council, the Churchwardens must lead the Council in carrying out all duties.

As lay officers of the Bishop, the Churchwardens must answer to the Bishop or the Archdeacon as to the state of the parish, and inform him of any misconduct or neglect on the part of the incumbent.

The Churchwardens should see that the P.C.C. carries out its responsibilities for the care, maintenance and insurance of the fabric of the church, the goods and ornaments of the church and the fencing of the churchyard. The Churchwardens must keep a journal of repairs or alterations done to the church.

The Churchwardens are the 'owners' of the plate, ornaments, furniture and furnishings of the church, they must keep the inventory up to date. They should check all the items at least once a year to make sure that none has been lost. A certificate to this effect in the inventory should be signed at every Annual Church meeting, when a report should be made on the furnishings and fabric of the church. The Churchwardens should ensure that the valuable furnishings, alms boxes etc are secure against theft.

The Churchwardens are responsible for the Collection of alms and dues taken in the church (helped by the sidesmen) for the recording of the sums received in the church service register, for the safe keeping and proper disposal of the money. The Rector and Churchwardens must decide to whom the alms taken at the Holy Communion are given, and often take the initiative over other collections which are under the control of the P.C.C.

The Churchwardens must provide the bread and the wine for the services of the Holy Communion with the advice and the direction of the Rector and at the expense of the P.C.C.

When other clergymen and readers take services during the temporary absence of the Rector in sickness or on holiday; the Churchwardens should welcome and entertain them and make sure that they are duly licensed and are paid their fees and travelling expenses.

During a vacancy in the benefice the Churchwardens are usually but not necessarily, appointed as the Sequestrators who look after the benefice income, house and glebe and arrange for the pastoral care of the parish by visiting clergy and readers.

When a new appointment is being made to the benefice the Churchwardens have certain duties as representatives of the parish which are explained to them when the occasion arises.

The Churchwardens also have duties in connection with visitations by the Bishop or Archdeacon which are explained at the time.

David Dicks Churchwardens.
Henry Pinney

Extracted from a pamphlet published by Church Information Office.

Women's Institute

Mr Lweis Mcrae treated the February meeting to an insider's view of the isolated but never lonely life led by the families of Scottish lighthouse keepers. His father and grandfather were both keepers and although he did not follow in their footsteps, Mr Mcrae has continued a lifelong interest in the lighthouses of Scotland and the modern trend towards unmanned lights. He delighted his audience with a tour illustrated by slides around the rugged and beautiful Scottish coastline, finishing at the more familiar Northampton "lighthouse".

Competition winners for an "Unusual Seashell" were Mrs I Cartwright, Miss M Gleave and Mrs J Haycox.

It was good to see so many members and friends at the February meeting. Another interesting evening is promised on 7th March when Mrs Cochran MBE JP talks about "Being a Magistrate". The competition will be for the "Prettiest Wrapped Gift".

Carol Jones.

MARCH

- Thursday 2 9.30am Holy Communion
8.0pm Lent Service & Discussion
- Sunday 5 4th SUNDAY IN LENT
MOTHERING SUNDAY

9.30am Parish Communion with
Holy Baptism and Parade
Service
1 Peter 2. 1-10
John 19. 23-27
6.0pm Evensong
- Tuesday 7 7.30pm W.I.
- Thursday 9 9.30am Holy Communion
12.45pm Lent Service & Lunch
- Friday 10 8.0pm Lent Service & Discussion
- Sunday 12 5th SUNDAY IN LENT
9.30am Parish Communion
Exodus 6. 2-13
John 12. 20-32
6.0pm Evensong
- Tuesday 14 2.30pm Ecton Fellowship
- Thursday 16 9.30am Holy Communion
- Friday 17 12.45pm Lent Service & Lunch

Sunday 19 PALM SUNDAY

9.30am Procession & Parish

Communion

Jeremiah 7. 1-11

Luke 19. 29 to end.

6.0pm Evensong

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Monday 20 7.30pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 21 9.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 22 7.30pm Holy Communion

Thursday 23 MAUNDY THURSDAY

10.30am Renewal of Vows &
Blessing of Oils at
Christ the King, Millbrook

8.0pm Holy Communion of the Last
Supper

1 Cor 11. 23-29

John 13. 1-15

Followed by Vigil of Prayer
until Good Friday

Friday 24 GOOD FRIDAY

9.00am Ceremonies of the Day

10.30am Family Service

2.0pm Hour by the Cross

Saturday 25 10.00am Decoration of the Church

Sunday 26 EASTER DAY

9.30am Lighting of the Paschal
Candle. Renewal of
Baptismal Vows, Family
Communion

6.0pm Festal Evensong

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion
at 9.30am on each day in Easter Week.

APRIL

Sunday 2 1st SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

9.30am Parish Communion & Parade
Service

1 Peter 1. 3-9
John 21. 20 to end

6.0pm Evensong