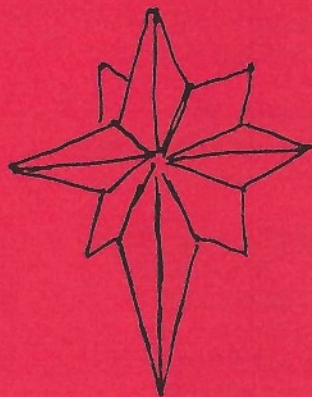


# ST MARY MAGDALENE ECTON

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**PARISH MAGAZINE**

**DEC/JAN 2003/04**

It costs 50 pence to produce this magazine  
Contributions towards its cost would be much appreciated

# PARISH AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

## BELL RINGERS

Contact: Dorothy Creed  
Tel: 01604 407864

## FELLOWSHIP

Contact: Joyce Orford  
Tel: 01604 414245  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in month  
2.30 pm Village Club

## CRICKET CLUB

Captain: Steve Wheatman  
Tel: 01604 401714

## ECTON VILLAGE CLUB

Contact: Tony Green  
Tel: 01604 407141  
Booking Clerks:  
Geoff & Millie Harlott  
Tel: 01604 405938

## MUMS & TOTS

Contact: Kate Kirton  
Tel: 01604 409809  
Most Wednesdays  
2 –4 pm Ecton Village Club  
Cost £1

## SHORT MAT BOWLS

Contact: Maurice Creed  
Tel: 01604 407864

## PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: David Dicks  
Tel: 01604 407145

## PRE-SCHOOL

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri,  
9.15 – 11.15 am  
Ecton Village Club  
Tel: 01604 784711

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Sheila Sayers  
Tel: 01604 409213

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Contact: Marlene Green  
Tel: 01604 407141  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in month  
7.30 pm Village Club

## YOUTH CLUB

Contact: Margaret Tinston  
Tel: 01604 412233  
Wednesday  
7-9pm Village Club



MAGAZINE EDITOR

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## PRIEST IN CHARGE

The Revd Jenny Parkin  
The Rectory  
West Street Ecton NN6 0QF  
Tel: 01604 416326

## CHURCHWARDEN

Walter Barty  
1 East Butterfield Court  
Northampton NN3 8JG  
Tel: 01604 642117

## CHURCHWARDEN

Marlene Green  
63 West Street  
Ecton NN6 0QS  
Tel: 01604 407141

## PCC SECRETARY

Gwenda Barty  
1 East Butterfield Court  
Northampton NN3 8JG  
Tel: 01604 642117

## PCC TREASURER

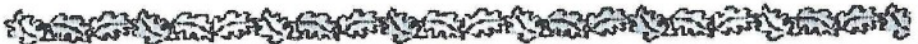
Angela Crabtree  
Barton Fields Cottage  
Ecton  
Tel: 01604 404777

## ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Mary Dicks  
Field House  
West Street, Ecton NN6 0QF  
Tel: 01604 407145

‘For unto us a child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon his shoulder.  
And his name will be called  
Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’

*Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)*



Copy for **February** Magazine to

## Christmas

Christmas! Angels, the crib, and carol singing! Peace on earth and goodwill! Surely that is the first thing that comes to mind when we hear the word Christmas.

But what we in fact experience at Christmas is often very different from such an idyllic image. The reality is often painful loneliness or a sharpening of family quarrels. We become tense. It is a time when peace is not in our homes. Even sending Christmas cards and buying presents frequently becomes an irritating burden.

Christmas becomes one round of tinsel, and bright lights, cash registers and credit cards, food and drink!

Have we slipped so far away from the original message of Christmas that we should do away with it? Or if we can't, just ignore it and go away on holiday – if possible to somewhere where there is no trace of Christmas?

Or should we try, amid all the bustle and commercialism to keep a place in our hearts for the child whose birthday we celebrate, even in a world where conflict and terrorism seem in danger of gaining the upper hand?

Isn't there something of the innocence and humility of that child, born as an outcast so long ago, yet destined to become the Saviour of the world, that we would like to recapture and hold on to and give to our children and grandchildren?

May the peace of the Christchild be yours this Christmas.

With love and prayers

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenny". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page.



**DAYLIGHT CENTRE**  
**20A Park Road**  
**Wellingborough**  
**Northants**  
**NN8 4PG. Tel. 01933: 270808**

Registered Charity Number 1043502

October 21<sup>st</sup> 2003

Ecton Parish Church

Dear Dorothy,

On behalf of everyone here at the Daylight Centre, thank you so much for your recent Harvest gifts. Would you please convey our appreciation to all our friends at Ecton Church to thank them for their generosity, and let them know how grateful we are for their support. Our finances are always under pressure as you know, and any contribution of groceries or money helps us enormously. The gifts that we receive at this time of year will provide the vast majority of our meals over the months of Winter and into next Spring. We will also help many people over Christmas with a bag of groceries on Christmas Eve.

We are still very busy here at the centre, and have become firmly established as a contact for all the other agencies in the area that work with vulnerable people. We see around forty people every day, and our support work has increased tremendously. We now have three more staff on board to help with the work load, so we count ourselves lucky that we have a strong and committed team, along with some wonderful volunteers and a lot of love and support from so many people right across the county.

We continue to pray that our plans for larger premises will help us to achieve our goals. Now that we have purchased a suitable site, we are busy raising funds before building work can begin so there is much to look forward to!

With our best wishes to everyone.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs.Linda Mitchell  
(Manager)

Ecton Church Diary  
December 2003/January 2004

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

9.00am

Holy Communion.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

7.30pm

Deanery Confirmation Service.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am

Second Sunday of Advent

Parish Communion: Baruch 5.1-9; Luke 1. 68-79; Philippians 1. 3-11; Luke 3. 1-6.  
Evensong.

6.00pm

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

9.00am

Holy Communion.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am

Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Communion: Zephaniah 3. 14-20; Isaiah 12. 2-6; Philippians 4. 4-7; Luke 3. 7-18.

3.30pm

Christingle Service.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

9.00am

Holy Communion.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December

9.30am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Parish Communion: Micah 5. 2-5a; Psalm 80. 1-7; Hebrews 10. 5-10; Luke 1. 39-45, (46-55).  
Carol Service.

6.00pm

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

9.00am

Holy Communion.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

3.30pm

Christmas Eve

Crib Service.

11.30pm

Midnight Mass.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am

Christmas Day

Parish Communion.

Ecton Church Diary  
December 2003/January 2004

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am

Holy Innocents

Parish Communion: Jeremiah 31. 15-17;  
Psalm 124; 1 Corinthians 1. 26-29;  
Matthew 2. 13-18.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am

Epiphany

Parish Communion: Isaiah 60. 1-6;  
Psalm 72 (1-9) 10-15; Ephesians 3. 1-12;  
Matthew 2. 1-12.  
Evensong.

6.00pm

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

9.00am

Holy Communion.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am

Baptism of Christ

Parish Communion: Isaiah 43. 1-7; Psalm  
29; Acts 8. 14-17; Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January

9.00am

Holy Communion.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Parish Communion: Isaiah 62. 1-5;  
Psalm 36. 5-10; 1 Corinthians 12. 1-11;  
John 2. 1-11.

6.00pm

Evensong.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January

9.00am

Holy Communion.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am

Conversion of Paul

Parish Communion: Jeremiah 1. 4-10;  
Psalm 67; Acts 9. 1-22; Matthew 19.  
27-end.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January

9.00am

Holy Communion.

## ITEMS FROM THE PCC.

1. ~~At~~ most people will have noticed the weather vane on the church tower has at last been replaced.
2. The PCC has had a number of complaints about dogs fouling the graves in the churchyard. Please keep dogs on the lead and always clean up after them.
3. We are looking for volunteers to help decorate the church for Christmas on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December. If you are able to help please contact Dorothy Creed on 01604 407864 who will be able to give you details. Donations towards the cost of flowers would also be appreciated.
4. Following the recent Stewardship campaign the number of responses has been encouraging. The situation is still being evaluated.
5. We have been invited by the printers of the "Enjoy Northamptonshire Visitors Guide" to submit a profile of Ecton Church, as they are anxious to promote the county churches. It has been agreed that we should do this.
6. The dates for various events, which are to take place in 2004, have been agreed as follows: -.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Church AGM</b>	Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00 p.m. after Evensong
<b>Patronal Festival</b>	Weekend 24 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup> July – various events being planned.	
<b>Fete</b>	Saturday, 11 <sup>th</sup> September	2.00 to 4.00 p.m.
<b>Harvest Festival</b>	Sunday, 28 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.

Further details will be available in due course.

7. It is proposed to hold Family Services on the following dates: -

Sunday, 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2004	10.30 a.m.
Friday, 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2004 (Good Friday)	10.30 a.m.
Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2004	10.30 a.m.
Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2004	10.30 a.m.
Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2004	10.30 a.m.
Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2004	10.30 a.m.

We welcome people of all ages to these Services.

8. The PCC would like to wish every one a Very Happy Christmas. Please come and join us at any of the Services over the festive season

Gwenda Barty  
Secretary to the PCC  
November 2003.

## **YOUR CHURCH AND VILLAGE MAGAZINE**

Needs a few volunteers to ensure its future.  
Could you be one of a small group working together assembling articles, designing layout, writing and encouraging others? It would be a combined effort.

If the answer is 'YES', please contact  
Anne 405942 or Jenny 416326.

# SAFARI SUPPER

We are hoping to arrange the next Safari Supper on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2004. This will depend upon the level of interest and offers of help we receive beforehand. The Supper will follow the usual pattern with a drinks party and canapés to begin the evening, moving on to different houses for the main course and dessert and meeting up again with everyone for cheese & biscuits and coffee. To ensure success we need help from anyone who is interested in the following ways:

Venue for the start of the evening for about 64 people

Venue for the end of the evening for about 64 people

Offers of help to cater for the drinks party with canapés for eight people

Offers of help to cater for the main course for eight people in their home

Offers of help to cater for the dessert course for eight people in their home

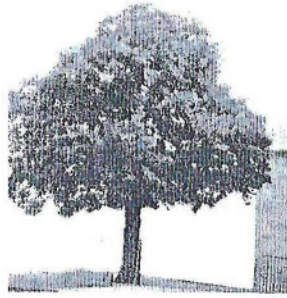
Help to serve coffee etc. at the end of the evening

Help to run the raffle

Prizes for the raffle

Proceeds this year will be mainly for the Village Hall Project as more funds are urgently needed to finish the scheme. £100 donation will be given to Macmillan Cancer Relief as well.

If you are interested in taking part please contact David and Mary Dicks 01604 407145



Ecton Village School  
West Street  
Ecton  
Northampton, NN6 0QF  
Headteacher Mrs Sayers  
Tel 01604 409213

We are accepting applications for  
places in Reception for September 2004.  
We also have vacancies in a few other  
years.

The school is now in the top 25% of all schools for Value  
Added Education.

What would have happened if there had actually been three wise women, rather than men?

They would have asked directions, arrived in time, helped deliver the baby, made a casserole, brought practical gifts – and there would have been Peace on Earth.

BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2003

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.

The Total collected in Ecton was

£385.11

Thanks also to the collectors:

Mike Baylis, Tony Haycox, Ken Jones, Vic Lester and Fred Wallis. Thanks also to the Three Horse Shoes and the Worlds End.

Sylvia Saunders

# **REGISTERED CHILDMINDER AVAILABLE IN ECTON**

**Full and Part Time Places Available**

**Collection/Delivery to  
School/Nursery Possible**

**Fun, Safe Country Environment**

**Reasonable Rates**

**Contact:  
Diane Boddington  
Tel: 01604 416815**

## **CHURCH LOTTERY OCTOBER 2003**

**1st Prize: P.Cross (149)  
2nd Prize: D.Allison (41)  
3rd Prize: J.Orford (122)  
4th Prize: M.Clark (141)  
5th Prize: A.Henderson (19)  
6th Prize: Mary Aveyard (183)**

**The First Prize was £42.50 and subsequent prizes £8.50.  
The next draw will be Thursday November 27th 2003**

## PRAYING TOGETHER

Please join us from 7.30pm - 8.30 pm

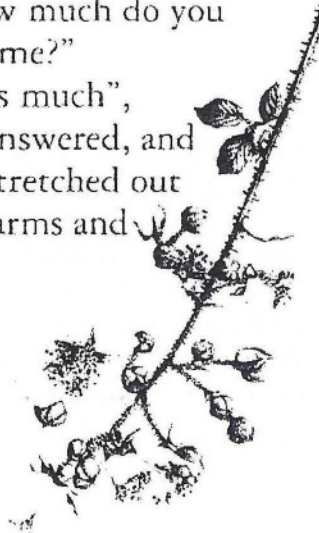
Tony and Margaret's - 3 The Courtyard on  
Wednesday 10th December

Dennis and Sylvia's - 76 Ecton Lane on  
Wednesday 8th January

Anne's - 48 High Street on  
Wednesday 12th February

Lifts can be arranged. Please ring 405942.

I asked Jesus  
"How much do you  
love me?"  
"This much",  
He answered, and  
He stretched out  
His arms and  
died





### THREE KINGS

Does Christmas seem to go too quickly? Well, Christmas doesn't really end until Twelfth Night, 6th January.

In the past all the 12 days of Christmas used to be celebrated with feasting and parties. January 6th is also the Feast of the Epiphany, which is the day on which the wise men, arrived at Bethlehem. At Christmas we sang about Three Kings but we don't really know who they were, kings or wise men or where they came from - you can check the details in St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 2. We do know that they brought very expensive gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for Jesus, not the usual things that you would give to a small baby. The gifts have a special meaning: gold is for

a king; frankincense (sweet smelling incense) is for God and myrrh (used to prepare bodies for burial) for mortal man.

### GOLDEN ANSWERS

All the answers to this quiz begin with the letters GOLD (well, I couldn't find any words that began with frankincense or myrrh). Answers at the bottom of the page. Can you say which GOLD is...

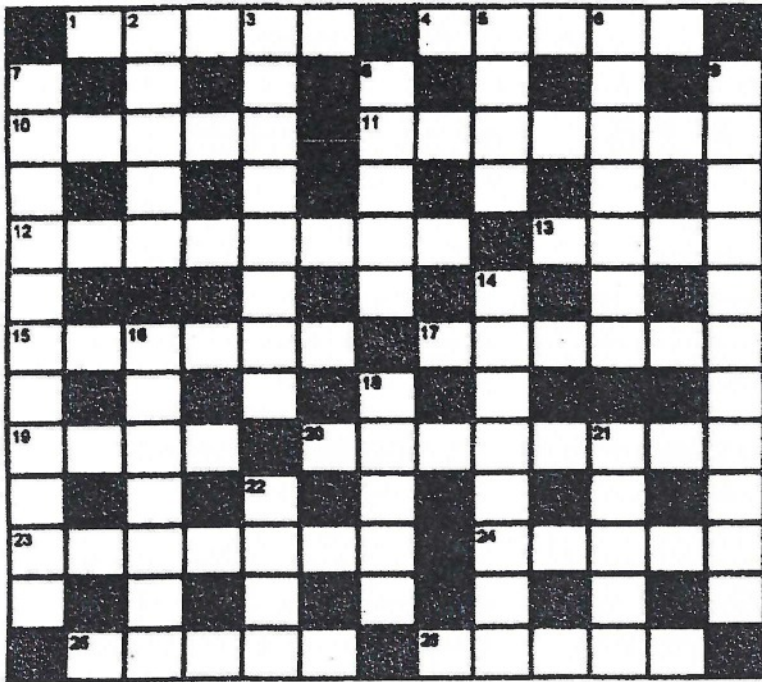
1. A small bird?
2. Kept in an aquarium?
3. Made from sugar and used in cooking?
4. A source of wealth?
5. A tall yellow flower?
6. Ate the three bears' porridge?
7. Won by a winner at the Olympics?
8. A 50th wedding anniversary?

What do you call a camel that's got three humps?  
Humphrey.

Who rides a camel and carries a lamp?

Answers: 1. gold finch 2. goldfish 3. golden syrup 4. goldmine 5. golden rod 6. goldilocks 7. gold medal 8. golden wedding

# Christmas Crossword



## Across

- 1 A host of these appeared at Christmas (5)  
 4 The playing of the merry ....., sweet singing in the choir (5)  
 10 To fill with joy (5)  
 11 One of twelve disciples of Jesus (7)  
 12 Light opera, often with spoken dialogue (8)  
 13 Christmas present (4)  
 15 Two are worn by reindeer (6)  
 17 Season before Christmas (6)  
 19 At a white Christmas, roads may be .... (4)  
 20 A religious feast (8)  
 23 Based on inherent moral sense (7)  
 24 Weird (5)

- 25 Special Christmas meal (5)  
 26 Oxen and ..... surrounded the manger (5)

## Down

- 2 Author of words of Good King Wenceslas (5)  
 3 First name of Mr Scrooge (8)  
 5 There was no .... At the inn (4)  
 6 With legs on each side (7)  
 7 You put these up at Christmas (11)  
 8 St Nicholas (5)  
 9 Total abstinence from alcohol (11)  
 14 Lady editor (8)  
 16 A frame supporting a table (7)  
 18 Three wise men found a ..... born baby (5)  
 21 Carol stanza ..... (5)  
 22 Plant with large showy flowers (4)



# CLEAN Campaign for Lower Ecton Action Now

Chairman: Jim Crabtree  
1 Barton Fields  
ECTON  
Northamptonshire  
NN6 0BF

Phone: 01604 404777  
Fax: 01604 416406  
Email: [angela-jim@beeb.net](mailto:angela-jim@beeb.net)

## CLEAN Progress Report Number 4 Covering the period 1st October 2003 to the 23rd November 2003

### General Situation

Northampton Borough Council (NBC) and Wellingborough Borough Council (WBC) have continued to clean the lane each working day in rotation. This has meant that any fly tipping has generally been cleared within 24 hours.

### Major Actions & Achievements to date.

1. CLEAN participated in a survey of Lower Ecton Lane on 8th October with the Environmental Agency, NBC, WBC and the Police. This identified areas for improvements which would improve the situation in the Lane and inhibit future fly tippers.
2. CLEAN addressed the NCC Cabinet on 28th October 2003, with our comments on modifications to the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's).
3. A further meeting took place on 14th November 2003, with all the agencies i.e. Northampton County Council (NCC), Northampton Borough Council (NBC), Wellingborough Borough Council (WBC), the Environment Agency, Paul Stinchcombe, the Police, our Local Councillor and CLEAN. The meeting agreed a number of actions to be followed up and implemented subject to finance being available.
4. A major CLEAN fundraising Auction Evening was held on 8th November. CLEAN particularly wish to thank Moira Clark and Andy Bryan for hosting the event, together with Colin & Margaret Tinston who organised the event and so generously donated the food and wine. Also all who provided the exciting auction items and all who participated in making the evening so successful, including Denise and Andrew Cowling from Merry's Auction House.
5. Contacts continue to be forged with other organisations in the area that have similar objectives or interests to CLEAN.

### Major Actions for the next period.

1. Hold a follow up meeting with the various agencies involved ensuring agreed actions are progressed.
2. Continue to ensure any fly tipping is cleared as promised by the councils.
3. Continue with making contacts with organisations in the area that have the same objectives.
4. Continue to promote CLEAN and raise the awareness of our campaign.

**Please report any incidents of fly tipping to: 01604 838281  
or 0800 807060.**



CLEAN



## DAYLIGHT CENTRE

20A Park Road, Wellingborough, Northants. NN8 4PG

Telephone 01933-270808

Registered Charity No 1043502

1.10.03

Mrs. Creed

Dear Friend

I am writing on behalf of the trustees of the **DAYLIGHT CENTRE** to thank you for your recent generous donation. £280

We are grateful for all the help and support we receive, which enables us to continue to offer a much-needed service to the homeless in Wellingborough.

Since our opening in December 1994 the number of clients using the Centre's facilities has steadily grown and the need for financial support remains if we are to continue to provide and improve those facilities.

Once again, many thanks for your help.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Ogden  
Finance Manager

Ecton Church  
"Harvest Supper"

# BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH



YOU MUST  
**CLEAN IT UP!**

DOG FOULING IS A HEALTH HAZARD

## WHO WAS GOOD KING WENCESLAS?



*Although Wenceslas is only known to most people as the subject of a 19th-century carol, he was in fact a real king who reigned in Bohemia a thousand years earlier. He became (and still is) patron saint of what is now the Czech Republic.*

Being a duke or a king in the tenth century was a dangerous occupation, as people after power would go to any lengths to get it. And they might be your nearest and dearest. Wenceslas was raised as a Christian by his grandmother Ludmila, but his ambitious mother Dragomir, who was a pagan, had her murdered and acted as regent until the young Wenceslas came of age. Meanwhile, according to the records, the young duke was pious and gained a reputation for good works that is recalled in our carol.

When Wenceslas I came to the throne (there were several successors with the same name), he sought to end the conflict between Christians and non-Christians in Bohemia and encouraged the work of German missionaries in his domain. In the year 929, when Wenceslas was only 22 years old, there was a German invasion of Bohemia and he came to an arrangement with the German king to end the war.

This angered some of the Bohemian nobles, who prompted Boleslav, the younger brother of Wenceslas, to get him killed. On his way to Mass, Wenceslas was murdered at the church door. The people were outraged and regarded the martyred king as a saint.

Later, his remains were moved to the Church of St Vitus in Prague, which remains a site of pilgrimage to this day.

**PHILIP BARRON**



## THE ECTON FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting is on Tuesday January 13th at 2.30pm onwards.

We are meeting at **40. High Street** for a New Year chat and a cuppa!

The Christmas Party had to be cancelled as the Village Club will still be involved with builders at work.

Joan Dickins

### ECTON W.I. November Meeting

We are delighted that as we will be unable to meet at the Village Club due to the refurbishment, we are able to use Tony Haycox's Hovel for our November and December meetings.

Mr.D.Larkin from Wellingborough came to our November meeting and gave us a delightful evening of slides of Northamptonshire Wild Life. We were able to relax in the comfort of the "Hovel" listening to a tape of bird song and music and watch some of the most stunning photographs we had ever seen.

Next month's meeting will be the Christmas Party. At great expense a troop of amazing entertainers have been booked for the event.

## ECTON BOWLS CLUB.

**On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October, a team of 12 from Ecton Bowls Club played a friendly match against Cogenhoe.**

**The 3 teams of 4 per team were pitted against seasoned opponents.**

**The match was played over 16 ends and was keenly fought and Cogenhoe won by 11 points (2 mats to 1). Following the match we enjoyed supper with our hosts.**

**Ecton players were:**

**Geoff and Millie Harlott**

**Peter and Margaret Scott**

**Ken and Barbara Jones**

**Maurice and Dorothy Creed**

**Freda Richards**

**Shirley Cart**

**Jane Wiggins**

**Tony Green.**

## COGENHOE GALA DAY.

**Cogenhoe Gala took place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and Ecton entered a team consisting of Geoff Harlott, Dorothy Creed, Tony Green and Maurice Creed .We played 4 matches, each lasting 55 minutes, in the Round Robin section of the day.**

**Unfortunately, we did not accumulate enough points to reach the final stages but we all had a very enjoyable day. We hope to take part in their next Gala , due to be held in March next year.**

# **ECTON LUNCH CLUB**

and anyone else who would like to join us!

## **CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCH**

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 12 – 2pm**  
**THE OLD CHAPEL, WEST STREET**

You are invited to a get-together  
to celebrate the festive season.

There will be a raffle and a bring-and-buy table  
to boost our fund to help with the refurbishment  
of the Village Hall.

There will be no set charge but please be generous  
with donations.

If you have any ideas  
or would like to help in any way  
please contact Sheila Ingram on 406038.

## ECTON CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

6 December	Purple	A
13 December	Pink	B
20 December	Yellow	A
27 December	Blue	B
3 January	Green	A
10 January	Orange	B
17 January	Red	A
24 January	Purple	B
31 January	Pink	A

## BRASS CLEANING

6 December	Angela/Rita
3 January	Walter/Gwenda

## COFFEE ROTA

7 December	Pat Baylis/Christine Murray
14 December	M Weddle/A Henderson
21 December	Jean Leigh/Joy Wilson
28 December	Dorothy Creed/Fiona Major
4 January	Nick & Mary Greene
11 January	Angela Crabtree/Millie Harlott
18 January	Rita Ward/Angela Allen
25 January	Marion Gleave/Joyce Orford

## “TRAI DCRAFT”

Thanks all those who support and purchase the goods it provides.

Ecton's Traidcraft Stall is one of a group of 10 - mainly villages in this area.

The 'selling' has been so well supported that this group has raised the most money in the Country.

Because this achievement is so good the organizer has been asked to go and tell Head Office how this group - of which we are one - is so successful.

### **BEWARE!**

This means you may be mixing with tax-collectors, sinners, adulterers, hypocrites, *Greeks, Jews, women as well as men, female and male priests, homosexuals, lesbians, the disabled, dying thieves and other sinners; even black people, Asians, and other ethnic minorities, Muslims, Bishops, bigots, peoples of other faiths, strangers from Rome and Nigeria, heretics, etc, etc*

-even you, dear guest are most welcome,  
in fact anyone like those who Jesus mixed with.

So beware, this is not a private club.

### **WELCOME TO ALL!**

A notice observed recently at a Church in London.



## **CLEAN Campaign for Lower Ecton Action Now**

Chairman: Mr J Crabtree  
1 Barton Fields  
ECTON  
Northamptonshire  
NN6 0BF

Phone: 01604 404777  
Fax: 01604 416406  
Email: angela-jim@beeb.net

### **CLEAN Fundraising Evening**

On behalf of the Campaign for Lower Ecton Action Now I would like to say a big "thank you" to everyone who contributed in any way to the recent CLEAN Fundraising Evening. It was a most successful event as far as fundraising goes – but also it was a very enjoyable evening for all who attended.

Thanks in particular to Andrew and Moira Clark for hosting the event and to Colin and Margaret Tinston for their generous provision of wine and food. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the evening to make sure we had a successful event.

I would also like to thank everyone who provided the excellent and imaginative auction items. As all who were there will attest, we raised some fabulous amounts for each and every lot. Thanks too to Andrew and Denise Cowling of Merrys Auction House for their professional handling of the Auction.

Adrian Pulford  
CLEAN



**CLEAN**

**A FEW THINGS THAT MEN  
WOULD LIKE WOMEN TO UNDERSTAND.**

**Learn to work the toilet seat. You're a big girl. If it's up, put it down. We need it up, you need it down. You don't hear us bitching about you leaving it down.**

**When we have to go somewhere, absolutely anything you wear is fine. Really.**

**Ask for what you want. Let us be clear on this one...Subtle hints do not work! Strong hints do not work! Obvious hints do not work! Just say it!**

**Most men own three pairs of shoes - tops. What makes you think we'd be any good at choosing which pair, out of thirty, would look good with your dress?**

**Any thing we said 6 months ago is inadmissible in an argument. In fact, all comments become null and void after 7 days.**

**If you think you are fat, you probably are. Don't ask us. We refuse to answer.**

**Whenever possible, please say whatever you have to say during the commercials.**

**If something we said can be interpreted two ways, and one of the ways makes you sad or angry, we meant the other one.**

**If you ask a question you don't want an answer to, expect an answer you don't want to hear.**

**You have enough clothes.**

**You have too many shoes.**

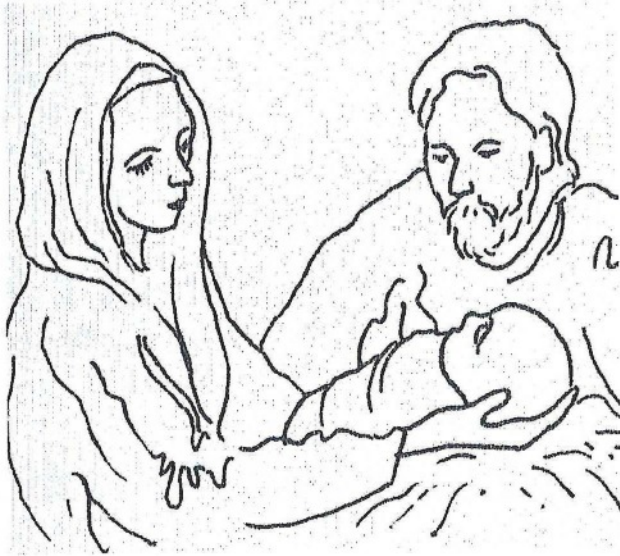
**Youth Club**  
**Christmas Disco**

**Wednesday**  
**10th December**  
**6.30-8.00pm**

**At**  
**The World's End Pub**  
**In The Cellar Bar**  
**Cost 50p**



*the World's End*



Christmas Christ, what have we done to you?

You came in poverty, but we have turned Christmas into a shopping spree.

You surprised the world by your coming, but we make it a routine, year after year.

You summoned shepherds and foreigners to your celebration, but we often keep it to our families and friends.

You take enormous risks to be with us, but we are obsessed with our own comfort and joy. You come with a message of peace, upsetting the proud, encouraging the weak, but we hope that things will go on as usual.

Inspire us this Christmas, so that we appreciate afresh the meaning of your coming, transforming our individual lives and communities into signs of your active reign among us.

Let forgiveness be your Christmas gift to us, and new commitment be our Christmas gift to you.

By David Jenkins (URC Church)

"SUPPER & SONG"

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this a successful fund raising evening.

We raised £500 for the Village Hall funds.

Brian Saunders



Mother and Toddler Group

Every Wednesday

2-3.15pm

At The Village Hall

Just turn up and join us for a tea  
or coffee and a chat.

Contact M Tinston 412233

## A Prayer

Every single evening as I'm lying here in bed  
This tiny little prayer keeps running through my head.  
God bless all my family, wherever they may be,  
Keep them warm and safe from harm  
For they're so close to me.  
And God, there is one more thing I wish that you could do.  
Hope you don't mind me asking, bless my computer too.  
Now I know that it's not normal to bless a mother board,  
But listen just a second while I explain to you 'My Lord'.  
You see, that little metal box holds more than odds & ends  
Inside those small compartments rest so many of my FRIENDS.  
I know so much about them by the kindness that they give  
And this little scrap of metal takes me in to where they live.  
By faith is how I know them much the same as you  
We share in what life brings us and from that our friendship grew.  
Please, take an extra minute from your duties up above  
To bless those in my address book that's filled with so much love!  
Wherever else this prayer may reach to each and every friend,  
Bless each e-mail Inbox and the person who hits Send.  
When you update your heavenly list on your own CD-Rom  
Remember each who've said this prayer  
Sent up to God.Com. Amen.

## THE WINTER ACONITE FAIRY

Deep in the earth, I stirred  
I said "Is that the Spring I heard?"  
For something called.  
"No, no" they said "Go back to bed.  
You are far too soon  
The world's too cold for one so small", so I was told.  
But how could I go back to sleep?  
I could not wait, I had to peep.  
Up, up, I climbed, and here am I  
How wide the earth! How great the sky!  
O waiting world, see me awake!  
Spring calls and wakes 'tis no mistake.

**'LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM'**

***In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. this was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.***

***Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)***