

ECTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS



FEBRUARY 1990

ECTON CHURCH DIRECTORY

PASTORAL CARE (during interregnum) The Reverend Michael Webber
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Children's Church

Contacts

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Mrs Gwen Douglas Tel: 42442
Miss Trudi Wright Tel: 405336

Every Sunday (except Parade Service
Sunday) 9.30 a.m in Rectory Room

A MESSAGE FOR FEBRUARY FROM CANON CROWE

DEAR FRIENDS AT ECTON

Looking through last month's magazine and seeing the articles that were contributed and seeing the names underneath I know that I am beginning to recognise them and be able to put names to faces. I will try to continue to do this so please keep telling me your names. I think it is important and adds to the warmth and depth of our worship and work during the interregnum. Our names are our Christian names and are there to be used in the fellowship we share with Christ and each other.

I had the privilege of taking Holy Communion to some of the house-bound at Christmas and I hope to do this again at beginning of Lent. I know they were pleased to see me and I enjoyed being with them but do remember that pastoral visiting is not only for priests. The laity especially during a vacancy in a parish, should be aware of those who are house-bound and ensure that the fellowship of Christ and His Church is taken into their homes. It doesn't need to be a particularly pious or churchy visit but it will mean a great deal to folk who are living restricted lives.

The theme of our services from the beginning of February will be encouraging us to deepen our understanding of Christ and His work and Ministry and we shall be reminded that as members of His Church, The Body of Christ, we are challenged to share His Ministry. At the end of February we have Ash Wednesday on the 28th and our thoughts and prayers move towards Christ and His Kingdom and His redeeming work. Lent is a time for discipline and obedience to fit us to share in Christ's passion and suffering that we may also share in His Resurrection and the joy of new life which we shall celebrate at Easter. To take seriously

the structure of our Christian year is to provide ourselves with equipment for spiritual growth and understanding of the joys and privileges and responsibilities and duties of the Christian Life. I shall look forward to sharing this with you Sunday by Sunday.

Yours sincerely in Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman Crowe". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Norman Crowe

PCC REPORT

At a meeting of the PCC held on Wednesday, 13th December, the main items discussed were as follows:

Pathfinders. Mary Strange announced the formation of the new group for 10-15 year olds which will meet on Sunday Evenings starting on 14th January. The meeting agreed to set aside £100 to help fund the group in its first year.

Interregnum. There has been little positive progress in finding a new incumbent. However, everything possible is being done to find a suitable candidate as quickly as possible.

Choir Robes. The PCC approved plans to replace the existing choir robes at an estimated cost of £700. It is hoped that the new robes will be available at Easter.

Church Cleaning. It was stressed that there was a need for more volunteers to help with this task.

PARISH NOTES

Carol Singing thank you to all those intrepid souls who supported our Carol Singing this year. As a result of the generous giving by the village and the patrons of the World's End and Three Horse Shoes we raised the magnificent sum of £176.24 which has been given to the Great Ormond Street Hospital Wishing Well Appeal.

Church Decorations We were blessed with a wonderful display of flowers in the church at Christmas and our thanks go out to the ladies who spent so much time in arranging them so beautifully. Our thanks also go to Geoff Harlott and David Wilson for trimming the Christmas Tree.

Christmas Services We are indebted to the services of Canon Crowe, John Evans and Jim Richardson for leading our Christmas Services.

Ethiopian Disaster Appeal The retiring collection during Christmas services raised £35 for the fund.

Christian Viewpoint This is a new column appearing in this months magazine for the first time. I hope it will become a regular feature in the coming months. Being a Christian means different things to different people and through this column it is our aim to help stimulate thoughts and ideas which will help others to develop their own Christian living to the full. Why not come to House Group to add your views and thoughts?

Marti Stear

Women's Institute

Our WI year ended on a musical note, with "Songs from the Shows" - beautifully sung, and acted, by Margaret Hobley and friends. "Shall we Dance?" sang an artiste, and "Why Not?" asked Mrs Gibson - but alas, after the scrumptious buffet put on by the Committee nobody had the inclination. It was truly an evening to be savoured. The Mince Pie competition was won by Marion, Denise and Sue. (The Best Buffet of 1989 was definitely by the Committee.)

The New Year programme began with the accent again on food. This time another expert, Mr T Chubb, spoke humorously about recipes and anecdotes collected on his world wide travels. Mrs Harlott, Mrs Cross and Miss MacQuire won the Best Foreign Recipe competition.

We have an arresting subject on February 6th, when PC Marks tells about "Life in the Police Force" (The Competition at the meeting). Do please join us for this and future meetings during the year - we can promise a programme full of variety and interest.

A Happy New Year to all from the WI - on behalf of our regular correspondent, currently seeing it in across the border (Haste Ye Back, Carol).

J Knight

COPY FOR THE MARCH MAGAZINE

Should be delivered to Ecton House by 18th February 1990.

Enquiries: Telephone Northampton 407888



CHRISTIAN VIEW POINT

TO PRAY OR NOT TO PRAY?

Why pray? Is it necessary? Christians look to Jesus Christ and find he prayed often, especially in the early morning and sometimes all night. Jesus knew how to avail himself of the resources of the Heavenly Father and he had power at his command. Lack of prayer results in lack of power and instead of triumph we have failure and lay the blame anywhere but on ourselves.

Prayer is difficult. The forces of evil continually plot our downfall and this coupled with our natural laziness means we have to persevere. St Paul speaks of "striving" in prayer (Mk 1.V.35 Lk 6.v.12 Heb 5.v.7 Lk 5.v.16 LK 9.vs.2-8 M 6.vs.4-5)

Where should we pray? God is available any time when we are in any place but we can benefit from regular times. It is not always practical to go to Lingswood, Berrydale Lake or Barton Fields early in the morning to get away from distractions but we are told to go to our room and shut the door. Maybe we shall have to have a training session so the door stays shut to eliminate "Mum! Can't find my clean socks: Dad will you pick me up tonight?" or from the Wife "Darling, what about some more housekeeping? The Smith's are coming to Dinner".

How shall we start to pray? Some feel to get right with God has priority. Confession and repentance must come first, not easy to overcome our pride and admit what has come between us and God. We may not have broken one of the 10 Commandments (apart from the first!) More likely our sins come under the love-your-neighbour heading, the kindness left undone, the hurtful word, the scathing look, the small dishonest act that doesn't seem to matter, etc.

Having cleared the air we can now worship the Lord as is his right. The dictionary definition of worship is reverence, devotion, intense love, admiration. As we contemplate or meditate on some wonder of creation, let us acknowledge God in his might and power and our mouths shall show forth his praise.

Thanksgiving follows naturally, thanks for the delights of creation, for our senses by which we enjoy them, for daily blessings of family and home and for answered prayer.

Then should we not give daily thanks for the greatest gift of all?

"God so loved the World that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

After worship we come to intercession

"God bless Tom"

All right we've said a prayer for Tom, but what does Tom need? Help to overcome a temptation? Guidance to make a decision? Comfort in a loss? Healing and health? Wisdom? A Job? If we are to pray for Tom effectively we need to talk to God precisely and meaningfully.

Lastly ourselves. What do we need most? Grace to mature in faith? Grace to overcome our recurring failures? Strength to persevere? (Make your own list!)

The real test of maturity comes now - how long should we spend in "Being still and knowing He is God"? How long compared with the time taken on the rest of prayer time? How well can we listen dismissing earthly intrusions and bringing the mind back to our Heavenly Father? A challenge indeed for all of us.

LENT MEETINGS

How time seems to fly by! We only just seem to have celebrated Christmas and Epiphany and now it's time to start thinking about Lent.

As we don't have an incumbent we won't be starting each meeting with Holy Communion. We are however going to have our usual weekly discussion.

Each meeting will start at 8.00 p.m. and will always include a light supper of soup and cheese or similar.

We will have a list in church nearer to the start of Lent to get some idea of how many people want to join in and more details in next month's magazine about the format of each meeting.

Here are the dates and venues so that you can slot them in to your diary now - before it becomes too full!

Tuesday
6th March 4 Barton Fields, Ecton

Wednesday
14th March 58 Ecton Lane, Sywell.

Thursday
22nd March 17 Huntsmead, Berrydale

Wednesday
28th March 8 Berrydale

Friday
6th April 34 West Street, Ecton

Mary Strange

Ecton Fellowship

The Ecton Fellowship next meets on Tuesday,
February 13th at 2.30 p.m.

A talk will be given by a member of the
Citizens Advice Bureau. This is a charitable
organization.

We hope that as many people as possible will
come and share a very interesting afternoon
with us.

Over 60's Club

Our Christmas Dinner took place at Ecton House
and we were entertained by Cliff Billings and
friends. A good evening was enjoyed by 36
members.

We also held a Christmas Whist Drive.

The meetings for February are on 12th and
26th.

WHIST DRIVE March 15th at 7.30pm

READERS DIARY

FEBRUARY

4th	Martin Stears
11th	Mavis Patten
18th	Richard Mayne
25th	Howard Carter

MARCH

4th	Nick Green
11th	Paddy MacQuire

Ecton Village Playgroup

We would like to thank you for supporting our Christmas Fayre. We raised £160.00 for our funds. The children enjoyed the Christmas party and would like to thank Mrs. Welch for her present. Our thanks also go to Mr. Luddington and Richard for their help.

We now have 15 children attending playgroup, and 3 more starting after Easter. It gives us great pleasure to see so many children and families benefitting from our Playgroup.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Pub Sports; Fri 2 March The Three Horseshoes.
Tickets; £2.00

Jumble Sale; Sat 24 March Earls Barton

Beetle Drive; Sat 28 April Rectory Room

We would be grateful for any jumble. If you would like someone to collect it please let me know.

Jan lennon - 410658



Cleaning Rota

FEBRUARY

3rd	Mrs Harlott and Mrs Wright	(R)
10th	Alice and Wynne	(L)
17th	Mrs Wilson and Mrs Austin	(R)
24th	Mrs Robinson and Mrs Haycox	(L)

MARCH

3rd	Mrs L Johnson and Mrs Richards	(R)
10th	Mrs Baylis and Mrs Stears	(L)

Sacristans Rota

FEBRUARY

3rd	Mrs Treloar and Miss Gleave	(B)
10th	Mrs Baylis and Mrs Stears	(A)
17th	Mrs Baylis and Mrs Stears	(B)
24th	Mrs Cross and Mrs Dicks	(A)

MARCH

3rd	Mrs Cross and Mrs Dicks	(B)
10th	Mrs Treloar and Miss Gleave	(A)

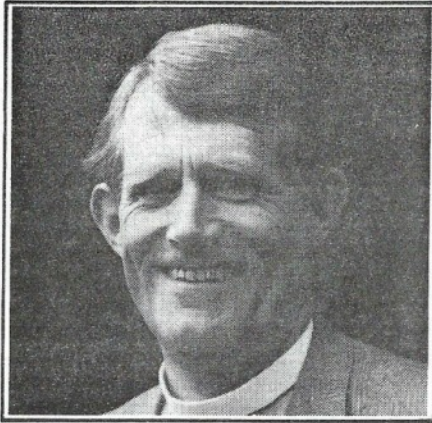
Flower Rota

FEBRUARY

3rd	Ingrid Cartwright
10th	Kathy Stears
17th	Kathy Stears
24th	Mrs Stears

MARCH

3rd	No Flowers required
10th	in Lent



Driving regularly between Northampton and Peterborough these last nine months, I have grown used to the gradients and corners of Ringstead and Denford and to getting caught up in the often congested streets of Thrapston.

From the end of October though, all has been changed. The new 3½ mile by-pass has opened and the familiar journey time has been reduced by ten minutes or so.

Yet, for all that I appreciate this easing of the journey by the coming of the new road, I have grown to appreciate the beauty and character of the places that I shall now be by-passing. The churches with their familiar spires, the stretch of river with the ducks and swans feeding, the friendly garage where they still have time to put the petrol in for you, the bustle of busy Thrapston on a summer morning. All these things I shall miss, as I drive along the new anonymous highway that could be anywhere.

As I thought about my new and speedier route, it struck me that here was some kind of parallel with our observation of Christmas, or lack of it.

People today are often heard speaking about the pains and pressures of having to live "in the fast lane", pushing and shoving as they strive for larger profits, a higher standard of living, whilst struggling to cope with spiralling

AWAY FROM THE FAST LANE FRENZY

mortgage repayments and travel costs. Endeavouring too to hold at bay the subtle "come-ons" of that colour supplement dream world which suggests that conspicuous consumption has to be our accepted wisdom.

If we are in any way caught up in this fast lane frenzy, we are likely to by-pass much in life that is of deep and lasting value, like the truth of Christmas which, in the ugly modern jargon, has been marginalised.

There is nothing new about that, for at the unchanging heart of the Christmas story there lies a tiny child, Jesus, born on the margins of life in poverty, obscurity and danger.

From that hazardous beginning, and all that came later, He exercises still a potent influence for good. We would do ourselves a huge favour this Christmas by refusing to by-pass the babe of Bethlehem and by taking time away from whatever fast lane we are in to open ourselves in wonder and worship to the new born King. I am helped in this exercise by some words of an unknown poet of the fifteenth century which I would like to share with you.

"Thou shalt know Him when He comes,
Not by any din of drums,
Nor the vantage of his airs,
Nor by anything he wears,
Neither by his crown,
Nor his gown -
For his presence known shall be
By the holy harmony
That his coming makes in thee."

The First Five Years

Five years ago this month Bishop William Westwood was enthroned as the Bishop of Peterborough. Since then he has met thousands of people in parishes throughout the diocese . . .



. . . preached before the Queen on the Cathedral's 750th anniversary . . .



. . . secured for the diocese a badly needed suffragan bishop . . .

. . . and ordained, instituted and licensed scores of clergy.



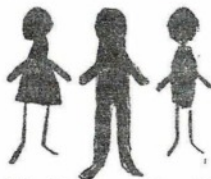
Ecton Youth Club

Our raffle was drawn at the Christmas Lunch Club which raised £114.00 thanks go to Mrs Sue Darwin and everyone else for their support.

Mrs Doreen Bray has retired from Lunch Club from which she will be sadly missed. It was her idea in the first place and has been running for four years now. We had a collection for her and she has a cut glass vase and swan to remember our happy days together.

The Youth Club meet on Wednesday at 7.00 p.m. and our next Lunch Club will be on Wednesday, 28th February.

Mary Beesley



The Children's Society

MAKING LIVES WORTH LIVING

A Voluntary Society of the Church of England and the Church in Wales.

Many thanks to all of you who supported the Children's Society Mince Pies and Coffee Morning on 23rd November. Thank you very much, indeed, for all the helping hands and for the many and generous donations - all of which made it possible to raise £118.80.

The Children's Society money boxes brought in £282.64 thus making a grand total of £401.44. Thank you each and every one of you for your marvellous support.

The Christingle Service collection amounted to £62.30 and was also donated to the Society.

Unfortunately, one money box was handed in with no name or address on it, so if there is anybody out there wondering where this box has got to, please contact me on Northampton 415806 or see me in Church.

Should there be anybody reading this who is not quite familiar with the Children's Society, I should just like to mention briefly what they work and aim for. It is a Christian organisation which exists to work for children and young people:

- * to help them grow in their families and communities;
- * to help them take charge of their own lives;
- * to help them change the conditions that stand in their way.

The Society runs:

44 family and neighbourhood centres working with children and their families in the local community.

23 centres for young people with handicaps, offering either residence in ordinary houses or support to their families.

20 residential centres for children in care or young people preparing for independence

- and many, many more projects.

On behalf of the Children's Society I would like to thank you for your generous support and wish you all a Happy New Year.

Ingrid Cartwright



PATHFINDERS



I am pleased to report that we have started up a Sunday Evening group for youngsters aged 10-15 and that this has been affiliated to the nationwide fellowship of Pathfinder Groups.

This is an extract from the information leaflet on Pathfinders which I think clearly describes our aims:

"Pathfinders is not a separate youth organisation but seeks, as a group within the local church, to provide accurate biblical teaching and learning for this age group. Within this context the care of individual members is a clear priority. This work with young people is vital in days when many children are lost to the church..."

Our first meeting was on 14th January and we meet each Sunday evening from 7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. in Ecton House. Any youngster between the ages of 10 to 15 is welcome to join so do come along if you are interested - the sub is 50p a week. Part of our time is for coffee (or other drink), biscuits and a chat so that we all get to know each other, part is spent in worship and part in learning together about Christ and how He affects our lives now.

If you've got any questions why not speak to:

Mary Strange, 4 Barton Fields, Ecton
Richard Mayne, Assistant Warden at Ecton House
Kathy Stears, 10 Lady Winifred's Walk, Great
Billing
Graham Jordan, Pear Tree Cottage, Church Way,
Ecton

If you are between 10 to 15 we look forward to seeing you. If you would like to be a leader please come along. If you are neither then please remember in your prayers the leaders, helpers and youngsters.

Thank you.

Mary Strange



From The Collection Plate

NOVEMBER

19th	£177.36
26th	£195.20

DECEMBER

3rd	£209.08
10th	£197.00
17th	£210.05
24th	£318.14
25th	£ 46.40
31st	£161.45

JANUARY

7th	£184.00
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STANDING - WAITING - 1990

"For what is our end but to reach the kingdom which has no end" - St Augustine.

Last Summer I was asked to talk for 5-10 minutes to a group on a spirituality course on "How do I stand before God?" - Standing - waiting - listening. Thinking about this question I feel that I should also ask "How does God stand before me?" Standing - waiting - listening to my response.

At the beginning of a New Year it is perhaps the right time to look back and see how much more we have come to know about God and his concern for us and to look forward with expectation and anticipation for a deeper awareness and a richer relationship with Him.

God doesn't change - He is the constant loving God who knows all, sees all, and treats all of us equally. What does change is our understanding of God, and unless this changes, matures and grows, then our God will be too small.

Our faith is incarnational - this is what makes it unique amongst all faiths - the symbolism of the babe in the Bethlehem stable must become the incarnate Christ born in each of us anew to take us into the future so that we understand more fully God's creation - the creation born of the incarnation. The creation that renews the world each day.

Made in the image of God man is a creator, and to know this creation means a constant dying to ourselves and finding resurrection in every day events, in relationships and situations.

Our abilities, possessions, opportunities are gifts of the incarnation, given to us on Trust for Gods use - to be shared and offered freely to others, to help heal our fragmented world so that the unity of all creation will become more and more reality.

A meditation for Standing - Waiting

In the stilled silence
Mind, heart and soul
Wait upon God
Reach out to God
Not thinking
Not asking
Not doing
Just waiting
Stilled upon God

Joan Dickins

Coffee Rota

FEBRUARY

4th	Audrey Treloar and Ingrid Cartwright
11th	Millie Harlott and Dora Reynolds
18th	Celia and Howard Carter
25th	Alice and Wynne

MARCH

4th	Nick and Mary Greene
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From The Registers

Holy Baptism

Rebecca Jayne Gardener

14th January

CHURCH & VILLAGE DIARY

FEBRUARY

- Thursday 1st Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.
- Saturday 3rd Safari Supper 7.00 p.m.
- Sunday 4th 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion
and Parade Service
1 Cor. 3:8 to end
Matthew 12:38-42
6.00 p.m. Evensong
7.00 p.m. Pathfinders
- Tuesday 6th WI 7.30 p.m.
- Thursday 8th Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.
- Sunday 11th SEPTUAGESIMA
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion
1 Cor 2:1-10
Luke 8:4-15
6.00 p.m. Evensong
7.00 p.m. Pathfinders
- Monday 12th Over 60's 2.30 p.m.
- Tuesday 13th Ecton Fellowship 2.30 p.m.
- Thursday 15th Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.

Church & Village Diary

- Sunday 18th SEXAGESIMA
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion
2 Cor 12:1-10
Mark 7: 24 to end
6.00 p.m. Evensong
7.00 p.m. Pathfinders
- Thursday 22nd Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.
WI Meal 7.00 p.m.
- Sunday 25th QUINQUAGESIMA
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion
Colossians 1:18-23
John 8:2-11
6.00 p.m. Evensong
7.00 Pathfinders
- Monday 26th Over 60's 2.30 p.m.
- Wednesday 28th ASH WEDNESDAY
Holy Communion and Imposition
of Ashes 8.00 p.m.
- MARCH
- Thursday 1st Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.
- Sunday 4th 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion
Genesis 4:1-10
Luke 4:1-13
6.00 p.m. Evensong
7.00 Pathfinders

PARISH AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

- Parish Council Chairman Mr John E Beesley
Tel: Northampton 810577
- Ecton Primary School Headteacher Mrs Sarah Stopps
Tel: Northampton 409213
- Ecton Fellowship Contact Miss Joyce Orford
Tel: Northampton 414245
2nd Tuesday in month 2.45 p.m in
Rectory Room
- Ecton W.I Contact Mrs Millie Harlott
Tel: Northampton 405938
1st Tuesday in month 7.30 p.m in
Rectory Room
- Over 60's Contact Mrs Denise Langley
Tel: Northampton 404173
Twice monthly on Monday's 2.30 p.m in
Rectory Room
- Youth Club & Senior Club Contact Mrs M Beesley
Tel: Northampton 810577
Y.C Wednesday 7.00-9.00 p.m
S.C Tuesday 8.00 p.m at Club Hall,
High Street, Ecton
- Mums & Tots Contact Mrs Jan Lennon
Tel: Northampton 410658
Every Thursday 2.30-4.00 p.m in
Rectory Room
- Playgroup Contact Mrs Jan Lennon
Tel: Northampton 410658
Tuesday & Friday 9.15-11.45 a.m at
Youth Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
- Cricket Club Secretary Mr J Collip
Tel: Northampton 405688
- Brownies Contact Mrs Tricia Fuller
Tel: Northampton 403137
- Bell Ringers Contact Mrs Mary Strange
Tel: Northampton 409306

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

CHAPTER I. THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA. 1492-1498.

1. The discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492.

2. The voyage of Columbus to the Indies in 1492.

3. The discovery of the New World by Columbus in 1492.

4. The voyage of Columbus to the Indies in 1492.

5. The discovery of the New World by Columbus in 1492.

6. The voyage of Columbus to the Indies in 1492.

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13. The discovery of the New World by Columbus in 1492.

14. The voyage of Columbus to the Indies in 1492.

15. The discovery of the New World by Columbus in 1492.

16. The voyage of Columbus to the Indies in 1492.