

# ECTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS



**February 1991**

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

## *From the Rector's Study*

During the next ten years we are to hear a great deal about Evangelism as the Church turns its attention to a much neglected activity. Perhaps we are given a bad impression of what an evangelist might be by the persistent and, if I may say sometimes crude attempts to arouse our interest, by Jehovah's Witnesses. Their insensitive methods frequently cause an angry response from those who are at the receiving end, especially when the Sunday lunch is being prepared and more so when they refuse to listen to what is being said to them. Nevertheless it is a free country (thank God) and we must admire them for their persistence and their courage. We cannot have it both ways. The Church is often criticised for being "liberal and weak" and is slammed for not being enthusiastic but we must remember that if we are to go out among the people and share our knowledge of Christ with them then we would have to be far more extrovert and outward going if any ice is to be cut.

We will not be able to ignore this new tide of interest in spreading the Gospel. The leaders of our Church, under the authority of the Archbishop-designate George Carey, will not allow it to happen and it is up to every parish in the land to give its mind to the process of growth. For my part I have always seen myself as a missionary priest and have never been content with being confined to a narrow Church membership. I have always embraced the parish system because it is a constant reminder that every person has been created in the image of God whether or not they go to church. I have come to the conclusion after 30 years of parochial ministry and of 60 years of life that there are many people who try to be good and would like to return to the ways of

true religion. They would be happy to be part of a worshipping Christian community. I have met them in the homes and pubs and clubs of Liverpool, South London and the rich Stockbroker belt of Surrey, but there seems to be a kind of invisible barrier which prevents those who go to church regularly and those who don't of finding any kind of realistic common ground. We are all a mixture of saint and sinner and I have no doubt in my mind that every community needs a healthy open church life where God is to be found in the midst of all the people. In 1993 a Franciscan-led mission to Ecton is being planned which will be our opportunity to play a major part in the decade of evangelism.

In the meanwhile, it is the responsibility of every practising member of the Church of England in this place to give their mind to the spreading of the Gospel and, as a consequence, extend the influence of Christ's Church in the place where they live. Actions and attitudes are frequently better than words. We must show the people around us that the Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, loves them for what they are and for what they might become.

*Peter Naylor*

*Rector*

### *From the Collection Plate*

December 2nd	£198.12
December 9th	£156.45
December 16th	£220.15
December 23rd	£151.48
Christmas Festival	£175.19
December 30th	£156.90
January 6th	£130.54

## *Children's Society*

What a tremendous support you gave the Children's Society in 1990! Due to the printing schedule of this magazine, this is my first opportunity to say a resounding THANK YOU to you all and to show you the sums raised:-

Savoury Supper	£479.14
Children's Society Boxes	£276.64
Christingle Service	£96.22
Carol Singing	£175.00
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	£1,027.00
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Heartfelt thanks to all who gave such generous support and helped in so many ways to make the Savoury Supper a great success.

Special thanks to Mr and Mrs Austin for kindly providing such a beautiful venue for the event and for all their hard work. The same also goes to Mary Dicks who helped with every stage of the event - from "Drawing Board to Finished Produce".

The box opening was another joyous occasion - £276.64 raised! Sincere thanks to each and every one. Many thanks to Millie Harlott who had the joy(!) of helping to count and check the box contents.

The beautiful Christingle Service was held in the evening so we got the full effect of the candle-light - the children's faces were a joy to behold. £96.22 was raised for the Children's Society. Many thanks.

The carol singers braved the cold and wind to bring some traditional Christmas cheer to the Ecton inhabitants and collected £175. Grateful thanks to singers and supporters.

After such a tremendous support, I would like to quote an extract from a thank you letter Mr and Mrs Austin received from the Society - just to give you an example of what the money actually "buys":-

"If we were to put the sum raised into real care terms, it means that we will be able to take three more children, who have run away from home, into our Safe House in London and work with them for a full week to try and reunite them with their parents."

Should anybody like to have a Money Box, I shall be delighted to give it to you, just see me in church or give me a ring on Northampton 415806.

Once again, thank you so much for all your support.

INGRID CARTWRIGHT

## *Ecton Fellowship*

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday February 12th, when Mrs Jean Morrison will show slides and talk about Baghdad as it was when she lived there.

Everyone is very welcome to come along! May I also remind you that the Annual Subscription £2 - is now due.

JOAN DICKINS

## *Women's Institute*

The "load of junk" which Mr Church senior unpacked before the December meeting in preparation for his amusing and interesting talk on "Pottery and China" was no rubbish. Amazed we watched as he bashed together beautiful pieces of finest bone china with plates of humbler origin and were relieved to see ships flying from the earthenware - his point about the durability of quality goods was memorably made!

Tips were noted on the best shape of teapot for keeping the tea hot (round); on differences in dinner plate design for British and American eating habits; and on teacup balancing (between thumb and index finger, of course!). Perhaps the most subtle tip was for husbands - the place in London to leave ladies for an afternoon where they cannot spend anything. (Answer from any WI member.) There was a tie for first prize in the competition for a Piece of Commemorative China between Vera Middleton and Mavis Patten. Both had brought an example of the mug given to every child at the Village School on the occasion of the Salisbury family wedding early in the century. Dorothy Austin was third with a commemoration of the Boer War.

On Tuesday 5th February we look forward to welcoming the Rector to talk about life as "Chaplain to the Theatre". The competition is for a "Home made Valentine". 1991 sees the 70th year of WI in Ecton and all members are invited to join in the celebrations at a party in Ecton House on Friday 28th February by booking their place during the February meeting.

CAROL JONES

# Over 60's Club

In December we had an excellent Whist Drive with many Christmas "goodies" as prizes.

For our Christmas Dinner at Ecton House we were entertained by a group of singers called "Opus One" and our evening ended with carols, sherry and mince pies.

January started with a visit from Mrs Patricia Naylor who had us doing exercises and advised us on our eating habits.

A Whist Drive will be held on Tuesday, 21st February in the Rectory Room 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm. Do come and join us. Dates for February meetings are:-

4th and 18th February and 4th March

A Fish and Chip Supper will be held on Wednesday 13th March in Rectory Room 5.45 pm for 6 pm. Will members please let me know if they are attending by 4th March.

DENISE LANGLEY

## CANCER RESEARCH

The final amount of donations given to Cancer Research on the death of my husband John was £115.00. I would like to thank you all, I'm sure John would be pleased as it will go towards helping others.

EILEEN COLLIP

## Rector's Notes

In recent years the cost of the magazine has doubled and those who receive it are asked if they would care to make a donation. I believe it is absolutely right that we should endeavour to provide a monthly magazine for every house in the parish and also for those who attend the church from outside. It has been suggested that a modest contribution of £2 per year would be all that is necessary. In my last parish we charged for the magazine but I believe that the Ecton practice of a free issue is by far a better practice.

Those who distribute the magazine in all weathers perform a most worthwhile task for the church in Ecton and I invite them to an informal gathering on 22nd February, 7.30 for 8 o'clock, at 32 West Street. This will be a splendid opportunity to thank Kathy Stears for her editorship now that she has retired. There will be a party atmosphere and also an opportunity to learn from one another and to hear any suggestions concerning improvements to the service we provide to the whole village.

The Rectory Room has been redecorated, new equipment in the Kitchen bought and the heavy and awkward tables changed. All this has been to emphasize the importance of the room for both House and village and to make it a more comfortable place for all concerned. It is hoped that sometime in 1991 the uncomfortable chairs will be replaced. May I remind all organisations that the charge for the use of the room, accepted by a meeting of representatives in the Autumn, is for this year £1.50 per event and 1% of the proceeds from any fund raising occasion.

Patricia and I want to thank all those who sent cards to help make this Christmas a memorable occasion in our new parish. We have always had a policy of not sending cards to parishioners because we have never been able to afford to send a card to every house in the parish where we have worked. Next year I hope to produce a combined Ecton House and parish card which will be delivered to every home and which will also be available for you to send to your friends, relations and neighbours.

Now that Mary Strange has to give much of her energy to theological study and the Headmaster has left for the West Cuncy, the bell ringing team has weakened and I know that it would be a grave disappointment not to hear our splendid bells rung regularly and melodiously. Is there anybody who would like to learn to be a campanologist? If so, I will make every attempt to find a good teacher. I know that in many parishes young people have taken to bell ringing with great enthusiasm and have found it immensely rewarding and enjoyable. This does not exclude of course learners of any age and I also understand that it provides a wonderful opportunity for exercise, both mental and physical. My grandfather was a bell ringer for most of his life and he was an extremely fit man.

Our Church will be honoured this year with a Confirmation and I know that there are many of you who are considering taking this step. Sunday the 17th of November has been chosen as the date and the time is 4 pm. Bishop Paul will preside.

If you are interested would you please enter your name, address and telephone number on the list please on the correspondence table at the back of the church. I will hold a preliminary meeting, to discuss the preparation course, on Sunday the 24th February, almost immediately after the Parish Communion in church.

The minimum age for confirmation in this diocese is 12 and under no circumstances can an exception be made.

## **INTERLINK HAVEN**

Interlink Haven is a registered charity whose prime commitment is to ease the initial crisis of homelessness for 16-19 year olds.

We are currently appointing a team of full time carers to look after the needs of our young people. These would sleep in at one of our Havens for 5 nights a week.

We are appealing to committed Christians who might feel able to provide a home base, for one of our carers, in a family atmosphere, where they may go during their off duty times. Ideally this would be a room of their own for which we are prepared to pay £30 per week, this to include some meals.

Please contact Michael Latham on (0604) 414477 if you feel able to help us.

God bless.

# ECTON HALL CRICKET CLUB

Cricket has been played in Ecton for as long as anyone living can remember, and certainly dates back to the early 1900's.

Matches are played on Sunday afternoons and during the week in the evenings, principally against other villages and are mainly friendly fixtures.

Six villagers regularly turn out for the Team, supplemented by ex-villagers and others connected by family or other ties. The Club could actually field a Team exclusively from the village, such is the enthusiasm for cricket in Ecton.

Players' ages range from 13 to 54 with the Club actively encouraging local youngsters to participate and to this end winter training sessions are held indoors at the Weavers Sports Centre in Wellingborough, under the guidance of Brian Reynolds, the Cricket Development Officer for Northamptonshire County Cricket Club.

The original ground was in the village in the grounds of Ecton Hall.

The present ground, situated just outside the village, has been used since about 1935. It is owned by the Ecton Estate Trustees and tenanted by a local farmer, who at present grazes sheep thereon, but has in the past also grazed cattle there.

The wicket is fenced off to prevent damage from the animals. The outfield, however, has to remain unmown and is grazed by the sheep.

Fielding is, therefore, unpleasant, difficult and sometimes even dangerous due to the uneven surface.

## Proposals for the Future

The Cricket Club would like to improve its playing conditions, in order to bring them up to a reasonable standard, and on a par with other local village grounds.

Use of the ground is presently rent free on a 'grace and favour' basis from the local tenant farmer.

In order to justify the cost of improvements detailed below, the Club would need to obtain a long term Tenancy from the Ecton Estate. An approach has been made to this effect which has been favourably received, subject to agreement of final details. The aim is to have an area exclusively devoted to cricket and possibly other sports at a later date. This would entail the erection of a considerable length of animal proof fencing.

Netting would also be required along an adjoining fence, in order to stop balls entering a neighbouring field.

At the same time it would be advantageous to put in a permanent practice strip and nets.

Current plans envisage moving the changing rooms which are about thirty years old, and may not move too easily without sustaining some damage. Indeed it would be desirable and possibly necessary to provide new changing rooms.

<u>Costings</u>	<u>£</u>
Fencing and Gate	1,000.00
Netting along adjoining Fence	500.00
Practice Strip, Nets and Matting	3,500.00
Re-locate Changing Rooms	2,500.00
<u>Or</u> Provide New Pavilion	20,000.00
Second-Hand Tractor and Moving Equipment	5,000.00

i.e. An approximate total cost of £12,500.00 if the existing Changing Rooms are retained.

### Finance Availability

By early 1991 the Club will have approximately £2,000.00 cash in hand.

Most of this will, however, be required to pay compensation to the Tenant Farmer whose land will be taken over.

Special Fund Raising will be necessary to assist with the above expenditure and to meet the extra costs involved, particularly the annual rent for the land required by the Ecton Estate.

Assistance will be needed therefore, from National and Local Sporting Bodies to meet most of the above cost.

## ***A MESSAGE FROM THE RURAL DEAN***

A Weekend Retreat for the Whole Deanery has been arranged at the Anglican Benedictine Convent of West Malling in Kent from Friday evening March 1st to Sunday afternoon 3rd March 1991. The aim of this Retreat is both to satisfy a need for those who have benefitted by previous Retreats and also for those who have never been before. The approximate cost, including transport, will be £35.

# MOTHER'S UNION

The Mothers' Union 100th Birthday Celebrations will be held in the Cathedral on Saturday, 8th June 1991, starting at 11 a.m. with a service of Thanksgiving and Rededication, followed by lunch in the Bishop's garden, a Pageant, Tea and Birthday cake in the afternoon. The preacher for the service will be our Bishop the Right Reverend William Westwood.

The Mothers' Union in this diocese continues to value greatly the support of the clergy. The family based work that we try to encourage both at branch and deanery level in our Christian teaching and providing for people's need, would be very much poorer without the valued commitment of so many of you.

We would, therefore, warmly invite you to join us for this special day of both reflection and celebration of our faith and our organisation. A cordial invitation is extended to your family also, and as this is essentially a family occasion we thought you might like to sit with them.

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The Rector will be attending this event and would be most happy if he was joined by supporters of the Mothers' Union from the village. Please let him know if you wish to attend. The cost is £5 per person.

## *From the Registers*

### HOLY BAPTISM

23rd December 1990

Kate Louise James

6th January 1991

Samantha Jayne Webster

Matthew David Webster

## *Readers Diary*

### February

3rd	Sunday School
10th	Ingrid Cartwright
17th	Martin Stears
24th	Pat Bayliss

### March

3rd	Guides
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## *ECTON CHURCH GUILD ROTA*

### February

2nd	Yellow Team	Shine
9th	Red Team	Polish
16th	Green Team	Shine
23rd	Orange Team	Polish

### March

2nd	Blue Team	Shine
9th	Pink Team	Polish

## *Coffee Rota*

1st Sunday	3 Feb	Audrey Treloar & Ingrid Cartwright
2nd Sunday	10 Feb	Millie Harlot & Dora
3rd Sunday	17 Feb	Celia & Howard Carter
4th Sunday	24 Feb	Alice & Wynn

1st Sunday	3 Mar	Nick & Mary Green
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## ***Church and Village Diary***

### FEBRUARY

- Saturday 2      Presentation of Christ in the Temple  
9.30 am Holy Communion  
7.00 pm Safari Supper  
                    Details from Shila Ingram
- Sunday 3        Eighth Sunday before Easter  
9.30 am Parish Communion & Parade Service  
                    James 5. 13-16a  
                    Mark 2. 1-12  
6.00 pm Evensong  
7.00 pm Pathfinders
- Monday 4        7.50 am Holy Communion - House Chapel  
2.30 pm Over 60's
- Tuesday 5       7.30 pm W.I.
- Wednesday 6    Queen's Accession to the Throne  
7.30 pm Holy Communion
- Thursday 7      9.30 am Holy Communion
- Sunday 10       Seventh before Easter  
9.30 am Parish Communion & Sunday School  
                    Hosea 14. 1-7  
                    Mark 2. 13-17  
6.00 pm Evensong without sermon followed  
                    by a said Celebration of Holy  
                    Communion  
7.00 pm Pathfinders
- Monday 11       7.50 am Holy Communion - House Chapel
- Tuesday 12      2.45 pm Ecton Fellowship
- Wednesday 13   7.30 pm Sung Eucharist for Ash Wednesday

Thursday 14 9.30 Holy Communion  
 Sunday 17 First Sunday in Lent  
 9.30 am Parish Communion & Sunday School  
 Hebrews 2. 14-end  
 Matthew 4. 1-11  
 6.00 pm Evensong  
 7.00 pm Pathfinders  
 Monday 18 7.50 am Holy Communion - House Chapel  
 2.30 pm Over 60's  
 Thursday 21 9.30 am Holy Communion  
 Sunday 24 Second Sunday in Lent  
 9.30 am Parish Communion & Sunday School  
 1 Luke 4. 1-6  
 Luke 19. 41-end  
 Followed by Meeting for prospective  
 Confirmation candidates.  
 6.00 pm Evensong  
 7.00 pm Pathfinders  
 Monday 25 7.50 am Holy Communion - House Chapel  
 Thursday 28 9.30 am Holy Communion  
 MARCH  
 Sunday 3 Third Sunday in Lent  
 9.30 am Parish Communion & Parade Service  
 Colossians 1. 24-end  
 Luke 9. 18-27  
 6.00 pm Evensong  
 7.00 pm Pathfinders

PARISH AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Parish Council	<u>Chairman</u>	Mr John E Beesley Tel: Northampton 810577
Ecton Primary School	<u>Headteacher</u>	Mrs Helen Tite Tel: Northampton 409213
Ecton Fellowship	<u>Contact</u>	Miss Joyce Orford Tel: Northampton 414245 2nd Tuesday in month 2.45 p.m in Rectorry Room
Ecton W.I	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Millie Harlott Tel: Northampton 405938 1st Tuesday in month 7.30 p.m in Rectorry Room
Over 60's	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Denise Langley Tel: Northampton 404173 Twice monthly on Monday's 2.30 p.m in Rectorry Room
Youth Club & Senior Club	<u>Contact</u>	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	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Julie Meakins Tel: Northampton 411140 Every Thursday 2.30-4.00 p.m in Rectorry Room
Playgroup	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Julie Meakins Tel: Northampton 411140 Tuesday & Friday 9.15-11.45 a.m at Youth Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
Cricket Club	<u>Captain</u>	Mr Steve Wheatman Tel: 401714
	<u>Secretary</u>	Mrs H Kearsley Tel: 810922
Brownies	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Tricia Fuller Tel: Northampton 403137
Bell Ringers	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Mary Strange Tel: Northampton 409306
Pathfinders	<u>Contact</u>	Mr Graham Jordan

