

# ECTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS



*MARCH 1990*

ECTON CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

A MESSAGE FOR MARCH FROM CANON CROWE

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Dear Friends at Ecton,

The word Lent comes from the Old English word for spring and in a real sense Lent should be a time of growth and looking at potential for spiritual growth in our lives. Merely giving up things often for selfish motives like slimming or saving money, will do little for us unless we look for development and a real sense of worthwhile sacrifice in our lives.

Lent too easily takes on a negative image and I would encourage you to be positive. If you give up something, ensure that the money you save goes to the needy or your favorite charity or the Church Urban Fund. Try not to feel self-righteous but try to feel like an athlete training to improve your effectiveness for Christ and His Kingdom ! Give more time to prayer. Choose some reading and see it through.

' During Lent the church throughout the country will be engaged in what has now been called The Inter-Church Process. That sounds awful to me, I am not too keen on modern jargon but there is to be a new beginning with the old Council of Churches disappearing and a new body coming into being with the Roman Catholic Church taking a full part. Ecton has only one church building and that may be bad for the stimulation of Ecumenical concerns in the village. It is a disgrace that we have division in the Church, The Body of Christ, and schemes for unity such as the Anglican-Methodist Scheme and the proposed Covenanting for Unity have floundered so badly.

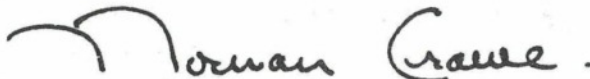
The core of the problem is the mutual recognition of each others ministries. Theology, nationalism, politics and the accidents of history have all played their part in creating division in the affairs of church life and the time is surely coming when with spiritual insight and courage we must unscramble the situation and restore wholeness that the church may be once again The Body of Christ.

Cardinal House at Swanwich gave an inspiring lead which has led to the new Body coming into being. It was sad to see that recently he has said that there can be no question of sharing Holy Communion. Mutual recognition of ministrys and a sharing of Holy Communion would I believe lead us to a deeper sharing of pastoral care, a wider vision of evangelism and a greater sense of stewardship of resources.

A village like Ecton with one church building may not see the urgency of these concerns. In the cities, new housing areas and the mission field at home and abroad they are vital issues and once resolved would speak to the world of our resolve to love God and love our Neighbour in the name of Christ and His Kingdom.

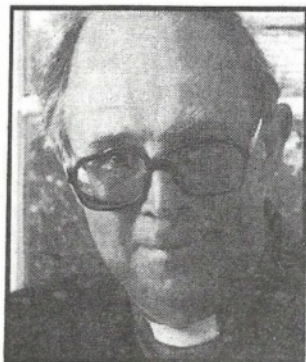
I hope you will pray with me that Lent will be a time of spiritual growth for all of us and a time of growing together for the whole church.

Yours sincerely in Christ.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman Crowe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Norman Crowe

# What shall we watch?



*'Violence is the most worrying aspect ...'*

As many of you will know, I serve on the Broadcasting Standards Council. Because of the enormous growth in television and radio which will happen over the next ten years, it was felt that there was a need for some sort of code for the guidance of both broadcasters and audience and, over these last eighteen months, I have been with a group who have been thinking about this.

To help us we went on a tour of the country, meeting many people; we arranged for study groups on the subject; we had a very large Gallup Poll and we talked with broadcasters and those with an especial interest in the media.

I thought that you might possibly be interested in what came out of all this.

First of all, we discovered that there were very few libertarians (who feel that almost anything is allowable) and very few bigots (who feel that nothing much is allowable). The vast majority of British viewers are very tolerant, but certain things concern them.

Without doubt, violence in all its forms is the most worrying aspect of British television. This applies especially to sexual violence and rape, and the exploitation of women and children.

Again, people who swore at work did not want the same language brought into their homes through the television screen. They saw their television set as "the guest in the corner" and they had expectations as to how that guest would behave.

As we met people and discussed the issues, it seemed to us that there was an unwritten and unspoken contract between the viewer and the broadcaster. This came through strongly in the idea of "bad taste" which is the major reason

for people disliking or even being disgusted at programmes: ie something which was really inappropriate to bring into their homes.

We found, too, that people were very protective of children. The Watershed, which is the device whereby certain types of explicit programme are not to be shown before 9.00pm, was well understood and approved of by all ages; by students who wish to protect their younger brothers and sisters, as well as by grandparents. The broadcasters cannot take over parental responsibility and we know, sadly, that there are quite a number of young children watching television at 11.00pm. One factor we have to take into account is that there are now two homes out of three in this country which have no children in them and, plainly, as we have a responsibility towards children, so parents have a responsibility towards the rest of us.

In the past, all broadcasting authorities - BBC, IBA, Cable, Satellite - had their Codes of Practice which were known only to them. Today as a result of the work of our Council there is a Code of Practice which is available to both broadcasters and to the public who will be able, under the new Broadcasting Bill, to raise complaints and make their voices heard.

One of the tasks given us by the Home Secretary was to have a concern for standards of taste and decency. I would like to quote from the Code for, in a way, this sums up what we have been about. "Decency... might be taken as the reflection of individuals' enduring regard for one another. Taste is much more ephemeral. By no means every breach of the conventions of taste and decency causes more than momentary harm or embarrassment. Yet as marks, even temporarily, of a civilised society, they give clues to the real health of that society".

After the home, television is possibly the biggest single influence in our country. What it brings into our homes feeds the health of our society for good or ill. It's our choice.

*William*

## CHRISTIAN VIEW POINT

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Granada Television recently disclosed the General Synod would be considering "gay" priests and foster parents.

Prostitution and homosexuality are detestable to God, an abomination (Deut. 23 18 ) we are commanded by the Lord to sanctify ourselves and be holy.(Lev. 20. 7 )

Jesus spoke of the blind, leading the blind and both would fall into the ditch. How can those who have not repented of their sins and turned from it, help others out of the mire ? We should not judge others lest we ourselves are judged but surely it would be wrong to give priestly authority to those who are impure and who have failed to get the victory over wrong doing ?

Heb. 10.32 states " It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" We invite His anger if we deliberately flout His laws.

God hates the sin but loves the sinner "While we were without strength Christ died for the ungodly" and "God commended His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us". (Rom 5. 6&8)

Christ has not lost His power. Salvation is still on offer ! Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. The same ! Those who trust Him can claim the victory in Him and become "a new creature".(see 2 Cor 5 17). Those who are "gay" can claim the "joy in God".(Rom 5 11)

Granada Television has done our nation a service to sound this note of warning. Let us pray "Thy will be done" in this and all such steps which invite spiritual disaster.

## Up The Garden Path

With the wind howling and the rain lashing at the windows, spring seems far away. But before long there will be quieter, warmer days when it will be a pleasure to get out into the garden.

One of the first jobs is to check all shrubs and plants for wind and weather damage firming roots and pruning as necessary. Roses can be pruned by the end of March and will benefit from a dressing of manure. Evergreens can be clipped in April and flowering shrubs also pruned. It is the best time of year also, to plant new evergreen shrubs. The rock garden may need an overhaul and tidy up after the winter too. Most lilies which can be planted out of doors now prefer their feet in shade and heads in the sun. Groups of lilies planted between flowering shrubs look most effective and the situation will suit them.

A good buy for the summer borders and garden containers seems to be the few floribunda geraniums. They promise to be fast growing and early flowering with up to ten times more flowerheads than conventional geraniums.

One of today's luxuries is to be able to eat freshly picked vegetables from the garden, especially when grown free from chemicals and artificial fertilizers. Organically grown vegetables are often expensive and availability limited, so growing your own is really good value for money. Of course, to garden organically is not so easy and takes some study and trouble. Where space for a vegetable garden is limited, why not

return to the old fashioned idea of tucking the plants in amongst the shrubs and flowers, or using them as screens or edgings. Try to give them a well prepared soil as all are greedier than the average shrub or herbaceous plant. Lettuces, beetroot, carrots, marrows etc. can be grown in the borders and their foliage can look very attractive. The added bonus, of course, is that you will hide them away and reduce attacks from the usual hungry pests and diseases without use of chemicals. Herbs in the border can be particularly attractive and most thrive in a sunny position. Sweet corn and jerusalem artichokes are good specimens for screens and runner beans can be quite decorative as a quick growing screen if provided with neat, tall supports.

So now is the time to start planning and getting ready. Once the initial work is complete, maybe there will be a little time to sit back and watch it all grow !

Mary Dicks

## *Ecton Youth Club*

Lunch Club will be on Wednesday 21st March.

Our A.G.M. will be held on Thursday 29th March at 7.30pm in the club room.

Everyone is welcome.

Mary Beesley

## SOMETHING FOR NOTHING (AGAIN)!!

For several years now our family has been enjoying holidays in Gozo, the smaller sister island to Malta. In the main we have tried to help with the conservation movement over there and whilst doing so have made many good friends.

John and Veronica Grech and their family are particular friends and have in fact stayed with us here in Ecton, John is a Bird Ringer and Veronica works voluntarily for the local hospital, St Lukes. Her aim is to provide a wheel chair for a local disabled child.

Since most of the shops over in Gozo are of the old fashioned variety with shelves, tills and brown paper bags, and only a small proportion of food consumed is imported, Bar Codes have not yet gained the status that they have over here with the introduction of Code Scanners, and a prominent business man has been persuaded to finance provision of a wheelchair as soon as 2 Kilos have been collected.

As a family we have collected 100 grammes since mid January and that represents several hundred cut out Bar Codes, but they cost nothing and almost every item carries one these days. We hope to visit Gozo again very soon, so I am asking for your help. If we make a concerted effort over the next few weeks it's not beyond us to collect 2 Kilos here in Ecton. Wouldn't it be splendid if we could provide a wheelchair all on our own!

I will place a box on the Coffee Bar at the back of the Church or pop them into 17 West Street at any time.

Sheila Ingram

## From The Collection Plate

### JANUARY

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7th	£ 184.00
14th	£ 202.21
21st	£ 142.75
28th	£ 162.60

### FEBRUARY

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4th	£ 178.03
11th	£ 207.95

## Cleaning Rota

### MARCH

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3rd	Mrs.L.Johnson & Mrs Richards	(R)
10th	Mrs Baylis & Mrs Stears	(L)
17th	Mrs.A.Johnson, Mrs Rands & Mrs.W.Johnson	(R)
24th	Mrs Dicks & Mrs Cartwright	(L)
31st	Mrs Harlott & Mrs Wright	(R)

### APRIL

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7th	Alice & Wynne	(L)
14th	Mrs Wilson & Mrs Austin	(R)

## Sacristans Rota

### MARCH

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3rd	Mrs Cross & Mrs Dicks	(B)
10th	Mrs Treloar & Miss Gleave	(A)
17th	Mr & Mrs Murdin	(B)
24th	Mr & Mrs Murdin	(A)
31st	Mrs Wilson	(B)

### APRIL

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7th	Mrs Wilson	(A)
14th	Mrs.M.Dicks & Mrs Harlott	(B)

# Flower Rota

MARCH

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3rd	No flowers
10th	in
17th	
24th	
31st	Lent

APRIL

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7th	
14th	EASTER

## From The Registers

HOLY BAPTISM

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FEBRUARY

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18th Claire Elizabeth Berry

## Ecton Fellowship

The next meeting will be on Wednesday  
March 14th at 2.30pm, unless advised  
otherwise.

At this meeting we are showing slides and  
listening to a tape on St. Francis of Assisi.

We welcome anyone who is interested to come  
and join us.

Joan Dickins.

## PARISH NOTES

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### ELECTORAL ROLL

We are required to renew the Church Electoral Roll this year and every six years thereafter.

As required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969 a notice has been placed on the notice board in the North Entrance stating that the last day for returning your application is Saturday 17th March. Forms are available from the back of the Church or from Mary Dicks the Electoral Roll Officer. Please return completed forms to Mary Dicks, Field House, West Street, Ecton or hand them to either Henry Pinney or myself or deliver them marked "Electoral Roll Officer" to Ecton House on or before 17th March.

The new roll will come into effect at midnight on Sunday 8th April and only those who have completed the new application forms are entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Meeting. A full list will be posted on the notice board prior to it coming into effect.

### THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

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Will be held in Ecton House following Evensong on Sunday 8th April starting at 7.0pm, refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Our Rural Dean, Haydn Smart will lead our Service at 6.0pm and chair our meeting. I do hope everyone will be able to come to both Evensong and our Annual Meeting.

## CHOIR ROBES

A couple of parishioners have expressed concern at the cost of re-robing the choir. Whilst the cost which is estimated at around £700 is high in anybody's language, the P.C.C. feel it is very much a part of the ongoing stewardship caring for our church. In the past few years we have attended to the cloistery windows, turned the wilderness in the churchyard into a state of order, redecorated the inside of the church, attended to the entrance from the church into the tower, replaced the carpet in the central aisle, installed a new boiler, and laid water to the vestry and much more. Now of course we are about to see the result of our efforts to restore the tower with work costing over £40,000 due to start this month.

God has been kind to us in Ecton in enabling all this work to be carried out in His name and the P.C.C. believe the new robes will complete this long phase of restoration and re-renewal.

If this work had been done without any regard for those in need outside Ecton I feel there would be cause for criticism. However the P.C.C. have been aware of its responsibilities elsewhere and accordingly distributed considerable sums to charitable giving each and every year.

## EASTER FLOWERS

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Mary Strange has kindly agreed to organise Easter flowers. Would anyone wishing to contribute to the cost of decorating the Church for Easter Day or able to help with the arrangements. Please see Mary.

*Mark Stead*

## A SMILING DECADE ?

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Do you have a dog ? If so, your life-style will be different from the vast majority of people because you have had to become disciplined to daily walks which inevitably exercise you as well as your faithful four legged friend. Walking is a pleasure even in the unexpected shower, providing you are properly clad. Whatever the weather your dog never minds !

Then there are the unexpected bonuses, the free gifts not mentioned at the time of purchase and certainly not shown on the kennel club's certificate. First, there is time; a little time each day to be alone in the park or quiet countryside, with one's own thoughts. Time to think, time to consider others less fortunate and perhaps, time for a small prayer for those in need.

Secondly there is the club ! That large fraternal club of fellow owners which you automatically join when you have a dog. No formal entry or membership fee, no club tie or badge but something much more lasting and valuable to show that you are now a caring dog owner. It is the warm friendship with the smile and cheerful greeting shared by all owners when they meet. Yes, when ever you meet a fellow owner you will always find a good morning or good afternoon and a greeting which shows that they know you care too.

Funny that when Canon Crowe utters a cheerful good morning to begin the Sunday morning service there are mutterings and a few grunts with, perhaps the odd response from the back of the church. Certainly not a roar of smiling good mornings and, dare we say, the odd quiet alleluia !

Odd that, because he is such a wonderful supportive priest. One would have thought that if dog owners can show their mutual care by a cheerful smile and friendly greeting then we Christians, who care more importantly about our fellow beings, should be even more cheerful with much broader-smiles.

The green people are not quite my scene although I sincerely share their concern for the environment which we are rapidly destroying. Yet they too have this habit and share their common aims. Walk round Sywell reservoir, sorry country park, and nearly all will greet you despite being burdened down with their rucksacks, binoculars and clutches of cameras.

I thought I would experiment to see what would happen in the pressures and bustle of this busy world if the smile and greeting, like the flu, became catching. Greet a stranger and nearly all respond; their faces light up and the world becomes a better place. Then I prefaced my complaint to the shop assistant with a smile and greeting. She was so surprised that she immediately responded and we were both pleasantly surprised !

Perhaps there is a smiling message here for our ministry. Yes, our ministry, as described by the bishops at a recent Lambeth Conference.

"If you are a baptised Christian, you are already a minister. Whether you are ordained or not is immaterial".

You may be surprised or even alarmed at this statement but you are a minister of Christ and the way that you care for others will show your ministry and concern. In the deeper fellowship of the house group meetings we share our concerns and our faith, with all its misgivings and doubts, because we need help to care for our families, friends and those we meet.

In the coming Lent group meetings we hope many will come perhaps for the first time, to share in cheerful fellowship our concerns, our thoughts and our prayers. Meanwhile why can we not follow the example of the dog owners and smile and make this world a better place.

Dennis Strange

DO YOU HAVE A SEWING MACHINE ?

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I have seven pieces of fine linen approx 10 x 12 inches square. They need hemming and then will make purificators for the communion service.

Would anyone in our congregation like to do this small service for our church ?

If so please contact Paddy Macquire at 30 High Street, Ecton or Tel 407788.

Paddy

## POLICE NOTEBOOK

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The Earls Barton police advise that in non-emergency situations their station can usually be contacted around 9 - 9.30am and 5 - 5.30pm 810222.

For anything requiring more immediate attention, Wellingborough station is manned all day 440333. In dire emergency ~~the~~ number is, of course 999.

Ecton does not have a Neighbourhood Watch. Earls Barton police would be pleased to address any interested group to answer questions and to give advice on how to set up and operate a Watch.

### Ordination of Women

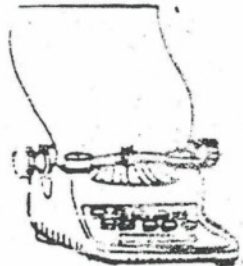
Are you for or against - or simply confused? In any case, come to the Diocesan Teach-In, where six distinguished speakers will air all sides of the argument. To be held at the Derngate in Northampton on Saturday July 21st, 9.45am - 1pm. Clergy and representatives from every parish are invited.

COPY FOR APRIL MAGAZINE

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

Enquiries: Tel Northampton 407888



# Coffee Ruta

MARCH

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4th Nick And Mary Green  
11th Tricia Fuller & Mavis Ahead  
18th Janet Robinson & Jean Leigh  
25th Johan Pinney & Pat Baylis

APRIL

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1st Audrey Treloar & Ingrid  
Cartwright

## *Over 60's Club*

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

WHIST DRIVE

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Thursday 15th March, 7.30pm in the Rectory Room.

Denise Langley.

TEA TOWELS

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Will the ladies who serve coffee please return the tea towels. Our supply of 7 tea towels seem to have been mislaid.

Thankyou.

Johan Pinney.

# *Women's Institute*

Ah wisnae awa' tae bide awa' !

Many thanks, Jean.

Our crowded February meeting heard from the PCs of Earls Barton constabulary some stories behind the modern policeman's lot - happy and sad. Their large patch (shared amongst three) covers anything from 7 to 13 villages between Irchester and Sywell, depending on how many are on duty. Increasing incidences of burglary and theft mean more liaison with the Weston Favell and Wellingborough forces; crime prevention takes them into the schools and giving advice to local Neighbourhood Watch organisations. On a happy note, we shared PC Leonard's thrill on the day when he met Princess Diana. PC Marks still feels it is a really good job, lots of fun and very diverse.

The competition at the meeting, when we counted the value of our "coppers", produced amazing results from Pam Farrow (56p), Denise Langley (39p) and Jean Haycox (26p) !

A few, with minds still fixed firmly on food, thoroughly enjoyed an outing to Spinney Hill to watch Ken Hom's nose-twitching, mouth-watering demonstration of Chinese cooking with a Wok.

We anticipate a fascinating event on 6th March when Mr.P.Ellement will give a talk with slides on "The Mary Rose". Handbags need not be weighed for this competition - a "Photo of your Favourite Pet".

Carol Jones.

# CHURCH & VILLAGE DIARY

MARCH

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Thursday 1st Holy Communion 9.30am

Sunday 4th 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

9.30am Parish Communion &  
Parade Service

Genesis 4: 1-10

Luke 4: 1-13

6.0pm Evensong

7.0pm Pathfinders

Tuesday 6th W.I. 7.30pm

Lent Group 8.0pm at  
4 Barton Fields, Ecton

Thursday 8th Holy Communion 9.30am

Sunday 11th 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

9.30 Parish Communion

Genesis 7: 17 to end

Matthew 12: 22-32

6.0pm Evensong

7.0pm Pathfinders

Monday 12th Over 60's 2.30pm

Wednesday 14th Ecton Fellowship 2.30pm

Lent Group 8.0pm at

58 Ecton Lane, Sywell

## Church & Village Diary

- Thursday 15th Holy Communion 9.30am  
Over 60's Whist Drive 7.30pm
- Sunday 18th 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT  
9.30am Parish Communion  
Genesis 12: 1-9  
Matthew 16: 13 to end  
6.0pm Evensong  
7.0pm Pathfinders
- Wednesday 21st Lunch Club
- Thursday 22nd Holy Communion 9.30am  
Lent Group 8.0pm at  
17 Huntsmead, Berrydale
- Sunday 25th 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT  
MOTHERING SUNDAY  
9.30am Parish Communion &  
Parade Service  
6.0pm Evensong  
7.0pm Pathfinders
- Monday 26th Over 60's 2.30pm
- Wednesday 28th Lent Group 8.0pm at  
8 Berrydale
- Thursday 29th Holy Communion 9.30am  
Youth Club A.G.M. 7.30pm

# Church & Village Diary

APRIL  
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Sunday

1st 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT  
PASSION SUNDAY

9.30am Parish Communion

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Mark 10: 32-45

6.0pm Evensong

7.0pm Pathfinders

Thursday 5th Holy Communion 9.30am

Friday 6th Lent Group 8.0pm at  
34 West Street, Ecton



## Cathedral NOTES

Everyone is warmly invited to the lunchtime Lent Service, held each Wednesday at 1pm at the Cathedral in Lent. This year's speakers include: Patricia Routledge, the actress; Dr Brian Mawhinney, MP, and Mr Charles Swift, OBE.

### READERS DIARY

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#### MARCH

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4th Nick Green  
11th Paddy MacQuire  
18th Ted Langley  
25th Martin Stears

#### APRIL

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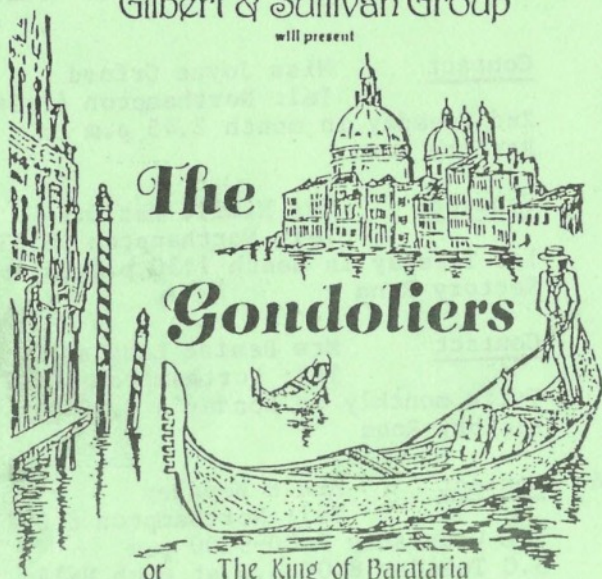
1st Alice  
8th Brenda Jones

## PARISH AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Parish Council	<u>Chairman</u>	Mr John E Beesley Tel: Northampton 810577
Ecton Primary School	<u>Headteacher</u>	Mrs Sarah Stopps Tel: Northampton 409213
Ecton Fellowship	<u>Contact</u>	Miss Joyce Orford Tel: Northampton 414245 2nd Tuesday in month 2.45 p.m in Rectory Room
Ecton W.I	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Millie Harlott Tel: Northampton 405938 1st Tuesday in month 7.30 p.m in Rectory Room
Over 60's	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Denise Langley Tel: Northampton 404173 Twice monthly on Monday's 2.30 p.m in Rectory 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 Jan Lennon Tel: Northampton 410658 Every Thursday 2.30-4.00 p.m in Rectory Room
Playgroup	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Jan Lennon Tel: Northampton 410658 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 Tricia Fuller Tel: Northampton 403137
Bell Ringers	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Mary Strange Tel: Northampton 409306

The Northampton  
Gilbert & Sullivan Group

will present



# The Gondoliers

or The King of Barataria

Monday 2nd April to Saturday 7th April 1990

Evenings 7.30pm Saturday Matinee 2.30pm



**DERNGATE**

N·O·R·T·H·A·M·P·T·O·N

General Manager & Licensee: Robert D. Moore

Guildhall Road, Northampton (0604) 24811

Monday Evening and Saturday Matinee	£5.50	£4.50	£3.50
Tuesday - Saturday Evening	£6.50	£5.50	£4.50

Tickets available from:-

DERNGATE BOX OFFICE or Mrs JEAN EVATT  
6 Armley Close,  
Long Buckby, Northants.  
Tel. Long Buckby 842746