

ECTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS





September

1987

FROM THE RECTORS STUDY

SEEKING GOD

Brother, Sister,
you want to seek God with all your life,
and love him with all your heart.
To seek God
means first of all
to let yourself be found by him.
He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
He is the God of Jesus Christ.
He is your God,
not because he is yours
but because you are his.

From the moment of our birth, searching is a fundamental element of living. We search for food, for love, for knowledge, but as we grow older, we begin to realize that searching does not always mean finding. The search for happiness through material things brings temporary pleasure, but faced with tragedy, such pleasure soon vanishes. In our world, the Superpowers speak of their search for peace, yet the prize seems such an elusive thing. The 1960's saw men and women travelling to India in search of meaning for their lives, hoping to find the guru who could explain all. The seventies offered us the possibility of material wellbeing: at least to those who were prepared to search, even if the lucky few were few in number indeed, and at a rising cost of unemployment, and social isolation for growing numbers of people.

The Christian Gospel is one of paradox, turning much of our thinking and actions upside down. It reminds us that in our search for love and meaning for our lives, we are confronted with a God who is at once the source of all that we seek, and the giver of all which so easily eludes us. We are loved before anyone had thought of us, or spoken our name, and loved in a world which so often seems hostile and ugly. Perhaps such words sound too simple to the ear of modern man, but the evidence of lives changed by God is sufficient proof - if proof we need - that only in Him shall we find lasting peace.

And so,
don't talk too much about God
but live
in the certainty that He has written your
name

on the palm of His hand.
Live your human task
in the liberating certainty
that nothing in the world can separate you
from Gods love for you.

Trevor Willmott

RECTOR

FROM THE COLLECTION PLATE

July 5th	£114.00
July 12th	£200.38
July 19th	£139.75
July 26th	£106.80
August 2nd	£108.71
August 9th	£ 67.10
August 16th	£165.05

ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM FLAG WEEK

We both wish to thank everyone for their continued support for this worthy cause. The grand sum of £112.35 was collected.

A and E CUNNINGHAM

FROM GENERAL SYNOD

SUFFRAGAN BISHOP PLANS ARE "APPROVED"

About 500 members spent a pleasant four days in July in the University of York at our expense. Were our meetings value for money? The essential items were completed in a few hours.

For the rest of the time there were many speeches on various topics; we had received a huge weight of paper (more of our money) to prepare for this.

There was We Believe in God (of course); Freemasonry and Christianity (hardly compatible); All that is Unseen (guess what that was all about); Abolition of Domestic Rates (which could cost us as a diocese a lot of money). There were 13 Annual Reports from Boards and Council: none was dicussed except the Church Commissioners Report.

What did we acheive? The approval of the proposal that a Suffragan Bishop be appointed in our own Diocese: yes, good. Anything else? Perhaps it is high time that we, as a diocese, made a vigorous protest against the ways and the high cost of a General Synod. We would withhold (e.g.) a token portion of our Parish Shares and Diocesan Share, and give the money to Missions.

CROSS KEYS

(The proposal for a Suffragan Bishop now goes to H. M. The Queen in Council - its final stage: Editor).

RECTORS NOTES

Looking back at the first edition of the magazine in December 1983, I see that I expressed the hope, that its style would not remain unchanging. Today I welcome warmly the next stage in the magazine growth. I'm grateful to Martin Stears, John Strange and Stephen Meakins for their ready response to my request to the P.C.C. that we examine the role of the magazine, and set up a new style of production. Our thanks also go to Mary Griffiths, my secretary in the House, for the hours of typing and stencilling which she has done in the past years. But without Vera and Les Middleton, Pat Baylis, all the distributors and especially you the readers, the effort would be in vain. So if there are items which you think should be included in the magazine or comments you'd like to make, now is the time to speak up!

Two further details. Deadline for items to be included will be the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Secondly, the suggested cost - to help with the production, etc - will remain the same, 10p per copy; £1 for the year, if you haven't made a contribution recently! Now's the time to give it to your distributor.

Festival 88 is now less than a year away. It's theme will be Elizabethan, using the great beacon lit in 1588 to warn of the approach of the Spanish Armada as focus. In the next few months, we shall be seeking for support and encouragement, but as a fore taste of preparation, let me encourage you to come

to the evening planned by Edna Welch and Freda Richards to be held in the Rectory Room on Friday, September 11th at 7.30 p.m.

Harvest this year will be celebrated on October 4th. The Harvest Supper will be held in the evening in Ecton House. Watch this space and the Church notice board for further details. At the morning service I shall baptise Elaine and David Green's son Benjamin. Church Parade for the newly formed Brownie pack is now firmly established on the first Sunday of each month. It's good to see such a splendid turn out of Brownies each time and to welcome some of their parents to the service.

At the last meeting of the P.C.C. the question was raised as to the possibility of providing a creche for the young children on Sunday mornings excluding Church Parade. If you are interested in taking part, please let Margaret or me know as soon as possible. Together with the work of the Children's Church under wise and firm guidance of Toni Maine, we are now able to help our children grow in the first and vital steps of the Christian faith. Please remember this work in your prayers.

Don't cry for me Argentina! Later in September, we at Ecton House will say good-bye to Christopher Swift who for the past year has admirably fulfilled the job of assistant warden. Christopher has become a good friend, and a valued member of the congregation and I'm sure that we all wish him well in the next stage of his preparation for theological college. He will be spending the next year with the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Argentina.

I'm delighted to welcome Andrew Currah as assistant warden in the House and know that you will soon make him feel at home in the life of the Church and village. Andrew has recently returned from a year in the Sudan; his interests include singing, football and cricket.

YOUR MAGAZINE

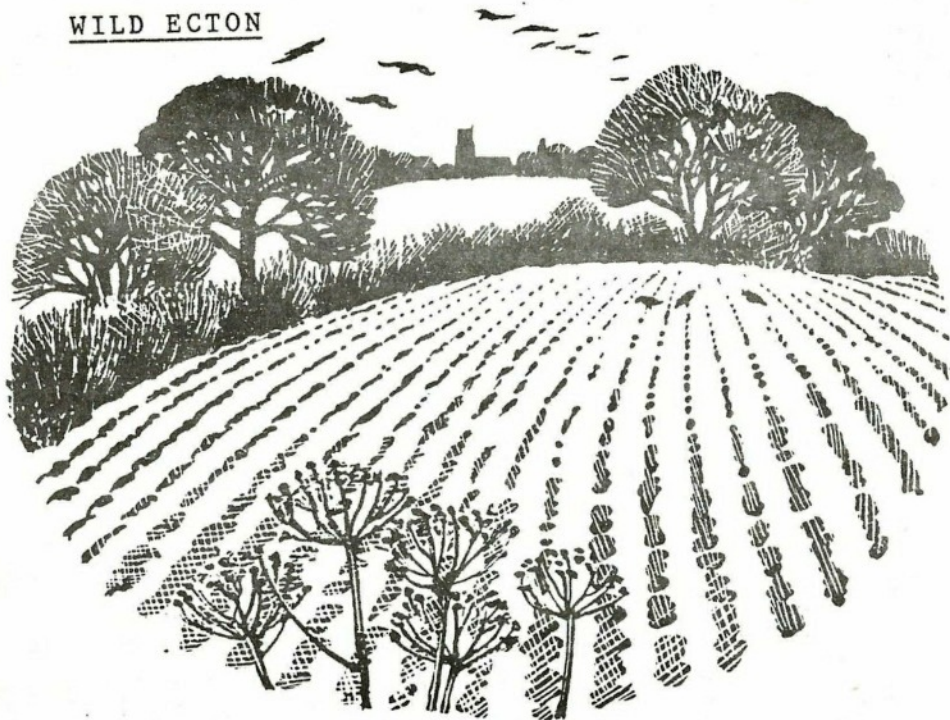
Having been asked by the Rector to co-ordinate the magazine ably assisted by John Strange and Stephen Meakins we hope you like the new format.

The magazine is designed to reflect both the work of the church and the wider community of Ecton Village. We will be introducing new regular items, such as "WHO'S WHO AROUND ECTON" and " WILD ECTON ". In addition we shall hope to see the return of old favourites like "RECIPE CORNER".

Ideas from our readers will be most welcome and "Letters to the Editor" on any subject affecting village life are most acceptable if you have any contributions please leave them at ECTON HOUSE clearly marked "MAGAZINE" or contact me by telephone on Northampton 407888. REMEMBER OUR DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTHS ISSUE SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER.

MARTIN STEARS

WILD ECTON



In this article in future issues we shall be looking at the natural history of our village and parish. My particular interest being ornithology you may detect a bias towards birds but other aspects of the wildlife that surrounds us will certainly not be ignored, so one month we may be discussing the indian bird which now nests in our village, another the butterfly that migrates here from Europe; watch this space for the answers.

We shall also be looking at ways in which this wildlife can be protected and encouraged, particularly in our gardens, so look out for the first article next month.

RODNEY INGRAM

POLICE NOTEBOOK

During the month of June, reported crime for our beat was 21 - detected 9 there was a much higher detected rate than for the previous month. This is due to your continued co-operation. However, Ecton was not touched by crime quite as much as the other villages.

We now have an "Answering Phone" facility should you wish to leave a message for us. It is not a straightforward single answerphone, but part of a computerised system. If you care to leave a message for us dial Northampton 703394, and then if you listen to the instructions which follow automatically, by giving your name, address and the message you wish to have delivered to us at Earls Barton Station, we shall receive the message within a few hours.

Please do not hold back if you think you have any little piece of information which may help us - don't hesitate - because the little piece of information which you have may be the answer to all our problems.

Police Constables SAUNBY, RHODES and LEWIS

OVER SIXTIES CLUB

It has been a very enjoyable two months and we are particularly grateful to MR SAM MACKANESS who gave us lunch at Billing Aquadrome. Whilst the weather was not very good. We all enjoyed our lunch in JACQUI BECK's garden.

The coach trip to Hampton on the Hill was most enjoyable, where we all had tea in the village hall.

Our last coach trip is on Thursday, September 10th leaving at 1.30 p.m. and returning at 6.30 p.m. visiting both Olney and Bedford.

NOTE meetings for the month are the 7th and 21st.

EDNA WELCH

ECTON VILLAGE PLAYGROUP

Playgroup resumes for the Autumn Term on Friday, September 4th at 9.15 a.m.

The A.G.M. will be held on Monday, October 5th at 8.00 p.m. in Rectory Farm House, all welcome.

We are holding another Christmas Bazaar this year on Saturday, November 28th and I would appreciate extra help, gifts, donations and suggestions for this fund raising event.

Many thanks to all who came to the swimming sessions at Weston Favell Pool, we hope to repeat this again next year.

MARGARET TINSON

REMEMBER FAMILY CARE SUNDAY

On Sunday, September 6th, the work of our Family and Social Welfare Council will be remembered throughout the Diocese.

This is the third annual Family Care Sunday set aside by the Bishop and we hope that many more parishes will pray for the work; for the 30 staff who carry it out in the Hostels and Day Centres; for the volunteers who help run those centres and raise the much-needed funds.

The demand for the very special help given to young mothers and their children grows daily. Sadly, as we all know, there is a steady increase in child abuse and neglect. Many of the young mothers asking for help were themselves abused or neglected, and they hope to right the wrong for their own child.

Family Care, through its love, support and training, helps them to achieve that aim. We can now house 30 families, and our skills are much in demand as others hear of our work. We also continue our work of support in Day Centres where mothers who have left the hostels can continue to receive help.

Please help Family Care to continue this work by your prayers and gifts on September 6th.

CROSS KEYS

THANKS FROM CYNTHIA SPENCER HOUSE

We write to send you the grateful thanks of all the staff of Cynthia Spencer House for the generous gift to the Unit's funds. Such gifts are greatly appreciated and you may be sure that the money will be used for the benefit of our patients.

We would like to add our own personal thanks too.

Yours sincerely

Peter Kaye

MA,MB,MRCP,MRCGP,DRCOG

Consultant in Continuing Care

M.S. Green Mrs. S.R.N.
Sister-in-Charge

TERRANIUM AND CRAFT SALE

On Friday 11th September at 7.30 p.m. in the Rectory Room there will be a Terranium and Craft Sale with the proceeds going towards the 1988 Festival Flower Fund.

Orders will be taken for Christmas (they make ideal gifts!)

We would appreciate any plants you can spare, to sell on the night and we will be happy to collect!

DO NOT MISS THE SALE AND THERE WILL BE A FREE GLASS OF WINE!

EDNA WELCH and FREDa RICHARDS

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mrs Ivy Fox brought a lovely aroma of spices, herbs and oils to the July meeting. Mrs Fox spoke on the subject of Pot Pourri - Making Your Own, and illustrated her talk with an extensive array of items needed to make herb pillows, wardrobe fresheners and room sweeteners. The interest shown by the members prompted Mrs Fox to give a basic recipe for drying and mixing flowers and herbs for long lasting fragrance.

The competition results for the flower arrangements in an egg cup were:

Mrs D Cross
Mrs M Patten
Mrs M Harlott

The speaker at the meeting on September 1st will be Mrs Joan White speaking about Embroidery and the competition will be an Embroidered Mat.

A Limerick about the WI should also be brought to this meeting ready for the competition at the Autumn Group Meeting on September 28th.

MAVIS PATTEN

PARISH COUNCIL

At a recent meeting, concern was expressed about the number of bushes and trees overhanging the footpaths in the village, causing difficulties for pedestrians.

Please would everyone ensure that bushes and trees are cut back to prevent any further problem.

Thank you!

MUMS AND TOTS

With poor attendance during the Summer, now is the time to rethink what we want to do. So come along on Thursday, September 3rd to the Rectory Room at Ecton House at 2.30 p.m., and we can have a discussion on what to do in the future (i.e. should we change time, day, buy new toys, etc., etc.) If you can't come please speak to Margaret Willmott (tel. no. 41632) with your ideas. All new mums are very welcome.

MARGARET WILLMOTT

ECTON MOTHERS UNION

On August 18th our Mothers Union members were fortunate in having a sunny afternoon to sit in Maud Dick's garden and enjoy the delicious tea she had provided.

We were sorry several members were absent for various reasons, they missed an extremely enjoyable afternoon.

The Bring and Buy stall raised in excess of £13 for our funds.

At our meeting on Tuesday, September 8th we will be entertaining eleven members from Great and Little Billing Mothers Union, when Mrs Leatherland will speak on church embroidery.

JANET ROBINSON

ECTON YOUTH CLUB

Youth Club meetings have not been taking place during the past three weeks, due to the drop in attendance, which is usual at this time of year. We hope however, to continue early in September. The Tuesday night Club continues and welcomes anyone who would like to spend a couple of hours in pleasant company.

The Lunch Club will take place again on Wednesday the 30th September from 12 - 2.

If you could give your name to Mrs Welch or myself it would be very helpful.

We look forward to seeing you there.

DOREEN BRAY

D & D STORES

We would like to thank everyone for helping us through our first year (August 11th).

We would like to make a few points clear to everyone.

First our opening times are as follows:

Monday	9 - 1 and 2 - 5.30
Tuesday	9 - 1 and 2 - 5.30
Thursday	9 - 1 and 2 - 5.30
Friday	9 - 1 and 2 - 5.30
Wednesday	9 - 12.30
Saturday	9 - 12.30

Fresh bread delivered on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday should be ordered by 12 o'clock on the previous day, and collected on the day of delivery.

Fresh meat for the weekend should be ordered by 4 o'clock on Thursday. We regret that we are only able to deliver orders on Fridays.

DOROTHY and DOREEN

ECTON SCHOOL

The children and staff would like to thank MILLFORD INSULATION for their very generous donation enabling the visit to Twycross Zoo to take place.

It was a very successful day and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone!

SYLVIA JOHNSON

SIN SURVEY

IT WAS POPE GREGORY THE GREAT who shortly after sending off Augustine to convert England to Christianity felt it laid upon him to make a list of the seven deadly sins. They are you may remember, pride, covetousness, lust, envy, gluttony, anger and sloth.

The Mail on Sunday through its YOU colour magazine thought it worthwhile to re-open the subject nearly 1400 years later and get the National Opinion Poll to ask 1642 British People to add the single most deadly sin of 1986.

Interestingly enough the clear winner was greed (though Gregory might have thought he was covering it with covetousness and envy) and the next most frequently named were murder, violence, jealousy (envy again?), drug-dealing or drug-taking, selfishness and dishonesty.

Most of us want to practice what we preach. Some 75 per cent of us said we would tell a shop assistant who mistakenly gave us change for £10 instead of a £5 note. However, 15 per cent - one in six of us - admitted we would keep quite.

Answers to other questions suggested that statistically at least we see drunken-driving as more sinful than husband or wife swapping, adultery or mercy killing. We view topless bathing or living together without marriage as less immoral than queue-jumping.

In all 107 'modern' sins were suggested by the respondents. After the first division already listed came child abuse followed by promiscuity or lasciviousness or just plain sex, malice or cruelty or hate, uncaring or lack of compassion or callousness, adultery, stealing, vandalism, rape, materialism, vanity, laziness, apathy, drinking and driving, disrespect or rudeness, not to mention swearing, alcoholism and gossip.

Since the answers had to be given 'unprompted' the order may depend not so much on depth of feeling as on individual articulateness and imagination.

Those who fought in the Second World War may be encouraged that Hitler is still way out in front as the nastiest human being when we think of sinners instead of just sins.

When we come to saints even of the partial variety not averse to four-letter words, Bob Geldof apparently has some way to go before he exercises as much clout as Pope Gregory. Although we no longer think it necessary to put down gluttony as a modern sin only one of the whole 1652 questioned picked as our worst vice allowing starvation.

ANON

WHO'S WHO AROUND ECTON

CHRISTOPHER SWIFT

I am very pleased to have been asked by Martin Stears, who is co-ordinating this new-style magazine, to be the first to write a little about myself for the village "Who's Who".

Before I came to Ecton, in 1984, I had little experience of living any further South than Manchester. Having been born and brought-up in Kirkham (Lancashire) my parents moved from that small market town when I was eleven to a house in the small village of Treales just to the North of Kirkham. It was from this sparsely populated part of Lancashire that I went to Kirkham Grammar School until I was 18, in 1983. Having obtained the necessary A level grades I then proceeded to the University of Hull where I spent three very happy years studing English and Theology.

As I had felt a calling to ordained ministry since the age of 15 it seemed quite natural, when thinking about my Summer vacations, that I should look for some work within the Church to gain some further experience as well as to test that vocation.

It was with this in mind that I first wrote to the Association for the Promotion of Retreats in London and enquired about the possibilities of working in a retreat house. They provided me with several addresses and, in the Summer of 1984 I worked both here and at Crophorne, in the Vale of Evesham.

But it was at Ecton that I felt most at home and consequently came back in the Easter and Summer of the following year. Since then I have worked here each Summer and, last year, came to make a stay of one year. This was in line with the recommendation from my Church selection conference which felt that I should gain some further experience before going-on to Theological College. It is with this in mind that I sought to find some very different work for next year.

And that's why, briefly, I'll be flying to Argentina at the end of September on the Experience Exchange Programme run by the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. This programme is designed to help people gain some insights into how the Anglican Church works in other countries.

It should be quite an experience, but I know that I go to meet those experiences having grown in my own faith and understanding during my time at Ecton. Whether it's been taking evensongs in the Rector's absence, or helping-out at the Festival, my time at Ecton has proved to be a great help to me in my preparation for ministry. And, in no small measure, that has been due to those of you with whom I've met and talked, and shared the experience of a year in Ecton.

With my thanks and best wishes.

CHURCH ROTAS

Cleaning Rota

(L) Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hunswicks	Sept 5th
(R) Mrs Robinson and Mrs Haycox	Sept 12th
(L) Mrs L Johnson and Mrs Richards	Sept 19th
(R) Mrs W Johnson, Mrs Rands and Mrs A Johnson	Sept 26th
(L) Alice and Wyn	Oct 3rd

Sacristans Rota

(A) Mr and Mrs Murdin	Sept 5th
(B) Miss Macquire and Mrs Treloar	Sept 12th
(A) Mrs Baylis and Mrs Van Leersum	Sept 19th
(B) Mrs Baylis and Mrs Van Leersum	Sept 26th
(A) Mrs Aveyard and Mrs Maud Dicks	Oct 3rd

Church Flower Rota

G Allinson	Sept 5th
C Carter	Sept 12th
C Carter	Sept 19th
J Haycox	Sept 26th
HARVEST	Oct 3rd

Coffee Rota

Marion Gleave and Sylvia Johnson	Sept 6th
Milly Harlot and Dora Reynolds	Sept 13th
Trisha Fuller and Jackie Nelson	Sept 20th
Nick and Mary Green	Sept 27th
Janet Robinson and Jean Leigh	Oct 4th

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR - 1987

6th 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9.30 Family Communion and Brownie
Church Parade Acts 7.
54-81 Reader - Stan Kidney

6.00 Evensong

7th OVER 60's

8th 2.30 Mothers Union Church Embroidery -
Open Evening

10th 9.30 Holy Communion

11th 7.30 Terranium and Craft Sale
(Christmas Presents!) in aid of
the 1988 Flower Festival Fund

13th 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9.30 Parish Communion and Sunday
School Ephesians 5. 25-64
Reader - David Dicks
Mark 10. 2-16

6.00 Evensong

14th Wellingborough Clergy Chapter

17th 9.30 Holy Communion

20th 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9.30 Parish Communion and Sunday
School Romans 13. 1-7
Reader Jan Lennon
Matthew 22. 15-22

6.00 Evensong

21st OVER 60's

24th 9.30 Holy Communion

27th 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9.30 Parish Communion and Sunday
School Romans 12. 9-End
Reader Chris Gardener
Luke 10. 25-37

6.00 Evensong

OCTOBER CALENDAR 1987

4TH 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
- HARVEST THANKSGIVING

9.30 Family Communion, Brownie Church
Parade, Presentation of Harvest
Gifts and Holy Baptism.
Galations 6. 6-10
Reader Ted Langley

6.00 Evensong

7.00 Harvest Supper