

ECTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS



September

1988

From THE
RECTOR'S
STUDY

" In the midst of life, we are in death; to whom can we turn for help, but to you Lord".

In recent weeks there has been much public discussion on the question of replacing diseased human organs with transplants from animals. Scientists on each side have rehearsed the arguments but with little hope of agreement. To my mind, the real ethical questions which underline their research have yet to be addressed: what is life, and what is wrong with acknowledging that death is a natural part of living? Are we right to judge the value of life by its quantity i.e. length of years, rather than its quality?

Death is not a popular concept. If you were to believe all the advertisements, and give up smoking, alcohol, toxic food, eating less taking more exercise, you could almost persuade yourself that you could live for ever. Death is somehow seen as failure, and any means which can prolong life must be grasped. Such attitudes are dishonest. We must face the facts, we are an ageing society and death is the only certainty. I'm concerned therefore, that much of the current scientific research has somehow blurred the distinction between life and death. Certainly we should do all we can to enhance the qualities of peoples lives but not to the extent that the procedures merely become death defying.

Morally and ethically we need to recognise that death should not, and cannot be denied indefinitely. So I wonder if its right to spend time, energy, skill and money on procedures which will only put off death while other people with disorders that are not immediately life-threatening are left to suffer pain and anguish because of a lack of the very time, energy, skill and money which is currently being poured into the research which will only ever help and if help it be - a very small minority of people.

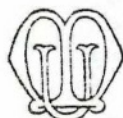
Of course, ever death is a tragedy. There can be no protection against sadness. Death is an outrage, but our unwillingness to face its reality, or accept its inevitability is a sign of immaturity. Any attempt to hustle death away, or to make it more 'acceptable' through clinical efficiency should be resisted if as humans we are to re-discover the quality of life which as a Christian I believe is God given. That quality is determinate upon us allowing people to die with dignity and with the satisfaction that they can lay down their lives in peace.

These are concerns which shouldn't be left solely to the scientists for answers. As Christians we have an important contribution to make in this area but I fear that we shall throw that opportunity away because the questions are too difficult. If we are to grow to maturity - a maturity measured by nothing less than the stature of Christ - then morality and ethics are fundamental to the process. If we get that right, then the question as to whether we should use pig transplants or not may well prove to be irrelevant.

Trevor White 2

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The next meeting will be on September 6th. The speaker will be Mrs.S.Bond telling us ' All About Herbs '. The competition is A Posy of Herbs.



THE MOTHERS' UNION

We shall meet on Tuesday 13th September at 2.30pm at 32 West Street.

The speaker will be the Rector who will reflect upon the recent visit to our twin parish in Seaforth, Liverpool.

Date for your diary

We have been invited to join Billing for their meeting on Tuesday 18th October.

FOR SALE

Good quality wool single blankets. (Now surplus to requirements.) Second-hand but many years of wear left.

Please call at Ecton House, or ring 406442.

£ 5 each.

RECTOR'S NOTES

After a gap of two months it's hard to decide what to mention of the intervening period and what to omit !. Clearly the Festival falls into the former category. While we might have hoped for better weather the experience of other 'summer' weekends should make us grateful that the sun shone as much as it did and the rain held off until the end of the Saturday afternoon. The pictures and comments of the various events are legion but a few still vividly in mind. The frantic work of the bar staff on the Friday night: the sight of two roasting pigs; the sounds of 400 people singing Rule Britannia, and no rain (thanks be to God). On the Saturday the mountains of goods for the White Elephant ; the extraordinary beauty of the Church; the sight of new faces, some of whom have been back again to worship; the gang-plank entry for the Banquet - the stunning galleon and a juggler who triumphed despite or perhaps with the help of the back row comments.

Sunday gave a record attendance at the communion in the marquee and still there was food for lunch; pictures of intense concentration on the faces of those who watched the Punch & Judy ; the thrilling sound of the band from Moulton, the quarter peal by the Ecton Ringers which heralded the end of this years Festival. Such are some of my outward memories, but the real ones go much deeper - gratitude for all the hard work put in by countless people; a willingness to work for the continued life of the Church; an openness to new people these are the things which matter most of all.



Then the final total £4,000 give or take a few pounds, towards the Tower Restoration. Thanks be to God, indeed.

After each Festival I try to express a thanks to everyone who helped, but a few deserve special mention. Sheila Ingram for all the work put in before the event, in writing and co-ordinating the various events; Edna Welch and Freda Richards for arranging the Flower Festival; Martin Stears and his band of helpers behind the bars;

Stephen Meakins, without whose support and generosity of time and energy and inspiration the banquet would have been a non-starter; Clare Pearce and Sue Panton members of the Lawrence Lloyd Singers who co-ordinated the serving of the Saturday night food.

As each Festival passes I find myself re-reading the words I wrote after the previous ones. Perhaps the words are the same, but nonetheless they express, albeit imperfectly, my own conviction that "The Festival is about people, us, our relationships with each other and thus ultimately with God". At a time when the wider Church seems in disarray, more concerned with its own survival than the work to which its called, it's good to see Ecton in such good heart.

But now to other things. The re-decoration of the Church was completed in time for the Festival and is all the better for the scrubbing and polishing which accompanied the work. Easy to take for granted the Cleaning Rota, the Flower Arrangers, the Readers on Sunday, the Makers of the Coffee, but each group and individual enriches our common life. That said, some more volunteers would not go amiss !! .

By the time this magazine is printed, we shall have made our first visit to St. Thomas' Seaforth in the Diocese of Liverpool. Some reflections on our visit should appear in the October magazine. In the meantime, please remember the work of that congregation in your prayers.

On September 2nd we extend our congratulations prayers and good wishes to Mr Smith on his 90th birthday.

Early in September we shall bid farewell to Andrew Currah as he leaves Ecton House to continue his studies at Birmingham. We've been richly enhanced, both in the House and the Parish, by his presence and assure him of our prayers and love for the future. At the end of his year at the Selly Oak College, Andrew hopes to return abroad to work with the Church overseas. I hope that in due course he will continue to broaden our Ecton horizons with news and thoughts from a different culture. He will be preaching for us at the 9.30 Parade Service on September 4th and again at Evensong that day.

The new assistant warden in the House is Mark Catherall. Mark is about to begin the two year pre-theological college course known as Aston. Mark is a keen swimmer, musician and chess player, which should keep us mentally and physically alert !! In the past, he worked behind a bar and in estate management, both of which activities will make him a fitting member of the elite group of assistant wardens. I know you will all soon make him feel at home in the congregation.

Looking into September, The Friends of Ecton House are celebrating our work at a eucharist to be held on September 29th at 12noon. The preacher will be Canon Richard Buck,, Chairman of the Association for Promoting Retreats. The Choir of Bishop Stopford School, Kettering will be providing the music and the service will be followed by a simple lunch. Allowing for the fact that its a weekday, I hope that any one who is free will feel welcome to join us for the service and/or for the lunch. The Parish and Ecton House are mutually inter-dependent, and the day will be an opportunity not only to pray for the work of the House, but also to celebrate its continuing relationship with the Parish and Village.

We also send our congratulations to the Three Horseshoes on the completion of its refurbishment. It's good to see one of our pubs and the other is planned - looking so good - in my work as Director of Ordinands I continually meet people who've been on selection conference to the House and one of whose memories is inevitably the pub down the Road! 'Truly a thirst after righteousness' .

October 2nd will be Harvest Thanksgiving. The morning service at 9.30 will also be Parade Service; which gives me an opportunity to thank the Brownies, Guides and the lone Beaver, for all their help at the Festival.

Harvest Supper and Sale

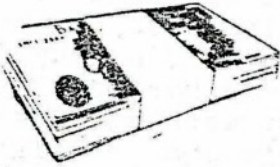
Sunday 2nd October 7.30pm for the Harvest Supper, which includes video and pictures of the Festival 88. Tickets £1 from Margaret Willmott.

Monday 3rd October 8.0pm for the Sale of Harvest Produce in the Church.

We shall also welcome members of my first parish, St. George's Norton to that service.

T. reed

FROM THE COLLECTION PLATE

JULY	3rd		£ 148.03
	10th		£ 166.31
	17th		£ 248.81
	24th		£ 141.35
	31st		£ 141.07
AUG	7th		£ 117.50
	14th		£ 127.10

Sheila Ingram writes...

Along with many of you I had worked hard in the run up to and during the festival and felt that a break would do me good, so I took myself off to Snape in Suffolk on a two day Willow Basketmaking Course.

What an experience, I suppose I expected to meet a group of super arty crafty people all adept at such crafts as weaving, spinning and lace making, but not at all. We were six in number all complete beginners five ladies and one gentleman whose jobs included being a computer engineer, a radiographer and an advertising executive. There we were, thrown together in a room which appeared to be full of bundles of different weights and lengths of damp willow, I began to feel very clumsy. Slowly after a demonstration, we began to learn the different terms and techniques and embarked on producing our first very own baskets. No one basket was perfect, but in our eyes, beautiful. During the two days we became a happy band of workers, helping and encouraging each other until at the end of the second day we had all produced three full sized willow baskets. I now can't help looking in all the craft shops at the prices of baskets, and I've judged that mine are each worth about £15, but to me, mine are priceless.

Anyway to cut a long story short, I wondered if anyone here in Ecton would be interested in trying their hand, and so I have provisionally booked Norah Kennedy to come for two days from Cirencester and run a course for us in the Rectory Room on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th of November.

Each day would begin at 10.00 am and finish at 5.0pm. The only tools required are secateurs and a sharp knife. A buffet lunch will be provided (if you can spare the time to eat it!) and the all inclusive cost for the two days will be £32.

Don't forget, gentlemen are not excluded, but you must get your name down quick as Norah can only take eight people altogether.

If you would like to learn a new craft and maybe make a Christmas present or two, or even have a look at my efforts before committing yourself then let me know by

Tel 406038 or call into 17 West Street.

Sheila Ingram

CAKE STALL

Maud Dicks and Dorothy Cross wish to thank all the ladies who provided the lovely cakes and jams which made our stall at the Festival such a success.

Also many thanks to everyone who helped serve on the stall.

PARISH AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

- Parish Council Chairman Mr J E Beesley
Tel: Northampton 810577
- Ecton Primary School Headmaster Mr D Lennon
Tel: Northampton 409213
- Children's Church Contact Mrs T Main
Tel: Northampton 405322
Every Sunday (except Parade Service
Sunday) 9.30 a.m in Rectory Room
- Mother's Union Contact Mrs M Willmott
Tel: Northampton 406442
2nd Tuesday in month 2.45 p.m in
Rectory Room
- Ecton W.I Contact Mrs G Harlott
Tel: Northampton 405938
1st Tuesday in month 7.30 p.m in
Rectory Room
- Over 60's Contact Mrs E Welch
Tel: Northampton 406163
Twice monthly on Monday's 2.30 p.m in
Rectory Room
- Youth Club & Senior Club Contact Mrs D Bray
Tel: Northampton 408509
Y.C Monday 7.00-9.30 p.m S.C Tuesday
8.00 p.m at Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
- Mums & Tots Contact Mrs J Lennon
Tel: Northampton 410658
Every Thursday 2.30-4.00 p.m in
Rectory Room
- Playgroup Contact Mrs M Tinston
Tel: Northampton 412233
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 T Fuller
Tel: Northampton 403137
- Bell Ringers Contact Mrs M Strange
Tel: Northampton 409306
Tuesday & Wednesday in Bell Tower at
8.00 p.m

D & D STORES

We are at the bottom end of
FRANKLINS CLOSE.

For the benefit of any newcomers to
the village, we would like to remind
you of our opening times.

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9-1 2-5.30

Wed & Sat 9-12.30

Post Office times are the same.

At our village store you will find
general provisions, greeting cards,
frozen foods. Fresh meat can be
ordered on Thursday for collection
on Friday, we have fresh fruit and
vegetables every Thursday.

Bread is available on Tues, Thurs &
Sat, but should be ordered on the
day previous.

If you haven't tried the village
store yet, we look forward to seeing
you in the near future.

FOR NEWCOMERS

Fresh Fish

Thursday mornings delivered by van, by
fish-monger from Flore. Delivers in
West Street at approx 12.15 pm, then
parks on the corner of Church Way until
approx 12.45p.

Mobile Library

Alternate Thursdays.

Barton Fields at approx 11.30 am.

School at approx 12.00.noon.

ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM RESEARCH FLAG DAY

We both wish to thank everyone for their continued support, the Grand sum was £103.2p.

A. & E Cunningham

FLOWER ROTA

September	3rd	Margaret Willmott
	10th	Margaret Willmott
	17th	Mary Dicks
	24th	Mary Dicks
October	1st	HARVEST FESTIVAL

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 2nd October

Join us!

After Christmas and Easter probably the most popular Sunday of the year. During our Harvest Festival we give thanks to God for His gifts of the land so often taken for granted in these days of the supermarket.

On Saturday 1st October

From 10.0 am, everyone is welcome to help decorate the Church with flowers and produce.

For further information please contact Margaret Willmott.

RECTOR ON THE MOVE

In the five years as incumbent of Ecton, Trevor Willmott moves to his third Rectory, is this a record ?

After 17 months in Berrydale Ecton has a new Permanent Rectory in the heart of the village the address is as follows :-

THE RECTORY
32 WEST STREET
ECTON
NN6 0QF

Tel, Northampton 416322
(unchanged)

ECTON YOUTH CLUB

Youth club meetings are expected to resume again early in September after the summer break.

Club nights will be supervised as ever by Harry Welch and Graham Day and any new members would be very welcome.

Youth Club Meetings are on Monday nights from 7 - 9.30pm.

The Senior Club still takes place on Tuesday nights from 8 until about 10.30pm.

The next Lunch Club will be on Wednesday 21st September at 12 noon. Names can be given to Mrs Welch.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

D.Bray.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

We would like to thank all who left flowers and foliage in the Porch ; we hope you felt they were put to good use.

Thanks are extended to all who made the Church look so lovely, especially Joan, Stella and Kate for their cleaning up operation. Last but not least we thank Mr.Collins for making the window ledges, which were so admired.

Edna & Freda.

OVER 60'S CLUB

We have had some very enjoyable outings during the last two months. On Thursday 8th September we go to Olney and Bedford, leaving the village at 1.30 pm returning at 6.30pm.

The meetings in September will be on the 12th and 26th.

Advance Notice

There will be Whist Drives in the Rectory Room on Friday 7th October & Friday 4th November, both starting at 7.30pm.

Edna Welch.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Terry Smith

Thomas John White

Rebecca Kate Haycox

Charlene Jones

WEDDINGS

Peter William Jones & Carol Anne Johnson

Colin Anthony Labrum &

Fiona Ann Rhys-Griffith

CHURCH AND VILLAGE DIARY

SEPTEMBER

- Thursday 1 9.00am Holy Communion
8.00pm W.I. Fashion Show
- Sunday 4 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9.30am Family Communion and
Parade Service
I Timothy 2.1-7 (L Mitchell)
Matthew 14.1-12
6.00pm Evensong
- Monday 5 2.30pm Over 60's Club
- Tuesday 6 7.30pm W.I.
- Thursday 8 9.00am Holy Communion
- Sunday 11 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9.30am Parish Communion and
Children's Church
I John 4.15-end (J Lennon)
Luke 16.19-end
6.00pm Evensong
- Tuesday 13 2.30pm Mothers' Union (32 West St)
- Thursday 15 9.00am Holy Communion
- Sunday 18 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9.30am Parish Communion and
Children's Church
Galatians 3.15-3.9 (D Lennon)
Luke 7.1-10
6.00pm Evensong
- Monday 19 2.30pm Over 60's Club
- Thursday 22 9.00am Holy Communion
- Sunday 25 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9.30am Parish Communion and
Children's Church
I Peter 4.7-11 (N Green)
Matthew 25.14-30
6.00pm Evensong

Monday 26 7.30pm W.L. Group Meeting
Thursday 29 9.00am Holy Communion

OCTOBER

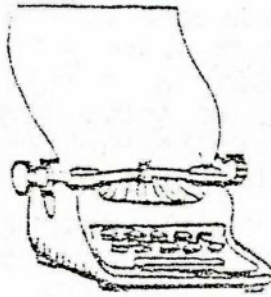
Sunday 2 HARVEST THANKSGIVING
19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9.30am Family Communion, Parade
Service and Presentation
of Harvest Gifts
Galatians 6.6-10 (D Strange)
John 4.31-36
6.00pm Evensong
7.30pm Harvest Supper
Monday 3 2.30pm Over 60's Club

COFFEE ROTA

Sept 4th Nick & Mary Green
11th Tricia Fuller & Mavis Ahead
18th Janet Robinson & Jean Leigh
25th Johan Pinney & Pat Baylis
Oct 2nd Audrey Treloar & Ingrid
Cartwright

OVERHEARD AT ECTON FESTIVAL

" There's nothing much to see in the
Church, it's only something to do with
the Armada ".



COPY FOR THE OCTOBER MAGAZINE

Should be delivered to Ecton House
by 17th September.

Enquiries :- Tel Northampton 407888

A FREE BOOKLET ON "MAKING A WILL"

A very helpful booklet called "MAKING A WILL" is available if you send a 9" x 5" s.a.e. to The Children's Society.

Did you know that only 1 in 4 people actually write a WILL?
How often we have heard: "I will do that . . . sometime" but, in fact, "sometime" never comes.

If you make no WILL then relatives are left to sort out your affairs and they may not always be aware of your personal wishes and thoughts. Bequests may not go to those you intended should receive them.

Writing a WILL is not expensive (it is far more expensive paying legal fees to sort out affairs where there is no WILL). The booklet explains some of the legal language and tells of pitfalls to be avoided. It contains all kinds of helpful advice. Write for it today to:

HELEN AMBLER (WILL BOOKLET),
THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY,
EDWARD RUDOLF HOUSE,
MARGERY STREET,
LONDON WC1X 0JL.

