

ECTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS



SEPTEMBER 1989

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PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

GOD SPEAKS TO US FIRST

This fundamental truth makes it possible for us to pray to God. He has been concerned for each of us long before we became concerned for ourselves.

He desires communication with us.

He speaks to us continually, revealing Himself to us by various modes:

- through Jesus Christ, His Word
- through the Church, the extension of Christ in the world (because we are joined together in Christ, God speaks to us through other people.);
- through visible creation around us, which forms the physical context of our lives. (Creation took place in His Son, and it is another form of God's self-revelation.)
- through the events of our lives;
- through Holy Scripture, a real form of His presence. This is the mode of communication we are most concerned with in prayer.

HE INVITES US TO LISTEN

Our response to God's initial move is to listen to what He is saying. This is the basic attitude of prayer.

HOW TO GO ABOUT LISTENING

What you do immediately before prayer is very important. Normally, it is something you do not rush right into. Spend a few moments quieting yourself and relaxing, settling yourself into a prayerful and comfortable position.

In listening to anyone, you try to tune out everything except what the person is saying to you.

In prayer this can be done best in silence and solitude. Select a favourite passage from Holy Scripture, 5 to 10 verses. Put a marker in the page. Try to find a quiet place where you can be alone and uninhibited in your response to God's presence. *Try to quiet yourself interiorly. Jesus would often go up to a mountain by Himself to pray with His Father.

* In an age of noise, activity, and tensions like our own, it is not always easy or necessary to forget our cares and commitments, the noise and excitement of our environment. Never feel constrained to blot out all distractions. Anxiety in this regard could get between ourselves and God. Rather, realize that the Word did become flesh - that He speaks to us in the noise and confusion of our day. Sometimes in preparing for prayer, relax and listen to the sounds around you. God's presence is as real as they are.

Be conscious of your sensations and living experiences of feeling, thinking, hoping, loving, of wondering, desiring, etc. Then, conscious of God's unselfish, loving presence in you,

address Him simply and admit: "Yes, you do love life and feeling into me. You do love a share of your personal life into me. You are present to me. You live in me. Yes, you do."

God is present as a Person, in you through His Spirit, who speaks to you now in Scripture, and who prays in you and for you.

Ask God the grace to listen to what He says.

Begin reading Scripture slowly and attentively.
Do not hurry to cover much material.

If it recounts an event of Christ's life, be there in the mystery of it. Share with the persons involved, e.g. a blind man being cured. Share their attitude. Respond to what Jesus is saying.

Some words or phrases carry special meaning for you. Savor those words turning them over in your heart.

You may want to speak or recite a psalm or other prayer from Scripture. Really mean what you are saying.

When something strikes you, e.g.

- You feel a new way of being with Christ. He becomes for you in a new way (e.g. you sense what it means to be healed by Christ.)
- you experience God's love
- you feel lifted in spirit
- you are moved to do something good
- you are peaceful
- you are happy and content just to be in God's presence

This is the time to pause.
This is God speaking directly to you in the words of Scripture.
Do not hurry to move on. Wait until you are no longer moved by the experience.

Don't get discouraged if nothing seems to be happening.

Sometimes God lets us feel dry and empty in order to let us realize it is not in our own power to communicate with Him or to experience consolation. God is sometimes very close to us in His seeming absence (Ps 139:7-8). He is for us entirely in a selfless way. He accepts us as we are, with all our limitations - even with our seeming inability to pray. A humble attitude of listening is a sign of love for Him, and a real prayer from the heart.

At these times remember the words of Paul:

"The Spirit, too, comes to help us in our weakness, for when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words." (Rom 8:26-27)

Relax in prayer. Remember, God will speak to you in His own way.

"Yes, as the rain and snow come down from the heavens

and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do." (Isaiah 55: 10-11)

Spend time in your prayer just being conscious of God's presence in and around you. If you want to, speak with Him about the things you are interested in or wish to thank Him for, your joys, sorrows, aspirations, etc.

Summary: 5 "P"s

Passage from Scripture. Pick one and have it marked and ready.

Place. Where you are alone and uninhibited in your response to God's presence.

Posture. Relaxed and peaceful. A harmony of body with spirit.

Presence of God. Be aware of it and acknowledge and respond to it. If nothing happens, turn to the

Passage from Scripture. Read it very slowly aloud and listen carefully and peacefully to it.

Read aloud or whisper in a rhythm with your breathing - a phrase at a time - with pauses and repetitions when and where you feel like it.

Don't be anxious, don't try to look for implications or lessons or profound thoughts or conclusions or resolutions, etc. Be content to be like a child who climbs into its father's lap and listens to his words and his story.

When you finish, remind yourself that God continues to live in you during the rest of the day.

Father Armand Nigro SJ

COPY FOR THE OCTOBER MAGAZINE

Should be delivered to Ecton House
by 17th September.

Enquiries :- Tel Northampton 407888



INTERREGNUM PERIOD

During the interregnum Services will continue to follow the normal pattern

Sundays	Parish Communion	9.30am
	Evensong	6.0pm
Thursday	Holy Communion	9.30am
	in the House Chapel	

The Reverend Michael Webber, Vicar of Earls Barton has kindly agreed to look after the parish pastorally until the new Rector is appointed, and if you wish to arrange Baptisms, Weddings, etc. please contact Michael directly on Northampton 810447.

Should you have any matters affecting the Church please feel free to contact either Henry Pinney (Wellingborough 77021) or myself (Northampton 407888) at anytime.

Technically there must be a period of 1 month and a day from the time Trevor leaves the parish before a new Rector can be appointed, in practice there may be a much longer period before there is a new Rector in Ecton.

All we can tell you is that the Bishop is keen to see an early appointment and that all the initial formalities have been completed.

Martin Stears/ Henry Pinney

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

In the June Magazine we published a letter from Nationwide Anglia Building Society who are supporting the sponsored Bicycle Ride on behalf of the Trust on

SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 1989

BETWEEN 10.AM and 6.OPM

NO IT'S NOT TOO LATE !!!

You can either cycle or walk to as many churches as you can taking sponsorship for the number of churches visited.

or

Act as a recorder at Ecton Church between 10.am and 6.Opm being sponsored for the number of cyclists or walkers received or the hours spent on duty.

Last year £12,500 was raised for the Trust. Lets help improve on that figure this year.

If you haven't already done so please contact Martin Stears tel, 407888 for further details and sponsor forms.

Church & Village Diary

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 3 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9.30am Parish Communion &
Parade Service

Romans 12. 9 to end

Luke 10. 25 -37

6.0pm Evensong

Monday 4 Over 60's

Tuesday 5 7.30pm W.I.

Sunday 10 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9.30am Parish Communion

James 1. 16 to end

Luke 17. 11-19

6.0pm Evensong

Tuesday 11 2.30pm Ecton Fellowship

Saturday 16 WEDDING

Sunday 17 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9.30am Parish Communion

2 Cor 8. 1-9

Matthew 5. 15-26

Sunday 17 6.0pm Evensong
 Monday 18 Over 60's
 Saturday 23 1.30pm Service of Blessing after
 Civil Marriage
 Sunday 24 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9.30am Parish Communion
 Hebrews 11. 1-2 ; 8-16
 Matthew 6. 24 to end
 6.0pm Evensong

OCTOBER

Sunday 1 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

9.30am Parish Communion &
 Parade Service
 Galatians 6. 6-10
 John 4. 31-36
 6.0pm Evensong

Children's
 Church

Contacts

Mrs Toni Main - Tel: 405322
 Mrs Gwen Douglas Tel: 42442
 Miss Trudi Wright Tel: 405336

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

HOUSE GROUP

All good things don't have to come to an end. Not yet anyway ! We're re-starting our monthly house group meetings on Thursday September 21st so why not come along ?

We'll begin at 8.0pm at Pat's house - 34 West Street, Ecton -- with soup and bread and cheese and finish with Compline. At the time of writing what will happen in between is still only a vague idea but I hope will be interesting and enjoyable.

If you are going to come along please let Pat know in advance so that she knows how many gallons of soup to make!

Look forward to seeing you.

Mary Strange.

READERS ROTA

SEPTEMBER

3rd Martin Stears
10th Richard Mayne
17th John Strange
24th Nick Green

OCTOBER

1st Stan Kidney

HOLIDAYS FOR DEPRIVED CHILDREN

The considerable sum raised at the Cheese and Wine party held on 5th May enabled us to help two families to enjoy a much needed holiday.

Mary Dicks has received the following letter of thanks from the family we initially set out to sponsor.

"Thank you very much for making it possible for me and my three sons to have a wonderful weeks holiday in Great Yarmouth. I can't begin to tell you how much my boys enjoyed it they had such a wonderful time. I also wish to thank all your friends who helped to make it possible.

Thanking you once again."

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

A letter from the Appeals Officer of the Spastics Society has been received thanking those who supported the house to house collections earlier this year which raised £38.24p in Ecton and £10,194 for the Wellingborough area as a whole. The monies raised will go toward helping people with cerebral palsy lead more independent lives.

There is a shortage of collectors for the Ecton area and any offers of help for next year would be greatly appreciated.

Mary Dicks.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 1st October

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 30th September

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

For further information please contact Kathy Stears. Northampton 407888

Love Unfolding

And so I saw full surely that before ever God made us, he loved us. And this love was never quenched nor ever shall be. And in this love he has done all his works, and in this love he has made all things profitable to us, and in this love our life is everlasting. In our making we had beginning, but the love in which he made us was in him from without beginning, in which love we have our beginning.

Flower Rota

SEPTEMBER

2nd Mary Dicks
9th Mary Dicks
16th WEDDING
23rd Kathy Stears
30th HARVEST

OCTOBER

7th Audrey Treloar

Sacristans Rota

SEPTEMBER

2nd Mrs Treloar & Miss Gleave (B)
9th Mrs Wilson & Mrs Molford (A)
16th -----do----- (B)
23rd Mr & Mrs Murdin (A)
30th -----do----- (B)

OCTOBER

7th Mrs Treloar & Miss Gleave (A)
14th Mrs Baylis & Mrs Stears (B)

Coffee Rota

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd Nick & Mary Green
10th Tricia Fuller & Mavis Ahead
17th Janet Robinson & Jean Leigh
24th Johan Pinney & Pat Baylis

OCTOBER

- 1st Audrey Treloar & Ingrid
Cartwright

Cleaning Rota

CLEANING

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd Mrs Wilson & Mrs Hunwicks (R)
9th Mrs Baylis & Mrs Stears (L)
16th Mrs Robinson & Mrs Haycox (R)
23rd Mrs.L.Johnson & Mrs Richards (L)
30th Mrs.A.Johnson, Mrs Rands &
Mrs.W.Johnson (R)

OCTOBER

- 7th Alice & Wynne (L)
14th Mrs Dicks & Mrs Cartwright (R)

PARISH AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

- Parish Council Chairman Mr John E Beesley
Tel: Northampton 810577
- Ecton Primary School Headmaster Mrs Sarah Stopps
Tel: Northampton 409213
- Ecton Fellowship Contact Mrs Joyce Orford
Tel: Northampton 414245
2nd Tuesday in month 2.45 p.m in
Rectory Room
- Ecton W.I Contact Mrs Millie Harlott
Tel: Northampton 405938
1st Tuesday in month 7.30 p.m in
Rectory Room
- Over 60's Contact Mrs Edna Welch
Tel: Northampton 406163
Twice monthly on Monday's 2.30 p.m in
Rectory Room
- Youth Club & Senior Club Contact Mrs M Beesley
Tel: Northampton 810577
Y.C Monday 7.00-9.30 p.m S.C Tuesday
8.00 p.m at Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
- Mums & Tots Contact Mrs Jan Lennon
Tel: Northampton 410658
Every Thursday 2.30-4.00 p.m in
Rectory Room
- Playgroup Contact Mrs Jan Lennon
Tel: Northampton 410658
Tuesday & Friday 9.15-11.45 a.m at
Youth Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
- Cricket Club Secretary Mr J Collip
Tel: Northampton 405688
- Brownies Contact Mrs Tricia Fuller
Tel: Northampton 403137
- Bell Ringers Contact Mrs Mary Strange
Tel: Northampton 409306

