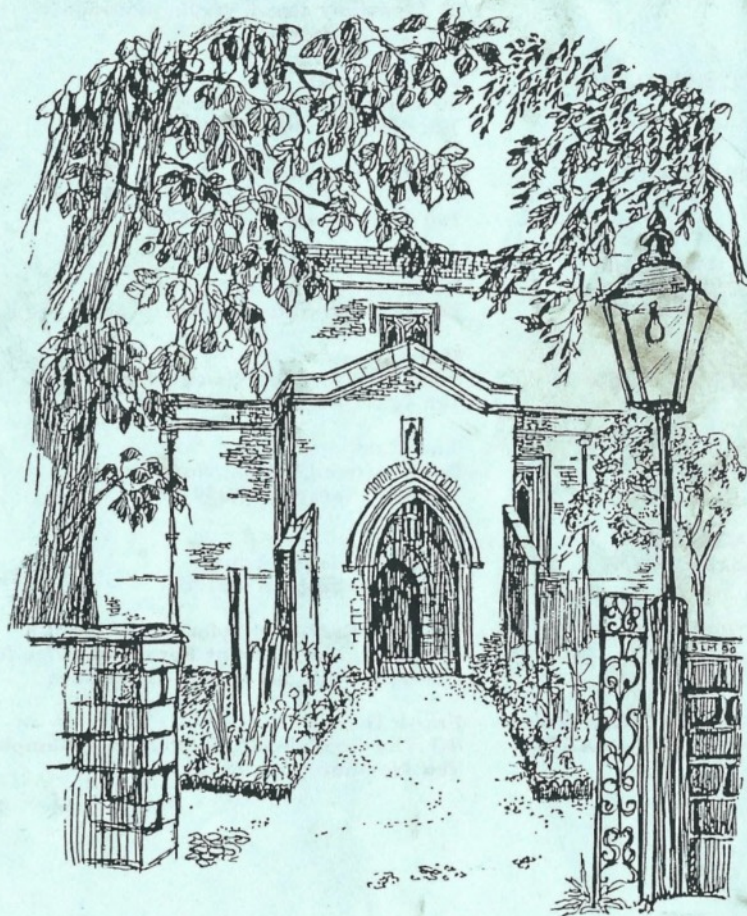


ECTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS



February 1992

ECTON CHURCH DIRECTORY

RECTOR	The Reverend Peter Naylor Ecton Rectory, West Street, Ecton Tel: Northampton 416322 (Home) Northampton 406442 (Ecton House)
CHURCHWARDENS	John Strange Silver Howe, Barton Fields, Ecton Tel: Northampton 409306 Henry Pinney 91 Henshaw Road, Wellingborough Tel: Wellingborough 277021
PCC SECRETARY	Leslie Murdin 20 Church View, ECTON Tel: Northampton 409422
TREASURER	Robert Allison 9 The Courtyard, Ecton Hall, Ecton Tel: Northampton 409467
STEWARDSHIP RECORDER	Marian Gleave 19 Church View, ECTON Tel: Northampton 407889
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER	Mary Dicks Field House, West Street, Ecton Tel: Northampton 407145
MAGAZINE EDITOR	The Rector Ecton House, Ecton, Northampton Tel: Northampton 406442
MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR	Pay Baylis 34 West Street, Ecton Tel: Northampton 407707
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Contact Patricia Naylor - Tel: 416322 Every Sunday (except Parade Service first Sunday) 9.25 a.m. in Rectory Room
CHURCH ORGANIST AND CHOIR MASTER	Frank Brown 40 The Scarplands, Duston, Northampton Tel: Northampton 752266

Rector's Notes

We extend a warm welcome to Bishop Paul Barber who is to preside and preach at the Parish Communion Service on Sunday, 23rd February. The Bishop was here in November when he Confirmed many candidates in a packed Church. I hope that the service will be well attended for an episcopate visit which I know will give much pleasure. Mrs Barber will accompany her husband.

We also look forward to another visit by the Bishop in the very near future. It will take place on Wednesday, 11th March, when he is to speak to the children at Ecton School.

The services at Christmas in our Church were for the most part very well attended. I want to thank, on behalf of everyone, those who worked so hard in assisting with the services and decorating the Church.

In the foreseeable future a house meeting will be held on the third Thursday of each month, excluding August, at 8.00 pm. The policy will be to invite visiting speakers who have something interesting to say about our faith. From time to time the evening meeting will have a devotional theme, especially in preparation for the great festivals of the church. The next meeting is on Thursday, 20th February when Frank Brown, our Organist and Choirmaster will lead a discussion on Church music.

And lastly, a prayer for the season of lent which will soon be with us.

O Lord, this lent,
may I fast from criticism and feast on praise,
may I fast from self pity and feast on joy,
may I fast from ill temper and feast on peace,
may I fast from resentment and feast on contentment
may I fast from pride and feast on humility
may I fast from jealousy and feast on love,
may I fast from selfishness and feast on service,
may I fast from fear and feast on faith,
AND ALL IN YOUR POWER AND GRACE, AMEN.

CHURCH WARDENS NOTES

We feel sure you will be pleased to know that work on restoring and maintenance of the Church fabric is proceeding. This work represents the most urgent repairs which were highlighted in our Architects Quinquennial Inspection which was undertaken in January 1991. The cost of this work will be £9500.00, which we are in the very fortunate position of being able to pay for when it is completed. However, more work needs to be undertaken as soon as is possible which will cost around £16000.00. A very great deal of effort will be needed to raise this money in order that all the work is completed by January 1996 when the next Quinquennial Inspection will be due.

The restoration and re-hanging of the beautiful wrought iron gates at the north entrance to the Churchyard has been made possible by a very generous benefactor, to whom we are all most grateful. The gates, together with the lantern which has been repaired, serve to enhance the entrance to this Churchyard, they will be much admired.

We are hopeful that we shall soon receive approval from the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Notice Board which the PCC propose to erect inside the Churchyard to the right of the entrance gates.

Henry Pinney and John Strange
CHURCH WARDENS

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

As 1991 draws to its close, the New Year is about to begin, it is very good to look back and then to look forward to the future. I would like to say a big thank you to those gallant choir members who have continued to give their support; their efforts are much appreciated.

Recently I accompanied a band of singers around Ecton Village on a Carol singing expedition. I was surprised at the number of Ladies, Gentlemen and young folk who supported the event. I could not help but think how wonderful it would be if some, or indeed all of these people, were in our choir; what a boost to morale it would be for our present members.

So often people say "I haven't sung since I was a youngster" or "I have no voice" or "I do not read music". Whilst it is desirable to be able to read music or indeed have a wonderful voice by far the most important asset is the willingness to offer ones self. So please do try so much can then be achieved.

With 1992 now looming large please will you consider extending the Carol singing and joining in the choir Sunday worship. I do assure you of a warm welcome. Young people, ladies and gentlemen are all needed and perhaps in 1992 we could surprise ourselves.

Frank Brown

From the Rector's Study

I am one of those Christians who can criticise the Church of England with the best of them after 61 years of membership as man and boy. Thirty years of priesthood qualifies me as an informed critic, especially having lived and served in parishes for all of that time and having also served a priest under four diocesan bishops. But I hasten to add that despite all the Church's faults I am a fierce defender, not only of my beloved Church, but also of my brother clergy.

It can be said that the Church of England attempts the impossible task by providing clergy and Churches for every square inch of England. Everyone who lives in this country lives in a parish which has legal status and recognised boundaries. Villages, housing estates and tough town centres are all in a Church of England parish. For better and for worse we have our parish centres of worship, radiating for the most part nothing else but the goodness of God. Holy places where prayers are uttered, hymns and psalms are sung, the Bible is read and the faith is taught. At thousands of altars throughout the land, many more people than we would ever suspect, kneel to receive the Blessed Sacrament of our Lord Jesus.

To whom do we owe the parish system? It goes back to Archbishop Theodore of the 7th century AD who first organised the churches of this country putting them into parishes, serving under a bishop whose seat of authority was found in his Cathedral Church. The word comes from the Greek meaning "district" and from this very early date the English parish has played an important part in the life of our country. I know from my own experience that the Church of England continues to do a magnificent job in our urban parishes, surviving, despite enormous difficulties since the outbreak of the last war. Thank God there are so many signs of new life in the Churches where once the response was one of indifference and neglect.

We are faced with certain challenges of great spiritual importance. As Christians and members of the Church of England, we can often take our parish Church for granted. "It is there when we want it", people will often say. I often ponder on the continuity of worship in Ecton Parish Church

since the thirteenth century. For over 700 years Ecton Parish Church has been a house of God and as a consequence a holy place. Surely this is something to marvel at. Let's not take our Church for granted but rejoice in what we do for the glory of God. I suspect that if the Church of England closed down its parish Churches the loss to our national life and for the rest of the world would be immense. Could you imagine such a spiritual desert?

May God bless you and your loved ones
Peter Naylor, Rector

CHURCH FLOWERS

I would like to thank all the people who so generously gave money for the Christmas Flowers, to the people who supplied the greenery and to Geoff who cut it for us. Also a very big thank you to the people who came to arrange the flowers. We seem to get less arrangers each Church Festival and would really appreciate some extra volunteers for Church Festivals. The Flower Rota is now at the back of the Church you do not have to be an expert arranger to arrange flowers for God. It is not a competition but an act of love.

"And of your own do we give you".

Pat Baylis

CAROL SINGING

On Wednesday, 18th December 1991, a band of singers gathered at Ecton House, around 6.30 p.m. in order to sing Carols round the village of Ecton.

We set off in good voice, and good spirits and a number of Parishioners regaled us with mince pies and wine on route.

Sadly heavy rain eventually forced us to give up, although there were still parts of the Village that we would like to have visited.

Notwithstanding the fore-shortened evening, we were able to raise the sum of £117 for the Childrens Society.

Very many thanks to all those who contributed, and to all the singers.

Frank Brown

ECTON FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 11th at 2.30 p.m. Michael Jones the Jeweller is going to talk about the Co-operative Movement.

This will be a very interesting afternoon.

Everyone is very welcome.

Joan Dickins

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On Tuesday, 4th February we look forward to an interesting talk from Millie and Sylvia on their holiday 1990, all members and friends are invited to join us. Details of the competition will be disclosed at the meeting.

Our annual Birthday Dinner will be celebrated on Thursday, 13th February and names of members wishing to attend together with payment will be taken at our meeting on 4th February.

At our January meeting the speaker, Mr Blunt of Carefree Travel, was introduced. We all enjoyed a very interesting visual journey through beauty sports of Britain and Europe thanks to his slide presentation and talk. Brochures of these holidays are available.

Many interesting and varied postcards were submitted and Mr Blunt judged the winning cards to be from Sylvia, Mary and Jean.

Our speaker for the 3rd March meeting will be Mrs Kidby, her subject being palmistry and the competition is for the prettiest pin cushion.

Mary Bane

ECTON PARISH COUNCIL

Since the last report in the November magazine your council has been very active and details of several developments are mentioned later in this article.

Two major disappointments were attendances at the open meeting to discuss the proposed Sand and Gravel Plan 1992-2006 which was held on 11th November and the public exhibition in the Rectory Room the following week. Many Villagers have denied knowledge of either of these events which were posted on the Village notice board outside the school and in the first case mentioned in the magazine. These are the two avenues open to us to inform you of the affairs and events in the Village so please try to support your council in 1992. The public exhibition which outlined the local expansion plan was nothing too much for us to worry about, no great changes should take place within our parish. Nevertheless Wellingborough Council had gone to a lot of trouble to make up screens with maps and aerial photographs and send members of staff to explain it all to visitors and only four people attended in a six hour period.

With regard to the Local Sand and Gravel Plan, the public meeting was attended by four representatives of Northampton Borough Council, Mr R Fairhurst our District Councillor, Mr Blackwell from Earls Barton, Ecton Parish Councillors and one Villager!

It was with great concern that we learned about the proposed extraction site which could extend to 1050 acres at the bottom of the Village on the other side of the A45. Meetings have been held in Cogenhoe and Earls Barton and together with them we have written to the appropriate authorities and our MP's expressing strong disapproval. If anyone wishes to see either the proposed plan or the letter the Clerk and the Chairman have copies.

Other matters include the purchase of a new lamp standard for the junction at the Worlds End on Northampton Road, with proposals for further purchases as soon as our funds permit. We are aware that several more standards are required but these have to be purchased from our own Parish Funds. An application has been made for four more salt bins and these when they arrive will be sited at the corners of Barton Fields, Parsons Close, at the bottom and halfway up West Street.

We have been very concerned about the operation of the pumping station at the bottom of Franklins Close and strong representation has been made to the Environmental Health Officer in order to have it upgraded.

The collection which was made in the Villages served by the recently retired Dr Ingram was most generous and Dr Ingram has been instrumental in placing seats in the Villages of Earls Barton and Mears Ashby and wishes to do the same for Ecton. We have contacted the local Highways Department and hope in the near future to place a seat in West Street close to the flats.

Other good news is that although Ecton wasn't very successful in the Tidy Village competition in 1991 it gained the highest marks of all in the Churchyard competition 98 out of 100. Congratulations to Henry, Tom and Brian who do such a wonderful job taking care of it.

Finally we have been requested to carry out a survey of traffic through the village in order to qualify for inclusion on the list of villages applying for a traffic calming programme. We hope to undertake this as soon as the weather is a little warmer and will be grateful for volunteers to sit for a couple of hours at a time by the shrine in a car and complete a ticking list of vehicles. If you would like to help, then please contact Sheila Ingram.

ECTON OVER 60'S CLUB

We ended 1991 with our Christmas Dinner at Ecton House. 41 members were present. After a delicious meal we were entertained by the Savoy Singers and ended the evening singing Carols.

Our meetings are on Mondays, 3rd and 17th February and 2nd March at 2.30 p.m. in the Rectory Room. We welcome new members. Anyone interested come along and join us.

The February Whist Drive will be on Thursday, 27th February, 7.15 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.. Open to all, so come and have a good evening.

Denise Langley

CLEANING ROTA

1st February	Blue Team	Polish
8th February	Pink Team	Shine
15th February	Yellow Team	Polish
22nd February	Red Team	Shine
29th February	Green Team	Polish
7th March	Orange Team	Shine

COFFEE ROTA

2nd February	Sue and Les Mitchell
9th February	Celia and Howard Carter
16th February	Alice and Wynn
23rd February	Mrs Peacock and Mrs Creed
30th February	Jean Leigh and
8th March	Johann Pinney

COLLECTIONS

17th November	£352.00
24th November	£235.55
1st December	£247.91
8th December	£207.50
15th December	£155.65
22nd December	£287.15
Christmas	£215.02
29th December	£147.91

Christingle collection paid to the Church of England Children's Society	£66.60
Confirmation collection paid to the Diocese of Peterborough for bursaries to make possible Christian training of young people	£216.15

"Heavenly Father

Open my heart to the silent presence of
the Spirit of your Son. Lead me into
that mysterious silence where your love
is revealed to all who call."

FEBRUARY 1992

Friday, 1	Rector and family and those working on the magazine
Saturday, 2	Church Wardens
Sunday, 3	St Ignatius Loyola, Priest. Founder of SJ 1556
Monday, 4	PCC Secretary and Treasurer
Tuesday, 5	Stewardship and electoral roll officers
Wednesday, 6	The Childrens' Society
Thursday, 7	The Diocese of Peterborough
Friday, 8	Ecton Guild
Saturday, 9	Readers
Sunday, 10	Coffee Servers
Monday, 11	Flower Arrangers
Tuesday, 12	Those with special needs
Wednesday, 13	Franklins Close
Thursday, 14	West Street

Friday, 15 Church View
 Saturday, 16 Church Way
 Sunday 17 High Street and Caravan
 Site
 Monday, 18 Barton Fields
 Tuesday, 19 Northampton Road
 Wednesday, 20 Wellingborough Road
 Thursday, 21 Ecton House
 Friday, 22 Ecton Hall and Cottages
 Saturday, 23 St Polycarp, Bishop of
 Smyrna, Martyr C 155
 Sunday, 24 Those on holiday
 Monday, 25 Family problems
 Tuesday, 26 Those who are in prison
 Wednesday, 27 George Herbert Priest,
 Pastor and Poet 1633
 Thursday, 28 For Peace

*Also (among Saints and Martyrs of Europe)

Saint Blasius, Bishop, Martyr C 316
 Saint Sergius, Abbot 1392; and other
 Saints

and Martyrs of Africa; Uganda Martyrs
 1886/1977.

Cecile Isherwood 1906, Andrew Kagurn
 Martyr
 of Kenya 1953.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Marriage

12th October

Robert David Borwick
and Nicola Marie Shocklidge

Funerals

8th November

13th November

13th November

Andrew Francis Pearson

Edith Annie Dawson

Charles Arthur Saunders

Baptisms

1st December

Stuart Gerald Banham

Confirmations by the Bishop of Brixworth

17th November

Catherine Sheila Tildesley

Wendy Cook

Charles Edward Thomas Jordan

Victoria Louise Greene

Charlotte Annabel Greene

David John Stears

Richard James Strears

Andrew Graham Mitchell

Daniel Nathan Carter

Jason Lee Carter

Darren John Powell

Sarah Alison Reynolds

Mark Andrew Reynolds

The Editor has received the following letter which he felt we would all like to read:

Dear Rector

On behalf of the Choir of St Alban's Church, I write to proffer thanks for your kindness in setting up the post-Evensong refreshments at the House.

We much enjoyed singing Evensong with you and thank you for the invitation.

With best wishes to you and to your congregation.

Michael Howard

SERVERS ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

February, 2	Victoria Green
February, 9	Leslie Mordin
February, 16	John Strange
February, 23	Leslie Mordin
March, 1	Charles Jordan

Many Parishioners will be wondering exactly what is being done by Church Leaders with regard to the vexed question of Sunday trading. We print below a letter which has been sent to The Prime Minister by the leaders of the major Churches:

Dear Prime Minister

As you know, many large retail companies are actively considering opening illegally on the Sundays immediately before Christmas. We are most concerned by this prospect, for two main reasons.

First, the toleration of any widespread and deliberate flouting of the 1950 Shops Act will undermine the institution of a nationally observed day in the week substantially set apart for activities which are other than commercial in nature. We believe that all peoples need to have one day in the week which is different, and which provides an opportunity for various forms of community life and activity.

Divine worship is an important but not the only concern here. The progressive abandonment of such a nationally observed day poses a real danger to family life and social relationships and especially to the welfare of many workers in the retail industry.

The second reason is that, quite apart from the merits of the above points, the law should be obeyed. It is surely wholly unacceptable for those who seek profit by illegal action to be allowed to pursue it without censure.

We recognise that a recent Appeal Court decision has made it extremely difficult for local authorities to enforce the 1950 Shops Act and that there is a general impression of uncertainty about the law resulting from the recent reference by the House of Lords to the European Court of Justice. However, as the Minister of State at the Home Office said in the House of Commons last month: "the decisions of the Courts do not affect either the responsibility of local authorities for enforcing the Act or their power. Therefore, the law remains clear". (Hansard, October 1991, Cols. 128-0)

Some of the retailers contemplating opening on Sundays in the run up to Christmas have stated quite explicitly that they would do so only if the Government was amenable. In these circumstances we are writing to ask you to make a public appeal to retail companies to continue to obey the law.

They present law needs to be amended. Meanwhile the Government should neither condone, nor appear to condone, illegal activities. As your predecessor said in the House of Commons in answer to a question from Mrs Rumbold in December 1984: "The law must be obeyed until it is changed by Parliament".

Yours sincerely

Archbishop of Canterbury
Archbishop of Westminster
Chief Rabbi
Moderator, Free Church Federal Council

CHURCH AND VILLAGE DIARY

Sat 1 Feb	Safari Supper
SUN 2 Feb	PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE 9.30 am Parish Communion and Parade Service Malachi 3. 1-5 : Luke 2. 22-35 6.00 pm Evensong 7.00 pm Pathfinders
Mon 3 Feb	7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel 2.30 pm Over Sixties meet in the Rectory Room
Thu 4 Feb	9.30 am Holy Communion
SUN 9 Feb	FIFTH AFTER EPIPHANY 9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School Proverbs 2. 1-9 : Matthew 12. 38-42 6.00 pm Evensong followed by Holy Communion 7.00 pm Pathfinders
Mon 10 Feb	7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel 8.00 pm Cricket Club
Tue 11 Feb	8.00 pm Parochial Church Council
Thu 13 Feb	9.30 am Holy Communion Women's Institute Birthday Dinner
SUN 16 Feb	NINTH BEFORE EASTER 9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School Proverbs 3. 1-8 : Luke 8. 4b-15 6.00 pm Evensong 7.00 pm Pathfinders

Mon 17 Feb 7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel
 2.30 pm Over Sixties meet in the Rectory Room

Thu 20 Feb 9.30 am Holy Communion
 8.00 pm House Meeting at Ecton House

SUN 23 Feb EIGHTH BEFORE EASTER
 9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School
 Preacher and Celebrant:
 The Bishop of Brixworth
 2 Kings 5. 1-14 : Mark 7. 24-end
 6.00 pm Evensong
 7.00 pm Pathfinders

Mon 24 Feb 7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel

Thu 27 Feb 9.30 am Holy Communion
 7.15 pm Whist Drive in the Rectory Room

MARCH

SUN 1 Mar SEVENTH BEFORE EASTER
 9.30 am Parish Communion and Parade Service
 Numbers 15. 32-36 : John 8. 2-11
 6.00 pm Evensong followed by Holy Communion
 7.00 pm Pathfinders

PARISH AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

PARISH COUNCIL	Chairman	Sheila Ingram Tel: Northampton 406038
ECTON PRIMARY SCHOOL	Headteacher	Helen Tite Tel: Northampton 409213
ECTON FELLOWSHIP	Contact	Joyce Orford Tel: Northampton 414245 2nd Tuesday in month 2.30 pm in Rectory Room
ECTON W.I.	Contact	Millie Harlott Tel: Northampton 405938 1st Tuesday in month 7.30 p.m. in Rectory Room
OVER 60's	Contact	Denise Langley Tel: Northampton 404173 Twice monthly on Mondays 2.30 pm in Rectory Room
YOUTH CLUB & SENIOR CLUB	Contact	Mary Beesley Tel: Northampton 810577 Y.C. Wednesday 7.00 - 9.00 pm S.C. Tuesday 8.00 pm, Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
MUMS & TOTS	Contact	Julie Meakins Tel: Northampton 411140 Every Thursday 2.30 - 4.00 pm in Rectory Room
PLAYGROUP	Contact	Julie Meakins Tel: Northampton 411140 Tuesday and Friday 9.15-11.45 am Youth Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
CRICKET CLUB	Captain Secretary	Steve Wheatman Tel: Northampton 401714 Hilary Kearsley Tel: Northampton 810922
BROWNIES	Contact	Tricia Fuller Tel: Northampton 403137
BELL RINGERS	Contact	Mary Strange Tel: Northampton 409306
PATHFINDERS	Contact	Graham Jordan Tel: Northampton 410255

EAST LODGE FARM

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Ecton, Northampton

Telephone:
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ECTON HOUSE



PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN CONFERENCE
CENTRE AND RETREAT HOUSE

The Reverend Peter Naylor, Warden
Ecton House, Ecton, Northampton NN6 0QE
Telephone: Northampton (0604) 406442