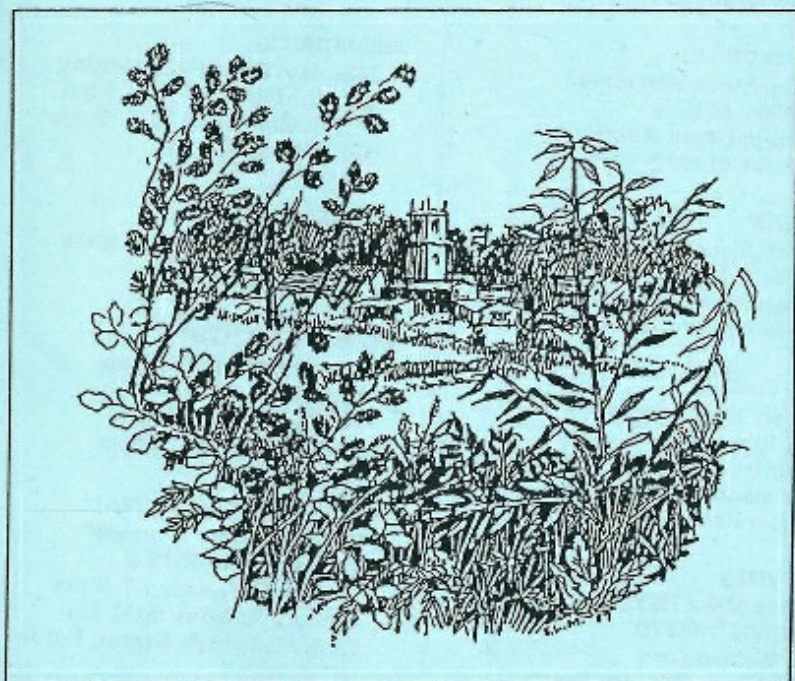


ST MARY MAGDALENE ECTON



PARISH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 1997

Contributions welcome towards cost of producing the magazine.

PARISH AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

BELL RINGERS

Contract Dorothy Creed
Tel: 01604 407864

CRICKET CLUB

Captain: Steve Wheatmen
Tel: 01604 401714
Secretary: Hilary Kearsley
Tel: 01604 810922

FELLOWSHIP

Contact Joyce Orford
Tel: 01604 414245
2nd Tuesday in month
2.30 pm Rectory Room

MONDAY CLUB

Contract Eileen Collip or
Freda Richards
Tel: 01604 405688 or 405928
Twice monthly on Mondays
2.30 pm Rectory Room

MUMS & TOTS

Contact Maha Hillier
Tel: 01604 784370
Most Wednesdays
2.00-3.15 pm Rectory Room

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: David Dicks
Tel: 01604 407145

PRE-SCHOOL

Monday Tuesday Thursday
and Friday 9.15 - 11.45 am
Youth Club Hall, High Street
Tel: 01604 784711

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Sheila Sayers
Tel: 01604 409213

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Contact: Stella Gibson
Tel: 01604 405350
1st Tuesday in month
7.30 pm Rectory Room

YOUTH & SENIOR CLUBS

Contact: Mary Beesley
Tel: 01604 810577
Youth: Wednesday 7-9 pm
Senior: Tuesday 8.00 pm
Club Hall, High Street, Ecton

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Anne Henderson, 48 High Street, Ecton
Tel: 01604 405942

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR

The Rector, 32 West Street, Ecton
Tel: 01604 416322

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RECTOR

The Reverend Peter Naylor
Ecton Rectory, West Street
Tel: Home 01604 416322
Tel: Office 01604 406442

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View - Tel: 01604 407864
Jean Morrison, Apartment 8
Ecton Hall - Tel: 01604 785158

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N'ton - Tel: 01604 413035

PCC TREASURER

Les Mitchell, 12 Berrydale
N'ton - Tel: 01604 415013

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Mary Dicks, Field House
West St - Tel: 01604 407145

STEWARDSHIP RECORDER

Marlan Gleave, 19 Church
View - Tel: 01604 407889

SUNDAY FAMILY

Contact Patricia Naylor
Tel: 01604 416322
9.25 am Rectory Room
(Not First Sunday in the month)

CHURCH ORGANIST/CHOIR MASTER

Frank Brown
40 The Scarplands, Duston
N'ton - Tel: 01604 471026

**ECTON PARISH
MAGAZINE**

You will find

The Rector's letter
on page 3

Church & Village Diary
on pages 4-5

Church Rotas
on pages 6-8

From the Registers
on page 8

All copy for March magazine
to Ecton House clearly
labelled 'parish magazine'
by 14th February

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT



Tuesday 4th February in the Conference Room.

Speaker: Dr Campling "Thirty years in Practice"

Competition: Valentine Cookies

Teas: Mrs J Wilson, Mrs S Saunders

The minutes were read and apologies recorded at the meeting in December. Our President was unable to be at this meeting, but sent a letter wishing all members a happy christmas and a successful new year.

Our speaker in December was Mrs A Rhodes, a member of the British Sugarcraft Guild. We all leaned a few new ideas for icing cakes and also how to use a Danish marzipan knife and 'crimpers' for edging the icing and how to use dusting powder for colouring the decorations. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs M Greene. The competition results - a sugar bowl - are:-

- a) Marlene,
- b) Marian and
- c) June whose bowl was 100 years old!

The meeting finished with a seasonal drink and goodies, and an attempt at singing a few carols!

By the time of this edition of the magazine we hope to have enjoyed a meeting in January and our Birthday party dinner on Friday 24th January.

M Scott

REMINDER

Annual subscriptions due.

January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather!

Speakers were given an alternative date.

FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 12th February) is the beginning of the season of Lent; six and a half weeks before Easter. Preparation for Easter Day, when we celebrate with joy the victory of Christ over death, sin and the power of the devil, is a matter of the greatest importance for those who claim to be Christians. Here is an opportunity to put right any matter that causes harm or disturbance to self and others. Our relationship with God lies behind all the business of Lent and Easter, as we journey with Jesus through His bitter experience on the cross and the resurrection from the dead on Easter morning.

Traditionally, the church concentrates upon prayer, abstinence and repentance for sins committed in the past. In short, Lent provides a golden opportunity to return to God and His merciful forgiveness. The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church tells of the history of Ash Wednesday. "At one time, public penitents at Rome were ceremonially admitted to begin their penance on this day; and when this discipline fell into disuse, between the 8th and 10th cents., the general penance of the whole congregation took its place. This was symbolized by the imposition of ashes, in token

of mourning and penitence, upon the heads of clergy and people, a rite still ordered for Ash Wednesday in the Roman Missal."

Christians of earlier time exercised great discipline during Lent. Only one meal a day was allowed in the evening. Fleshmeat and fish, and in most places eggs, were absolutely forbidden. In the Orthodox churches of Russia and Greece this severe abstinence is practised today.

Lent also helps us think of others as well as ourselves. Most christian people practice greater generosity to those in need, often remembering a particular charity or church cause, so that the less fortunate benefit from such alms giving. It is also very good practice to attend church services with greater frequency, especially the celebrations of Holy Communion when we pray not only for ourselves but for others. I hope that you will try with me to keep a good Lent, thus adding to the quality of spiritual life in our community and beyond. As the Bible says, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glory your Father who is in heaven."

*Every Blessing,
Peter Naylor*

FEBRUARY 1997 DIARY

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Sunday, 2nd February

- 9.30 am Holy Communion (said)
1 Peter 2. 1-10 : Luke 2. 22-35
- 10.30 am Sunday Praise
- 6.00 pm Holy Communion (1662) with hymns

Monday, 3rd February

- 7.50 am Holy Communion In the House Chapel
- 2.30 pm Monday Club meet in the Rectory Room

Tuesday, 4th February

- 7.30 pm Women's Institute meet in the Rectory Room

Wednesday, 5th February

- 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 7.30 pm Prayer & Praise at 34 West Street

Thursday, 6th February

- 7.30 pm Holy Communion

SEVEN BEFORE EASTER : Sunday, 9th February

- 9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday Family
Philemon 1-16 : Mark 2. 13-17
- 6.00 pm Evensong

Monday, 10th February

- 7.50 am Holy Communion In the House Chapel

ASH WEDNESDAY, 12th February

- 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 7.30 pm Holy Communion (Sung)

Thursday, 13th February

- 7.30 pm Holy Communion

Friday, 14th February

- 11.40 am Ecton Fellowship meet at Ecton House for
Luncheon Outing

Saturday, 15th February

10-12 noon Blue Peter Bring & Buy in the Rectory Room

FIRST IN LENT : Sunday, 16th February

9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday Family
Hebrews 2. 14-end : Matthew 4. 1-11

12.00 noon Baptism

6.00 pm Evensong

Monday, 17th February

7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel

2.30 pm Monday Club meet in the Rectory Room

Wednesday, 19th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm Prayer & Praise at 48 High Street

Thursday, 20th February

7.30 pm Holy Communion followed by Compline

SECOND IN LENT : Sunday, 23rd February

9.30 am Parish Communion
1 John 4. 1-6 : Luke 19. 41-end

6.00 pm Evensong

Monday, 24th February

7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel

Wednesday, 26th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

Thursday, 27th February

7.30 pm Holy Communion followed by Compline

7.30 pm Monday Club Whist Drive in the Rectory Room

THIRD IN LENT : Sunday, 2nd March

9.30 am Holy Communion (said)
Colossians 1. 24-end : Luke 9. 18-27

10.30 am Sunday Praise

6.00 pm Holy Communion (1662) with hymns



COFFEE ROTA

2nd February	
9th February	Sue and Les Mitchell
16th February	Pat Peacock & Dorothy Creed
23rd February	Mille Harolott & Christine Murray



CLEANING ROTA

1st February	ORANGE	A
8th February	RED	B
15th February	PINK	A
22nd February	YELLOW	B

BRASS CLEANING ◆ Saturday, 1st February

ROTAS	2nd Feb	9th Feb	16th Feb	23rd Feb
SERVER	Patricia Naylor	Marcus Alcock	Graham Jordan	Charlotte Greene
	Dorothy Creed			
CHALICE	Pat Baylis	Alice Adams	Graham Jordan	Pat Baylis
CRUCIFER	-	Marcus Alcock	Graham Jordan	Marcus Alcock

WEEKDAY SERVERS

WEDNESDAY 5TH	Marcus Alcock
THURSDAY 6TH	Patricia Naylor
WEDNESDAY 12TH	Trudie Warner
THURSDAY 13TH	Patricia Naylor
WEDNESDAY 19TH	Dorothy Creed
THURSDAY 20TH	Patricia Naylor
WEDNESDAY 26TH	Marcus Alcock
THURSDAY 27TH	Patricia Naylor

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Garth Michael Jones	:	<i>24th November 1996</i>
Daniel James Munday	:	<i>30th November 1996</i>
Matthew Walter Barty	:	<i>15th December 1996</i>
Emma Catherine Grinham	:	<i>15.12.96</i>

"You are the light of the World"

- Jesus Christ



DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

I thank you, the parishioners of

.....
ECTON, ST MARY MAGDALENE

.....
for paying £9,132....., your full 1996 share of the
Diocesan Budget.

Four-fifths of the budget of our Diocese goes towards the stipend and housing of your own Clergy and the cost of training the Clergy of the future, with the remainder towards church schools, pastoral care and welfare of those in need, our work with children and young people and the administrative back-up for our Diocese of 356 Parishes.

I am grateful to all who have worked so hard for this excellent result in the lasting good cause of God's coming Kingdom.

Alan Dehning



The Peterborough Cathedral Trust

The Chairman of Trustees,
Sir Stephen Hastings MC
invites you to attend

An evening of popular choral music
performed by
Peterborough Cathedral Choir

on Tuesday 25th February 1997
at the Guildhall, Northampton
at 7.30pm

Light Refreshments

There will be an opportunity to hear about the
projects to be undertaken in and around the cathedral

Registered Charity No. 1051346

*RSVP on slip provided
by 18th February 1997*

ECTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 1996

PRESENT: Mr D Dicks (Chairman)
Mrs J Haycox, Mrs S Ingram, Mrs S Saunders, Messrs T Green,
V Lester, T Moffett & E Needham.

APOLOGY: Mr J Beesley

WPC Sandra Lewis was welcomed to the meeting. She gave a contact telephone number if Earls Barton unmanned : 01933 304040

Matters arising from last meeting

Appraisal - It was reported that fund has now reached £2397.41 and it is hoped to increase this to £3000 before going to press. Fund raiser planned - Sherry and Mincepie Morning on 14 December at the Old Chapel in West Street .

Fly tipping Lower Ecton Lane - Letter received from County waste Disposal Authority re ongoing clearance work . Part of the problem is that three local authorities are responsible for different areas of the Lane. Copy of correspondence sent by Mr Teal to Northants Borough Council was discussed.

Road surface of lay-by in West Street - Responsibility of County Council and information passed to them.

Rights of way - A definitive map 1996 of rights of way, footpaths etc.had been received from County Council - Clerk to retain official copy.

Playing field - Wellingborough Borough Council have confirmed that all equipment conforms to the relevant BS standards.

Best kept Churchyard Competition

Ecton has received the runner-up certificate and a cheque for £15.00 - agreed that this money should be passed to Henry Pinney for enhancement of the churchyard.

Planning matters

Application - 96 High Street for extension to dining room - no comments

- Approval - 1) 21/23 West Street conservation order consent
2) Foul drainage pumping scheme for Cogenhoe Mill Caravan Park.

It was reported that Brafield and neighbouring councils are seeking support to oppose scheme for enlargement of Brafield Stadium to permit karting and other motor sport activities 7 days a week. Agreed that proposed development could increase traffic through Ecton and there could also be noise pollution. Letter to be sent to Head of Planning at Towcester expressing the Council's concerns.

Highway matters

It was noted that there have been several recent accidents in lower High Street and Mr Murray to be invited to attend January meeting to discuss further traffic calming and other items.

Financial matters

Estimate of revenue expenditure for 97/98

Approval received on following amounts:

Street lighting	£1560.00
Playing field	£100.00
Clerk's salary/expenses	£1000.00
Insurance	£550.00
Other (cost of meetings)	£102.00
Total	£3312.00

Accounts for payment

East Midlands Electricity	£258.07 - quarterly account (paid out of meeting)
NCC	£15.00 - hire of room
Mrs P Hall	£112.88 - salary and expenses
Travis Perkiins	£11.47 - tiles for bus shelter
Mr H Pinney	£15.00 - best kept churchyard award.

It was agreed that the sum of £2500.00 be accepted from the Borough Treasurer (£5000.00 had been requested) for the purchase of play equipment for the playing field and it was hoped that a grant might also be available for safety surfacing in addition.

David Dicks
November 1996

ECTON VILLAGE APPRAISAL



With most of the contributions now in work on the book is entering its final phase. The aim is to publish it by the end of April and we have to get everything - articles, maps, illustrations, photographs - to the printer a month beforehand. The Appraisal office is a hive of activity!

The cost of printing the book - about £4,000 - would have been a lot higher but for some generous financial help from our printer and paper suppliers. We are well on the way to this target due to the many of you who have become subscribers and to a number of

organisations and individuals who have held fundraising events in the village. Thanks are due to all who supported the most recent of these, the sherry and mince pie morning before Christmas when we raised £173.

Now my usual plea but for the last time - it is not too late for photographs or contributions and those articles must be in by the end of February.

Rodney Ingram

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AND CHURCHYARD COMPETITION
1996

AREA 'F'

RESULTS

	<u>Villages</u>		<u>Churchyards</u>	
	<u>Prelim.</u>	<u>Semi</u>	<u>Prelim.</u>	<u>Semi</u>
Class I				
Barnwell	82		<u>94</u>	92
Bulwick	73		84	
Cranford	<u>85</u>	86	-	
Mears Ashby	80		86	
Weekley	77		88	
Class II				
Ecton	-		<u>93</u>	95
Isham	<u>83</u>	78	90	
Nassington	80		-	
Stanion	81		88	
Pytchley	77		86	
Wilby	-		83	
Class III				
Great Doddington	81		-	
Easton on the Hill	81		<u>92</u>	88
Kings Cliffe	<u>83</u>	80	74	
Ringstead	-		91	
Woodford	82		-	
Most Improved Village:	Isham			
Rosebowl:	Stanion			

VOY/RESULTS/F

THE MONDAY CLUB

We had a lovely christmas dinner in the retreat with entertainment afterwards by Rosemary Lennard singing well-known songs then a few carols, ending the evening with sherry and mince pie.

Our first meeting was cancelled because of the weather but hope to have got back into the swing of things by now.

Freda and Eileen

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE

CLUB DATES : 3rd, 17th February

WHIST DRIVE : 27th February

ECTON FELLOWSHIP

We have our annual Luncheon Outing on Friday, February 14th, St Valentine's Day. Lunch is booked at Northampton College for 12 noon. Please meet outside Ecton House at 11.40 am.

Transport will be provided by those able to use their cars.

Husbands, relations, friends are welcome to join us. Please let me have names and numbers of those coming by February 7th.

Joan Dickins

Tel: 415576



The Church of England's Children's Society

The Christingle Service on Sunday 8 December was very well attended and the Church was packed with about 150 parents and young children. The oranges for the Christingles were most generously donated once again by Marks & Spencer of Northampton and thanks are also due to the small band of helpers who assembled them on the Saturday afternoon. The total raised from the collected and sent to the Children's Society was £157.93.

As a new fund raiser the Children's Society have provided small cardboard candles to fill with £1 or 20 pence coins over the coming year. If you would like one for your family and friends please collect one from the back of the Church or contact Ingrid or Mary.

Special thanks go to Mary Bane for her hard work over the past few years as Parish Representative for the Children's Society and especially for her contribution to this year's Christingle Service. Mary has decided to stand down and her place has been taken by

Ingrid Cartwright and Mary Dicks assisted by Mike Baylis as Treasurer.

Ingrid and Mary
December 1996

PS Just before Christmas, carol singing around the village went ahead despite a rather damp unpleasant night. Many thanks to the hardy band of participants and supporters who raised £74.58. Grand total raised for the Children's Society this season so far: £232.51.

PRAYER & PRAISE

7.30 - 9.00 pm

February 5th at
34 West Street

February 19th at
48 High Street

ECTON CHURCH ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN

The Annual Spring Clean is arranged for 8th March 1997. I would be grateful for your help that day.

There will be no need for any climbing of ladders as all high areas (eg windows, lights) will be cleaned beforehand.

Can you please let me know as soon as possible if you are willing to spare an hour or two that day and whether morning, afternoon, or indeed both!

Thank you.

G H Barty

**BLUE PETER
BRING & BUY
FOR LEPROSY**

10.00 - 12.00 noon SATURDAY

15th FEBRUARY 1997

RECTORY ROOM

Any items welcome, please bring on the day or contact 14 Church View
(Telephone : 402965 after 4)



CALLED TO BE ONE

LENT 1997

An ecumenical study course to be run over five - weeks, meeting at different venues and at differing times across the town *plus* a day of study as an alternative or complimentary option *and also* a follow-up afternoon.

THE WEEKLY PROGRAMME

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 Renewal (our community) | w/b 16.2.97 |
| 2 Church (why we differ...) | w/b 23.2.97 |
| 3 Unity | w/b 2.3.97 |
| 4 Visible Unity | w/b 9.3.97 |
| 5 Mission Together | w/b 16.3.97 |

THE DAY PROGRAMME (Saturday March 1st)

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Church | 10.30 am - 12.30 pm |
| 2 Unity | 1.15 pm - 2.45 pm |
| 3 Visible Unity | 3.00 pm - 4.30 pm |

THE FOLLOW-UP DAY (Sunday April 13th?)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Reflection | 2.30 pm - 3.15 pm |
| 2 Planning Together | 3.30 pm - 4.15 pm |
| 3 Working Together | 4.30 pm - 5.15 pm |

PREPARATORY PLANNING

Wednesday January 8th, St Mark's, 7.30 pm

Groups, venues & times announced at *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*, Saturday January 18th (Confession of Peter) - Saturday January 25th (Confession of Paul). More details from Ian Lowell, tel. 01933 673893.



Zululand and Swaziland Association
keeping

IN TOUCH

October 1996



A Missionary Feast

During May and June of 1997 ZSA plans to welcome a team of missionaries from Zululand and Swaziland, to share in a month of mission in the Diocese of Lichfield.

"The Feast" is the title of a major festival in the Lichfield Diocese, in which every parish will be venturing in mission in ways appropriate to each local community. ZSA has entered into partnership with the Diocese, to bring the team from Southern Africa, to join other guests from Lichfield's three companion dioceses of Malasia, (Saba and Kuching), Germany (Mecklenbourg) and Canada (Qu'appelle).

It is hoped that the team from Southern Africa will consist of clergy and laity, women and men, younger and less young - a "well-balanced" team! The size of the team will probably be four or five - the details are still being explored at both ends of the relationship.

ZSA is delighted to move into this new area of work: the Association bringing church into contact with church - people to people mission. It is hoped that USPG will also play an active part in the process, providing back-up and support.

Archbishop enthroned

ZSA sent greetings to the new archbishop on the week-end of his enthronement in Cape Town in September.

In his reply Archbishop Ndungane wrote

"Kindly convey my sincere thanks to the ZSA in the UK for their prayers for me and the CPISA. I am sustained by the love support and prayers of folk like yourselves. I give thanks to God on remembrance of you".

Bishop of Zululand to retire

Bishop Peter Harker, who was old enough to draw his pension on the day of his consecration, plans to retire in August 1997. His will have been a "caretaker" episcopacy, but one of distinction, in which the diocese has moved forward in significant ways, through difficult and dangerous days.

Under the present policy of the Synod of

Bishops, his successor will be elected in June of 1997, - before Bishop Peter's retirement - so that there is no unduly long interregnum prior to the consecration and enthronement of the next Bishop.

As we thank God for Bishop Peter's long ministry, and many years of commitment to Zululand, we pray that his retirement with Rosemary will be long and happy; and we pray God's guidance in the choice of his successor.

The Zululand-Swaziland Association is about prayer, information and support for the Dioceses of Zululand and Swaziland in the Anglican Province of Southern Africa; we have close links with the Palm Cross Agency both in Northington and Nongoma, whose friends are receiving this edition of 'In Touch'. An information pack about ZSA is available for those who would like to know how they can extend their knowledge of, and concern and support for, the work of the Dioceses; details, and a tear-off slip, are overleaf.

SWAZILAND OPENS DIALOGUE ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

After a period of tension and unrest earlier this year, King Mswati 111 has now invited a constitutional debate about the country's future form of government. It is an area where traditionalists and reformers have much to discuss and thrash out.

The churches with their grass-roots networks have a large contribution to make to a peaceful and constructive outcome to the process.

Pray for wisdom and guidance for all concerned, both in the Anglican Church, and in the ecumenical movement.



=====

THE NET OR THE INTERNET?

Computer talk has not yet caught up with the fact that ZSA's magazine The Net has been so called for many decades.

But now, of course, the Net - or the Internet - refers to the world-wide telephone systems that link millions of computer users around the world, providing limitless information in fractions of a second.

ZSA is benefitting from the new technology. We receive regular news from the CPSA via computer, and ZSA's chairman "chats" regularly with Dean John Salt in Eshonwe by computer. We are actively seeking a similar contact in Swaziland able to facilitate the same two-way contact. Any offers to the Chairman, please!

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

- Peace and community reconciliation in the Kontshingila area of Swaziland.
- Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane, and the whole CPSA.
- Michael Thornton, as he becomes the new warden at KwaNzimela
- The Government of Swaziland as it seeks a new constitution for a new environment.
- The Diocese of Zululand as they pray for a successor to Bishop Peter next year

In Touch is a broadsheet published by ZSA to update information and news between editions of *the Net*, which is published annually. Its aim is to encourage prayer and financial support for the Anglican Dioceses of Zululand and Swaziland. Further information may be had from the ZSA Office, c/o The Emm Team, Emmanuel Church, Weston Favell Centre, Northampton NN3 8JR (01604 784330 phone/fax); or from the Chairman, The Rev Canon Edgar Ruddock, The Rectory, St Peter's Close, Stoke on Trent ST4 1LP. (01782 845287 phone/fax) email: eruddock@vix.compulink.co.uk

GET THE FACTS!

For many, this edition of *'In Touch'* will be a first introduction to the Zululand-Swaziland Association. For a free information pack about our work, and the dioceses we support, please return this slip:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

The ZSA Office, c/o The Emm Team, Emmanuel Church, Weston Favell Centre, Northampton NN3 8JR



SPONSORED BICYCLE RIDE/WALK

A rather belated thank you goes to all those who supported the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust's Bicycle Ride/Walk - whether on bike, or foot or by helping with the recording. Many thanks to one and all.

It was a most glorious autumn day, and we had in all 34 participants call in at Ecton Church. Many took the opportunity to look around and admire this beautiful place of worship, others just popped in to be "recorded", and

maybe pause for a quick refreshment, before setting off again.

It was a joy to see several family groups, often multigenerational, out enjoying themselves.

£54.50 was raised by Ecton Church and sincere thanks go to all involved.

Hopefully this autumn we will have another happy event - with even more participants. See you then!

Ingrid Cartwright

*Give me the Priest, these graces shall possess ~
Of an ambassador the just address:
A father's tenderness, a shepherd's care,
A leader's courage, which the Cross can bear;
A ruler's awe, a watchman's wakeful eye,
A pilot's skill the helm in storms to ply;
A father's patience and a labourer's toil
A guide's dexterity to disembroil;
A prophet's inspiration from above,
A teacher's knowledge, and a Saviour's love.*

THOMAS KEN

PLEASE REMEMBER

MARGARET LANGDON

my sister in your prayers. She is working in Burkina Faso in West Africa, one of the poorest countries in the world with a very low level of literacy. This is partly because schooling is often in French, not the first or even second language for most people. Very few attend school. But there is a huge desire to learn to read and write in their own local language. This is only possible after it has been written down. The first job of the translation team. They produce initially reading primers, local stories and bible stories eventually leaving the bible with the local language group. Margaret is

helping with teaching the teachers who will run literacy classes. The Africans are supported until they feel able to carry on the work themselves. Local Christians are involved from the beginning. Please pray that the Lord will bless the work, we know He speaks to us as we read our bibles. Please pray for all who are seeking to know Him, especially among the Karaboro people at last able to have the bible in their language.

He said to them "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation". Mark 16 : 15

Anne Henderson

Rector of
St. Mary's
Brighstone
1667-1669



THOMAS KEN

Bishop of
Bath and
Wells
1684-1691

THE WAITING ROOM

I am sitting in the waiting room. Waiting, as I have been for the last 5 months. Although it is not a literal room, it has walls and a small window that occasionally allows a ray of light to peep through. It has no doors, and that is the problem really. It is hard to get out of a room with no doors.

My life feels as if it is on hold. Throughout my illness, the constant waiting for test results have been an isolating experience. If only the hunt would stop, if I knew what beast I was pursuing, maybe I could catch it.

Maybe you are in a similar waiting room. Perhaps you have lost your job, a member of your family or find yourself disabled in some other way. If you are then you too would have asked questions. Why me Lord? What have I done? What must I do to put it right? What does the bible say? Is it my experience? If not, why not?

Early on I wrote:- "Diagnosis is not a death sentence - it is an enemy identified." Knowledge helps dispel fear. What I actually needed to realise was that satan is my enemy and that I should be looking more at what the bible says I have rather than the robber. It says I have health. I must believe it and if I

can't change my theology then I have to wait until I catch up with it!

It is a very human thing to concentrate on the outcome of things, but very often God is more interested in the journey rather than the arriving. In my waiting room I have had to face myself and my doubts, and present them honestly before God. I have learnt much about me and much about grace. On diary entry started:

"Back from the Doctors I steal some quiet time for myself to *listen*

This sentence is very telling - why should I steal time with God? I have a right to it, in fact it is what he created me for."

Too true. If I were a tiny flower seen only by God, my existence would be justified. Being a 'doer' I have not found this message easy! I used to feel guilty spending time with God and enjoying it. Now I can let my 'doings' remain undone.

When I asked the Lord 'What must I do to be healed? He said:- "Be!" This created a dilemma! How do you *do* being?! Reading through Job didn't help. It forced me to wrestle with:- 'Is it God's will?' "Is it my fault?", and "What am I doing

THE WAITING ROOM continued

wrong if God says I am healed when I'm still sick?". I searched the scriptures for an answer and found one. It was simple and unexpected God is sovereign. *He* may have put me here - He is sovereign. *I* may have put me here - He is sovereign.

Satan may have put me here - God is still sovereign. He will still glorify His name through me. He delights to see me grow in my fellowship

with Him and watch me pour Him out afterwards. I am only in control of today, my Lord holds the other two days of the week, yesterday and tomorrow, in *His* hands. Once you can allow yourself to 'be', the doing becomes a spontaneous act of worship instead of a way towards acceptance.

Chrissy Smith

THE FOLLOWING WAS SENT IN

BY INGRID CARTWRIGHT

It is not by regretting what is irreparable that true work is to be done, but by making the best of what we are. It is not by complaining that we have not the right tools, but by using well the tools we have. What we are, and where we are, is God's providential arrangement, - God's doing, though it may be man's misdoing; and the manly and the wise way is to look your disadvantages in the face, and

see what can be made out of them. Life, like war, is a series of mistakes, and he is not the best Christian nor the best general who make the fewest false steps. He is the best who wins the most splendid victories by the retrieval of mistakes. Forget mistakes; organize victory out of mistakes.

F W Robertson



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Head Teacher: Mrs S Sayers

SS/dcm

9th December 1996

Rev. Peter Naylor,
Ecton Rectory,
Church Way,
Ecton,
Northampton

Dear Peter,

We would like to thank you for the Christingle Service on Sunday 8th December 1996. Would you also extend our thanks to Mary, Ingrid and the rest of the team for all their efforts.

We felt that this was a very enjoyable service which was enjoyed by all and very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Sayers

Sheila Sayers
Headteacher

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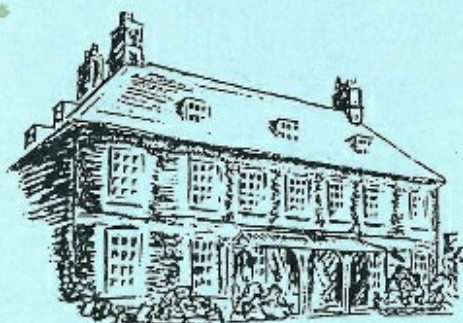
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retreats and conferences: may they know
your presence and the power of your
love, and have grace in their hearts,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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