

# ECTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS



*MARCH 1994*

## DIARY - MARCH 1994

### Tuesday, 1 March

- 7.30 pm Ecton Women's Institute meet in the Conference Room  
8.00 pm Parochial Church Council meeting in the Franklin Room

### Thursday, 3 March

- 9.30 am Holy Communion

### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT : 6 March

- 9.30 am Parish Communion  
1 Peter 2. 19-end : Matthew 16. 13-end  
6.00 pm Evensong  
7.30 pm Youth Group

### Monday, 7 March

- 7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel

### Tuesday, 8 March

- 2.30 pm Ecton Fellowship meet in the Rectory Room

### Thursday, 10 March

- 9.30 am Holy Communion

### MOTHERING SUNDAY : 13 March

- 9.30 am Parish Communion, Parade Service and Sunday School  
2 Timothy 1. 3-10 : Matthew 17. 1-13  
6.00 pm Evensong followed by Holy Communion  
7.30 pm Youth Group

### Monday, 14 March

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

### Thursday, 17 March

- 9.30 am Holy Communion

### ST JOSEPH HUSBAND OF THE BV MARY : Saturday, 19 March

- 9.30 am Holy Communion

### Saturday, 19 March

- 10-12 noon and 2-4 pm : Church Spring Clean

### FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT : 20 March

- 9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School  
Hebrews 9. 11-14 : Mark 10. 32-45  
6.00 pm Evensong  
7.30 pm Youth Group

## FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

There is no doubt that as we go through the Church's seasons we are reminded of the eternal truths. At Christmas time, the creation of man in the image of God was at the forefront of everything we did in Church. We looked at the crib and saw the Holy family, vulnerable yet radiating glory. Soon it will be Holy week: a time which ends with Good Friday, when we gaze upon Jesus on a cross; and then there will be the glory of Easter when His victory over death is celebrated in worship and praise.

No matter how we wriggle and turn we cannot get away from the suffering of Jesus. Suffering is universal. There are those who suffer from the effects of war and tribal jealousies. Hardly any seem to be excused from pain of mind, body or soul. It could be argued that if we do not have pain then we are not alive. It is easy to be trite about pain but to watch someone engulfed with the agony and torment of suffering is a dreadful experience. I have few heroes left, except of course the Saints of the ages. Janani Luwum, the martyred Archbishop of Uganda, who was killed in 1977 by the secret police of Idi Amin, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was opposed to Hitler and hung by the Gestapo are some of the 20th century Saints who have stood their ground against evil. There is another who belongs to the same generation who I will always hold in my memory with affection and honour. He, like them, struggled with the meaning of suffering and triumphed in the end. He was John Robinson who, as Bishop of Woolwich for a time in his career, wrote the best-selling and controversial 'Honest-to-God'. John died of cancer in 1983. He wrote wonderfully, before his death, on what it felt to be told that he had not long to live. The paper is entitled

'Learning from Cancer'. It is a most confident affirmation of the truths of the Gospel teaching about Our Lord Jesus Christ and the meaning of His death and resurrection. He ended his paper with these words:-

"For health *means* wholeness. It is concerned not simply with cure but with healing of the whole person in all his or her relationships. Hence the high-point of the Communion service, the gift of the bread of life and the cup of salvation, has traditionally been accompanied by the words, 'Preserve thy *body and soul* unto everlasting life', and it has ended with invoking 'the peace (the *shalom* or wholeness) of God which passes all understanding'.

"Healing cannot be confined to any, or indeed every, level of human understanding or expectation. This is why too it shows up those twin deceivers pessimism and optimism as so shallow. In the course of nature, cancer-sufferers swing from one to the other more than most, as good days and bad days, remissions and recurrences, follow each other. But the Christian takes his stand not on optimism but on hope. This is based not on rosy prognosis (from the human point of view mine is weak) but, as St Paul says, on suffering. For this, he says, trains us to endure, and endurance brings proof that we have stood the test, and this proof is the ground of hope - in the God who can bring resurrection out and through the other side of death. That is why he also says that though we carry death with us in our bodies (all of us) we never cease to be confident. His prayer is that 'always the greatness of Christ will shine out clearly in my person, whether through my life or through my death. For to me

life is Christ, and death gain; but what if my living on in the body may serve some good purpose? Which then am I to choose? I cannot tell. I am torn two ways: what I should like' - he says more confidently than most of us could - 'is to depart and be with Christ, that is better by far; but for your sake there is greater need for me to stay on in the body'. According to my chronology he lived nearly ten years after writing those words; others would say it was shorter. But how little does it matter. He had passed beyond time and its calculations. He had risen with Christ."

This extract is to be found in Eric James' biography of John Robinson entitled 'A Life of Bishop A. T. Robinson - Scholar, Pastor, Prophet'. The book can be borrowed from Ecton House library. I recommend the story of this man's life, full of the most wonderful gifts and a deeply moving account of his awkward saintliness. He remains an inspiration to those who knew him. Those who are finding him anew are likewise enriched. Cross and resurrection are intertwined in the life of a saint. Good Friday and Easter go hand-in-hand and in Jesus we find the perfect example. He is the true hero.

I wish you a good and holy Lent and a most joyful Easter.

*Every Blessing*  
*Peter Naylor*

# ST MARY MAGDALENE, ECTON

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Sunday 27 March to Sunday 3 April, 1994

### **PALM SUNDAY**

9.30 am : Parish Communion with Distribution of Palms  
6.00 pm : Evensong

### **MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK**

7.50 am : Holy Communion in the House Chapel  
7.30 pm : Holy Communion and Address

### **TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**

7.30 pm : Holy Communion and Address

### **WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**

7.30 pm : Holy Communion and Address

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

9.30 am : Holy Communion  
7.30 pm : Holy Communion followed by a vigil until Midnight

### **GOOD FRIDAY**

9.00 am : Morning Prayer and Devotions  
10.30 am : Family Service with Hot Cross Buns  
2 - 3 pm : An Hour by the Cross

### **HOLY SATURDAY**

8.30 pm : Lighting of the Pascal Candle and Renewal of Baptism Vows

### **EASTER DAY**

9.30 am : Parish Communion and Sunday School  
6.00 pm : Evensong and Sermon

## RECTOR'S NOTES

Our Church is truly a house of prayer, having been prayed in for 700 years or so, and it gives me particular pleasure to tell you that on Saturday, 26th March, the Church will be open for devotional prayer. A group at Ecton House called 'Christian Meditation' will be using our lovely building. This does not exclude any who might wish to join them in Church. Happily, but unfortunately for those who might like to join, the conference, which is about the teaching of John Main, is full.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I need to remind you all of the date of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. It is Sunday, 17th April, and will be held in Ecton House Conference Room immediately following Evensong. I trust that there will be a high attendance.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Reverend Eric Richards has arrived from the Diocese of Belize in the West Indies. He is a senior priest of that diocese where he has been the Administrator, while waiting for a new Bishop. Father Richards will be in and out of Ecton until he leaves for home on 26th April. I know that you will give him a warm Ecton welcome. The Bishop has given permission for him to officiate in this parish and elsewhere in the diocese of Peterborough.

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The time has arrived for a Church Spring Clean. It will take place on Saturday, 19th March from 10 am till noon and from 2 till 4 pm. Men will be more than welcome as they have reach and strength! Lists will soon appear at the Church outlining the tasks that need to be undertaken.

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If anybody wishes to make a donation towards the cost of flowers at Easter, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please contact Robert Allison, Freda Richards or Pauline Charles.

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The recent appeal letter for the Restoration Fund which went into every house in the village and everyone on the electoral roll has so far produced £500 with many promises of gifts to come. I am writing to thank those who have given for their kindness. Reports of the progress made with the appeal will be produced, from time to time, in the magazine and it is hoped that very soon the work will begin on the final stage of the restoration of our 12th century church. Thank you once again.

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## WOMENS INSTITUTE REPORT – February

### Programme

Tuesday, 1st March : 7.30 p.m. (NB – in The House)

Mrs A Wright "ACWC"

Competition : At the meeting

Teas: Mrs B Foster

Mrs S Johnson

Tuesday, 5th April : 7.30 p.m.

Mrs E Barrett – "My Life in the Land Army"

Competition : Small basket of fruit

Teas: Mrs B Jones

Mrs M Boon

### February

It was good to see another well attended meeting – despite the weather! A welcome was extended to visiting guest, Mrs Barrett, President of Earls Barton WI.

Our Speaker was Mrs K Richmond, from Hardingstone, an expert in the field of Hand painting on China. Two tables were filled with examples of her creative talent, and at the end of the session, several members made purchases, all of us were tempted, I am sure!

We learnt a lot about the history of porcelain and china, and the development of decorating through the ages. We were assured that drawing ability was not a must as there are various ways of cheating, i.e. transfers, tracing designs, etc., however I think an appreciation of colour may be essential!

Mrs Richmond's career has been both busy and varied. Her painting started as a hobby about 17 years ago, developing into a skilled craft and her work is now known both at home and on an International level.

Mrs Richmond concluded with a demonstration and we were all invited to have a go. Vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs Dorothy Austin.

Competition: Favourite Piece of China

1. Denise Langley
2. Betty Shearing
3. Jean Knight

**June Marshman**

### LETTER FROM THE RURAL DEAN

Dear People of Ecton,

I just wanted to write and send you my congratulations and sincere thanks for once again paying your Parish Share in full last year. In these pressured times this takes great effort and generosity. Well done! In Wellingborough Deanery we have reached 100% yet again and I am proud of our record. As Rural Dean I find the commitment of all the Parishes in the Deanery a great encouragement.

Tough times are ahead with the large increases in Parish Share this year, but I am sure that with faith and determination, and effective Christian Stewardship, we can make it.

Every blessing,

**Rural Dean of Wellingborough**

## SHOULD WE FLOODLIGHT THE CHURCH?

The Borough of Wellingborough have generously offer to install and pay for the cost of floodlighting the Church. The Parish Council have not objected to this proposal and the PCC have agreed to apply to the Diocese of Peterborough for permission for the work to go ahead.

Whilst we should be honoured by this compliment to our Village and Church I believe the proposal raises a number of moral and environmental issues which should be considered.

First, at a time when public expenditure is being cut with drastic effects on education and other public services should we, as a Church, be supporting the use of public money on what is essentially a vanity?

Second, the Church is generally short of money. Whilst the residents of Ecton will know who is bearing the cost of floodlighting others may not. This is likely to lead to the usual sort of disparaging comments about the Church only wanting money for its own purposes, not those of the World at large.

Third, the impact of floodlighting is likely to change the character of the Village at night. Ecton is not a brightly lit Village, the introductions of a large orange glow in its centre is likely to have a very noticeable effect. We shall no longer be able to enjoy the natural beauty of the Churchyard by moonlight and the reflected glow in the sky will restrict our view of the stars.

Finally, there is the question of security. Our Church has been largely free of attacks by vandals. In the past two months I have read two accounts in the local press of the theft of floodlighting systems. Great Harrowden Church is regularly plagued by visits from mischief makers who angle the beams at adjacent houses and the nearby road. Is this the sort of attention we want to draw to our Church?

I am completely opposed to this proposal and will be objecting to both the Church authorities and the Borough Council. Everyone must draw their own conclusions but if you wish to object too, you should write to The Diocesan Chancellor, Diocesan Office, The Palace, Peterborough, PE1 6AN setting out the reasons for your objections as soon as possible.

**Graham Jordan**  
**Churchwarden**

### ECTON FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 8th March at 2.30 p.m. in the Rectory Room.

The Reverend James Morrison is going to lead an Easter Meditation to help us prepare for Easter. Come and bring a friend for a very rich afternoon.

Vera Middleton and Daphne Allison are kindly making tea for us at this meeting.

**Ivan Dickins**

### LENTEN MEDITATION

I shall keep a silent prayer watch and meditation in church each Saturday in Lent beginning with Evensong at 5.00 p.m. followed by meditation until 6.00 p.m. Please come and share this preparation time with me.

**Patricia**

## PARISH 2000 – A Village Appraisal

### **What is a Village Appraisal?**

It is a study by the residents of a village which enables them to discover the past, document the present, and debate the future of their parish. By gathering facts and opinions about your village you can highlight assets, deficiencies, needs and aspirations. Based on this research guidelines can be developed to inform local authorities of the residents perceptions and expectations.

### **Why do an appraisal?**

To take stock of what the parish has and has not.

To assess present and future needs.

To be better informed on potential threats to parish assets.

To be better informed on what residents want of their village and for their village.

To form the basis for voluntary action, as in creating conservation corners.

To be able to better inform Parish, District and County Councils about the village's needs as perceived by the residents.

To foster community spirit by getting people to work together.

To encourage a sense of pride and heritage among residents.

To document recent local history and everyday events.

To collect evidence to influence decision makers.

### **Why do an appraisal now?**

Parish life has changed dramatically since the turn of the century. It is likely that this change will continue well into the next century.

If we are to influence change in our villages, it is essential that we are well informed of the current situation and the future aspirations of our villages.

This appraisal can then, through means of a Parish Appraisal, be presented in a professional structured way to those who make decisions concerning our local environment.

### Shall we do an appraisal in Ecton?

At the last meeting of the Parish Council the local Appraisals Officer, Ian Nelson came to the meeting and outlined the above reasons why Northampton Association of Local Councils (ACRE) were anxious to implement as many parish appraisals as possible. It seemed like a good idea on the evening and gets better by the day, an excellent way to preserve our local history and project our requirements into the next century. Together with complementary photographs and illustrations we would hope to produce an updated version of our already excellent Ecton booklet. Many villages have already completed their appraisals, some are quite simple photocopied documents, some are professionally bound books. Most have been saleable tomes that have helped to fund a chosen project within the village. (In the case of Kings Sutton £1500 was put towards a village health centre.) Limited funds are available to get us started and if we can find a willing helper with a compatible computer a software programme is available for us to set up a comprehensive questionnaire to get the initial information from residents.

Most of all we need a small team of committed people willing to work over a period of several months collecting and collating the information. It may be a project which appeals to some of our older residents to document relevant local village history. Perhaps the schoolchildren could be involved, who knows, but we are certain that within our community are lots of people who could contribute in some way.

If you would like to help with Ecton's then please complete the slip below and give it to any member of the Parish Council, we can then get back to you with an arranged date for an initial meeting to discuss the project more fully together with Ian Nelson and decide on a course of action.

-----  
Name/s .....  
Address .....  
Particular area of interest .....  
.....  
.....

## ECTON CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

If your name is not already on the Electoral Roll and you would like it to be included for 1994, please fill in a form and return it to me before Easter.

Forms are obtainable from the Church, the Rector or myself.

**Mary Dicks**

40 West Street, 0604 407145

## THE STORY OF FOUR PEOPLE NAMED EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, NOBODY AND ANYBODY

When there was an important job to be done Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. When Nobody did it Everybody got angry, because it was Somebody's job. Everybody thought Somebody would do it but Nobody realised that Nobody would do it. So it ended up with Everybody blaming Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.

## CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

On Saturday, 19th March - 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon and 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Guild Members would appreciate extra help, especially from men, with the more difficult cleaning tasks. Please let me know if you can come for any part of the day.

Thank you.  
**Patricia**

## CLEANING ROTA

### March

5th Pink  
12th Yellow – Brass Cleaning Day  
19th Blue  
26th Green

## COFFEE ROTA

### March

6th Youth Group  
13th Sue and Les Mitchell  
20th Nick and Mary Greene  
27th Alice Adams and Wynne Voss

### April

3rd Youth Group  
10th Pat Peacock and Dorothy Creed  
17th Jean Leigh and Brenda Jones  
24th Millie Harlott and Dora Reynolds

## SERVERS ROTA

### March

6th Charles Jordan  
13th John Strange  
20th Victoria Greene  
27th Charles Jordan

## FOSTERING AND ADOPTION

Children come into care for a number of reasons and we need foster carers who can provide emotional and physical space to care for these children. It does take a lot of commitment and support from the whole family. Carers do not need to have special qualifications, to be married, or in employment. We need carers from all backgrounds to reflect the needs of children of various ages and ethnicities.

Fostering can be temporary for a few days or up to several months or permanent where the child stays for the rest of their childhood.

Adoption is a way of making or completing your family and is a legal means of transferring all parental responsibility to the adopters by a court. We also need carers for our other schemes. Approved lodgings in a scheme that provides for 16-18 year olds. It allows the young person some independence with adult support and care.

The Family Link Scheme provides regular short breaks for parents who have a child with a disability. It can be for a few hours or days at a time.

All carers have support in terms of a Social Worker from the Homefinding Team and allowances to cover the cost of caring for a child.

We would be particularly interested to hear from people who could consider fostering older children (aged 10-15 years) on both a temporary or a permanent basis.

For further information please contact you local Homefinding Team.  
Corby/Kettering - 0536 401104  
Wellingborough/East Northants - 0933 276341  
Daventry/South Northants - 0327 300567  
Northampton - 0604 236091

**Tessa Saunders**  
Social Worker, Homefinding Team

## READERS ROTA

9.30 a.m. Thursday Mornings

7.30 p.m. Other Holy Days [Unless stated otherwise]

Thursday, 3rd March	Marian Gleave Jeremiah 17.5-10
Thursday, 10th March	Jeremiah 7.23-28
Thursday, 17th March	James Fraser Exodus 32.7-14
St Joseph Husband of the BV Mary Saturday, 19th March - 9.30 a.m.	Pat Baylis Colossians 3.12-15
Thursday, 24th March	Joan Dickins Genesis 17.3-9
Annunciation of our Lord Friday, 25th March	Patricia Naylor Isaiah 52.7-10
Monday in Holy Week 28th March	Joan Dickins Hebrews 2.9-18
Tuesday in Holy Week 29th March	James Fraser Hebrews 8.1-6
Wednesday in Holy Week 30th March	Pat Bayliss 1 Peter 2.19-end
Maundy Thursday 31st March - 9.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.	Patricia Naylor Isaiah 61.1-9 Marian Gleave Revelations 1.5b-8

**Monday, 21 March**

7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel

**Thursday, 24 March**

9.30 am Holy Communion

7.00 pm Whist Drive in the Rectory Room

**ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD : Friday, 25 March**

7.30 pm Holy Communion

**Saturday, 26 March**

**Meditation Day** : See Rector's Notes

**PALM SUNDAY : 27 March**

9.30 am Parish Communion with Distribution of Palms  
Philippians 2. 5-11 : Matthew 21. 1-13

6.00 pm Evensong

**MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK : 28 March**

7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel

2.30 pm The Monday Club meet in the Rectory Room

7.30 pm Holy Communion and Address

**TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK : 29 March**

7.30 pm Holy Communion and Address

**WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK : 30 March**

6.00 pm Monday Club 'Fish & Chip' Supper in Rectory Room

7.30 pm Holy Communion and Address

**MAUNDY THURSDAY : 31 March**

9.30 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm Holy Communion followed by a stripping of the Altar and a Vigil until Midnight

**GOOD FRIDAY : 1 April**

9.00 am Morning Prayer

10.30 am Family Service with Hot Cross Buns

2 - 3 pm An Hour by the Cross

**HOLY SATURDAY : 2 April**

9.30 am Holy Communion

8.30 pm Lighting of the Pascal Candle and Renewal of Baptism Vows

**EASTER SUNDAY : 3 April**

9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School  
1 Corinthians 15. 12-20 : Mark 16. 1-8

6.00 pm Evensong

# EAST LODGE FARM

## RIDING ESTABLISHMENT

SMALL GROUP CLASSES OR  
INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE TUITION  
NERVOUS - BEGINNERS  
ESPECIALLY CATERED FOR  
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HUNTER - FULL - PART - D.I.Y. LIVERIES  
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Mrs K White  
East Lodge Farm  
Ecton, Northampton

Telephone:  
(0604) 810244

# ECTON HOUSE



PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN CONFERENCE  
CENTRE AND RETREAT HOUSE

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