

# ECTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS



*October*

# ECTON CHURCH DIRECTORY

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CHURCH ORGANIST AND CHOIR MASTER	Frank Brown 40 The Scarplands, Duston, Northampton Tel: Northampton 752266

## FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

On October 4th our church will be celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving. Christians, especially Anglicans, have been coming to church at this time of year for many hundreds of years in order to thank God for the in-gathering of the harvest. All of us are very aware of the difficulties caused to farmers this year by the wet weather and we express our sympathy to them for not only this but many other difficulties as well.

Harvest thanksgiving has its roots in medieval practice of saying thank you to God for the first fruits. The church in those days celebrated Lammas Day on the 1st August. Bread made with new wheat was offered at mass and solemnly blessed. The harvest festival, as we know it, was the inspiration of an extraordinary clergyman named R S Hawker who was parish priest for many years at Mowenstow in Cornwall. Historians tell us that the first harvest service was held in 1843. Parson Hawker was in many ways a bizarre character. He dressed in colourful and unusual clothing but was a deeply holy man. He believed that the worship of the church should be exciting and extravagant so that the spiritual life of the simple people of the village might be enriched and developed.

Many sailors were drowned when their ships were wrecked off the Cornish coast and Hawker used to look out to sea from a hut built on the side of the cliff so that he would know when there was trouble at sea. He would tend to the sick and bury the dead with a decent Christian service. By the mid 19th century an annual festival was common and the traditional Harvest Home was replaced by a parochial thanksgiving in church. Those who know their prayer books will be aware that the Book of Common Prayer makes no provision for Harvest Festival but the Alternative Service Book has a complete set of collect, psalms and Bible readings for use at all services.

There was hardly any enthusiasm this year for a harvest supper. Much energy had been spent on the summer festival and

it was thought that time should be given to other worthy causes. The Church of England Children's Society will benefit from the Safari Supper to be held on 21st November and after a letter from two members of the congregation, the Churchwardens and I agreed not to hold the supper this year but to open a Churchwardens' Special Appeal for those who are starving to death in Somalia. There will be a plate on a chair at the back of the church in order to make your contribution if you so wish to help alleviate the suffering of those who are dying in their millions. Those who wrote to me suggested that it was almost obscene to be sitting down to yet another supper when so many people in the world had nothing to eat. There was also a further complication when we came to look at the planning for this weekend as the Parochial Church Council will be in session most of Saturday, October 3rd, with representatives of other organisations in the village. This date was the only one convenient at Ecton House and the only day when Sheila Addison, the Lay Training Officer for the Diocese, was available. It was a matter of deciding which took precedence.

I hope you will support the Harvest Festival. All the harvest gifts will be given to the Night Shelter in Northampton which cares for the many homeless people who are on our streets. Pat Baylis who works there in a voluntary capacity tells us that there is a great need for basic provisions and if there is anyone who has any doubts as to what to bring please speak to her. This, of course, does not prevent us from decorating the church with fruit and vegetables, giving once again the appearance of a country church decorated for harvest thanksgiving.

Our visiting preacher at the Parish Communion on Harvest Festival morning will be the Reverend Martyn Davies, Youth Officer for the Diocese of Peterborough. It is Father Davies' first official visit to Ecton and I am sure you will give him a very warm welcome. Harvest Festival Evensong will be held at the usual time of 6 pm on the same day.

*Every Blessing*

*Peter Naylor*

## RECTOR'S NOTES

Traffic continues to speed through the village and on a number of occasions I have been horrified by the crass stupidity of some drivers. Villagers have spoken to me about this matter and we all wonder when action is to be taken by those in authority. I am making a serious attempt not to drive at more than 20 miles an hour through the village. I hope others will follow my example.

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It is well known that the summer festival was an outstanding success despite the rain. £2,691.55 was raised which was the result of a magnificent effort by many people. When I tell of the result to those outside the village they frequently express incredulity that so much money could be raised in so small a place in such a small period of time. Congratulations.

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With 1992 being the year of European Unity and Paris being the commercial centre of Europe, three postmen took part in the following charity challenge, on behalf of the International Save The Children Fund, on 26 September 1992 within a 24 hour period:

Travel from Royal Mail Northampton to Paris.

Delivery 24 letters per postman within central Paris.

Delivery 240 letters (minimum), written by local children in connection with a newspaper competition, per postman to Mickey Mouse at Euro Disney.

Attend photo sessions at Euro Disney and the Eiffel Tower.

Connect with a Northampton tour company driver and retrieve a mystery item (known only to the company and local radio).

Return from Paris to Northampton (with the mystery item).

No expenses to be incurred by the individuals concerned.

No use of own transport.

Sponsorship obtained by each individual for donation to the above charity.

Not to exceed 24 hour limit.

Travel from Royal Mail Northampton and back was successfully arranged through the goodwill and assistance of Midland Motorcycles Ltd., Dan Air, and Tristar Abington (Toyota Cars) Ltd., Air France and Thomas Cook (Tours) Ltd., helped with transport from Charles De Gaulle Airport into Paris. Transport and reception at Euro Disney were made possible through the Walt Disney Co.

The 24 letters each postman delivered in Paris were from local businesses, companies and organisations who have a counterpart or connection in Paris, or would like to form a link as part of this challenge, e.g.

The Mayor of Northampton is communicating with the Mayor of Paris.

Northampton Town Museum is communicating with The Louvre.

St Mary's Church is communicating with the Sacre Coeur.

I sent greetings on behalf of the Parish Church and Ecton House to St Mary Magdalene avec La Madeleine, Place De La Madeleine, Paris, and a donation of £10 was given to Save the Children from the House and Parish.

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## SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

### NOVEMBER 29TH - ADVENT SUNDAY

- 9.30 am Parish Communion and Parade Service.  
Children are invited to bring toys for  
children in need who live locally.
- 6.00 pm An Advent Concert with the Lawrence  
Lloyd Singers: Conductor - Steven Meakins

### DECEMBER 6TH - SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School
- 6.00 pm A Christingle Service in aid of the  
Church of England Children's Society.

### DECEMBER 15TH - THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School
- 6.00 pm Choral Evensong with the Choir of St Alban  
the Martyr, Broadmead Avenue, Northampton

### DECEMBER 20TH - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School
- 6.00 pm Nine Lessons and Carols.  
A simple presentation of the Christmas message  
with hymns that everybody knows.

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE

- 6.00 pm Carol Service for all ages with the  
Blessing of the Christmas Crib.
- 11.30 pm Midnight Mass

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY

- 9.30 am Parish Communion
- 6.00 pm Evensong

## INTERCESSION

(An article written for a South African periodical by Sister Josephine Mary S.P.R.)

Intercession has been defined as "standing before God on behalf of others". That is true; for unless we can stand before God just as we are, all our weakness and sinfulness open to Him, receiving His love and forgiveness, and thus being in true relationship with Him, how can we bring others to Him? We must first know our own need, and His response of love and mercy to ourselves; and then we can come to Him on behalf of others, and be channels through which that love and mercy flow to them.

But it is even more than that. To intercede for others, to pray for the World and all its needs, is to enter into the cosmic battle between good and evil. "For we are not contending with flesh and blood, but against the principalities and powers and rulers of this present darkness - spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places." (Eph. 6.12) These days when Satan worship is increasing and violence escalating all over the World we are more than ever aware that we fight against evil powers, and we can dare to enter into this mysterious conflict only by the power of Christ's victory on the Cross. There He overcame evil by the power of His love; "Love enduring all that hate could do, and still remaining love." (herbert) As we pray we let Him pray in us, live His life in us. We see this most clearly in the Eucharist, but it can enter into our daily lives.

For intercession is not just saying prayers for other, it is a choosing all the time whether we will help them or hinder them in their struggle for wholeness. Whenever we do anything unselfish or untrue we place ourselves on the wrong side of the battle and make it more difficult for others to live in God's love, we fail to help them to overcome the evil that threatens them. And when we let the love of God rule our lives, when we are loving and caring and unselfish in our relationships with others, when we share their burdens, then the power of love is overcoming the forces of evil, and we are sharing in some small way in Christ's work of healing the wounds of the World. It is His healing and redeeming work in which we share, it is Christ who prays in us to the Father through the Holy Spirit. As we pray for others we are not telling God what to do about them, and we are not trying to make anything happen. We are letting Jesus pray in us to the Father. We see the sick and suffering and sad in their trouble, and we try to look at them with his compassionate eyes, as he looked at the Samaritan woman, at Levi and at Mary Magdalen and at the crowds of sick people who came to Him, seeing the potential for goodness and wholeness in them; and we believe He can use us to let His love and power through to them to heal and free them. It is His love and His prayer at work in us and through us which is effective intercession.

So how do we set about this work of intercession for our sick and suffering World? First by being caught up into Christ's own one perfect sacrifice in the Eucharist and so sharing in his victory over evil.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it. If we are willing He will take us and bless us and break us and give us to others, use us for them, and our whole life becomes a Eucharist.

One very simple way of praying for others is to say the "Our Father" slowly, phrase by phrase, saying it with Jesus, letting Him pray it in us. "Our Father in heaven" - and we lift our hearts to God in trust and adoration; "Hallowed by they name" in them. "Your Kingdom come" in them - and so on, dwelling on each phrase as long as it seems meaningful. Sometimes we shall have no need for words, and simply hold those for whom we pray in God's love.

But what if our prayers are not answered? They are in fact always answered, but perhaps not in ways we can understand, bounded as we are by our limits of time and space in this World, and unable to visualise the limitlessness of eternity and infinity in the heavenly realms. God knows better than we do the real needs of those for whom we pray, and He loves them more than we can ever do. He knows what will make for their eternal joy. We have to go on growing in trust in his love for them and to believe that His will be being done in them; His kingdom is coming in them through the prayer of Christ in us which overthrows the power of evil. We can only go on offering ourselves to Him to be made channels of His love and power for the World and trust that He uses us, however ineffective we may seem to be.

**"THREE CHEERS FOR NIGHTSHELTER  
VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS"**

Pat Bayliss and Sheila Ingram would like to thank everyone who contributed goods, money and themselves to make the other Friday such a successful and enjoyable evening. For the Nightshelter it is very uplifting to know that Ecton and it's surrounding team has such generous and caring people.

We raised £320 in cash and a similar amount tied up in the food items brought by everybody.

A big thank you from the people who will benefit from your generosity.

We have had a letter of thanks from the Warden, Peter Finch, stressing how much our help is appreciated.

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Due to the Holiday period other Organisations news will appear in the November edition.

Future Magazine News or individual contributions please place at the rear of the Church or Ecton House by 15th of each month.

All junior groups and also Ecton Primary School please encourage the youngsters from all ages to enter a poem, prayer or news item into the Junior Section.

ECTON WI MEETING

6th October, 7.30 p.m.

Mrs J Morrison's talk on her travels.

Competition: Newspaper Fashions.

PATHFINDERS

Although I am a comparative "newcomer" to the Group, I would like to express, on behalf of all the Pathfinder members, heartfelt thanks and recognition for all the patience, enthusiasm and time involved in activity preparations, etc., by Graham Jordan and Les Mitchell, who are now retiring as Group Leaders to enable more time to be devoted to other Church and family activities.

Susan Oppenheim

ECTON YOUTH CLUB - LUNCH CLUB

Wednesday, 16th September

Wednesday, 14th October

Wednesday, 18th November

Xmas Lunch:

Wednesday, 16th December

Ecton Youth Club with Earls Barton Boys Brigade are holding a Dance and Ploughman's Supper.

Bar and Raffle.

At Barkers Canteen, Earls Barton on Saturday, 24th October 7.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Mary Beasley

### ECTON FELLOWSHIP

Next Meeting Tuesday, 13th October at  
2.30 p.m. (AGM Meeting).

Followed by a video lasting 20 minutes call  
"The Seven Circles of Prayer". The meeting  
will be held at 2 Church Way, Ecton.

The fellowship would like to thank Joyce  
Orford for the tremendous amount of work she  
did to make the jewellery stall such a  
success.

The grand total raised was £365 which was  
largely due to Joyce's enthusiasm. Also  
thanks to Paddy for patiently selling so  
successfully to many buyers.

Joan Dickins

### OVER 60's - OCTOBER MEETINGS

Mondays 12th and 26th 2.30 p.m. at Rectory  
Room.

Thursday, 22nd October, Whist Drive at  
Rectory Room, 7.15 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. ALL  
WELCOME.

Wednesday, 28th October, Fish and Chip  
Supper. MEMBERS ONLY. 5.45 p.m. for 6.00 p.m.  
Cost £2 per head. Please contact Denise  
Langley ASAP due to catering requirements.

THE MODERN VERSION OF THE 23RD PSALM

The Lord is my Pace Setter, I shall not rush.  
He makes me stop for quiet intervals.  
He provides me with images of stillness,  
Which restore my serenity.  
He leads me in ways of efficiency,  
through calmness of mind.  
And his guidance is peace.  
Even though I have a great many things to  
accomplish each day,  
I will not fret.  
For His presence is here.  
His timelessness, His all importance,  
will keep me in balance.  
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the  
midst of my activity  
By anointing my mind with His oils of  
Tranquility.  
My cup of joyous energy overflows.  
Truly harmony and affectiveness,  
Shall be the fruits of my hours.  
For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord.  
And dwell in his house for ever.

By a Japanese writer,  
Toikia-Megashie.

ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM FLAG DAY

We both would like to thank everyone for  
their generous donations to the above cause.

Total was £127.45p

Thank you

Jock and Betty Cunningham

## JAMES FRASER - A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I have just started work at Ecton House for a year as Assistant Warden, and I have been asked to write a few words about myself for those of you whom I have not already met.

My name is James Fraser, I am 24 years old and I am an Ordinand in training for the Priesthood. My home is Thames Ditton in Surrey, not far from Hampton Court; my Father is a surveyor, my Mother is a nurse, and I have three Brothers and two Sisters, of whom I am the second eldest. My younger Sister, Dawn, was adopted last December and is now only 9.

I was educated at the City of London School, and then at St John's College, Oxford, where I read Classics. I graduated two years ago, and since then I have been gaining experience in Parish work. I worked first for St Albans Cathedral, and last year for St Matthew's Bethnal Green in the East End of London. This has given me quite a varied experience of Parish life, particularly in visiting the elderly and in working with young people; the latter I hope will be of use as I help with the Pathfinders this year.

My duties at Ecton House will include dealing with the booking and billing for retreats and conferences, as well as welcoming and looking after guests and visitors. I hope to have the opportunity to meet many interesting people, and gain invaluable experience of the running of the House.

My main sporting interests are in rowing and in croquet, which has led Peter to give me the task of bringing the House croquet set back into a usable condition. I also have the accolade of having been a "Blockbusters" champion in 1985!

I am very much looking forward to my year, and hope to get to know many people and places while I am living here.

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The family of the late Maud Dicks would like to thank you most sincerely for your kind donation to the fund set up in her memory. This fund has now been closed and they are pleased to inform you that a total of £618.84 has been forwarded to the Children's Society.

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Festival Service will be on 4th October. A Parish Day has been arranged for Saturday, 3rd October, so the Church will be decorated from 11.00 a.m. on Friday, 2nd October, all help will be very welcome. It has been decided not to have an Auction of Produce this year but all gifts will be given to the Night Shelter.

If anyone would like to make a donation towards the flowers to decorate the Church it would be greatly appreciated.

Pat Baylis

## A SENIOR CITIZEN

A Senior Citizen is one who was here before the Pill, TV, frozen food, credit cards and ball point pens. For us time-sharing meant togetherness; there were no computers - a chip meant a piece of wood or of fried potato; hardware meant durable and software did not exist as a word. Porn meant going to Uncles for a loan, and teenagers never wore jeans. We were before panty hose, drip dry, dishwashers, tumble driers and electric blankets. We got married first then lived together (how quaint can you be?) Girls wore Peter Pan collars and thought cleavage meant something the butcher did. We were before Batman, vitamin pills, disposable nappies, pizzas, instant coffee, Chinese takeaways. In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was for mowing and pot was a cooking utensil. A gay person was "the life and soul of the party", nothing more. Aids meant just a beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We Senior Citizens must be a hardy bunch when you think of the ways in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make to survive.

K.G.

### FAMILY CARE

Almighty God, whose Son knew the joys and sorrows of earthly life, we pray for those families who are helped by Family Care. We pray too, for those who care for them on our behalf, the officers, care assistants, social workers, administrative staff, house committees, volunteers and all those who support their work. May we be strengthened to go on loving and caring for all those who come, may our work reflect your love for us. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### COLLECTIONS

June	
7th	187.04
14th	173.50
21st and 28th	370.48
July	
5th	193.05
12th	201.25
19th	163.20
26th	162.95
August	
2nd	218.90
9th	134.26
16th	97.10
23rd	241.76
30th	111.55
September	
6th	240.00

### LIVING WITH LOSS

We have been trying to arrange a series of courses for people who have been bereaved. We were liaising with John Westwood of St Andrew's, Wellingborough. At the time of printing the Magazine we have still not heard any further details and so apologise to all of you who have expressed an interest in joining these courses. As soon as we have further details we shall let you know.

### CHURCH URBAN FUND

Ecton paid its contribution in full at the start of this campaign. However fund raising still continues and we have been told of a concert which is to take place at All Saints, Northampton on 15th October. We have been offered four tickets so if you would like one or two please let the Rector know as soon as possible.

The theme of the concert is Hidden Talents and the performers are all Vicarage families in the Diocese.

# From the Registers

## Marriages

9th May	David Michael Heagren Fiona Jane Smith
6th June	Philip Thomas Hall Jacqueline Margaret Haycox
11th July	Richard Kenneth Barber Jane Mary Langley
22nd August	Peter John Barty Deborah Mary Grundy

## Baptisms

20th June	Felicity Mary Crane
5th July	Sophie Elizabeth Sotheby
5th July	Cheryl Ann Bell
12th July	Adam Francis Williamson
12th July	Sarah Alison Diane Kearsley
19th July	James Andrew Berry
26th July	Megan Rose Bell

## Funerals

22nd May	Maud Emma Dicks, 84 years
17th July	Lilian Baylis, 87 years
27th July	Alwyn Harold Simons, 51 years

## CHURCH AND VILLAGE DIARY

**Thursday, 1 October**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**Saturday, 3 October**

9.30 am "Time Away" for PCC Members led by Sheila Addison  
The theme will be "Vision Building" and the event will  
commence with Holy Communion in the House Chapel

**HARVEST FESTIVAL : Sunday, 4 October**

9.30 am Parish Communion and Parade Service

Genesis 1. 24-end : Luke 8. 4-15

Preacher: The Reverend Martyn Davies,  
Diocesan Youth Chaplain

6.00 pm Evensong

7.00 pm Pathfinders

**Monday, 5 October**

7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel

**Tuesday, 6 October**

7.30 pm Women's Institute meet in the Rectory Room

**Thursday, 11 June**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**18 AFTER PENTECOST : Sunday, 11 October**

9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School

1 Peter 4. 7-11 : Matthew 25. 14-30

6.00 pm Evensong followed by Holy Communion

7.00 pm Pathfinders

**Monday, 12 October**

7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel

2.00 pm Over Sixties meet in the Rectory Room

8.00 pm Cricket Club Meeting in the Rectory Room

**Tuesday, 13 October**

2.30 pm Ecton Fellowship Annual General Meeting

**Thursday, 15 October**

9.30 am Holy Communion

8.00 pm House Meeting in the Franklin Room at Ecton House  
Rob Hiamon - Speaker for Mission to Fishermen

**ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST : Sunday, 18 October**

9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School  
Isaiah 35. 3-6 : Luke 10. 1-9

6.00 pm Evensong

7.00 pm Pathfinders

**Monday, 19 October**

7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel

**Thursday, 22 October**

9.30 am Holy Communion

7.15 pm Whist Drive in the Rectory Room

**NINTH BEFORE CHRISTMAS : SUNDAY, 25 October**

9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School  
Genesis 1. 1-3, 24-31a : John 1. 1-14

6.00 pm Evensong

7.00 pm Pathfinders

**Monday, 26 October**

7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel

2.00 pm Over Sixties meet in the Rectory Room

**ST SIMON AND ST JUDE, APOSTLES : Wednesday, 28 October**

9.30 am Holy Communion

5.45 pm Over Sixties Fish and Chip Supper

7.30 pm Holy Communion

**Thursday 29 October**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**ALL SAINTS' DAY : Sunday, 1 November**

9.30 am Parish Communion and Parade Service  
Jeremiah 31. 31-34 : Matthew 5. 1-12

6.00 pm Evensong

7.00 pm Pathfinders

## PARISH AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

PARISH COUNCIL	<b>Chairman</b>	Sheila Ingram Tel: Northampton 406038
ECTON PRIMARY SCHOOL	<b>Headteacher</b>	Helen Tite Tel: Northampton 409213
ECTON FELLOWSHIP	<b>Contact</b>	Joyce Orford Tel: Northampton 414245 2nd Tuesday in month 2.30 pm in Rectory Room
ECTON W.I.	<b>Contact</b>	Millie Harlott Tel: Northampton 405938 1st Tuesday in month 7.30 p.m. in Rectory Room
OVER 60's	<b>Contact</b>	Denise Langley Tel: Northampton 404173 Twice monthly on Mondays 2.30 pm in Rectory Room
YOUTH CLUB & SENIOR CLUB	<b>Contact</b>	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	<b>Contact</b>	Julie Perry 58 Allard Close, Rectory Farm Every Thursday 2.30 - 4.00 pm in Rectory Room
PLAYGROUP	<b>Contact</b>	Tuesday and Friday 9.15-11.45 am Youth Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
CRICKET CLUB	<b>Captain</b>	Steve Wheatman Tel: Northampton 401714
	<b>Secretary</b>	Hilary Kearsley Tel: Northampton 810922
BROWNIES	<b>Contact</b>	Tricia Fuller Tel: Northampton 403137
BELL RINGERS	<b>Contact</b>	Dorothy Creed Tel: Northampton 407864
PATHFINDERS	<b>Contact</b>	Graham Jordan Tel: Northampton 410255

# EAST LODGE FARM

## RIDING ESTABLISHMENT

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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