

ECTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS





February 1988

FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

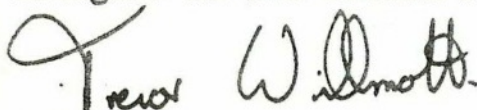
"Church dismay. Relations between the Church of England and the Press have deteriorated". So runs a headline in one of today's newspapers. The critic continues with a quotation by the Bishop of Chichester it has become very plain over the past six months that a large section of the Press is now actively hostile to the Church of England, and that there is scarcely any religious correspondent of a national newspaper or whom the Church can count for sympathetic treatment.

I wonder though, in the wake of some of the recent debates within the Church, if the Church is not itself responsible for some of the bad - if bad it be - press that it has received. The impression often given by the Church is that of a cosy, innocent looking group of people, exempt from almost all of the failings common to other human beings, for whom disagreement or division are unknown factors; the reality being very different !

We are called to be evangelists of the Good News of Jesus Christ and if we translate evangelist as communicator then perhaps we begin to see how instilled we are in the very process which is fundamental to Christian belief i.e. to spread the good news of Jesus, to enable others to share in God's love and to build the Kingdom of God. To be an effective communicator demands well thought out knowledge of one's subject, and the courage to remain firm to one's principles in the face of opposition. Let me illustrate this from some of the recent debate - the Church's understanding of the gospel is not a static, unchanging, abstract but is, we believe, guided by the Spirit of Jesus and rooted within the lives of men and women.

But even that understanding is not without genuine division and disagreement, - hopefully with a spirit of Christian love, but nonetheless real. What we believe about matters of sexuality, about the person of Jesus, about the way the Church should give and minister, are matters which cannot be shunted into a backwater in an attempt to present a united front to the outside world. Nor should such defence only emerge when the Church has its back to the wall, when a long standing hunger for truth and faith has for too long gone unnoticed by much of the Church.

Despite some of the more outrageous headlines of the past months, I don't think we should lump all the Press into the same basket nor see every newspaper correspondent as an automatic enemy of the Church. If our faith has been maligned could it not be that we are not ourselves sufficiently clear about that faith to communicate it to others? Could it not be that there are some aspects of human behaviour which cannot be reconciled to the gospel ?. Perhaps most important of all, if we are to be the Church of the Nation, shouldn't we be seen to be struggling with our faith and response to God's world in such a way that far from people being alienated from the Church, they are enabled to be proud of its freedom to discuss, even to disagree in its search for the Good News ?.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rev. W. Smith'.

RECTOR

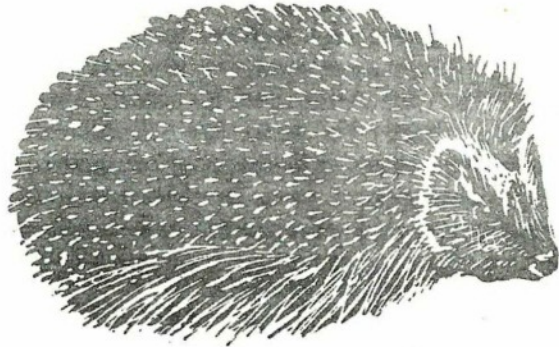
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BEST KEPT VILLAGE AND CHURCHYARD COMPETITION

The results of the Best Kept Village and Churchyard Competition have been received. Class 1 was won by Moreton Pinkney. In the preliminary round of the Best Kept Churchyard section for the Kettering and Wellingborough area, Ecton scored 98 points out of 100 thus achieving a joint 3rd place. The winner of this section was Cold Ashby..

Joan Drage (Clerk of the Parish Council).



WILD ECTON

Winter is a hazardous time for the wild creatures in our gardens and even though, at the time of writing, we are enjoying weather so mild that many plants are showing premature spring growth, there is no doubt some hard weather to come.

Some of our small village mammals, - hedgehogs grey squirrels and bats, - escape winter's hardships by hibernating in some sheltered place, although a prolonged spell of mild weather may encourage some of them to awake from their winter rest, sometimes with unfortunate results.

But not only mammals hibernate; several kinds of butterflies like the Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell, which are common in our gardens in Summer, may also be disturbed by a warm spell and can then be seen, wings outstretched, on a wall, or searching for food.

How gratifying it is that these winter 'lodgers' should show their trust in this way.

Rodney Ingram.

Rector's Notes

February is a strange time to talk about Christmas, but without a January magazine, a short backward reflection may not be inappropriate. Christmas was a busy time, yet with all its business, the Church seemed to be a place of quiet and faith. Congregations at the services were very good; many of whom expressed deep appreciation of the beautiful flowers and Christmas Tree - every year. I think the Church will never be lovelier, and each year I'm proved wrong.

The New Year has come with mild weather and much cause for thanksgiving and hope for the life of the Church. By the time this magazine is published we shall have again "gone on Safari" - any profit being used towards the float for this year's Festival, and a project for deprived children and elderly people in the Birmingham area. Christmas comes and goes and Lent will soon be upon us.

Ash Wednesday falls on February 17th, when there will be celebrations of Holy Communion at 9.30am and 7.30pm, together with the ancient ceremony of the imposition of ashes. Lent is a very important period of self-reflection and growth for the Church and I hope that many, if not all of you, will attend one of the services on this day.

During Lent, we shall use the follow up material to the theme "Pilgrims not Strangers", which we used in 1986. This time called "Who on earth are You?", we are asked to tell our own stories and place them alongside five stories from Luke's gospel. Through this, we are helped to see how our faith relates to our world today. The format of each evening will be the same as in previous years, a house communion, followed by a simple meal and discussion. A sign-up sheet for participation and hosting will be at the back of the Church. We shall begin at 8pm on Feb 24; 29; March 9; 16; & 23, all of which are Wednesdays, except for Monday February 29th.

Report from the P.C.C.

Much of our last meeting was taken up with financial business although all it was the direct result of the work of the parish. November 29th was Stewardship Sunday, and we are delighted to hear that five new members had joined the Stewardship Scheme, and several existing members had increased their pledges for the New Year. The 1987/88 pledge shows a heartening increase of 15.25% over last year. Thanks were expressed to Marian Gleave, Recorder Secretary, and George Allinson, Covenant Secretary, for their hard and detailed work during the year.

The second major item was concerned with our charity giving. The P.C.C. had agreed in 1986 to give away 10% of pledged income as a sign of our need to look beyond our immediate cares to the needs of the wider church and the world. We were also able to allocate the 10% of the last Festival Funds, which we had agreed to give to charity. The allocation was thus as follows:

- £100 to a home for deprived children
in Bangladesh
- £100 to Cynthia Spencer House
- £100 to Nene Adult Training Centre for the
Mentally Handicapped
- £250 to St Thomas' Seaforth, Liverpool.
- £250 to Action Aid
- £100 to the Church Missionary Society for
the work of the Church in the Sudan.
- £50 to St Luke's Hospital, London.
- £50 to the Historic Churches Preservation
Trust.

Some of the letters of thanks which we have received appear after this report.

Other discussions have already become established fact! The additional lighting to the Chancel Nave Altar, and Coffee Area is clearly much appreciated - certainly the improvement to the Chancel has made

that part of the church much lighter, and 'bought' the choir and organist into the main body of the church. A carpet has now been provided for the vestry. Still to come, -a new chest to store the vestments etc in the vestry, the re-furbishment of the Children's Church area; and the replacement, when necessary, of some of the worn bell ropes.

The P.C.C. also acknowledged gratefully, the receipt of a cheque for £200 from the estate of the late Lionel Johnson.

In the past couple of years, we have from time to time held an evening communion on a Sunday which has been appreciated by many people. In order to regularise this 'experiment' it was decided that when there were five Sundays in the month, a celebration of Holy Communion would be held in place of Evensong. The morning Parish Communion would remain unchanged on those days. The 1988 dates being, January 31st; May 29th; July 31st; and October 30th.

CHARITY GIVING

As part of the Church's work in Ecton some of the money raised during the year, is sent to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Our recent donations have been as follows ;

£50 to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, who have on a number of occasions helped with the cost of renovation work on St Mary Magdalene. Major Ian Radford their secretary sends his warmest thanks on behalf of the trustees.

£50 to St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy, and thanks has been received from their General Secretary Peter Nicholson.

£100 to the Church Missionary Society. The Society's thanks were conveyed by their financial secretary Peter Dowsett.

£100 to Cynthia Spencer House in recognition of the wonderful work in caring for the incurably sick.

The consultant in continuing care Peter Kaye and sister-in-charge Mrs.M.S.Green, send their personal thanks and also convey the thanks of all the Staff and patients of the unit.

£100 to Nene Adult Training Centre, whose manager Mr.D.H.Jordan wrote to thank us for our support.

£250 to Action Aid in Bangladesh, which is part of a three year committment by Ecton.

£250 to St Thomas' Church Seaforth. The Rev. David Flewker has sent his sincere thanks on behalf of the Parishoners of St Thomas'

MUMS AND TOTS

We are indebted to Father Christmas for visiting our Christmas party and helping to make it such a happy occasion..Life is now back to normal and we are again meeting regulary on Thursday afternoons between 2.30pm and 4.00pm in the Rectory Room (opposite the Church). All mums with Childrens under school age are welcome to join us for coffee and a chat.

Rota for February

Feb	4	Margaret Willmott
	11	Janet Stock
	18	Maureen Kennedy
	25	Jan Scriven
Mar	3	Yvonne Miller

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



Many thanks to all those who came to the Coffee and Mince Pie morning on 3rd December and helped to make it such a success, we raised £55.31.

It is with great pleasure I can let you know that the Children's Society money boxes brought in £199.01 and, with further donations of £4.14. I had the honour of sending off £258.46 in total.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the Children's Society in 1987 and look forward to your continued support in 1988.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Ingrid Cartwright.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

In addition to the work carried out by Ingrid Cartwright with the Children's Society money boxes, Ecton regularly donates the collection taken during the Christingle Service. The sum of £112.51p was raised this year to help with the work of the Society, who have conveyed their grateful thanks for our support.

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

This is looking rather empty, if you have not already signed up, please do so or we will not have any flowers in the Church.

Feb 6th Pat Baylis

13th Pat Baylis

No flowers due in Lent.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH IN THE GARDEN

The first aconites appear this month and remind us that Spring is on its way even if this can be the hardest month of the year. Snowdrops peep through the often frozen ground too and its worth remembering that if you need to move either aconites or snowdrops its much better done directly after flowering, before the foliage has died back. On a good dry day the flower borders can be tidied up and plants and shrubs tied and staked against March winds. The soil will benefit too from a good dressing of hoof and horn- an organic manure. Sweet peas can be sown outdoors in early March, but do beware of mice.

Pruning can take place at this time of year and summer flowering shrubs can be kept shapely by cutting back to an outward bud close to the base of last year's growth. Buddleias respond to severe pruning and the lovely purple flowering Jackmanni clematis should be cut to 1ft above the ground. Roses however, are best left to the end of March before pruning.

For abundant and better quality fruit, apples and pears should be pruned now but care should be taken to distinguish between the short stubby growths or spurs that carry plump fruit buds and the pointed leaf buds which lie flat against the young shoots.

Different varieties of trees need different treatment and its worth checking up before wielding the secateurs as a lot of mistakes can be made. Gooseberries need pruning by the end of February and autumn fruiting raspberries should be cut down, whilst the tips of summer fruiting ones should be removed.

Rhubarb can be planted or divided now using a rich prepared soil. Those rhubarb plants which have been established for several years can be manured and forced by covering clumps with boxes or large pots.

If you have a kitchen garden, plant Jerusalem artichokes and shallots and buy all seeds etc. so that on a mild March day when the soil is dry enough to work easily, the first sowings can be made - onions first. If the weather is cold, don't be in too much of a hurry but wait until the soil warms up.

The mowing machine may need overhauling so remember to check that and other tools so that all is in good condition when Spring finally arrives.

COFFEE ROTA

Feb	7th	Janet Robinson & Jean Leigh
	14th	Joanne Pinney & Pat Baylis
	21st	Nick & Mary Green
	28th	Kathy Stears & Zara Hunwicks
Mar	6th	Marion Gleave & Sylvia Johnson

Please could coffee helpers return the teatowels promptly as these are needed each week.

SPRING CONCERT

FOR CHILDREN

Read John 21 verses 9-17, before you read the story, to help you to understand it.

'Feed my lambs'

'Sorry I'm late,' said Daddy one evening. 'I suppose Sally's in bed?'

'Yes,' said Mother, 'and I'm worried. Ever since she went shopping for me after tea she's hardly said a word. She won't tell me what's the matter.'

Daddy found Sally in tears. 'I've been so naughty', she sobbed.

'What have you done?'

'Mother sent me shopping, and I bought sweets with some of the change — and I was afraid to tell her!'



Illustration: Graham Barnham

'Afraid of Mother? Why?'

'I thought she'd never trust me to shop again!'

'Now, Sally, you know you must tell her. She'll forgive you if you're truly sorry. Off you go!'

Soon Sally was back, her face radiant. 'She's forgiven me', she said, 'and she wants me to do more shopping tomorrow. So she *does* trust me!'

'Feed my lambs!' murmured Daddy.

'What did you say?'

'Get into bed, and I'll tell you. One day, after Jesus had risen, Peter and some other disciples were with him by the Lake of Galilee, where they had been fishing. Peter was feeling ashamed because when Jesus was tried he had been too cowardly to own that he knew him. He thought Jesus would never trust him again. But now Jesus asked Peter if he loved him, then said, 'Feed my lambs', meaning, 'Care for my people in the world'. Then Peter knew that Jesus *did* trust him.'

'Like Mother and me!' said Sally happily. 'Good-night Daddy.'

She snuggled down to sleep.



ECTON CHOIR

Would be pleased to welcome new members especially men.....anyone interested in joining us on a Friday evening, should contact Mary Strange tel. 409306.

RECIPE CORNER

ICED CHERRY AND COCONUT BARS

Filling

6ozs Castor Sugar
4ozs Desiccated Coconut
1ozs Angelica (chopped)
4ozs Sultanas
2ozs Glace Cherries (chopped)
2 Large Eggs (beaten)
2 level tablespoons Self Raising Flour
1 tablespoon Lemon Juice

Set oven Gas 6 400 F 200 C

Line 7x7 inch shallow tin with shortcrust pastry.

Mix all the filling ingredients together and spread in pastry lined tin. Level the surface, then bake for 20 minutes. Reduce heat to Gas 4 350 F 180 C and continue baking for a further 20 minutes.

Cool in the tin then cut into bars.

ICING

2ozs Icing Sugar
1-2 teaspoons of Water

Mix icing ingredients together, then place in a greaseproof bag and cut the corner off. Pipe a squiggle down each bar.

Makes approx 9 bars.

CLEANING ROTA

Feb	6	Mrs Harlot & Mrs Wright	(R)
	13	Mrs Dicks & Mrs Cartwright	(L)
	20	Mrs Wilson & Mrs Hunwicks	(R)
	27	Mrs Baylis & Mrs Stears	(L)
Mar	5	Mrs Robinson & Mrs Haycox	(R)

SACRISTANS ROTA

Feb	6	Mrs Wilson & Mrs Willmott	(B)
	13	- do -	(A)
	20	Mr & Mrs Murdin	(B)
	27	- do -	(A)
Mar	5	Mrs Treloar & Miss Gleave	(B)

COPY FOR THE MARCH MAGAZINE

Should be delivered to Ecton House
by Saturday 13th February.
Enquires : tel. 407888



marriages may
be made in
HEAVEN...



...but you have to
do your own
maintenance

A THOUGHT FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY
SUNDAY 13TH MARCH

Why not send your mother some flowers by post and help the Children's Society at the same time.

The following growers in Guernsey give a donation to the Children's Society for each order, when you quote the Children's Society. This firm is very highly recommended by the Rectory family, whose Mother's are delighted with their gifts each year.

St.Saviours Nurseries,
P.O.Box 266
Guernsey.C.I. Tel. 0481.65521

Orders can be taken by telephone or letter
Credit Cards, Postal Orders & Cheques accepted

Only £5.50p for a 12 Spray of Carnations
(in presentation sleeve).

ECTON PLAYGROUP

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Bazaar. We raised the magnificent sum of £146.

We now have 11 children enjoying themselves every Tuesday and Friday morning. There are vacancies for any child over the age of 2½ who would like to join us. We only charge a modest £1-60 per week.

Margaret Tinston
(tel. 412233)

MOTHER'S UNION

We had a very enjoyable talk with slides in January from Andrew Currah. The variety and number of questions, showed the interest and concern of those present.

The donation of £250 from Church funds has been designated for the Sudan.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 9th February at 2.30pm in the Rectory Room. This will be our A.G.M, Jean Leigh will be happy to collect your subscription if you have not already paid her.

Please remember to bring back your Television Questionnaires.

We will not have a speaker that afternoon, but we will be watching a video.

Margaret Willmott.

READERS DIARY

Feb	7th	Ted Langley
	14th	John Strange
	21st	Alice Adams
	28th	Zara Hunwicks
Mar	6th	Martin Stears

ECTON ARMADA BEACON FESTIVAL 15th-17th JULY

It seems to me, that no sooner have we sold the last Domesday Commemorative mug, dusted the space left on the table at the back of the Church then Trevor is about to remind us that it is Festival time again.

Always looking for a novel way to raise funds whilst at the same time enjoying our community life to the full, the theme of this year's festival weekend will be Ecton's connection with the defeat of the Spanish Armada in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I 1588.

On our Church tower was lit one of the many beacons that carried the news across the country. It is this tower that now needs restoration work quite urgently, so 90% of the money raised during the weekend will be used to carry this out. The remaining 10% will, as is our usual custom, be given to selected charities.

Already a great deal of preparation is underway, and I shall be giving you a monthly update on our progress from now on, but please do remember it is your event so do let's have your ideas and see if we can work together to make our 1988 Beacon Festival a real blaze !

Just as a taster of what's to come and to help get your grey matter working. Here is the skeleton of events that are being planned already.

Friday 15th Ecton Beacon-bonfire with
firework display.
Ox roast
Dancing

Saturday 16th Elizabethan Flower Festival
(daytime) with Tableaux
Rural crafts and produce
stalls
Exhibition
Marching Band
Lunches

(evening) Grand Elizabethan costumed
 banquet

Sunday 17th Ecton Handbells
 Morris dancing
 Band concert
 Punch and Judy
 Rural crafts and produce
 stalls
 Teas

6pm Festival Evensong with the
 Ecton Bellringers ringing a
 quarter peal to celebrate the
 feast of St Mary Magdalene.

Obviously a Festival of such complexity
requires some co-ordination and this is
a function that I shall do my best to
carry out, but if you are willing to help
in any way, and of course we hope, that
you will, then if you are particularly
keen to help in any of the following
please contact the relevant people as soon
as possible. They are :

Flower Festival	Freda Richards and Edna Welch
Crafts and Produce Stalls	
Banquet	Stephen Meakins
Catering	Mary Dicks and Joy Wilson

Otherwise please see either me or Trevor,
remember ECTON needs YOU!!

Sheila Ingram

"SOMETHING FOR NOTHING"

Each month from now until the festival, we shall try to include a money raising tip.

Almost every magazine or newspaper that you pick up these days includes a coupon for a few pence off this or that grocery item.

If you collect these coupons yourself all well and good, but if not, please cut them out, pop them into a used envelope or paper bag and put them through the letter box of 17 West Street or leave them in the box provided at the back of the church.

Each time I do a 'big shop' I will use the coupons to purchase a small item or two of grocery for a stall in our Elizabethan market.

Even if you only have one coupon for 10 pence cut it out and together with one donated by someone else we shall soon have a store of items that won't cost a penny !

Shelia Ingram

LYNNE AND CHRIS GARDENER

After a difficult nine months, I'm sure you will all be delighted to learn that Lynne and Chris are now the proud parents of Jo-anna. Who weighed in at only 4lbs 13oz but is gaining weight rapidly. Congratulations and all the best for the future.

OVER 60'S CLUB

We had a very enjoyable Christmas Party. After dinner we were entertained by the "OPUS 1" group of singers led by Alan Tinston, followed by the distribution of presents, also sherry and mincepies. Again we thank the Rector and Mrs. Willmott and the staff of Ecton House, in fact all who helped make the evening run smoothly.

The World's End Sports and Social Club donated three boxes of groceries to be drawn for during the evening, for which we thank them.

The meetings during January have been well attended.

February's meetings are on the 1st, 15th and 29th as usual starting at 2.30pm.

Edna Welch.



CAROLS AND BELLS

Thanks to everyone who rang and sang around the village on the Monday before Christmas. We raised the magnificent sum of £120 on behalf of the Wishing Well Appeal for the redevelopment of the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

Robin Phipps has written a letter of thanks on behalf of the Appeal.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

I wonder how many ladies made Norwegian creams, orange delights or brandy cake instead of (or as well as) the usual Christmas fare- as demonstrated by Mrs.Barker in December, at a mouth-watering meeting which ended traditionally with mincepies.

Best home-made crackers were made by Mesdames Haycock, Harlot and Cross.

January's meeting gave an insight into the Ranger's work in the four Country Parks in this area of Northamptonshire. Mr.J.Sherratt used slides to illustrate how butterflies, birds, insects and trees all share these increasingly popular places with ramblers of all ages who can enjoy the landscape and wildlife free in safe surroundings. What about a New Year Resolution to "hear the dawn chorus in a lovely setting", just one of the features of Guided Walks in the Parks, advertised in the Press and Library.

Owners of the Heaviest Handbags (competition) were Mrs.J.Wilson and Mrs.J.Robinson.

On February 2nd Mr Morris Smith talks about " Rings " and the competition is "The Prettiest Brooch".

Interested visitors will be most welcome at our meetings, which offer a varied range of subjects in 1988, as well as the bonuses of outings and courses specially for W.I.Members.

Come and hear about them.

Jean Knight.

DIARY for FEBRUARY

February

- Monday 1 2.30pm Over 60's
- Tuesday 2 7.30pm W.I.
- Thursday 4 9.30am Holy Communion
- Sunday 7 8th SUNDAY before EASTER (SEXAGESIMA)
9.30am Family Communion &
Parade Service
Epistle: II Corinthians 12.1-10
Gospel: Mark 7.24-end
6.00pm Evensong
- Tuesday 9 2.30pm Mothers' Union
- Thursday 11 9.30am Holy Communion
- Sunday 14 7th SUNDAY before EASTER (QUINQUAGESIMA)
9.30am Parish Communion &
Children's Church
Epistle: Colossians 1.18-23
Gospel: John 8.2-11
6.00pm Evensong
- Monday 15 2.30pm Over 60's
- Wednesday 16 ASH WEDNESDAY
9.30am) Holy Communion &
7.30pm) Imposition of Ashes
Epistle: James 4.1-10
Gospel: Matthew 6.16-21
- Thursday 17 9.30am Holy Communion
7.00pm W.I. Dinner
- Sunday 21 1st SUNDAY in LENT
9.30am Parish Communion &
Children's Church
O.T.: Genesis 4.1-10
Gospel: Matthew 6.16-21
6.00pm Evensong
- Wednesday 24 8.00pm Lent Discussion Group
- Thursday 25 9.30am Holy Communion

February (contd)

Sunday 28 2nd SUNDAY in LENT
9.30am Parish Communion &
Children's Church
O.T.: Genesis 7.17-end
Gospel: Matthew 12.22-32
6.00pm Evensong

Monday 29 2.30pm Over 60's
8.00pm Lent Discussion Group

March

Tuesday 1 2.30pm W.I.

Thursday 3 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 6 3rd SUNDAY in LENT
9.30am Family Communion &
Parade Service
O.T.: Genesis 12.1-9
Gospel: Matthew 16.13-end
6.00pm Evensong

Tuesday 8 2.30pm Mothers' Union

Wednesday 9 8.00pm Lent Discussion Group

FROM THE COLLECTION PLATE

November	22nd	£164.08
	29th	£169.20
December	6th	£115.78
	13th	£181.75
	20th	£207.98
	25th	£228.91
	27th	£ 49.45
January	3rd	£205.85
	10th	£151.77

