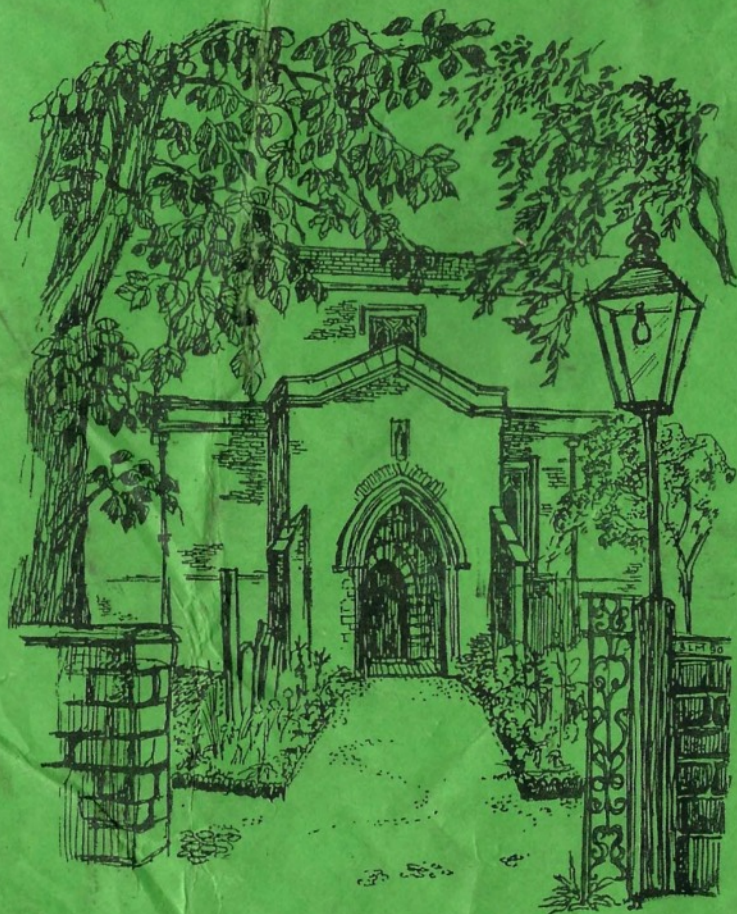


ECTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS



SEPTEMBER 1990

From the Rectors Study

I have always believed that the Church should never make the mistake of treating children and young people as pew fodder. Adult intentions are always seen by the young for what they really are. Many a youthful soul has been put off God by the spiritual ambitions of those who should know better. The young have a great hunger for God. Their lives can at times be in danger; they know what it means to have the love they were born with abused, misunderstood and rejected.

The concept of God as perfect love is close to the heart of a child. Jesus knows this as he knows everything. When the disciples tried to protect him, he said "Let the children come unto me and forbid them not." He then took them in his arms and blessed them. Imagine being blessed by Jesus! The disciples were taught that unless they became as a little child they could not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. A Church must never forget the importance of children for whom she is responsible.

No doubt you will have ideas of your own concerning children which you might like to share with me. In the near future opportunities will be provided for such an exchange. Ecton has a great advantage; it is young at heart, and this is an essential ingredient. There is no reason why our church should not be filled with God's children of every age. Let's allow it to happen.

1

How should we treat the young and the Church of today?

1. Take Jesus seriously when He teaches about children or ministers to them.
2. Help children find a home in the normal life of the Church. Don't segregate.
3. Give them a part in the worship of the Church as often as possible.
4. Adults must think young, remembering their own youth.
5. Put children's concerns and Christian education high on the agenda of the Parochial Church Council.
6. Always given them something to do when planning a Church family event.
7. Never talk down to them.
8. Remember the young in your daily prayers.

Thank you for your continuing warm welcome to Ecton. May God bless you and all those you love.

Peter Naylor.

ECTON CHURCH GUILD

The Guild is a fellowship of those whose service to God is to regularly help to keep the Church clean.

At the first meeting on Monday, 13th August there was a general interchange of ideas about the present arrangements for cleaning the Church, and the materials in use.

It was decided to try to reduce the amount of work and the time each individual spent on their cleaning service by creating weekly teams who would agree with each other a day and time when they would clean together. A 6-weekly rota has been drawn up showing the teams, the task each person prefers to undertake and the areas of the Church to be cleaned. The system will be reviewed before Christmas.

It became obvious that new equipment is urgently required, so a supper party is being planned for the Autumn, to raise funds - watch this space for the date!

A special CRASH CLEAN on Saturday, 29th September to make the Church ready for Harvest Festival needs extra volunteers. Any fit and active Church members (especially men!) who are able to spare any time on that day to help the regulars would be most welcome. Please let me know if you can give any time on that Saturday, between 10 a.m - noon and/or 2-4 p.m.

Thank you.

Patricia Naylor

ECTON CHURCH GUILD ROTA

September

15th	Blue Team	Polish
22nd	Pink Team	Shine
29th	Yellow Team	Polish

October

6th	Red Team	Shine
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Ecton Youth Club

Hopefully our ceiling will be complete by the time this goes to print. This means all the storm damage from January will be finished.

The Youth Club will be open up again on Wednesday, 5th September at 7.30 p.m.

Lunch Club will be on Wednesday, 26th September, everyone welcome.

Mary Beesley

ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM FLAG DAY

We both would like to say to everyone who gave so generously to the above cause a big thank you.

The amount raised was £100.51.

Betty and Jock Cunningham

ACTION AID FINAL!

We now have the Grand total for the Talents Auction held in June. It is £1100 with another £100 raised from a Car Boot Sale, so we are able to send £1200 to a project providing a purer water supply in Ethiopia. Once again - very many thanks to all helpers and supporters.

Joan Dickins

Over 60's Club

During the Summer months members have enjoyed the outings and these were well attended.

A Mini Market on Saturday 22nd September will be held in the Youth Club and it is hoped that members will provide items for our stall.

Whist Drive in Rectory Room on Thursday 27th September at 7.30 p.m.

8th October Mrs Frost of Shoosmiths and Harrison will give a talk entitled "Making a Will and Matters Relating to it" in the Rectory Room at 2.30 p.m. Any non-members will be welcome to attend.

Dates for September meetings 10th and 24th.

Denise Langley

Flower Rota

September

8th	Marian Gleave
15th	Celia Carter
22nd	Celia Carter
29th	-

October

6th	Harvest Festival
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Readers Diary

September

9th	Toni Main
16th	Mary Strange
23rd	Brian Saunders
30th	Stan Kidney

October

7th	Joan Dickins
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LIVERPOOL'S CATHEDRALS

Visit Liverpool's Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals, by coach, from Northampton. A party goes from Weston Favell church on Saturday 6th October at a cost of £7 per head. Anyone interested in joining this group please telephone Northampton 405464 or 713918.



PATHFINDERS

Summer is nearly over and our Autumn Term starts on Sunday 9th September. We hope that our programme between now and Christmas will include:

A Barbecue — to make sure Richard Mayne has something to eat before he goes to college!

Three learning sessions of four weeks each being;

The Bible — Just another book?
Home — Where it all counts.
Future — In safe hands.

A party to celebrate the birth of Christ.

A video — at least once.

If you are younger than 16 and older than 9 and would like to learn about being a Christian why not come and join us? We meet 7pm to 8.30pm on Sunday evenings in Ecton House.

If you are older than 15 and would like to be a Pathfinder Leader or Helper please have a word with Mary Strange or Graham Jordan or Les Mitchell.

MARY STRANGE

THOMAS CATESBY CHARITY

The Trustees are pleased to report that the sale of the allotments and adjoining arable land has successfully been concluded. The 12.61 acres was sold at auction on Wednesday, 11th July for £44,500. However, because of many difficulties over the past two years legal and other costs totalled some £6,000 considerably more than originally estimated. With little or no income during these past two years the charity has been unable to function properly. Whilst this new capital can not be touched income will only now start to be received, although it will be sometime before the charity can again distribute funds as directed by the scheme.

Henry Pinney

MINI MARKET

at
YOUTH CLUB
on
Saturday 22nd September
at 2.30 p.m.

Tombola - Ecton hall Cricket Club
"Anything Goes" - WI
Bric-a-Brac - Playgroup and Mum and Tots
also taking part are
Friends of Ecton School, Youth Club and Youth
Club Committee

Money raised will go to each organisation and
a donation from each to the building.

Please come and support us.

ECTON HALL CRICKET CLUB

Dry hard wickets have produced plenty of runs. The results of recent matches are as follows:-

- 17th June Ecton 128 Pitsford 125
S. Wheatman 4 for 26
Ecton won by 3 runs
- 24th June Clipston 103 Ecton 61
Lost by 42 runs
- 1st July Guilsborough 79 Ecton 80 for 5
Ecton won by 5 wickets
- 3rd " Boughton 108 for 8 Ecton 111 for 5
D. Hyatt 34 Won by 5 wickets
- 8th " Ecton 158 for 9 S. Wheatman 37
Roade 128 S. Wheatman 4 for 27
Ecton won by 30 runs
- 11th " Moulton 106 for 7 Ecton 110 for 5
M. Patching 42 S. Wheatman 35
Ecton won by 5 wickets
- 15th " Badby 79 Ecton 83 for 1
S. Richards 39 N.O.
Ecton won by 9 wickets
- 22nd " Mears Ashby 193 for 6 Ecton 181
C. Ellis 64 A. Saunders 50
Lost by 12 runs
- 29th " Ecton 152 M. Kearsley 78 N.O.
Collingtree 154 for 1
Lost by 9 wickets
- 2nd Aug. Earls Barton 149 for 8
Ecton 150 for 8 S. Wheatman 39
Won by 2 wickets
- 5th " Ecton 215 Bugbrooke St. Michaels 60
Ecton won by 155 runs

12th " Stoke Goldington 182 for 8
 Jason Wright 4 for 40
 Eton 163 for 9 S. Richards 56
 Eton won by 1 wicket

14th Aug. Eton 116 for 1 St. Crispins 109 for 4
 M. Kearsley 36 D. Hyatt 58 n.o.
 Eton won by 7 runs

The Draw Pool winners were:-

June No.38 Mrs. L. Richards
 " 22 Miss E. Kearsley

July No.91 Mr. J. Beesley
 " 33 Mr. A. Woodcock

The remaining fixtures are:-

2nd Sep. Cogenhoe at Cogenhoe 2.00 p.m. start
 9th " Cold Ashby at Eton " "
 16th " Heyford at Heyford " "
 23rd " Gt. Houghton at Gt. H'ton 1.30 p.m. "

Brian Saunders

From the Registers

Holy Baptism - 5th August

Bradley Kevin Neal Williams
 Joshua Brett Thomas Williams
 Christopher Allen Antony Williams
 David John Neil Williams

Holy Matrimony - 18th August

Matthew John Lever Cox
 Alison Jean Steadman

HARVEST FLOWERS

Harvest Festival this year is on Sunday 7th October. As usual, the church will be open to be decorated on Saturday 6th October. However, the Rector is blessing a Civil Marriage at lunchtime so the church will be open 10.00am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm. Anyone who would like to help with the decorating will be very welcome. Please come and help to make YOUR church look (and smell) beautiful to celebrate Harvest but remember to leave everything tidy at 12 noon for the sake of the people coming to the service.

Would anyone who would like to contribute to the cost of flowers please give their money to Pat Baylis (34 West St.) or to one of the Wardens to pass on to her. If you intend to provide flowers from your garden could you please deliver these to church by 10:00am on the Saturday and, if possible, let Pat have some idea in advance of what you hope to provide so that she can have some idea of how much to buy.

Likewise, if you hope to provide and arrange your own flowers, or would like Pat to buy something specifically for the arrangement you intend to do, please let her know by Thursday 4th October at the latest. Sorry if this sounds like I am trying to organise you—I'm not—I'm just trying to make it a bit easier for Pat, as she has not had the task of purchasing the flowers before, and we want to avoid buying any unnecessarily as they are not cheap.

Thankyou in advance for your co-operation.

MARY STRANGE

Women's Institute

Dear Carol (across the Border again),
You missed an instructive meeting in July when Sue Perry from the House of Colour in Daventry convinced us that our images could be vastly improved by wearing the right colours; by reducing our wardrobes by one third(!); and deciding which type we are. Six types were listed - dramatic, classic, natural, gamine, ingenue, romantic - quite a choice ... I am still working on that wardrobe problem. If I can get it right and look as smart as the Speaker did, that Meeting will not have been in vain. It was fascinating to hear about the Law of Sumptuary too. Ask anyone who was there ...

Winners of the "Painted Ornament" competition were Mrs Dicks, Mrs Harlott and Mrs Cross. The evening ended in a most delightful way with turkey sandwiches and wine provided by Paddy, whose Special Birthday was shared with her friends in the WI. It made another happy memory in our 1990 calendar.

Members of Cogenhoe WI walked over to visit us one day in June and nine valiant Ecton ladies walked along the lanes to Cogenhoe in July. All returned safely, glad to say.

JEAN KNIGHT

Back home in time to thank everyone who made our Food and Wine evening on 27 July such a friendly and successful event. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as we did. Thanks to you £200 has been sent to WI National funds for charities which include Barnardo's, Leukaemia and the Deaf. Proceedings from the raffle (£72) have been donated to help the Local Blind.

The break in the weather did not dampen our outing on 14 August when members and friends visited Evesham, a rare breeds farm and took tea at Bloxham. A most pleasurable away day.

We have a talk on "Recycling Waste" by Mr C Jackson on 4 September when the competition will be for the "Prettiest Picture Post Card". (Teas: Mrs Cartwright and Mrs Treloar.)

CAROL JONES

House group

Details of our meetings in September are as follows:

Thursday 13th September
The Primitive Eucharist (the evening to include Communion).

PETER NAYLOR

at Ecton House.

Thursday 27th September
Bible Study (passage to be determined).

MARY STRANGE

at 23 Church View.

If you are interested in coming along to any of the evenings please do feel free to. We are not a closed group and coming to one meeting does not commit you to attending every time, or even ever again, if you do not want to. The intention is to meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month giving mutual support and encouragement as we try to live out our Christian faith.

MARY STRANGE

(As I start college on 1st October I'm sure you'll all be delighted to know that I probably won't be contributing so much to the magazine in future.) MS.

Coffee Rota

Sunday 16 Sept	Janet Robinson & Jean Leigh
Sunday 23 Sept	Johann Pinney & Pat Baylis
Sunday 30 Sept	

Sunday 7 Oct	Audrey Treloar & Ingrid Carwright
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OPERATION SPRINGCLEAN

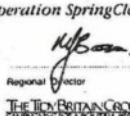


This Certificate is Awarded to

Ecton

Parish Council

*For Their Contribution Towards Improving
Northamptonshire's Environment During
Operation SpringClean 1990*



The Parish Council are delighted that Ecton has been awarded the Certificate illustrated above for taking part in Operation Springclean.

At the moment there are a lot of other things going on.

We have a very beautiful village which is being enhanced by the restoration of many of it's older dwellings. The lighting and telephone wires are being undergrounded in phases. We have been successful in helping the police to convict and penalise a would be flytipper. We hope to do well in the Tidy Village and Best Kept Church Yard competition, but to do this we need your help!

The Council have supported us by spraying the roadside edges with weedkiller throughout the village, will you undertake to continue to clear any weeds or litter that may appear outside your home?

It may be helpful to know who the Parish Councillors are should you need to get in touch with one on any matter, and a complete list can be found below. Please remember, the Parish Council exists to be of assistance in all areas of village life, but can only be truly effective if we work together.

Chairman: Mr J E Beesley

Vice-Chairman: Mrs C J Haycox

Members:	Mr D C Dicks	Mr E S Needham
	Mr V Lester	Mrs S Johnson
	Mr D J Lennon	Mrs S A Ingram
	Mr I K Stock	

Clerk: Mr J Wright

THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN?

On Saturday 21st July the Diocese of Peterborough held a "Teach In" at the Derngate in Northampton which it invited each Parish to send representatives to. People did not go to participate in, or listen to, a discussion; or to give their own, or their parish's, opinion. Those who chose to go went to listen to six people give their argument, three for and three against the ordination of women to the priesthood.

Each speaker was allowed 20 minutes in which to state their case, with a short break between them, and the morning seemed to fly by. Almost inevitably, the vast majority of those attending already held their own views as to whether or not women should be ordained to the priesthood of the Anglican Church. However, (much to the media's disappointment I'm sure) we all remembered, as our Bishop had hoped, that beneath our divisions we are called to unity in the Spirit.

The six speakers, in order of speaking, were: The Rev. Canon Iain MacKenzie (Canon Residentiary at Worcester Cathedral), Sister Carol (a member of the Community of the Holy Name), Mrs. Katherine Heidt (on the National Executive of Women Against the Ordination of Women), Professor David McClean (a Barrister and responsible for chairing the committee which prepared the draft legislation concerning the ordination of women to the priesthood), The Rt. Hon. John Selwyn Gummer (Minister of State for Agriculture, member of General Synod), and The Rt. Rev. William Ind, Bishop of Grantham.

Here does not seem, to me, to be the right place to try and set out the arguments of each speaker and I don't think that I could attempt to do that in an unbiased way anyway. However, I do think it important that we, who will be affected by any decisions made by General Synod, ensure that our personal opinion is not merely based on prejudice. This is especially true for Members of the P.C.C., who may discuss the matter at some time in the near future; Members of our Deanery Synod who will discuss and, in all probability, vote on this topic; and Members of Diocesan Synod.

How each Diocesan Synod votes, and which way the majority decide, determines whether or not General Synod proceeds with the draft *Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure* to the final approval stage. Our Diocese has produced a booklet, in which each speaker gives a precis of their speech, and there is a copy of this in church. I also have two further copies. Please feel free to borrow and read any of these if you are interested.

MARY STRANGE

COPY FOR THE NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

***Should be delivered to Ecton
House by 14th October
Enquiries :-Tel. Northampton
407888***

Church and Village Diary

Sunday 16th	15th Sunday after Pentecost 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion 1 Timothy 2:1-17 Matthew 14:1-12 6.00 p.m. Evensong 7.00 p.m. Pathfinders
Thursday 20th	Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.
Friday 21st	St Matthew the Apostle Holy Communion 7.30 p.m. in Church
Saturday 22nd	Mini Market at Youth Club 2.30 p.m.
Sunday 23rd	16th Sunday after Pentecost 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion 1 John 4:15 to end Luke 16:19 to end 6.00 p.m. Evensong 7.00 p.m. Pathfinders
Monday 24th	Over 60's 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday 26th	Lunch Club
Thursday 27th	Holy Communion 9.30 a.m. Over 60's Whist Drive 7.30 p.m.
Sunday 30th	St Michael and All Angels 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion Revelations 12:7-12 Matthew 18:1-6 and 10 6.00 p.m. Evensong 7.00 p.m. Pathfinders

OCTOBER

Tuesday 1st	WI 7.30 p.m.
Thursday 4th	Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.
Saturday 6th	Decoration of Church for Harvest 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Blessing of a Civil Marriage at 12 noon
Sunday 7th	Harvest Thanksgiving 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion and Parade Service Galatians 6:6-10 Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23 6.00 p.m. Evensong 7.00 p.m. Harvest Supper and Auction in Ecton House
Monday 8th	Over 60's 2.30 p.m.

From the Collection Plate

<u>June</u>	
24th	£228.76

<u>July</u>	
1st	£194.05
8th	£199.30
15th	£178.10
22nd	£216.70
29th	£234.95

<u>August</u>	
5th	£185.00
12th	£226.45
19th	£172.39

ECTON CHURCH DIRECTORY

RECTOR	The Reverend Peter Naylor Ecton Rectory, West Street ECTON Tel: Northampton 416322 (Home) Northampton 406442 (Ecton House)
CHURCHWARDENS	Mr Martin Stears 10 Lady Winefrides Walk GREAT BILLING Tel: Northampton 407888 Mr Henry Pinney 91 Henshaw Road WELLINGBOROUGH Tel: Wellingborough 77021
PCC Secretary	Mr Leslie Murdin 20 Church View, ECTON Tel: Northampton 409422
Treasurer	Mr John Strange Silver Howe Barton Fields, ECTON Tel: Northampton 409306
Stewardship Recorder	Miss Marian Gleave 19 Church View, ECTON Tel: Northampton 407889
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Mary Dicks Field House, West Street ECTON Tel: Northampton 407145
Organist and Choirmaster	Mr Stan Kidney 8 St Christopher's Walk ABINGTON, Northampton Tel: Northampton 34034
Magazine Editor	Mrs Kathy Stears 10 Lady Winefrides Walk GREAT BILLING Tel: Northampton 407888
Magazine Distributor	Mrs Pat Baylis 34 West Street, ECTON Tel: Northampton 407707
Children's Church	<u>Contacts</u> Mrs Toni Main - Tel: 405322 Mrs Gwen Douglas Tell: 405336 Miss Trudi Wright Tece Every Sunday (except Parade Servi Sunday) 9.30 a.m in Rectory Room

St Mary Magdalene
Ecton

HARVEST SUPPER
1990

after Evensong Sunday
7th October 'in Ecton



House

£3.00

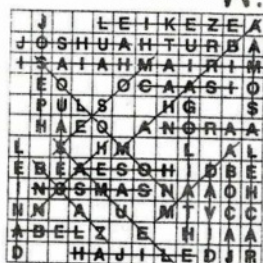


followed by auction of produce

Tickets available from Mary Dicks or
Kathy Stears.

Things To Do Answers.

SEARCHWORD SOLUTION



B. Answer: man, mustard seed, field, grows, tree, birds, nests, branches.

C. Answer: The mountains and hills may crumble, but my love for you will never end.

D. Answer: Teach me, Lord, what you want me to do, and I will obey you faithfully.

F. 1. Father 2. Wrong 3. Cried 4. Good
5. Nothing 6. Alive 7. Care 8. Forgive

Answer:

1. Centurion
2. Servant
3. Paralyse
4. Capernaum.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September 2 has been designated as an **Ecumenical Day of Prayer** following the inauguration of Churches Together in England the day before. Monsignor Paul Hypher will be the special preacher in the Cathedral at 3.30pm Evensong, to which members of all churches are most warmly invited.

September 26: **'Coping with Credit'** - a Mothers' Union Conference. At the Church Hall, All Saints Church, Wellingborough. 2 separate sessions: 2-4pm and at 7.30pm. Speakers from The Jubilee Trust and the Volunteer Bureau. Tickets (£1.75) from M E Dyer, 22 Nene Crescent, Oakham LE15 6SG.

Garth Hewitt on National Tour - 'Chain of Love' sponsored by the CMS. October 4 at Nottingham; October 11 at Leeds. An evening of music and conversations about the Palestinian

search for peace with justice. (Details from the Rev Val Cory 0476 74082.)

October 13 **Diocesan Choral Festival** at the Cathedral. Up to 700 singers are expected at this annual Festival of Choirs. On the day, the afternoon is given over to final rehearsal and at 6pm the great Festival Service takes place. All welcome. (Details: Max Dolby 0733 71091).

Calling all singers: Come and "Sing Messiah!" on October 13, Holy Trinity, Rothwell. A same-day rehearsal (afternoon) and performance (evening) of Handel's *Messiah* under the direction of Northamptonshire County Music Advisor, Malcolm Tyler. £2 admission for participants and £2 audience admission - all proceeds to Church Restoration Fund. (Details: H Read 0536 710866.)

July 26 - August 2 1991 **Pilgrimage to Lourdes**. (Details: the Rev Martin Broad 0536 203314).

September 1991: **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lincoln**. Details soon from Canon Jack Higham.



Give a bat a home

Where the bee sucks there suck I,
In a cowslip's bell I lie;
There I crouch where owls do cry
On a bat's back I do fly
After the summer merrily . . ."

Shakespeare's song from the lips of happy Ariel, captures, in words quoted in a bygone era, the "four great orders of created wonder - insect, plant, bird and mammal". However, "merrily" is perhaps not the best descriptive word for *after* summer. For when autumn arrives, insects and plants die or become dormant, birds migrate or, like mammals, try to increase their fat reserves in preparation for winter. The search then begins to find a suitable shelter in which to live until spring.

Bats traditionally live in trees, but over the years it has been necessary to fell much of Britain's woodland to provide fuel and construction timber. As a consequence, many bats have been forced to set up home in buildings. Some bats will still, by preference, live in trees all year round in areas where large trees remain, but when our woods and forests are further devastated by gales such as we have endured this past year, many hundreds of bats will have been made homeless or killed.

Autumn is the obvious time for "tidying" our countryside, ie felling damaged trees. Perhaps we should bear in mind those wildlife creatures which rely for their livelihood on what we see as untidiness. A broken hollow tree could be trimmed and made safe, giving bats a secure place to start their winter sleep - with the added bonus in summer of nesting birds gathering with the bats to enjoy the insect food, which will also thrive in the tree. Summer may then come again, merrily, for bats.

Sheila Walsh
Nature Conservancy Council

PARISH AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Parish Council	<u>Chairman</u>	Mr John E Beesley Tel: Northampton 810577
Ecton Primary School	<u>Headteacher</u>	Mrs Sarah Stopps Tel: Northampton 409213
Ecton Fellowship	<u>Contact</u>	Miss Joyce Orford Tel: Northampton 414245 2nd Tuesday in month 2.45 p.m in Rectory Room
Ecton W.I	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Millie Harlott Tel: Northampton 405938 1st Tuesday in month 7.30 p.m in Rectory Room
Over 60's	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Denise Langley Tel: Northampton 404173 Twice monthly on Monday's 2.30 p.m in Rectory Room
Youth Club & Senior Club	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs M Beesley Tel: Northampton 810577 Y.C Wednesday 7.00-9.00 p.m S.C Tuesday 8.00 p.m at Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
Mums & Tots	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Jan Lennon Tel: Northampton 410658 Every Thursday 2.30-4.00 p.m in Rectory Room
Playgroup	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Jan Lennon Tel: Northampton 410658 Tuesday & Friday 9.15-11.45 a.m at Youth Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
Cricket Club	<u>Captain</u>	Mr Steve Wheatman Tel: 401714
	<u>Secretary</u>	Mrs H Kearsley Tel: 810922
Brownies	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Tricia Fuller Tel: Northampton 403137
Bell Ringers	<u>Contact</u>	Mrs Mary Strange Tel: Northampton 409306
Pathfinders	<u>Contact</u>	Mr Graham Jordan Tel: Northampton 410255

Thoughts on a new Archbishop

Soon after I became Bishop of Brixworth, someone asked me what it was like to be prayed for by so many people. I found it a hard question to answer except to say that I know, deep within me, what a strength it is to be prayed for, by name, in so many parishes, week by week. It is a part of life that I never cease to be thankful for, for I know how much I need your prayers, and how valuable prayer is.

Very recently the prayers of all of us will have been focusing on Dr George Carey, Bishop of Bath and Wells, as he prepares to become the new Archbishop of Canterbury. Since the news came of his appointment media interest in the Bishop and his family has been of an almost frightening intensity.

In part, our prayers should surely be that no one should harbour ludicrously unrealistic expectations of what a new Archbishop, however good, can achieve. Dr Carey has many obvious virtues, one of them being that he is a humble ordinary man, who says his prayers. He is the last person to claim that he is to be seen as some sort of superman who will change everything in the church and nation for the better, at a stroke. To expect such things of him is to live in an irresponsible fantasy world.

Especially is this so in the case of the much vaunted Decade of Evangelism. The next Archbishop is keen to see our churches growing, both in Spirit and numerically. One reason for his being chosen is that Dr Carey is an evangelist and teacher. He is thus particularly



well qualified to give leadership in this enterprise through which we seek to attract many more to the Christian faith and to membership of our churches.

Again though, it is not something that any one Archbishop, however gifted and well qualified, can accomplish on his own. There is much work to be done on the ground, in the front line, which means in our parishes and churches. William Temple, probably the greatest Archbishop this century, summed it up well when he said "we cannot separate the evangelisation of those without from the rekindling of devotion within."

As, in all our parishes, we join in supporting Bishop Carey - and his wife - with our prayers, may it be for all of us a time of rekindling too.

God has called George Carey to high and onerous office. We are called too, each to play our own particular and vital part in sharing the Archbishop's burden, and in the bringing in of God's Kingdom.

+ Paul



