

ECTON  
CHURCH AND VILLAGE  
NEWS



**NOVEMBER 1993**

# ECTON CHURCH DIRECTORY

RECTOR	The Reverend Peter Naylor Ecton Rectory, West Street, Ecton Tel: Northampton 416322 (Home) Northampton 406442 (Ecton House)
CHURCHWARDENS	John Strange Silver Howe, Barton Fields, Ecton Tel: Northampton 409306 Graham Jordan Pear Tree Cottage, Church Way Tel: Northampton 410255
PCC SECRETARY	Leslie Murdin 20 Church View, ECTON Tel: Northampton 409422
TREASURER	Robert Allison 9 The Courtyard, Ecton Hall, Ecton Tel: Northampton 409467
STEWARDSHIP RECORDER	Marian Gleave 19 Church View, ECTON Tel: Northampton 407889
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER	Mary Dicks Field House, West Street, Ecton Tel: Northampton 407145
MAGAZINE EDITOR	John Strange Silver Howe, Barton Fields, Ecton Tel: Northampton 409306
MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR	Pat Baylls 34 West Street, Ecton Tel: Northampton 407707
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Contact Patricia Naylor - Tel: 416322 Every Sunday (except Parade Service first Sunday) 9.25 a.m. in Rectory Room
CHURCH ORGANIST AND CHOIR MASTER	Frank Brown 40 The Scarplands, Duston, Northampton Tel: Northampton 752266

## FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

Of the many events that are taking place at this time of the year and which will enrich the life of the Church and the community there is one which demands special attention. It is the First Communion of the newly-Confirmed which will take place on Remembrance Sunday, 14th November, at 9.30 am in Church. The candidates have prepared long and hard for this occasion and I am lost in admiration for their devotion, honesty and perseverance. I now confess that this has been the longest course that I have arranged since I first became a priest and make no apology for this. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and we see it in the commitment of the candidates. The question as to whether they should be Confirmed has always rested with them, and for any who have decided that this is not the time we hope and pray that another opportunity will present itself in the future. Please make a special effort to be in Church on this occasion giving your full support to your brothers and sisters in Christ, who will begin the mature life of the fully-committed Christian.

Doctor Cross in his famous book "The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church" describes Confirmation as "the rite whereby the grace of the Holy Spirit is conveyed in a new or fuller way to those who have already received it in some degree or fashion at Baptism. Though the rite continues back to very early times, there have been wide

differences as to its method of administration, as well as to the theological interpretation put upon it. It has been held, at least amongst Catholic theologians, to imprint a character on the recipient, so that the same person cannot be confirmed more than once." There is much more that could be said about Confirmation. All that we need to do now is to dwell upon the knowledge that countless Christians have committed themselves to the Lord in this way throughout the centuries. People of almost every nationality; people of widely varying characteristics and intelligence; people of natural inventiveness and originality have gone this way, but what is most important to realise is the massive human response in faith to the claims of God as seen in the life of his beloved Son Jesus Christ. Let's make our Parish Communion a real welcoming-party for our friends. It has been a great privilege on my part to teach the adults, and for Patricia to teach the teenagers. We have learnt much.

*Every Blessing,  
Peter Naylor*

Last month we asked for a volunteer to take over the job of Magazine Distributor from Pat Bayliss. Pat has three parts to the job.

First the magazines are delivered to her from the printers. She puts them into bundles and delivers them to the distributors. Secondly she delivers to every home in West Street. Thirdly she delivers to the top of High Street.

You will have guessed that no-one has volunteered to take on the whole job. Now that we know what is involved would someone volunteer? For all or part?

**John Strange**

Thanks to all who gave W H Smith vouchers to the school. We shall keep you posted on the Grand Total and what we bought.

Now Birds Eye have jumped on the band wagon. The School will be able to choose free Collins Books by collecting "The Best Before End" panels from any product in the Birds Eye Range.

The more tokens we collect; between now and 31st December, the more books we can have.

Would you help? Please?

**Kathy Stears**

## HARVEST GIFTS

I would like to thank all the people who gave so generously to the Harvest Festival. The gifts were given to The Night Shelter where they were very much appreciated.

The fresh produce has been used or frozen and the tins stored for a later date when food is not around is such great abundance.

Thank you again.

Pat Baylis

## DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL

I have only slipped away into the next room. I am I and you are you.. Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference into your tone; wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without effort, without the ghost of a shadow on it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was; there is absolutely unbroken continuity. What is death but a negligible accident? Why should I be out of your mind because I am out of your sight?

I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near just round the corner.

ALL IS WELL.

### OUR TREASURER WRITES.....

I should once again like to pay tribute to the generosity of the Parish in giving to Church funds. Thanks to this generosity we have already been able to pay our Parish Share amounting to £5364. This was an increase of approximately £600 on last year. We have also been able to meet all of our normal running costs as they fell due. Last year, you may recall, we were unable to make our normal contribution to various charities because of difficulties with our cash flow. We have managed to put that right this year and early in January gave £1000 to various charities. This is in accordance with our belief as a Stewardship Parish that we should give away 10% of our income each year.

Our Fabric Fund has benefited by the £800 raised at the August Fete and now exceeds £2500. This will help to pay for stage two of the work which was listed by our Architect at the five yearly inspection.

Special mention must be made of the other fund raising activities which are taking place in the Parish. These are to raise funds for particular interests and at the time of writing the totals raised are as follows:

	£
Kneeler Fund	733.00
Loop System	1044.00
Brass Restoration	376.00
Clock Fund	125.00

I would mention that the monthly Parish Magazine costs in excess of £400 per annum. Envelopes were delivered last year asking for donations and, as the exercise was so successful, we shall be repeating it again this year.

Donations for the Christmas Flower Fund, already standing at £20, will be very welcome and should be made to me or to Pauline.

You will have seen in Church that we have purchased new Hymn Books. Again, as last time, if any individual would like to have a Hymn Book dedicated in remembrance of someone in particular then this can be arranged. Do please let either me or one of the Church Wardens know if you would like this to happen.

Thank you one and all for all your efforts this year.

**Bob Allison**  
Treasurer

### SLIDESHOW ON SIBERIA

As mentioned in previous issue a date is now set for a Village Slide Show.

This will be on:  
**Thursday, 18th November**  
at 7.30 p.m. in The Rectory Room  
Hope you can come!

**Ploughman's Supper with glass of wine**  
entrance by ticket only **£1**  
Available from 40 West Street, Ecton  
or Tel: 0604 407145

**CHARITY RAFFLE** in aid of The Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children.

## WOMENS INSTITUTE

### PROGRAMME

#### Tuesday, 2nd November:

Speaker from the Chronicle and Echo

Subject The Photography of Roland Holloway

Competition A Photograph or Postcard of Old Northampton

#### Tuesday, 7th December:

Speaker Cliff Billing

Subject Music for Christmas

Competition To be arranged

#### Committee for 1993-94

President:	Mrs Stella Gibson
Members:	Miss Marian Gleave
	Mrs Millie Harlott
	Mrs Joy Wilson
	Mrs Margaret Scott
	Mrs Brenda Foster
	Mrs June Marshman

At a very well attended Annual General Meeting Stella accepted to serve for another year as President and thanked those outgoing members for their dedication and welcomed Brenda and June as new Committee Members.

Carol gave an excellent report on the events of the previous year and Marian on the financial report; both approved, seconded by members.

We all enjoyed sampling "Tasty Bits" from a splendid array of favourite foods brought by members and recipes were exchanged.

Members, new and old, friends and visitors are invited to join us on the first Tuesday of every month (except August) and they will be made most welcome.

**Mary Bane**

**THE ECTON CHRISTMAS CARD**

This year has  
*"ECTON PARISH CHURCH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE"*  
in attractive italic script

**Last Year 30p each**

**This year 20p each**

This is because we re-used the basic design  
and had a longer print run

We continue out indebtedness to Stephen Meakins who created the original artwork, and to all those who support last year resulted in the sale of 1000 cards.

**PLEASE ORDER EARLY**

**CARDS AVAILABLE NOW**

**FREE DELIVERY**

To: IAN HENDERSON, 48 HIGH STREET, ECTON      Tel: 405942

Please deliver \_\_\_\_\_ ECTON CHRISTMAS CARDS at 20p each  
my Cheque/Cash for £\_\_\_\_\_ is attached

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

## ECTON FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 9th November at 2.30 p.m. We are being entertained for the afternoon by "Pam's People". These are a group of professional people who give a programme of poetry, prose and drama to groups. This will be an exciting afternoon and we are privileged to have them at Ecton.

Everyone is very welcome - bring your friends with you!

**Joan Dickins**

## STEWARDSHIP

Those of you with Stewardship boxes will have noticed that another year is rapidly coming to a close. Elsewhere in this magazine there is a note from Marian telling of the arrangements to issue new boxes. I would like to thank all of you who have responded to the Stewardship Campaign which we held last year. You will see from our Treasurers Note that our finances are once again on a sound footing.

Some of our regular givers did not rejoin the Stewardship Scheme when we had our Christian Giving Campaign last year. It goes without saying that if anyone would like to join the Scheme do please either let myself or Marian Gleave know.

The gift aid regulations were relaxed in the last Budget and means that the Church can reclaim tax on one off donations of a relatively small amount. If this would appeal rather than making a regular commitment again please let me know.

**John Strange**

## STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

Once again we are economizing by using up the surplus boxes of envelopes and on some of them the dates may be slightly out - correct them if you wish.

They will be either delivered to you or put at the back of the Church in time for Advent Sunday, 28th November.

If anyone else would like to join the Christian Stewardship Scheme by giving regularly through the envelopes, please let me, John Strange or the Rector know, so that I can let you have a box of envelopes.

**Marian Gleave**

## SYWELL COUNTRY PARK

"Cracking Christmas" at Sywell Country Park on Saturday, 4th December 1993

11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Conservation Charities sales tables in the Visitor Centre

2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Tree Dressing and Tree Games to celebrate National Tree Week

4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Carol Singing led by Mears Ashby Choir around the Redwood Tree (bring a lantern)

Refreshments will be available throughout the day.  
Further information from the Rangers (0604) 810970).

### COFFEE ROTA

7th November	Youth Group
14th November	Celia and Howard Carter
21st November	Sue and Les Mitchell
28th November	Alice Adams and Wynne Voss
5th December	Youth Group
12th December	Nick and Mary Green
19th December	Pat Peacock and Dorothy Creed
26th December	Jean Lee and Brenda Jones
2nd January	Millie Harlott and Dora Reynolds
9th January	Celia and Howard Carter
16th January	Sue and Les Mitchell
23rd January	Nick and Mary Green
30th January	Alice Adams and Wynne Voss

### ECTON CHURCH GUILD

6th November	Yellow
13th November	Blue
20th November	Green
27th November	Orange

## REPORT ON EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

On 13th October 1993 some 26 parishioners met in the Rectory Room to discuss the Loop/Sound Reinforcement System. A good cross section of the Parish were represented including people who live elsewhere, those who are relatively new to the Village and the old hands.

Graham Jordan presented the various alternatives to the meeting and a lively debate followed.

The meeting unanimously agreed to proceed with a Loop System which would enable those Parishioners who wear hearing aids to tune them into a loop running around the Church. This, it was agreed, would greatly enhance the clarity of the spoken word and enrich the service for them.

It was agreed that the sound reinforcement system should not be proceeded with for the time being. It was carried forward to the Annual General Meeting in April when it will be discussed again. In the meantime Parishioners were encouraged to take every opportunity to visit Churches which had loud speaker systems.

\* \* \* \* \*

Brass Cleaning is Scheduled for 13th November.

# Cheese & Wine Evening

7.30 pm FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

RECTORY ROOM

\*\*\* Raffle and Gift Stall \*\*\*

TICKET £2.50

All proceeds to the Church Kneeler Fund

Tickets can be obtained from Paulin Charles  
(Telephone 409493)

Also any contributions for the Raffle or  
Gift Stall to Pauline please.



## SERVICES FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

### NOVEMBER 28TH - ADVENT SUNDAY

- 9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School
- 6.00 pm Evensong

### DECEMBER 5TH - SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 9.30 am Parish Communion and Parade Service  
Children are invited to bring toys for children in need.
- 6.00 pm Evensong

### DECEMBER 12TH - THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School
- 6.00 pm Christingle Service for the whole family.  
Contributions presented at the service will be donated to the Church of England Children's Society.

### DECEMBER 19TH - 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 known by everybody.

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE

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

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY

- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist
- 6.00 pm Evensong (said)

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 26TH - FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

- 9.30 am Holy Communion with hymns
- 6.00 pm Evensong (said)

EXTRACTS FROM  
"The History and Antiquities of Ecton  
in the County of Northampton"  
by John Cole

Ecton Festival in Honour of Peace

"A Festival in honour of Peace took place here, on Monday the 18th of July, 1814 (See Rector's note). On this occasion, the lawn before the house of Samuel Isted, Esq. was occupied by the public, about 500 of whom sat down to an ample and excellent dinner, provided for the occasion. The utmost harmony and conviviality were conspicuous, not a countenance was gloomed with sorrow, but every individual appeared to feel that this was a day justly appropriated to enjoyment. Some of the numerous assembly had ribbons in their hats, on which appeared mottos in gold, viz. "*Wellington*", "*Peace and Plenty*", and a few with the following appropriate inscription: "*The Rich and Poor are met together, the Lord is the Maker of them all.*" In fact, the whole of the proceedings of the day afforded a practical commentary on this text. In the evening dancing commenced, at which the old militia band, which was procured for the purpose attended, and after the company had grown weary of tripping "on the light fantastic toe," the entertainment was varied, and concluded with a good display of fireworks."

**Rector's Note:**

Apparently the villagers were so keen to have a party to celebrate the end of the Napoleonic wars that the Festival of Peace was held in the garden of the Hall a year too soon. The real peace came after the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. Nothing seems to have changed in Ecton as happily there has always been an excuse to have a party!

**The Waits.**★ - On Christmas Eve, 1815, the Musicians of Ecton, accompanied by the Vocalists of the Church, revived the Custom of going round the village at midnight, and singing a Carol at the principal houses.

★“For some time previously to Christmas it is a common practice for itinerant musicians to go round playing their instruments at midnight; this is called the waits. The idea is derived from the angels that waited, or attended, upon the birth of Christ. In imitation of these, shepherds, in ancient times, used to usher in Christmas with carols and music.”

## GOD'S PEOPLE SPEAK OUT

# MALACHI

(Malachi 3:6-12)

Malachi, the last of the minor prophets, lived about 400 years before Christ. The restoration of Jerusalem and its Temple, following the Exile was complete.

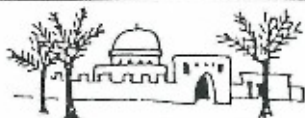
However the people and their leaders had become complacent about the things of God. Therefore God's word to them was uncompromising: "I the Lord do not change." (verse 6)

### Repentance then.....

Like Jacob before them, the people were unreliable in keeping God's law. Therefore God calls them to repent: "Return to me and I will return to you." (verse 7)

Specifically the people had to return to the point of known disobedience. They were guilty of robbing God (verse 8), by withholding their full tithes and offerings.

The tithe or tenth was a reminder to them that everything they possessed belonged to God. So Malachi challenges his listeners to "bring the whole tithe into the storehouse." (verse 10)



### .....And now

The issue of giving is as sensitive today as it was in the days of Malachi, and is a good 'litmus' test of our spiritual state.

The New Testament tells us that as stewards, we should give proportionately out of a grateful heart: "All things come from you and of your own do we give you." (ASB)

How does our giving measure up to the eternal standard of tithing?

Of course, we do not give to get! Yet we do expect God to bless us, when get out giving right: "see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" (verse 10)

"Our chequebooks have more to do with heaven and hell than our hymn books." (H. Thielen)

Paul Hardingham



## CHURCH MICE



## NOVEMBER 1993

### **ALL SAINTS' DAY : Monday, 1 November**

7.30 pm Holy Communion (sung)

### **COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS : Tuesday, 2 November**

7.30 pm Holy Communion (sung)

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

### **Wednesday, 3 November**

6.00 pm Monday Club "Fish & Chip Supper"

7.30 pm Confirmation Rehearsal at Earls Barton Church

### **Thursday, 4 November**

9.30 am Holy Communion

### **SUNDAY : 7 BEFORE CHRISTMAS : 7 November**

9.30 am Parish Communion and Parade Service

Genesis 22.1-18 : Luke 20.9-17

Preacher - The Reverend Martyn Davis,  
Diocesan Youth Chaplain

6.00 pm Evensong

6.15 pm Confirmation Class for Young People

7.30 pm Youth Group

### **Monday, 8 November**

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

### **Tuesday, 10 November**

2.30 pm Ecton Fellowship meet in the Rectory Room

7.30 pm Confirmation at Earls Barton Church

### **Thursday, 11 November**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY : 14 November**

- 9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School  
(First Communion of the newly-confirmed)  
Romans 8.31-end : John 15. 9-17  
Followed by a Procession to the Shrine  
for an act of devotion at 11 am
- 6.00 pm Evensong followed by Holy Communion
- 7.30 pm Youth Group

**Monday, 15 November**

- 7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel

**Tuesday, 16 November**

- 7.30 pm Ecton house-meeting in the Franklin Room  
"Outreach in a country parish"  
Led by the Reverend Judith Rose

**Wednesday, 17 November**

- 12 noon The Lunch Club meet at the Youth Club

**Thursday, 18 November**

- 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 7.30 pm Slide Show in the Rectory Room presented by  
Thomas Dicks telling of his travels in SE Siberia

**SUNDAY : 5 BEFORE CHRISTMAS : 21 November**

- 9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School  
Isaiah 10.20-23 : Mark 13.14-23
- 6.00 pm Evensong
- 7.30 pm Youth Group

**Monday, 22 November**

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

**Thursday, 24 November**

- 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 7.15 pm Whist Drive in the Rectory Room

**SUNDAY : FIRST IN ADVENT : 28 November**

9.30 am Parish Communion and Sunday School  
Isaiah 51.4-11 : Matthew 25.31-end

6.00 pm Evensong

7.30 pm Youth Group

**Monday, 29 November**

7.50 am Holy Communion in the House Chapel

**ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE : Tuesday, 30 November**

7.30 pm Holy Communion

8.00 pm Parochial Church Council meeting in the  
Rectory Room or Conference Room

**Thursday, 2 December**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**SUNDAY : SECOND IN ADVENT : 5 December**

9.30 am Parish Communion and Parade Service  
Isaiah 64.1-7 : Luke 4.14-21

The congregation are invited to bring toys for  
deprived children in need

6.00 pm Evensong

7.30 pm Youth Group

## 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>	Stella Gibson Tel: Northampton 405350 1st Tuesday in month 7.30 p.m. in Rectory Room
THE MONDAY CLUB	<b>Contact</b>	Eileen Collip or Freda Richards Tel: Northampton 405688 or 405928 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>	Kati Ward Tel: Northampton 812622 Every Thursday 2.00 - 3.30 pm in Rectory Room
PLAYGROUP	<b>Contact</b>	Debbie Norwood Tel: Northampton 414330 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30-12 noon Youth Club Hall, High Street, Ecton
CRICKET CLUB	<b>Captain</b> <b>Secretary</b>	Steve Wheatman Tel: Northampton 401714 Hilary Kearsley Tel: Northampton 810922
BROWNIES	<b>Contact</b>	Olwyn Kell Tel: Northampton 412194
BELL RINGERS	<b>Contact</b>	Dorothy Creed Tel: Northampton 407864
YOUTH GROUP	<b>Contact</b>	James Fraser at Ecton House Tel: Northampton 406442

# EAST LODGE FARM RIDING ESTABLISHMENT

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B.H.S./A.B.R.S. APPROVED

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