



# Easton Village Newsletter

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### NATURE IN EASTON 9

by Brian Davis



Do you remember the slogan 'Plant a tree in seventy-three'? The line of oak trees along the Stonely road were planted that February so they have now been there for nearly 33 years. (Three died and were replaced later.) The nine originals have an average girth at breast height of 0.77 metres. The large oak tree opposite Michael Picton's hedge near the 30 mph sign has a girth of 2.0 metres, while that in the hedgerow near the A14 has a girth of 3.4 metres. It is possible to calculate the ages of these mature oaks from a Forestry Commission note, but much depends on whether the growing conditions have been good, average or poor. My best estimate for the smaller of these is about 100 years and for the larger is 170-200 years. The big oak nearest Michael Picton's garden was pollarded some 50 years ago and has grown a new head. It was once the nest site for Little Owls but one was killed on the road, probably when picking up an earthworm. Sadly, this year's brood of three young Barn owls died in Picton's barn some time in the autumn just when they were nearly independent. Even more sadly, one of the parents was killed crossing the A14 on 19<sup>th</sup> December. Has anyone seen the other adult since then? December 27<sup>th</sup> and the first snow!

### FIVE-PARISH ADVENT FAIR

Thank you to all who supported the 5-Parish Advent Fair in any way: to those who contributed and made items, those who ran stalls and all who supported on the day. At the time of writing we have raised £803.00 which is shared between the 5 parishes. We have now held this annual church fund-raising event in Ellington for three years running and perhaps it is time for a change? A different venue? A different time of the year? A different format? Suggestions please to Sue on 455080.

### EASTON VILLAGE HISTORY

In 1984, Judy Cresswell researched and wrote a booklet on the history of Easton. This has now been updated with the more recent changes since that time and "The Easton Booklet" was launched at the mulled wine & mince pie event that was held at the church at the beginning of December. Any money raised from selling the booklet will go to the Church Fabric Fund, so we would like to sell as many as we can. The booklets cost £2.50 each and 26 copies have been sold so far, but quite a few more people are sure to want one, once they know about it. If you would like more information please contact Angie Smith on 01480 890808, (Coniston, Chapel Lane, Easton).

### THANK YOU...

to all the kind people who helped to decorate the church for Christmas, provided flowers and greenery, and refreshments at the Carol Service. It was much appreciated by everyone and we couldn't do it without you!

### CHURCH NEWS

The Bishop has announced that the Revd. Martin Kettle is to be non-stipendiary assistant priest in the seven East Leightonstone parishes (Easton, Ellington, Grafham, Spaldwick, Barham & Woolley, Alconbury-cum-Weston and Buckworth). In common with many non-stipendiary clergy, Father Martin has a full time job elsewhere. He is one of the governors at Whitemoor Prison, near March. At present, Father Martin is non-stipendiary curate in the Huntingdon team ministry. He will probably move to Alconbury in the spring.

Easton Church had its first ever Christingle service just before Christmas 2004. This year, the **Christingle Service** is taking place after Christmas, on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 4.00 p.m.** Services during the rest of the month will be:-

**15<sup>th</sup> January** – Sunday Worship at 9.30 a.m. There will also be a service for young people, especially teenagers, at Grafham Church at 6.00 p.m. **22<sup>nd</sup> January** – Eucharist at 8.00 a.m.

On **29<sup>th</sup> January** there will be a Children's Eucharist at Alconbury at 9.30 a.m. and a group Eucharist for the other parishes at Barham at 11.00 a.m.

### ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

This will take place in Spaldwick School on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2006 and someone from the PCC will call on you with tickets for sale shortly. Do come with your friends and make up your own team of six people, or come on your own and join others to make up a team on the night!

