

Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 101

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NATURE NOTES 76



Thrush through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring the ear. Already we hear the first sounds of spring, though winter is reluctant to lose its grip and some winter visitors are still among us as I write. This Fieldfare, photographed through my kitchen window, belongs to the thrush family and is usually seen in flocks. It breeds colonially too, often in birch woods in Scandinavia. This one, however, came on its own for several weeks to apples we threw onto the lawn and was duly listed during my RSPB Big Garden Bird Count on 26th January. Malcolm Halliday and Ray Ellis also recorded birds for one hour and together we totted up 24 species – virtually every resident winter species one could find in Easton. House sparrows in the village seem to be largely concentrated around Ray's banquet table with 28 recorded that day, and as we have lost 20 million sparrows in the country as a whole since 1996 Easton is clearly doing its bit to maintain the stock. Woodpigeons are, of course, here all year, but many come over from the continent in

winter (illegal immigrants!), like the flock of 500 I estimated on the Burton's field near Stocking Barn when rape was just sticking out of the snow. My most interesting record is a female Blackcap seen several times on our bird feeder in February. This is normally a summer visitor but the relatively mild winter has encouraged it to stay around rather than run the gauntlet of hazards across Europe to Africa.

SERVICES DURING MARCH

Please note that owing to extra services in Holy Week and Easter the pattern of services for this month will be different from usual:

3 rd March	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
10 th March	-	11.00 a.m.	<i>Mothering Sunday service</i>
17 th March	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
24 th March	-	<i>No service in Easton.</i>	
Nearest Palm Sunday services will be at 9.30 a.m. in Spaldwick and 11.00 a.m. in Ellington.			
28 th March	-	7.00 p.m.	Maudy Thursday Eucharist at Spaldwick
29 th March	-	8.00 a.m.	Good Friday service
31 st March	-	9.30 a.m.	<i>Easter Eucharist.</i>

MOTHERING SUNDAY

You are warmly invited to our special Mothering Sunday service on 10th March 2013 at 11.00 a.m. in Easton Church. There will be flowers from the children for all the ladies in the congregation and refreshments will be served afterwards. Please bring your families and friends to join us on this special occasion.



QUIZ NIGHT

Possibly because the PCC were caught out by the early occurrence of the Cambridgeshire Half Term this year, numbers for this event were down quite considerably on last year but nevertheless a good evening was enjoyed by all who came and the net proceeds amounted to a magnificent £406 for the Fabric Fund! The raffle raised £128, which was also a substantial increase in the previous year, so a good effort all round. Thank you to all who organised, attended, donated raffle prizes, in fact helped in any way at all.

✠JOAN NELSON

Joan Nelson, who died on January 27th aged 92, was a very welcome member of our church in Easton. She came to live in Easton in 1944 in Glebe Cottage, now the home of Charles and Melissa Nixon. Her father-in-law was the Rev. Bowman who was vicar of Easton with Spaldwick, Barham and Stow Longa, and as there was no curate she was able to

rent the church cottage. Joan had many memories of life in Easton at that time: she went to market in Huntingdon on the bus and hid her bike under the Easton bridge, though she did have an old Morris car that she ran on paraffin as petrol was rationed, and which she free-wheeled from the railway bridge into the village. She remembered collecting milk from Mr Rowlett in Chapel Lane, who was very crotchety; he had a hook on one arm and she often thought milking must have been difficult for him. The Spaldwick stores provided most things everyone needed, particularly paraffin for the oil lamps and candles for the bedrooms; when it was really cold everyone went to bed early. She grew her own vegetables and planted apple trees in the garden. Gardening was one of her great pleasures, but we specially remember her for her very positive ideas as a member of the Easton Parochial Church Council, instituting coffee after the service on Sunday so that we could all share time and ideas together. Her beautiful tapestry now in Ely cathedral is a testament of her creative skills.

"THE VILLAGER"

Until recently most of us had the small free "Villager" magazine delivered through our letter boxes but, presumably owing to a lack of delivery people, this has now ceased and the magazine is left early in the month in the box in Kath Goodwin's porch (6, The Lane). The magazine usually arrives in the first week of the month so you are welcome to collect a copy from Kath's address when you are passing. The *Village Bystander* is also available at about the same time and there are always plenty for everyone.

CHIMNEY SWEEP



This year the chimney sweep will be visiting Easton on two days - Tuesday, 16th April and Thursday 18th April - and he has agreed to hold last year's price of £28 for a normal chimney (inglenooks, birds' nests etc. may incur an extra charge). If you would like the sweep to call, please let Jenny Hyde know before 29th March (Good Friday). You can contact her by telephone on 891454 or by email at j.hyde@O2.co.uk. The sweep normally starts work around 7.15-7.30 a.m. and he will do a maximum of ten houses in one day.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Easton Parish Council will take place in the Church on Thursday, 18th April 2013 at 8.00 p.m. Although anyone may attend any Parish Council Meeting, this is the opportunity for residents to raise any questions for discussion with their Councillors and at which they may address the meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday, 22nd May 2013.

QUIZ NIGHT
Possibly because the PCC were caught out by the early occurrence of the Cambridge Hall Term this year, members for this event were down quite considerably on last year but nevertheless a good evening was enjoyed by all who came and the net proceeds amounted to a magnificent £408 for the Fabric Fund. The coffee raised £128, which was also a substantial increase on the previous year, so a good effort all round. Thank you to all who organised, attended, donated raffle prizes, in fact helped in any way at all.

JOAN NELSON
Joan Nelson, who died on January 27th aged 92, was a very welcome member of our church in Easton. She came to live in Easton in 1944 in Gladys Cottage, now the home of Charles and Melissa Nixon. Her father-in-law was the Rev. Bowman who was vicar of Easton with Spaldwick, Barham and Stow Lodge, and as there was no curate she was able to