

EASTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Issue 122

January, 2015

NATURE NOTE 87



Brian Davis

I think that I shall never see/ A poem lovely as a tree. So wrote Joyce Kilmer in 1913. Are we to lose the beautiful big elm tree that graced the skyline on the Easton Parish boundary near the crest of the hill above Sewell's Barn? Its outline is still complete but Dutch Elm disease seems to have got it finally and it will gradually crumble and fall when its dead roots can no longer withstand a winter gale. Few people in Easton will now remember the two great elm trees that once dominated the village, one in the corner of Avens and the other on the roadside corner of the Playing Field. What with the threats from Chestnut Weeping Canker and Ash Dieback disease, we could see further losses from our treescape. Luckily, we have been planting trees around Easton most winters since at least "Plant a Tree in '73" year, and I recently made a rough inventory, excluding Shepherds Close and the spinney beside Sewell's Barn (and all gardens):

Easton Road: Ash 10, Field Maple 12, Wild Service 6, Oak 3, Cherryplum 1;
High Street (by bus shelter): Ash 1, Field Maple 2, Hornbeam 5, Lime 3, Cherry 6, Apple 1, Birch 1;
Elm spinney (new path): Ash 20, Oak 1; Churchyard: Lime 1, Walnut 1, Hornbeam 1, Yew 1;
Playing Field: Ash 3, Oak 10, Horse Chestnut 8, Wild Service 1;
Church Green & brookside: Field Maple 5, Oak 1, Birch 5, Cherry 1, Hornbeam 1, White Poplar 1, Willow 2, Apple 1;
Stonely Road: Oak 14, Ash 19, Hornbeam 1; Horse chestnut 1; 'Hartham Spinney' Ash 20.

This makes a total of 170 trees some of which are now quite significant in their own right. Few of these have received any management, though I have manually sawn off lower branches of the lime trees to improve their shape and from the oaks that I and a small gang planted along the Stonely road in 1973 (including after the terrible flailing they received this autumn). What of the future? The loss of our ash trees would be a disaster; oaks are very slow growing, and most of the others above are suitable only for village centres (or actual woodland), not for the open countryside. Perhaps we could look to disease-resistant Wych Elm? This is not common in southern England but native in the north. Our thanks must go to Mike Baker and his planting gang for their efforts over many years.

Poems are made by fools like me/ But only God can make a tree.

CHURCH SERVICES DURING JANUARY

Sunday 4th January 2015 (Epiphany Sunday)

09.30 COV Parish Communion *Rev Nicki Bland*
10.45 KIM Family Service *Rev Nicki Bland*
10.45 SPA Parish Communion *Rev Stephen Bowring*
15.00 STO BCP Evensong *Rev John Rawlinson*

Sunday 11th January 2015 (Baptism of Christ)

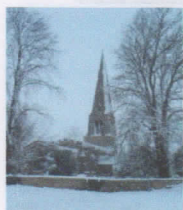
09.30 TIL Family Service *Rev Nicki Bland*
09.30 EAS Parish Communion *Rev John Rawlinson*
10.45 KIM Parish Communion *Rev John Rawlinson*
10.45 SPA Family Service *Rev Nicki Bland*

Sunday 18th January 2015 (Epiphany II)

09.30 COV BCP Matins *Rev Stephen Bowring*
09.30 STO Parish Communion *Rev John Rawlinson*
10.45 KIM BCP Matins *Rev Ron Lancaster*
10.45 SPA Parish Communion *Rev Stephen Bowring*
18.00 EAS BCP Evensong *Rev Nicki Bland*

Sunday 25th January 2015 (Epiphany III)

09.30 TIL Parish Communion *Rev Stephen Bowring*
09.30 EAS Morning Worship *Mr Mike Baker*
10.45 KIM Parish Communion *Rev Stephen Bowring*
10.45 SPA Morning Worship *Rev Nicki Bland*
15.00 KIM BCP Evensong *Rev Stephen Bowring*



"EASTON BELLS, A HISTORY OF EASTON CHURCH"

This small booklet of the history of our church has just been reprinted and is for sale as before for £5. It is fully illustrated with colour photographs and can be purchased from the church at the weekends, or from Beth and Brian Davis at Brook House. It will be on sale at the Big Breakfast on January 17th.



I attended a meeting at the end of November which set up the Community Fund financed by the Wind Farm developer. The Cambridgeshire Community Foundation is administering the fund which amounts to £20,000 per annum. This will be increased by the Retail Price Index percentage each year.

Seven villages will be able to benefit from the fund:

- Alconbury
- Alconbury Weston
- Barham with Woolley
- Buckworth
- Easton
- Ellington
- Spaldwick.

Groups from any of these villages may apply for grants. Such groups have to be properly constituted with three or more independent members – e.g. Parish Councils, Youth Clubs etc. Such groups must be “not for profit” and for “community benefit”. Groups gaining grants in excess of £900 will have to report back and assess the impact of the grant on e.g. combating rural isolation.

The committee would normally expect applications in the range of £250 to £5,000. The size of the village is not necessarily important. Each village has one representative on the committee who make decisions about grants and this will normally, but not necessarily, be a Parish Councillor.

Early in the new year the web page will be published giving more details. Applications will need to be in before the end of March each year. Religious and political groups will be excluded from consideration.

Groups from Easton could well benefit significantly from this fund.



For news of what is going on in the rest of our 7-parish grouping, please see www.kymchurch.org.uk.

Copy deadline for the February newsletter is Friday 23rd January.