

# EASTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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Issue 155

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### FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK

There is a saying that is very apt for farming: "Never count your chickens before they are hatched". We thought that with the hot weather in July we were in for an early harvest. It helped to ripen our Winter Wheat, which yielded quite well this year, but as we started to harvest we were hit with sunshine and showers, making it difficult to combine. Wheat needs to be dry to store and dry to combine or the threshing mechanism in the combine will not thresh the grain out of the ear of wheat properly. I really wanted a good dry spell because I was losing my combine driver, James, in mid-August as he was going to the Netherlands for 6 months, and we very nearly managed it.



We had grown Spring Barley for the first time in 40 years and I was feeling pretty nervous to see how it had fared, especially when it had gone flat in so many places due to heavy storms, but I am pleased to say that it yielded quite well at nearly 3-ton/acre, and came in just about dry enough to store. We had hoped that it may go for malting but the specification varies quite considerably so I may just sell it as feed for animals to be on the safe side. If you sell grain as malting or milling and it does not meet strict criteria, it can be rejected

and you have to find another home for it while it is waiting on the lorry - not an easy task (and the buyer has got you by the grains!!).

It is always a big relief when harvest is over and the crop is safely in the barn. Only this morning (25<sup>th</sup> September) I drove past a field of beans at Alconbury still waiting to be harvested. This is very late and the quality will be affected. As soon as we finish this year's harvest it is a mad dash to prepare the land to start again for next year - what crops to grow, what does the market want? If only I had a crystal ball! I will probably go for Winter Wheat and Spring Barley again.

We have taken some land out of crop production near the old railway bridge on the Stonely Road and put into a 2-year legume fallow. This will deliver food to farmland wildlife such as pollen and nectar for pollinators and invertebrate chick food for farmland birds. It should also relieve me of some of my Blackgrass burden, YIPPEEE!

The cost of rural crime has gone up by 20% in 2017 so far and criminals are targeting Land Rovers, quad bikes and livestock. Tractor thefts are the highest in the Eastern Counties so please keep an eye out for suspicious activities.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone who so kindly gave flowers, fruit, vegetables and honey; also to those who decorated the Church so beautifully for the occasion. As usual, the produce was taken to the Cheshire Home at Brampton where they are always grateful for our support. Special thanks to Henry, Bea and Maddy for their lovely readings during the service and for their help with packing the boxes afterwards. A big "thank you" also to the people who provided refreshments at the end of the service – especially to Ruth for her delicious home-made sausage rolls!

**SUNDAY SERVICES FOR OCTOBER**

<p><b>Sunday 1st October (Trinity XVI)</b>          09.30 SPA Morning Worship (Mrs L Bowring)          10.45 KIM Harvest Festival (Rev R Lancaster)          11.00 COV Harvest Festival (Rev Dr. J Rawlinson)          11.00 BAR Harvest Festival (Ms. J Dighton)          18.00 STO Harvest Festival (Rev Dr. J Rawlinson)</p>	<p><b>Sunday 8th October (Trinity XVII)</b>          09.30 TIL Family Service (Mrs L Bowring)          09.30 EAS Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring)          10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring)          16.30 SPA Messy Harvest</p>
<p><b>Sunday 15th October (Trinity XVIII)</b>          09.30 COV Morning Worship (TBA)          09.30 STO (with SPA) BCP Communion (Rev Dr. J Rawlinson)          10.45 KIM Matins (Rev R Lancaster)          18.00 EAS Evensong (Ms. J Dighton)</p>	<p><b>Sunday 22nd October (Trinity XIX)</b>          09.30 TIL Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring)          09.30 EAS Morning Worship (Mr M Baker)          10.45 KIM Parish Communion (Rev R Lancaster)          17.00 SPA Prayer &amp; Praise (Rev S Bowring)          18.00 KIM Evensong (Rev R Lancaster)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday 29th October (Bible Sunday)</b>          10.45 TIL Group Parish Communion (Rev S Bowring)</p>	

**59 CLUB**

**John Maith**

The latest winners of the 59 Club were Kathy Yates in July and Beth Davies in August. Congratulations to both. The September draw date is Saturday 30th September.

**HALLOWEEN INVITATION!**

Blakely, Coleman & Kara Kneisley invite you to join them at Townsend Cottage on Halloween night for Trick or Treating, S'mores and Hot Cider! 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM.



**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

On Friday October 13th. at 7.30 p.m. Wine Tasting followed by a hot supper including wine, in the church, £15 - 00 per person. Philip Amps of Amps Fine Wines, Oundle, will be providing the wines and giving the talk. If you have not already bought a ticket they are on sale now, please speak to a member of the P.C.C. or phone Peter Gould on 891043.



**Deadline for contributions to the November newsletter will be 29<sup>th</sup> October**