

Easton Village Newsletter

October 2019

Issue 169

FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK

When I last wrote, we were just about to start harvest. This started a week or so earlier than I expected as, to my surprise, my Spring Barley was ready before I thought it would be! So, the combine got rolling and we soon had our harvest in the grain store before the rains came. It is always such a relief to get the harvest safely indoors, in the best possible condition and with the correct moisture content. For many other farmers with larger acreages, their harvests were very stop-start, with rain and storms making combining very difficult and prolonged. I was pleased with the quality and quantity of the Barley, but there are always questions you are asking yourself prior to harvest such as will it make malting quality or will it end up as feed, have I grown the right variety for the grain market - and then during harvest we compare fields and look at what we can do next year to make improvements.



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I drove to Brampton at the weekend and could hardly see over the road with the dust coming from the large earth-moving machinery busy improving the A14. This shows just how dry it is and I have been trying to cultivate my fields that are like concrete! Hopefully, by the time you read this, there will have been a good steady period of rain over the week and this will enable me to get on without breaking any equipment. I am having to move our 2-year legume that was in the 4 fields near to the old railway bridge. These fields have been sprayed off and disced well to kill off the grass, clover etc and to mix it well with the soil. When there has been enough rain, I will then plough these fields and power-harrow them so they are ready to drill in the Spring. I've changed my mind from drilling these fields with Winter Wheat this Autumn, as I mentioned in the last newsletter, and I'm going to have Spring Wheat instead. This will be a Milling variety and it will find the nitrogen that has been released by the legumes very palatable! I am moving the 2 Year Legume to my fields that come down from Stocking Farm towards Spaldwick, in the 2 fields that have the footpath running diagonally through them. I thought that this would make this footpath much more interesting for all you budding environmentalists, as long as I keep the footpath clear and no-one gets stung!! I'm also going to be growing some Spring Barley again and also, possibly, a field of Beans. Sounds like it's raining now: fingers crossed that it knows when to stop!

CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

<p>Sunday 6 October Trinity XVI 09.30 COV Parish Communion – Revd. Phil Howson 09.30 SPA Morning Worship – Jill Dighton 10.45 KIM Harvest – Revds. Pamela Soult and Phil Howson 15.00 STO Harvest – Revd. John Rawlinson</p>	<p>Sunday 13 October Trinity XVII 09.30 TIL Family Service – Churchwarden 09.30 EAS Parish Communion – Revd. Phil Howson 10.45 KIM Family Communion – Revd. Phil Howson 18.00 SPA Harvest – Revd. Phil Howson (followed by a meal in the George)</p>
<p>Sunday 20 October Trinity XVIII 09.30 STO Family Communion – Revd. John Rawlinson 09.30 SPA Parish Communion – Revd. Phil Howson 10.45 KIM Matins – Revd. Ron Lancaster 11.00 BAR Harvest – Revd. Pamela Soult 11.00 COV Harvest – Revd. Phil Howson</p>	<p>Sunday 27 October Trinity XIX 09.30 TIL Parish Communion – Revd. Phil Howson 09.30 EAS Morning Worship – Jill Dighton 10.45 KIM Parish Communion – Revds. Phil Howson and Ron Lancaster. 18.00 KIM Evensong – Revd. Phil Howson</p>

HARVEST FESTIVAL

It was lovely to see the church full for this occasion and thank you to everyone who so kindly gave flowers, fruit, vegetables and honey; also, to those who helped to decorate the church so beautifully. As usual, the produce was

taken to the Cheshire Home in Brampton, where they were very grateful for our support. Special thanks to Dan, Holly, Bea and Maddy for their lovely readings during the service and for their help, together with Henry and Jack, with packing the boxes afterwards. A big "thank you" also to those who provided refreshments, and to Ruth for the gift of four beautiful sheaves of wheat.

FIREWORKS! **

With bonfire night and its associated festivities fast approaching, please bear in mind that living in a lovely village with a Conservation Area of thatched properties brings special responsibilities as these houses are especially at risk of fire from a stray spark or rocket. If you are planning a firework display, please ensure they are pointed well away from any thatched buildings, taking particular note of the weather conditions and wind direction at the time. Thank you!



CHANCEL ROOF REPLACEMENT

At our last quinquennial inspection, when the church's architect, David Llewellyn, reports on the condition of the church building and gives recommendations, he noted that the lead roof over the chancel was in bad condition having had many repairs in the past and with cracks that are probably allowing some water to seep in. This was in part due to the lead having been laid in bays that are too wide to allow for thermal movement; also, the timber structure required strengthening. The rest of the church is in good condition and no other major works were required. We are fortunate that the liability for the cost of the chancel repairs is with the Church Commissioners and they will be paying the entire cost of replacing the lead roof and strengthening the timbers. The parish have had to pay for bat surveys due to a strange anomaly that prevents the commissioners from covering that cost. However, with the help of grants from The Jack Patston Trust and The Jill Franklin Trust we have had most of that cost covered. The work is due to start on October 7th. and during that time the chancel will be screened off from the nave and will not be used, however the rest of the church will continue to function as normal and there are no plans to cancel any services or other events. It should be completed by November 30th. So, when you see scaffolding etc. being erected it is not the lead thieves, it is the lead replacement!

METAL DETECTION GOOD PRACTICE

Cambridgeshire County Council have received reports from local farmers and landowners of holes being dug, both along the public rights of way on their land and off the paths, in their fields, on private land. Having looked into it, they believe these holes are being caused by metal detectorists or similar. We are asked to remind parishioners that if they want to metal-detect, both on or off a public right of way, they will need the explicit permission of the landowner, and where they wish to metal-detect on a public right of way they would need to inform the local rights of way officer (in this case – Zaria.Bettles@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) from whom further information can be obtained.

CHANGE OF DATE!

We have unfortunately had to make some adjustments to the Village Events Calendar as too many people were away on the original date. The date for the *Family Fortunes* evening has therefore been changed to Saturday 2nd November 2019 in the Church at 7.30 p.m. This is the date originally allocated to the Ghost Walk, which has now been postponed to a future time. Tickets for the *Family Fortunes* evening will include a hot supper and dessert and a free drink followed by a donation bar. During the evening we will be using the Audio-Visual equipment which was purchased last year using a generous grant from the Woolly Hill Wind Farm Community

Fund. Tickets will be on sale soon but if you would like to reserve tickets in advance, (price £12.00 each for adults, £4.00 for school-aged children), please contact Angie Smith on 890808 or angiesmith@hotmail.com or John Hill and Nina Wilson on 896444.

Deadline for the November Newsletter will be 25th October 2019