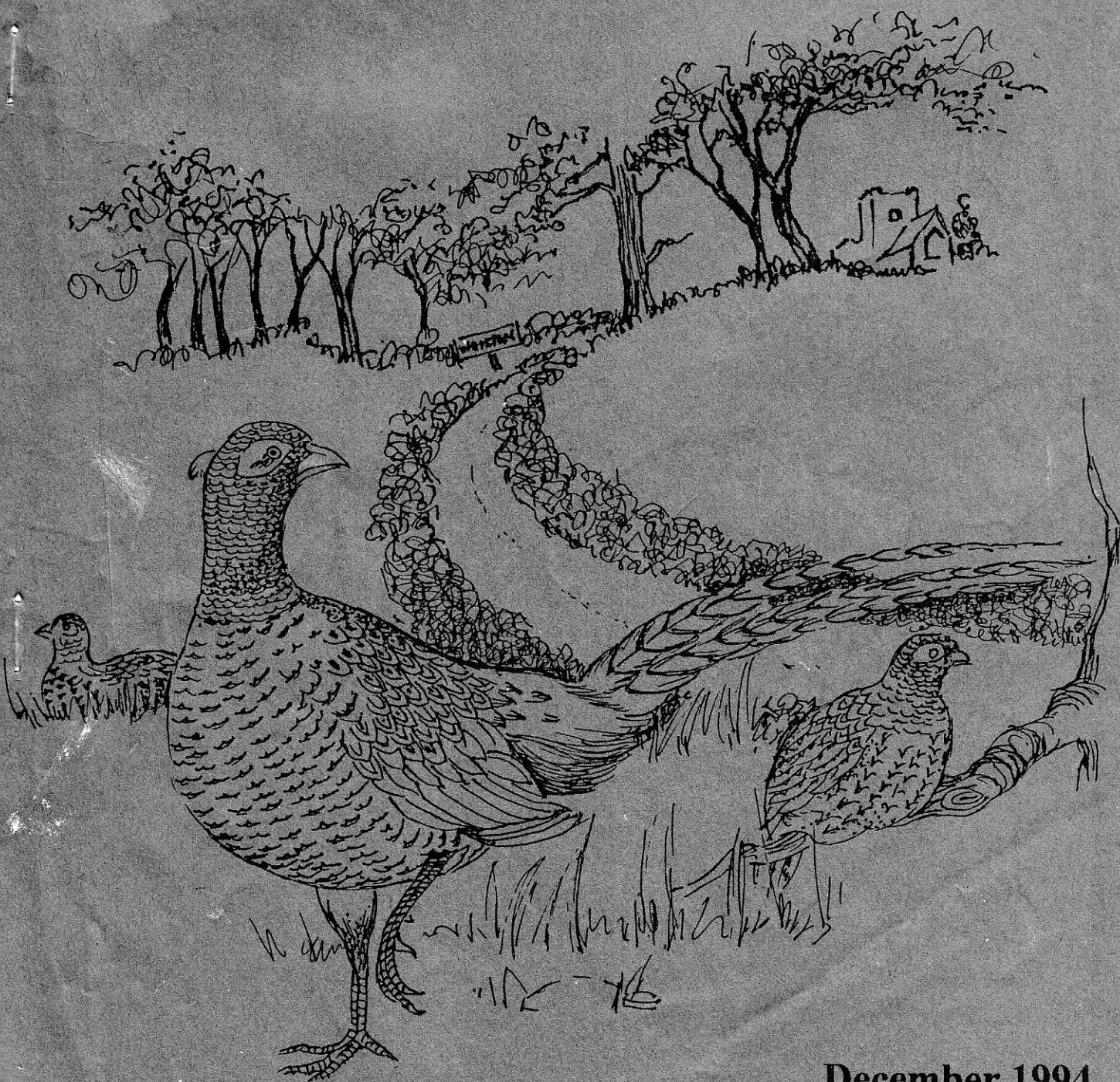


WHILTON NEWSLETTER



December 1994

Eds' Notes

As we compile this issue of the Newsletter, the last for 1994, we look back on what must surely be a memorable year in the life of the parish. History has been made! We have a new peal of eight bells, replacing the six first installed in 1777, and we have had the launch of 'The Story of Whilton', the result of the appraisal team's efforts over the last three years. These are each considerable achievements in themselves and for them to occur within months of one another is quite something. It surely says something for the spirit of co-operation in the parish that these things are possible. All this has brought the village much publicity, being featured on BBC Radio and very favourably in the local press, together with front-page coverage in the bellringers' national weekly 'The Ringing World'. 'The Story of Whilton' has received great acclaim; one copy we know has been sent to Australia and there may well be others winging their way to different parts of the world!

The Bishop of Peterborough, writing in the diocesan publication 'Cross Keys' about the state of the Church, was talking about some of his recent engagements and it was pleasing to read "I went to a beautiful and cared-for country church where, within a year, they had found money for the installation of a new peal of bells". Obviously the Bishop, too, was impressed by what he saw of Whilton.

We were not able to repeat our success of three years ago in the 'Village of the Year' competition but the marks were quite high, as will be seen from the report elsewhere, and we did achieve a 'Highly Commended' in the 'Britain in Bloom' competition. Perhaps we can do even better next year!

Our very best wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Eds.

CANON JIM WRITES

Christmas is such a lovely time for most of us but it has become so romanticised that we forget the realities of the original story. A Christian friend of mine, who is also a journalist, has written about the birth of Jesus as if it had happened today, and modern reporting techniques applied. The mood is very different from what we have come to expect. Here is part of his coverage.

MASSACRE AT BETHLEHEM : FAMILIES FLEE

Bethlehem, Wednesday

Horror spread throughout Bethlehem and surrounding areas today as troops acting under the direct orders of King Herod began a systematic killing of all boys under the age of two.

The reason was not immediately clear as a blanket of secrecy cloaked the operation. But a source close to the palace linked the slaughter with a visit to the king a few days ago by three astrologers from a country in the East. And their visit could be linked to a phenomenon in the night sky - a new star discovered by sky gazers. The palace source said the three 'wise men' had been drawn by the star to seek someone they described as 'King of the Jews'.

On the outskirts of Bethlehem, a shepherd, who refused to give his name, today recalled a strange event which he thought might have a bearing on the horrific killings. He said: 'I was on the hills with some other shepherds, looking after our sheep, when suddenly, in the middle of

the night, the sky brightened until it was like daylight. Then we heard a voice, coming from nowhere, telling us to go to a stable behind an inn in the town. The voice said we would find a Saviour, Christ the Lord, there. Well, we went, and found a mother with her baby in a manger, and the proud father standing with them.'

Local government officials confirmed that Bethlehem was full of people who had come back to their home town to be taxed. Caesar Augustus had ordered the taxation. It was not impossible, they said, for some families to be sleeping rough because of the shortage of accommodation.

There have been unconfirmed reports of whole families leaving the town and heading for other places, in a bid to escape the slaughter. Throughout the day the cries of bereaved mothers have been heard in all parts of Bethlehem. Their pleas to the soldiers have been ignored.

Put in this form the story is not so different from what we read in our own newspapers or see on television. There are still massacres of innocents in the pursuit of power.

Christmas is more than just a party then - though because it celebrates a birthday it is that too. At its heart is a child, and a very vulnerable child. He was the Prince of Peace, but there was violence on every side. He was the Light of the World, but too often we prefer darkness. He came to give Life, but human beings, then as now, seem hell-bent on destroying it. He identified with the most unfortunate and needy in society, but we get irritated by the demands they make on us.

So, along with the merry-making this Christmas (and may there be lots of that!), find time for a spot of quiet reflection, and in heart and mind come to the stable to worship Emmanuel - 'God with us'. When he first came there was no room for him. How awful it would be if that should still be the case.

On behalf of all of us at St. Andrew's, I wish you the happiest of Christmases, and the warmest of welcomes to our services.

Jim Richardson

Brington Rectory 0604-770402

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday, December 4th - 10.00am - United Sung Eucharist at WHILTON
" " 11th - 3.30pm - CHRISTINGLE Service
" " 18th - 6.00pm - Service of CAROLS and READINGS for Christmas,
in candlelight, with the Watling Singers.
Christmas Day - 9.30am - Sung Eucharist for Christmas
New Year's Eve - 11.15pm - Watch Night Service followed by New Year Peal. (Refreshments)
Sunday, January 1st - 10.30am - United Sung Eucharist at EAST HADDON
" " 8th - 6.00pm - Evensong and shortened Communion
" " 15th - 6.00pm - Sung Eucharist
" " 22nd - 6.00pm - The Night Service of Compline
" " 29th - See weekly notices

OUTING TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The series of village outings organised at intervals through the summer months by Diana Scott came to a marvellous climax on September 20th, when a large party visited Buckingham Palace. Such is the popularity of the Palace and the number of visitors so large, that coach parties have to be organised with military precision and are expected to be assembled at the entrance at exactly the time appointed.

A trouble-free journey into London allowed our driver to show us something of the area around the palace, including views of Hyde Park, the grand hotels in Park Lane and the Byzantine splendours of Westminster Cathedral, before taking us to our destination where, promptly at 12.45 we were admitted through the Ambassadors' Court. Security is tight; metal detectors scan everyone - but after that supervision is very unobtrusive and the large throng shuffled its way up vast staircases, along corridors and through the formal reception rooms and galleries.

The Palace is built as a hollow square: the familiar view from The Mall is the part used for visiting dignitaries, while the north and south wings contain offices and private apartments. The section open to the public is the west wing which is the largest part of the building and contains the State Rooms. Of course, they are built on a grand scale, being intended for investitures, banquets and other state occasions, and since most of these functions involve people standing rather than sitting, the rooms contain relatively little furniture. The overall impression is of acres of red carpet and extremely ornate columns and ceilings, each room painted and papered to its own colour scheme and decorated with lots and lots of gold leaf. As the guide book puts it, 'The aim of George IV and Nash, in which they triumphantly succeeded, was to create an aura of extreme opulence.' But not only are the rooms magnificent, many may think the paintings - portraits of the Royal Family since the time of George IV, along with priceless old masters - are the star attractions. The feast on show was almost too much to take in as one moved from a Rembrandt to a Rubens, from a Canaletto to a Vermeer to a Van Dyck, and around each corner was a new gem, like the incredible monumental pedestal clock in the Silk Tapestry Room.

Eventually the near-solid stream of visitors emerged - like a theatre audience from the foyer - on to the garden terrace. There was time to visit the Garden Shop, selling a very exclusive range of souvenirs, and carrier bags which must surely rival Harrods! - before a pleasant walk along the edge of the gardens, past an ancient mulberry tree, took us to the waiting coach and a quiet journey home with much to remember.

Many thanks to Diana for another fine outing.

Bryan Williams

PHOTOGRAPHS

Available to all :-

- (a) Prints of Old Whilton (as on show in the village hall) - price 75p each.
- (b) Prints of the work on the bell restoration and the new bells - price 75p each.

Please place orders with Janet Bowers, Heritage.

A small profit on each print will be given to (a) Village Hall (b) Bell fund

VILLAGE HALL

200 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the September and October draws :-

September	1st Prize	- No. 117	J. Fisher	30/09/94
	2nd Prize	- No. 148	A. Hiscock	
	3rd Prize	- No. 136	R. Osborne	
October	1st Prize	- No. 004	L. Morris	29/10/94
	2nd Prize	- No. 197	T. Price	
	3rd Prize	- No. 076	P. Finnemore	

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HALLOWEEN PARTY 29TH OCTOBER 1994

The organisers of the party were a little disappointed that only 28 tickets were sold. However, a lot of effort was put into the event and everyone who came, particularly the children, really enjoyed it.

The scene was set most spookily with the hall decorated up by Barbara Lewis and her family. Thank you Barbara; the party goers were commmenting throughout the evening on how good the hall looked.

Dick Green, aided by Phil Waights, put in enormous effort in organising and running the games and entertainment. The children were kept busy all evening. Congratulations to all those who won prizes for their fancy dress or in the games.

Thanks also to Sarah Hawkins who helped me all evening with the baked potato supper and the inevitable pile of washing up at the end.

The event raised a total of £59.17.

Mary Kane

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COFFEE and CAROLS PARTY with LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT  
at HOME FARM  
on WEDNESDAY, 28th DECEMBER  
7.00 - 7.30 start  
Coffee & mince pies. Raffle  
Prize for lucky ticket number  
Adults £2.00 - Children £1.00  
Tickets from Sue Townley. Profits to the Bell Fund.

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## *Parish Council Report*

Meetings were held on 27th September and 7th November. Amongst items discussed were:

Three planning applications before the Parish Council for comments:

DA/94/0836 Outline application for two dwellings and alteration to vehicular access.  
Orchard Land adjacent to Home Farm

DA/94/1026 renewal of outline planning permission DA/91/0958 for one detached bungalow and garage, land at Stone House, Whilton

DA/94/1066 Part demolition, change of use and alterations to agricultural buildings to form dwelling, site adjacent to Home Farm, Whilton

The Parish Council advised the Planning Authorities that they had no comments to make on the above, except to re-iterate concern regarding the entrance road to Home Farm and to stress this should be taken into account when decisions are made regarding planning conditions.

The caravan storage site continues to cause concerns and a further meeting of members of the Parish Council is to be called to discuss a letter received from the Planning Department.

The Parish Council agreed to give a grant of £53.28 to the Whilton Village Appraisal Group in order that they can balance the accounts of the Appraisal Group. The Parish Council was pleased to be associated with such a successful publication.

Discussion regarding financial assistance towards the provision of the mechanism for the Church clock took place and was to be discussed at the January meeting.

The Parish Council gave the village Church a grant to cover the churchyard maintenance expenses for the year. The Parish Council recorded their gratitude to Mr. Haynes and helpers for their untiring work keeping the churchyard looking tidy all year.

Village allotment rents will remain at £12 full plot and £6 half plot for the year 1995/96. Anyone interested in taking on a plot should contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council decided that it would precept the District Council for £2,070.00 for the financial year 1995/96. This precept has remained the same for three years.

The Parish Council financial records have been passed as in correct order at the tri-annual audit recently.

The results of the Best Kept Village had been received, Whilton had not been one of the winners on this occasion. See separate notice.

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 9th January 1995, in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm to which members of the public are welcome.

Anne Heeley, Clerk 843270

WHILTON PARISH APPRAISAL

"The Story of Whilton"

Most people will now be aware that we have completed the Appraisal and that the result of our labours was successfully launched on Friday October 21st, in the village hall. We were delighted that so many people were able to come and enjoy a pleasant evening with friends.

The book was sold out within the week and a number of people have asked for further copies if we can supply them. We are looking into this possibility at the moment. We have naturally been very pleased that many residents have commented favourably on the publication and seem happy with the book. We should like to thank parishioners, both for their initial support in ordering the document and also for their patience in waiting for it.

It has, fortunately, not proved necessary to receive a grant from the Parish Council in the terms set out in the last issue of the newsletter. The Parish Council have, however, associated themselves with the project by kindly agreeing to make a grant of £53, which will cover the deficit incurred in the production. This is approximately the cost of the copies we have to give to the various official bodies who have sponsored the venture. These are the County Council, the District Council, the Countryside Commission, the Wildlife Trust and Northamptonshire ACRE. We would also wish to deposit a copy with the Records Office, the Library and the Parish Council itself. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for co-operating in this way.

We have deposited with the parish clerk, for safe keeping, all the computerised records made available by Mr. Tom Price and the records of dwellings compiled by Mr Ray Barnes. This, together with other smaller records, should form the basis for future surveys or deeper research on particular subjects.

Finally, I think it fair to say that, on the whole, the Appraisal Team have enjoyed their activities and learnt a great deal from them.

Frances Drake (Co-ordinator)



We have heard many favourable comments from near and far about "The Story of Whilton". Typical is the one below that we have been asked to publish.

Eds.

We would like to congratulate the Village Appraisal team for the excellent book produced on Whilton Parish history.

John & Sue Townley.

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MILK TOPS, etc. & STAMPS

Three sacks have been contributed this time, one of which was from Norton. We are grateful for the co-operation of our friends there.

I look forward to a bumper collection next time with the foil from all those chocolates and the stamps from Christmas card envelopes.

Many thanks,

Trudy Haynes

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Two incidents were reported to Daventry Police during september and October 1994.

20th September - Two youths were seen acting suspiciously near a parked car in Langton Rise. When spoken to by two residents the youths ran down to South View, where they got into another car and drove off at speed through the village. A more serious crime was probably averted.

7th/8th October - Criminal damage to a locked car, parked on the road at South View.

Fishmen and Pedlars - Four fishmen were knocking on doors in the village on October 15th, and there have also been two or three pedlars around, selling dusters, etc.

**DO NOT BUY FROM THEM**

Take descriptions of these men and, if possible, their car or van number and report them to the police.

The response of residents to this latest group of fishmen was excellent. Several people reported them and, consequently, they were stopped by the police as they were leaving the village. If no-one buys from them they will surely get the message that they are not welcome in Whilton.

### Remember the Rules :

1. Do not allow strangers into your home.
2. Always put the chain on your door before opening.
3. Beware bogus officials. Check identity cards and ring appropriate office if in doubt before letting them in.
4. Do not buy anything from door-to-door salesmen.
5. Report anything or anyone suspicious.

Daventry Police - ring Daventry (0327) 300300

## DAVENTRY AREA BURGLARY INITIATIVE - OPERATION BULLSEYE

From Tuesday 1st November to Wednesday 30th November, 1994, Brackley, Towcester and Daventry Police will be actively taking part in a county-wide burglary initiative, named Operation Bullseye. The aim of the initiative is to tackle the burglar in a concentrated effort to both detect burglary offences and to reduce crime. During the month the police will be monitoring various operations throughout the area and will be increasing the levels of visibility patrols.

This operation can only be successful if the police work in partnership with the local community. Should you have any information regarding crime, or if you are suspicious about anything at all, then please contact your local police station.

Christine Bilsborough

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## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORTS

The meeting held on October 12th was the AGM. The usual reports were presented and the committee thanked for their diligent work throughout the year. A new president was elected and the committee formed for 1995. The new committee is :

|           |                                                  |                               |              |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| President | Anthea Hiscock                                   | Vice-president                | Josie Jelley |
| Members   | Trudy Haynes (secretary)                         | Jane O'Riordan (registration) |              |
|           | Janet Spokes (treasurer)                         | Freda Thomas (welfare)        |              |
|           | Susan Thorne (newsletter and "Home and Country") |                               |              |

The formalities were kept short and sweet in order not to keep the speaker of the evening waiting (well only a bit!).

Mr. Larkin gave a beautiful presentation of his own photographs of wildflowers in Northamptonshire churchyards. It was a delightful presentation with a soundtrack of music and narration (by a professional actor) triggering the slides. The pictures were stunning but we were all disappointed that Whilton was not featured. Mr. Larkin hopes to rectify this omission next year by including a photograph of our orange hawkweed.

Susan Thorne

The November meeting, held on Wednesday 9th, was well attended. Our newly elected president, Anthea Hiscock, presiding. Members were reminded of the Northamptonshire Federation's two-year project to raise funds for the St. Jude's Development Project in Uganda. This project provides a medical clinic with essential medicine and equipment to serve a radius of 7 kilometres. The centre will provide and promote health education, immunisation and maternity care.

At Northampton in January a 50/50 sale of nearly new clothes is being arranged to boost our own county funds.

Our speaker for the evening was Mrs. Cynthia Print, who demonstrated floral decorations for Christmas. Members were shown lots of ideas and given many useful tricks of the trade for adding festive touches to our homes this Christmas.

The refreshments were provided and served by Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Messinger and the raffle was won by Mrs. Fisher. The next meeting is Members' Night on December 14th. Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due for 1995. Our programme will include :-

|       |      |                                     |
|-------|------|-------------------------------------|
| Jan.  | 11th | Security Work                       |
| Feb.  | 8th  | An evening of Cheeses, with recipes |
| March | 8th  | Conservation work with Owls         |
| April | 12th | Channel Tunnel and Rabies           |
| May   | 10th | Resolutions                         |
| June  | 14th | Decoupage Pictures                  |
| July  | 12th | The Story of Diamonds               |
| Sept. | 13th | Packagings                          |
| Oct.  | 11th | A.G.M.                              |
| Nov.  | 8th  | An armchair walk around Northampton |
| Dec.  | 13th | Members' Night                      |

Meetings are held in the village hall, at 7.30pm and new members are always very welcome.

Ros Gardner

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## WHILTON BELLS DEDICATED

On Thursday 29th September, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, a large congregation gathered at the church for the dedication by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough of the new Whitechapel ring of eight bells. After a warm welcome to all the visitors by Canon Jim Richardson, the service continued with appropriate readings, hymns and prayers. During the hymn "Hark on high the joyful music, Hark the concert of the bells", the Bishop and Clergy processed to the west end of the church where they joined the ringers standing in the ringing circle.

The Tower Captain, John Townley, asked the Bishop to dedicate the new peal, which he did, asking God's blessing on the bells and the ringers, and dedicating them "In the faith of Jesus Christ, to the honour of St. Andrew and for the service of God's people". The local band then rang rounds on the new peal and, as the procession returned to the chancel, the treble bell, dedicated to the memory of William Lucas Rose who gave the original ring of six in 1777, was rung for six whole pulls in their commemoration.

The Bishop, Dr. William Westwood, in a lively address congratulated the church on the results of all the hard work, and took as his text inscriptions from bells cast by Henry Penn of Peterborough which summed up the part played by bells in the life of the church. On this occasion, Dr. Westwood said, "Exultate Jubilate" was particularly appropriate.

After the service, Robin Rogers, the Guild Master, conducted the first touch on the bells and the band, who rang Stedman Triples, included the other officers of the Guild and the Daventry Branch Ringing Master. All the other ringers present then had an opportunity to ring on the new peal, before moving to the village hall to enjoy good food, good wine and good conversation.

Bryan Williams

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### A SIMPLE RECIPE

#### MALT LOAF

6 ozs self-raising flour  
4 ozs dried fruit  
2 tablespoons ovaltine or pure malt extract  
2 tablespoons golden syrup (or 1 golden syrup and 1 black treacle)  
5 oz carton of natural yoghurt  
2½ fluid ozs milk

Preheat oven to 170 degrees (or 150-160 if fan oven) or gas mark 3

Grease and base-line a 1lb loaf tin with greaseproof or baking paper and in a large bowl mix all the ingredients together. Spoon into the prepared tin and smooth the top.

Bake for 1 to 1½ hours. Test with skewer after one hour.

Serve sliced, with or without butter. Makes 10 slices.

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**Bringing Light Into The World**



***Christingle Celebrates God's Love For Humanity***

**Sunday, December 11th - 3.30pm**

**Come and join Canon Jim at this  
Special Service**

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**Best Kept Village/Churchyard**

Whilton was entered in the Cup Winners Cup Section and achieved, in the first round, a score of 90 for the village and 95 for the Churchyard. Whilton was not judged in the second round of the competition because marks in the first round were not high enough.

The winner of both sections was Cold Ashby who achieved scores of 94 and 95 for the Village and 99 and 90 for the Churchyard. Byfield was runner up in the village section.

## Summary of Events

Mon 5th Dec 7.30 pm Gardeners' Association AGM in Village Hall  
Sun 11th Dec 3.30 pm Christingle Service, Whilton  
Wed 14th Dec 7.30 pm W.I. Members' Night  
Sun 18th Dec 6.00 pm Carols & Readings  
Sun 25th Dec 9.30 am Sung Eucharist  
Wed 28th Dec 7.00-7.30 pm Carols Party at Home Farm  
Sat 31st Dec 11.15 pm Watch Night Service

See page 2 for full Church service details

Mon 9th Jan. 1995 8.00 pm Parish Council Meeting, in Village Hall  
Wed 11th Jan 7.30 pm W.I. - 'Security Work' in Village Hall  
Fri 13th Jan Deadline for February Newsletter

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The Whilton newsletter is published bi-monthly and  
circulated free to every household within the Parish boundary

The costs are met by the Parish Council; The Editors are:

Mr. Harold Haynes  
Mrs. Trudy Haynes  
Mrs. Shirley Brown  
Mrs. Anne Heeley

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