



WHILTON NEWSLETTER

March 1995

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

"Without the Cross there can surely be no Easter." So ended the article for 'The Times' the Bishop of London wrote immediately after all the publicity caused by the attempt of Outrage! to pressurise him to declare he was homosexual.

Bishop David Hope is the third most senior bishop in the Church of England, and the distress, embarrassment and threat of intimidation felt by him over the enforced 'outing' were acute. That came across very plainly in his interviews with the media. "These are private matters. I'm trying to be as open and honest as I can be here. I am leading a celibate life and I am content with myself. I'm not a sexually active person."

Now that the fuss has died down, and some of the pain has passed, Bishop Hope has quietly commented that the awful experience he went through has not only strengthened his faith, but has also brought him a new sense of freedom and liberty. He is more truly himself. The darkness of near despair - with all the risk of ridicule, rejection and abuse - has led to the light of assurance. He feels upheld not only by the love and support of friends, and even complete strangers, but by the love, forgiveness and transforming power of God Himself. The Good Friday Cross has given way to Easter.

I think we can understand that from our own personal experience of suffering. It held (perhaps holds) us in its grip, and our isolation is utterly profound. People try, but they don't really understand how or what we feel. Soul, mind and heart are in intolerable darkness. In a real way we are being crucified.

The Christian Gospel has the Cross at its heart, which is why the new Church advertising campaign which dispenses with it is so misguided. The God we encounter in Jesus does not ask of us what He Himself is not prepared to give. As the joyful energy and hope of Easter Day followed on from Good Friday, so we have the promise that our suffering will also release the sovereign power of God. And if that release should be through the grave, then, as John Donne wrote :

"Death be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so,
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow,
Die not, poor death"

I have a friend in Cynthia Spencer Hospice, suffering from a disease eating him away and leaving him exhausted and less and less able to help himself. He is in his forties, with a wife and young child. You might think he would be depressed and depressing and, yes, sometimes things are very hard for him. But most of the time he is laughing, joking, making other people happy, and fills his time fully and positively. It would be trite to claim he has put illness in its place, showing who is master. Yet what has happened, I believe through the grace of God, is that hope and life are struggling through, and the liberation and freedom spoken of by Bishop Hope are there for all to see. It is we who need him, as much as he needs us. From darkness will shine the light. "Without the Cross there can surely be no Easter."

I hope that the message of Holy week and Easter will not only reassure you, but will in its wake bring peace, inner strength, faith - and thanksgiving.

Jim

(Brington Rectory, 01604 770402)

CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL AND MAY

Sunday, April 2nd ..10.00am..United Benefice Sung Eucharist at WHILTON
" " 9th... 6.00pm..Sung Evensong with Dramatic Reading of the Passion Story
Easter Day, 6.00pm..Festival Sung Eucharist
Sunday, April 23rd 10.00am ..Family Service with Brington
" " " 6.00pm..The Night Office of Compline
" " 30th ..10.30am..United Parishes Sung Eucharist at HARLESTONE
" May 7th...10.00am..United Benefice Special V.E. Service at BRINGTON
" " 14th.. 6.00pm..Sung Evensong & shortened Communion
" " 21st .. 6.00pm.. Sung Eucharist
" " 28th ..10.00am.. Family Service with Brington
" " " .. 6.00pm ..The Night Office of Compline

ROAD SAFETY ARTICLES

Last month we published two articles sent to us by the Area Road Safety Officer. This month we include another :-

DO YOU BELT YOUR KIDS IN THE CAR ?

For the last twenty or so years, since perhaps the most famous Road Safety message of ' Clunk Click Every Trip' we have all been aware of the dangers facing front seat passengers in cars, but only recently have we been alerted to the potential risk to all passengers in the rear of cars.

This includes children, although we often think 'Well they can't do much damage, they're only light'. True, but in an impact at speeds as low as 30mph they could be thrown forward with a force equal to 30 times their own body weight, which means your 3 stone child would hit the back of your seat weighing around 90 stone, roughly the same as 9 of your adult friends landing on you from a great height.

Think about the damage it would do, let alone what it would do to your child.

You have a responsibility both to yourself and to your family to make sure anyone travelling in your car can do so safely. There are a number of ways you can get free help and advice about in car safety.

So what are you waiting for? Contact the Road safety Centre on (01604) 763438 NOW. Alternatively you can also get free advice from trained staff in approved outlets through the Fit Safe Sit Safe Scheme. The nearest car dealers operating the scheme are :

Arlington Motor Company
Bedford Road
Northampton
Tel: 01604 250151

Airflow Streamlines
Hopping Hill
New Duston
Northampton
Tel: 01604 581121

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WHILTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The above meeting took place at Whilton Village Hall on Thursday, 16th March at 7-30 pm. Canon Jim Richardson was in the Chair and first dealt with the Vestry Meeting.

Nominations were received for the Church Wardens, namely Mrs Janet Bowers and Mr Harold Haynes and they were duly appointed. Congratulations were expressed and they were thanked for their work over the past year. Mr Haynes indicated at the end of this term of office he would like to step down.

The Chairman then gave his very comprehensive report for the year and overall it had been very satisfactory for the enlarged Benefice as a whole and Whilton in particular. Much had been achieved in the twelve months with more Services than before, the weekly news sheet, the quarterly Service booklet and the support across the boundaries to one another's celebrations and events.

The year had been packed with fund-raising events for the Bell Fund and also additional Services, Rogation outside Service., Family Services alternating with Brington, Christingle Service and Watchnight Service to mention a few.

Whilst special Services are very well supported more time needs to be spent in attracting parishioners to come along to hear the Gospel and share the Sacrament

Canon Jim extended his appreciation and thanks to all involved in achieving such tremendous results.

Ten members on the electoral role were nominated and duly elected to the P.C.C. and Mrs Beryl Williams agreed to continue as secretary for the next twelve months.

An Annual report on the financial affairs of the Parish and audited account for the year ended 31/12/94 were presented by the Treasurer, Mr Haynes. The audited accounts were duly adopted and signed by the Chairman.

Mr Haynes reported that the fabric of the Church had been well looked after by our previous generations and a subsequent restoration programme had ensured everything to be in fairly good order although there are signs of possible problems with the roofs of the chancel and the north aisle.

The goods and ornaments do not present any problems and we now of course have a good peal of eight bells.

With regard to the bells a truly remarkable performance for within a twelve month period through the generosity of many people and hard work the initiative came to fruition. A total sum of £51,415. 07 had been donated/raised for the Bell Restoration Fund and the account now closed.

The clock is away under going restoration work and is hoped it will be back shortly. There is still work to be done to raise funds to meet the costs. At this point grateful thanks were expressed to the Chairman and Councillors of Whilton Parish Council for contributing £1575.00 to the Clock Fund.

At the present time efforts are being made to do something with the heating pipes because of the problem of children putting their hands on them and getting burnt.

In the pipeline there are plans to have flood-lighting installed and the provision of a lightning conductor has been under consideration but is being held over until other outstanding works are complete.

The churchyard with a small team of helpers manage to maintain a reasonable standard. However the gates are in need of some attention i.e. cleaning down and treating with a wood preservative - a job for D.I.Y. volunteers to tackle if they can be recruited.

A plan of the churchyard to meet the new Churchyard Regulations has to be prepared before the end of September this year and this is a fairly difficult job to tackle.

A budget for 1995 was presented by the treasurer, Mr Haynes, the upkeep of the church is a heavy burden and whilst Whilton is in many ways most fortunate, there could be a shortfall in expenditure over income. It is therefore very important to keep this fact in mind and to give generously when possible.

The question of reporting business matters of the P.C.C. was raised and will be discussed at the next meeting in May and it is hoped that the Annual Report will be the forerunner. This will ensure that parishioners are kept informed of the work being done and planned by the P.C.C for the benefit of church and village.

D.F.B.

PCC Budget for 1995

<u>Estimated Income</u>		<u>Estimated Expenditure</u>	
Covenants (inc. tax)	£3,000	Ministry	£900
Collections at Services	£1,700	Electricity (heating/lighting)	£450
F.W.O. Envelopes	£300	Insurance premium	£840
Donations, etc	£300 ?	Minor repairs	£200
Fees (could vary considerably)	£200 ?	Honorarium	£100 ?
Harvest Supper & Sale	£190	Upkeep of Services/sundries	£200
		Parish Share	£2,940
		Charitable Giving	£300 ?
Total	<u>£5,690</u>		<u>£5,930</u>

Some of these figures are already known sums, e.g. the Parish Share, but the majority are estimates based on previous experience. If they are approximately correct there is likely to be a shortfall in income of £200-£300.

Harold Haynes

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

CRIME REPORT

There has been no reported crime in Whilton Village so far this year but we have been fortunate.

Daventry Police warn that there has been a series of crimes targeted at local villages recently. including forced entry to houses, the theft of property and burglary from sheds, garages and outhouses.

There has also been several car thefts in Long Buckby during recent months. Cars have been stolen from the village centre and the railway car park.

PLEASE BE EXTRA VIGILANT AND MAINTAIN SECURITY OF YOUR HOME, PROPERTY AND VEHICLES.

Try to code your property: especially antiques and electrical equipment as this helps in the return of the stolen goods to their owner if they are recovered.

It is advisable to photograph any items of value, both for identification and for insurance purposes.

Report anything suspicious or any information regarding crime to Daventry Police or the new Hotlines, which have recently become available.

DAVENTRY POLICE - 01327 300300
AUTOCRIME/VANDALISM HOTLINE - 01327 303072
DRUGS MISUSE HOTLINE - 01327 303064

CO-ORDINATORS MEETING

A meeting of local Co-ordinators and Daventry Police was held on 26th January 1995 at Daventry Police Station. It was well-supported and was addressed by Supt. Phil Vickers, Ms Anna Biggs, Mr Derek Brown and D.Ins. M.McKilly.

Summary of meeting

In December 1993 there were 153 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in operation in the Daventry, Towcester and Brackley areas. By December 1994 this number had increased to 228 Schemes and involved one third of the population.

Following the amalgamation with part of the Weston Favell Police area, which will take effect from 1st April 1995, the number of schemes is expected to rise to 328.

During the course of last year 421 arrests were generated from phone calls by members of the public, many as a result of Neighbourhood Watch involvement.

It is always difficult to tackle crime especially in rural areas and the help of the public is vital in order to reduce the number of criminal incidents.

Neighbourhood Watch Members act as "watching eyes" for the local police, and working together, we can form an active partnership in the fight against crime.

Christine Bilsborough

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AND BEST KEPT CHURCHYARD COMPETITION 1995

This competition is to encourage villages to continue developing a caring, lively community spirit, highlight good examples of village life (which undoubtedly already exists) and promote new initiatives.

Last year we were not successful in this competition but nevertheless the Parish Council are entering again with greater determination to improving our performance. This we cannot do alone and need the support and effort from each individual household in the village.

In 1994 the judges highlighted one or two areas of neglect in the front of certain properties and I would urge everyone to take a critical look at their fronts/verges.

Judges will be looking to see what progress has been made with the problem areas identified last year. A number of factors are taken into account in the allocation of marks including the display of Posters and particularly those that have been designed by the children of the village.

Mums and Dads please encourage your children to design a poster. This will be one stage reached in involving young people in caring for their village. Poster size A4 please.

At present there is a small team of hardworking volunteers that do a splendid job in keeping the churchyard up to standard. Anyone interested in helping please let us hear from them.

Judging commences 1st June and goes through until September. Time is quite short in which to bring matters up to competition standard and then to maintain same.

If there is anyone (for whatever reason) who feels they may need some assistance, please advise.

Any general queries or in particular regarding the children's posters please contact the undersigned.

D.F.BROWN (01327 842968)
Whilton Parish Council

Parish Council Report

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday 6th March in the village hall. Amongst items discussed were the following:

The possibility of placing a plaque in the Church to commemorate the centenary of Parish Councils was discussed. This was to be investigated.

Planning: DA/95/0117, Change of use of agricultural land to storage of up to 300 caravans, land adjoining Whilton Marina, Whilton Locks. Discussions regarding this application were deferred until full details of the application have been received.

DA/95/0143/A Entrance signs, Whilton Lodge, Whilton Locks, it was decided that so long as the Highway Authority were aware of the application the Council had no other comment to make.

DA/95/147 and DA/95/0192 Detached dwellings and garage plots 1 and 2 Orchard Land, Home Farm, Whilton. Although the Parish Council had no comment to make regarding the dwellings, there was considerable concern regarding the preservation of the spring and pond near Home Farm and the Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Department expressing these concerns.

DA/95/0056 and 57/LB Part demolition, conversion and alterations to agricultural buildings to form a dwelling. Permission had been given for this work to be carried out.

It was agreed that the Village of the Year and Tidy Churchyard competitions would again be entered but it was emphasised that a concerted effort on the part of villagers would be needed. See separate article in this newsletter.

In response to parishioners' letters it was agreed that a meeting be arranged with the Highways Department regarding the poor state of the grass verges in the village. Damage is being caused to them by vehicles being parked on them or being driven over them.

Applications had been received for the vacant allotment, which has now been allocated.

Speed Boards were to be borrowed to erect in Whilton Locks for a two week campaign to try to reduce vehicle speeds through the Locks.

Daventry Calling newsletter is not being received regularly (4 times a year) by residents of Whilton Locks. (Is there anyone else who is not receiving their copy?)

The Parish Meeting and Annual meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 9th May at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. The Parish Meeting is held once a year for parishioners - please come along. Anyone wishing to place an item on the agenda for the Parish Meeting please let Anne Heeley know by 14th April 1995.

Anne Heeley, Clerk - Springbank

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORTS

The business at the February meeting was mainly of a very positive nature. We learned that Susan Thorne was prepared to be a steward at the East of England Show, that Freda Thomas would do a flower arrangement at W.I. House this summer, that Jane O' Riordan hoped to attend a meeting at W.I. House in May and that Shirley Brown had been one of several members who had enjoyed seeing a video about our adopted elephant, Ajok. Janet Bowers then told us that Radio Northampton would be featuring Whilton in their Northamptonshire Village series on February 9th.

Our D.I.Y. meetings are usually very successful and often more enjoyable than the more professional offerings. This month was no exception. Ros Gardner and Chris Messinger provided a wide range of unusual cheeses for us to taste, which encouraged us to be more adventurous with our shopping. The samples were accompanied by grape juice. Frances Drake gave the vote of thanks, Jane O'Riordan organised the raffle, which was won by Shirley Brown, and refreshments were provided by Freda Thomas and Josie Jelley.

The March meeting was an open one and well attended. Jane O'Riordan offered to host a coffee morning on May 13th from 10.30 - 12.00, when there would be a Raffle and Produce Stall. There was no rush of offers to replace the Great Brington delegate at the Blackpool intermediate general meeting, and no enthusiasm for W.I. celebrations for V.E. day. It was felt that beacons, bonfires and street parties were the responsibility of the village as a whole and certainly needed some male involvement. We heard that the June speaker would be unable to come and were asked about suggestions for an alternative. More cheerfully, the members of the '500' Club learned they had won £15!

Mr. Ivey, our speaker, was accompanied by three of his beautiful owls : Jessie a female barn owl, a pet, Bilbo a tawny owl who would be released into the wild later in the year, and Rose, a Bengalese eagle owl whose fine head tufts were, we learned, not ears but decoration. What a lot we didn't know about owls! Their eyes are fixed, which is why they turn their heads so far round, they can't see in the dark, one ear is much higher than the other and both are well hidden by their silky feathers. They are cannibals, they don't drink, and the larger they are the longer they may live - up to about 15 years.

Mr. Ivey was thanked by Jean Davies, the raffle was organised by Chris Messinger and won by Kath Wright, who did the refreshments with Janet Bowers.

Diana Scott

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CALLING ALL COOKS

As you can read elsewhere in this Newsletter, Whilton is holding another Flower and Gardens Festival this year - this time in aid of the Village Clock. Once again there will be teas served on the terrace of the Little Rectory and we need cakes and biscuits to sell. So if you enjoy cake making, please get baking! Do ring us if you think you'll be able to help the supplies or if you would like to help on the days.

Jane O'Riordan 843279

Susan Thorne 843552

WHILTON GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

The meeting held on 6th February was the first with the new format and was presided over by Janet Bowers who in her opening remarks thanked Mrs Beryl Williams, the previous Chairman, for her work.

The shortened business meeting dealt with:-

- 1) Agreement to hold one worthwhile raffle at the AGM, the prize to be a good shrub or the like.
- 2) Agreement to enter East Midlands in Bloom competition.
- 3) Visits to gardens in the coming months.

The business concluded with a gardeners calendar of work for February and March and hints and tips and Members questions and answers.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Brian Wray who gave us information on care and maintenance of lawns. He stressed the importance of care with mowers, whatever type - have RCD breakers on the electricity supply, wear strong shoes or boots and mow forwards. Use good quality seed when sowing lawns and suggested that a sample of soil be sent to the seed suppliers to establish that most suitable.

Good practice includes watering well in drought (a little water only encourages roots to the surface), spiking before watering, applying an autumn fertiliser, cleaning up of the lawn after winter and never mowing shorter than half an inch. Clippings left on lawn after mowing encourage weed growth.

Mr Wray donated his fee to handicapped children

Janet Bowers

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## WHILTON VILLAGE HALL

### BARN DANCE

This year the Barn Dance will be held on Saturday, 8th July. Mr & Mrs Davies have kindly agreed, once again, that we may use their barn at Roughmoor Grounds, and the band "Thirsty Work" will be coming to get us in the mood for dancing. Please put the date in your diaries and look out for further information in the next issue of the Newsletter.

### 200 CLUB 1995

Congratulations to the winners of the January and February draws.

|     |           |   |        |              |          |
|-----|-----------|---|--------|--------------|----------|
| Jan | 1st Prize | - | No.009 | R.H. Edwards | 27/01/95 |
|     | 2nd Prize | - | No.115 | W.Emery      |          |
|     | 3rd Prize | - | No.141 | J & K Wright |          |
| Feb | 1st Prize | - | No.060 | D.Kavanagh   | 24/02/95 |
|     | 2nd Prize | - | No.018 | M.Emery      |          |
|     | 3rd Prize | - | No.177 | R & S Green  |          |

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 24TH & 25TH JUNE 1995  
WHILTON GARDEN AND FLOWER FESTIVAL

This year's event will start an hour earlier at 1-00 pm and there will be stalls on Sunday only. Volunteers will be most welcome to help with stalls, by baking, growing plants, and providing goods for Tombola et cetera.

The GRAND DRAW will hopefully be as successful as last year but does need your help in selling tickets to family and friends. More prizes will also be appreciated.

If you can help in anyway please contact me by phone 842851 (Janet Bowers)

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EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM 1995

With the approach of Spring and Summer comes the East Midlands in Bloom Competition. Once again the Gardeners Association has agreed to enter our village and cover the cost of the entry fee.

Last year we were awarded a special commendation certificate - the judges' remarks being as follows:-

- 1) Small village with limited amenities but with an air of being well cared for.
- 2) Good community involvement, all plants raised by villagers, volunteers maintain specific involvement via Gardeners Association, WI, open garden scheme and Church Flower Festival.
- 3) Whilton impressed as a small village in which the majority of residents take pride. Increased volume and quality of floral displays will make Whilton strong contenders for success in future years. Well done!  
However comments also included some neglect in certain areas.

A splendid report but note the last remark. We are extremely fortunate to live in such a pleasant village and due to the effort of the majority of the residents, the comments above are well deserved. If the minority can join with the leaders we can then work together not only for a competition prize but also for a more pleasant environment.

Extra effort in floral displays and keeping front gardens and verges tidy will help to achieve these aims.

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**Thanks** to all those who regularly leave bags of milk tops, foil, etc., we have another two sacks ready to be delivered, together with a good supply of stamps. Keep on saving!

Trudy Haynes

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## Summary of Events

|       |      |       |               |                                                                                                     |
|-------|------|-------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun.  | 2nd  | April | 10.00am       | United Benefice Service, Whilton                                                                    |
| Mon.  | 3rd  | April | 7.30pm        | Whilton Gardeners' Association                                                                      |
| Wed.  | 12th | April | 7.30pm        | W. I. Meeting                                                                                       |
| Sun   | 16th | April | 6.00pm        | Easter Day Service, Whilton<br>(for full church service details during<br>April and May see page 2) |
| Tues. | 9th  | May   | 7.30pm        | Annual Parish Meeting                                                                               |
| Wed.  | 10th | May   | 7.30pm        | W. I. Meeting                                                                                       |
| Sat.  | 13th | May   | 10.30 - 12.00 | Coffee Morning (see page 8 for details)                                                             |

### Advance Notices

|         |         |      |                                                                     |
|---------|---------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat/Sun | 24/25th | June | Whilton Garden and Flower Festival                                  |
| Sat.    | 8th     | July | Barn Dance - Roughmoor Grounds<br>(see June newsletter for details) |

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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