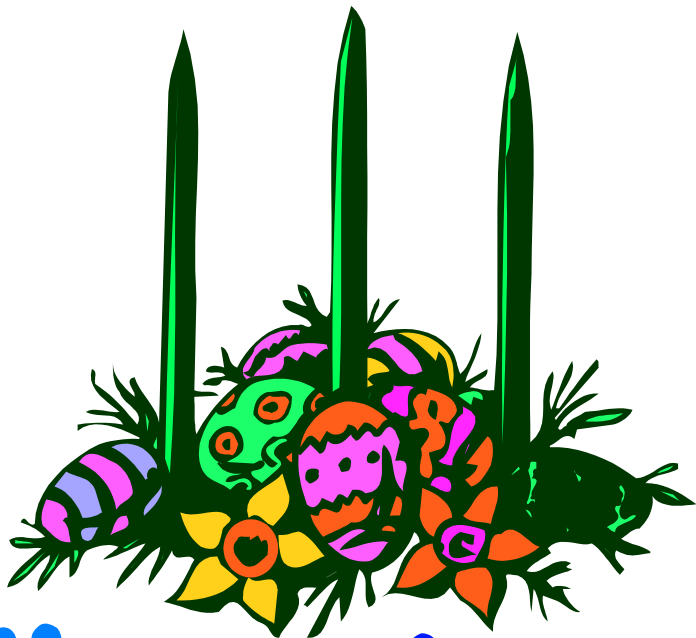


FOCUS

April 2006



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THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

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Focus - The Four Village Magazine

Magazine Committee

Joint Editors: George Crutcher - 7 Summerleys, Eaton Bray 221637

Sally Siddons - 34 Wallace Drive, Eaton Bray 221733

Email: sallysid@hotmail.com

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Northall Representative: Derrick Bonfield - 'Poppyn', Eaton Bray Road 220013

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Advertising: Sally Siddons - 34 Wallace Drive, Eaton Bray 221733

Production Manager: Tracey Moren (Moren Associates Limited) 01525 229695

Copy for publication to the Editors or one of the following by the **10th of the month:**

Kevin Cabbage - 'Larums', Eaton Bray Road, Northall

Val Barrow - 3 Chestnut Close, Dagnall

Articles and reports printed in Focus do not necessarily reflect the opinions of members of the Committee.

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or contact

ebpc5@aol.com (Eaton Bray Parish Council)

Village Diaries



April 2006

Weekly

Mon-Fri (term time)	Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Cindy 07773 095624
Mon-Fri (term time)	Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15-12 noon, Mon-Fri
Tuesdays	Yoga Classes, Northall Village Hall, 1.45-3.15pm
Tuesdays	Keep Fit/Body Conditioning, Dagnall Village Hall, 7.30pm
Tuesdays	Line Dancing, 1:30-3 pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Burdett 222793
Wednesdays (term time)	Eaton Bray Under 5's, 1.15-3pm Eaton Bray Village Hall Cindy 01582 437756
Wednesdays	Chi Kung & Wu Chi classes, Coffee Tavern 11am - noon
Wednesdays	Keep fit, 7:30-8:30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Roch 220669
Thursdays (term time)	Mums & Toddlers session, Dagnall Village Hall, 1-3pm
Thursdays	Yoga Classes, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm
Thursdays	Eaton Bray Badminton Club, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 8.15-10pm.
Thursdays	Keep fit, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Johnson 220304
Fridays	SOCATOTS, 12:45, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Daniel Walker 07968 778681
Saturdays	Jazzercise, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Angela Veryard, 715208

Monthly

1st Monday	Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern
1st Monday	Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Salvation Army Hall, Dunstable
1st Monday	Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
1st & 3rd Tuesday	Dunstable & District Orbit Club, Bar Chameleon, Dunstable, 8pm
2nd Tuesday	Toddlers' Church, St Mary's, Eaton Bray, 2.00pm
2nd Tuesday	Edlesborough W.I. Meeting, 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall
2nd Wednesday	8.15pm Healing Service in St Mary's Church
3rd Thursday	Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall

Other Regular Events

5, 19th Apr & 3rd May	Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall, 8pm
7th (note date)	Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, 10.30 am
10th	Eaton Bray Village Hall Cinema, "Chocolat", 2pm
25th (note date)	Over 60's, Dagnall Village Hall, 2 pm, The Glebe Entertainers

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

8th	Public meet Parish Councillors, 10-12noon, Coffee Tavern
8th	10am, Eaton Bray Methodist Church Coffee Morning
8th	Edlesborough Tennis Club Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Edlesborough Village Hall. £7.50. Contact 220562.
21st	Beetle Drive, 7pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall. Tickets 01525 221576
22nd	Dagnall School Adults Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, £6 per person, call 01525 221920. Full details page 13
25th	St Mary's Annual Meeting of Parishioners, 7.45pm & Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
25th	Alpha Buffet Supper, 7.15pm, Northall Baptist Church. Book on 373106
28th	'Friday Night is Music Night', 7.30pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church, contact: 221137. Full details page 34
29th	10.30 - 12.00 Coffee morning at All Saints' Church, Dagnall

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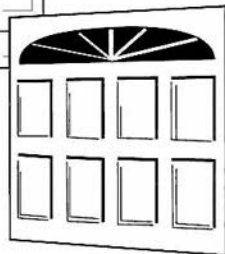
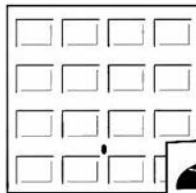
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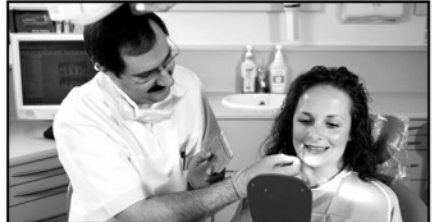
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Be on your Guard!!!

Our local policeman has informed us that there is a spate of burglaries in the villages. The perpetrators are stealing car keys which are left very conveniently for them by the front door. Take your handbags and keys up to bed with you.

Road Safety and Traffic Calming in Eaton Bray

Mid 2002	Gateways were erected at two entrances to the village
May 2003	30mph roundels at the gateways repainted due to traffic wear
June 2003	Kerbs Dropped for safety of push chairs and electric chairs
July 2003	PC Pollard advises more people caught speeding during the past year
Sept 2003	Councillor attends Chilterns Road Transport project for prevention of speeding through villages
Nov 2003	Road humps considered. Advised cost by Traffic Management at County Hall to the PC could be up to anywhere between £2000 to £25000 depending on what was found at the site of the humps plus consideration must be given to the emergency vehicles responding to a call. No one wants the humps installed outside their property!
Jan 2004	Beds police advised no regular speeding activity will be provided by them until at least April.
Jan 2004	Investigation of Chicanes along School lane, information gathered suggested road not wide enough.
Feb 2004	Police reported 4 people dealt with for speeding.
March 2004	Meeting with Rep. of Raynesway to discuss state of road sensors monitoring speed of vehicles.
April 2004	Traffic Sensors repaired. Beds CC to evaluate stretches of road to receive 30mph repeater signs.
May 2004	Beds Highway report that 30mph repeater signs could not legally be provided as roads have sufficient street lighting.
June 2004	Meeting with Raynesway to discuss reinstatement of road sensors.
July 2004	P C writes to County Councillor to liaise with Beds Highway to ask again for 30mph repeater signs.
Nov 2004	After Rayneways visiting the village again now confirm that 30mph repeater signs are necessary and supply a map of possible locations.
Dec 2004	3 Councillors in consultation with village residents and sites identified for erection of 30mph roundels.
Jan 2005	P.C. Clerk has instructed work to commence on 30mph repeater signs.
Feb 2005	Dates & volunteers organised for Speed Indicator Device for use at various sites in the village.
March 2005	Speed assessment with S.I.D. taken at five locations in the village over 4 days by 5 councillors and 4 concerned village residents totalling over 13 man-hours given freely and readily. Findings forwarded to Bedfordshire Police Casualty reduction for their information and action. As a result of our findings police speed units attended the village and several prosecutions ensued.
May 2005	30mph signs now installed.
July 2005	Increased activity of HGV training vehicles noted, address sought for writing to training centre to stop/reduce use of village.
Aug 2005	Police advised of youths lying in centre of road at dusk playing `chicken`.
Sept 2005	Clerk writes to HGV centre requesting them to stop/reduce use of village.

Nov 2005 HGV centre advises they are not able to remove the village from their routes but instructed examiners to avoid Eaton Bray whenever possible.

Dec 2005 'Public meets Parish Council' meeting in Coffee Tavern, attended by 12 people. Concerns expressed were Speeding, Youth Nuisance and Hedges/Trees overhanging pathways

Jan & Feb PC Johnson completes random speed checks, two cautions given.

PC Smith's team requested to attend village for further speed checks. Barry Fields at Beds CC invited to attend village and advise councillors on further traffic calming measures.

Cameras are in place in the village but speed checks are not normally carried out now by traffic police unless specific complaints are made, currently we are waiting for complaints made by the Parish Council to be dealt with. There are only three police officers in the county who carry out these operations. Village folk can help by making traffic/speeding complaints direct to the police.



Dunstable & District Orbit Club

Dunstable & District Orbit Club held a 'Fun' quiz night at Eaton Bray Village Hall on March 11th. 20 teams entered and raised £1,100 for the local branch of Headway, a charity that helps people who have had a brain injury. Everyone had a good time.

The club had to change venues as the Bar Chameleon now has a pool room, so we are meeting at the Methodist Church in Dunstable, in one of their rooms, temporarily until further notice. Our meetings are on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month at 8pm. New faces are always welcome. For more information please contact Jill on 01525 222441 or Steve on 01582 755147.

Jill Richards

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further details in next edition of

FOCUS

Dagnall School's Adults Quiz Night

Saturday 22nd April

7.30pm at Dagnall Village Hall
 £6 per person which includes Jacket Potato Supper - 8 people per team - B.Y.O. Drinks

If you would like tickets please see Sue Tate (AM drop off) or Lindsey Hewitt (PM pick up) at Dagnall School or you can contact Sam c/o Buds of May Florist, 2 High Street, Edlesborough Tel. 01525 221920

Dagnall School's Forthcoming Events

Saturday 10th June - Sponsored Treasure Hunt around Dagnall Village
 Thursday 15th June 8pm - 'Ladies Indulgence Evening'

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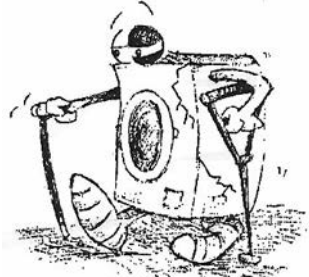
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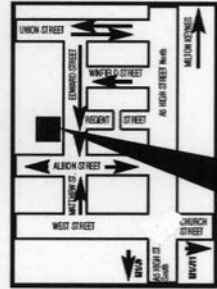


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Sat 9.30am Eaton Bray Village Hall Church Lane

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All Saints, Dagnall - Services and Meetings in April 2006

Sun 2nd April	9.00 am	Eucharist
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Sun 9th April	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist
Fri 14th April	6.00 pm	Special Service for Good Friday
Easter Day		
Sun 16th April	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 pm	Family Celebration Service
Sun 23rd April	10.30 am	Family Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 30th April	4.00 pm	Special Songs of Praise Service



Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10.30 am.



Eaton Bray Lower School

COUNCIL COUNSELS COUNCIL!

Eaton Bray Parish Council met with Eaton Bray School Council on Thursday, 23rd February at the School.

The arrival at School of the Parish Council generated so much excitement! The School Council consists of elected members representing each class from Early Years to Year 4. Three members of the Parish Council were present as well as the clerk.

An agenda composed by the children was followed. After introductions and a description of roles, we moved to questions from both councils. The children (with a little help from parents I suspect) raised the issues of the position of the bottle bank, the equipment in the park, and litter bins in the village. The Parish Council answered all the questions in detail for the children. The bottle banks were placed in their current position because of its central location in the village. They have considered other sites but there have been objections each time. The equipment in the park is being inspected by park equipment specialists. There are litter bins in the village but often these are not used. The children are going to design some posters encouraging people to use the bins that are provided.

It was decided that the councils would meet twice yearly: once in the autumn term when the School Council would have new members, and once in the spring term to see how they have developed.

I would like to thank the Parish Council for their time, patience, and understanding in developing this new idea.

Mrs S Hounslow

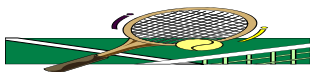
Eaton Bray Methodist Church

We are holding a **COFFEE MORNING** in aid of Smile International on Saturday April 8th from 10am. There will be various stalls including Cake and Bric a Brac etc. and light lunches will be served between 12.00 noon and 1.30 pm. Please join us and help raise much needed funds for this special charity.

Easter Services

Good Friday April 14th at 10.30am. We are holding a United Service in our Chapel with our Salvation Army friends and this will be led by Mrs Jean Dimmock.

Easter Sunday April 16th at 10.30am. This will be a Sacrament Service and will be led by our



Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

Our new committee has been running around like Paula Radcliffe since they were rashly elected to power just a few weeks back, and the next planned events include a Quiz night at our clubhouse on 25th March and an 'Indoor Games night' at the Village Hall on 5th May. Plus there's our annual 'Play Tennis Day' on 10th June at the courts which is open to all, but watch this space as apparently there's some sort of football match which clashes with it so we may be forced to re-arrange; how anyone would rather watch England play Paraguay in the World Cup over playing some tennis and eating my barbequed sausages is beyond me, but each to their own I suppose. As an Oxford United supporter I'd go for the tennis any day. In fact I'd rather wallpaper the Great Hall of Versailles with 28p stamps than go through another 90 minutes of Oxford vs Rushden & Diamonds which I was subjected to last month. Why couldn't I have been brought up in Manchester or Liverpool? Or even Accrington Stanley...?

It's been a 'low news week' locally with the recent icy weather putting a hold on several key winter league matches, so to entertain and delight our faithful Focus readers I have un-earthed some more famous quotations from an assortment of tennis commentators over the last few years. I hope you enjoy....

- * 'Chris Lloyd came out of the dressing room like a pistol' - Virginia Wade
- * 'Strangely enough, Kathy Jordan is getting to the net first, which she always does' - Fred Perry
- * 'Ann's got to take her nerve by the horns' - Virginia Wade
- * 'Lloyd did what he achieved with that shot' - Jack Bannister
- * 'Diane - keeping her head beautifully on her shoulders' - Ann Jones
- * 'And here's Zivojinovic, six foot six inches tall and fourteen pounds ten ounces' - Dan Maskell
- * 'McEnroe has got to sit down and work out where he stands' - Fred Perry
- * 'Martina, she's got several layers of steel out there like a cat with nine lives' - Virginia Wade
- * 'Chip Hooper is such a big man that it is sometimes difficult to see where he is on the court' - Mark Cox
- * 'Those two volleys, really could be the story of this match summed up at the end of it' - Barry Davies
- * 'He's got his hands on his knees and holds his head in despair' - Peter Jones
- * '...and when Chrissie is playing well I always feel that she is playing well' - Anne Jones
- * 'It's quite clear that Virginia Wade is thriving on the pressure now that the pressure on her to do well is off' - Harry Carpenter
- * 'When Martina is tense it helps her relax' - Dan Maskell
- * 'Lendl has remained throughout as calm as the proverbial iceberg' - Dan Maskell
- * 'Billie Jean King, with the look on her face that says she can't believe it... because she never believes it, and yet, somehow, I think she does' - Maz Robertson
- * 'You can almost hear the silence as they battle it out' - Dan Maskell
- * 'This is the third week the fish seem to be getting away from British tennis players' - Gerald Williams
- * 'Strawberries, cream and champers flowed like hot cakes' - Radio 2

I hope it was worth it! For any further information about the club, including when we get together for our social tennis sessions up at the School Lane courts, or our various activities, please call either Chairman Ross Bagni on 01525 221411, Coach Nick Boys on 07810 832774, or if they're all out and Oxford aren't playing, me, Andy

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These are just a few of the comments made in our forth OFSTED Report (Sept 2004). The report reflects the high quality of learning on offer to all children at Edlesborough Under 5's and highlighted the quality of teaching by the staff. We are currently operating a waiting list for 2½ to 4½ year olds. If you would like to pop in for a look around, please phone Kerry on 07854 939226 between 9am - 12 noon, to arrange an appointment. A warm welcome awaits you.

For registration details, or to place your child on the waiting list, please phone Sue Connor: Tel - 222739.

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Christmas Puzzle 2005

My thanks to everyone in the villages who took part in, or donated to, my annual Christmas Puzzle. The 2005 Puzzle raised £3000 distributed equally between Emmaus – St Albans, Noah Enterprise and Iain Rennie Hospice at Home. Among the 41 perfect solutions, scoring 120 marks, the only one from our villages was from Liz Constable.

A draw to identify prize winners was held on 5 February in St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray. Four winners were selected at random – each receives a cheque for £20. They were: Jerry Cullum from Alton, Hants, Roger Robinson from Harold Wood, Essex, Tonia Sharp from Birmingham and Margaret & Alison Webber from Studham.

The other prize winner selected at random from all entries received was Marion Rance from Lincolnshire, who scored 107½. She, too, receives a cheque for £20.

This year's donations bring the total money raised by the Puzzle to over £21,000. Thanks to everyone who has supported the activity over the years. Next year's puzzle is already set and ready for distribution. I expect to put it in the post on 8 December from which day it will be possible to download the puzzle from the website www.christmaspuzzle.co.uk

Gordon Gray



Used Stamps for Cancer Research U.K.

A big THANK you to all of you who are sending me your used stamps which can be used to raise money for Cancer Research U.K.

Most of these are coming to me perfectly trimmed but I am still receiving a few with a lot of paper attached, unfortunately I do not have the time to trim these myself. Ideally there should be no more than 2mm of paper around the stamp - we do not need to cut around the postmark. I hope that you will all still continue to send these stamps to me so that more money can be raised for this charity which I know is close to the heart of so many of you. - Sue Cawdell

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Eaton Bray Lions AFC



We would like to clear up and apologise for an error in last month's Club article when we said that our Under 10 team had won the Chiltern League Cup last year "providing the Club with its first ever silverware".

Our article was unintentionally, poorly worded and should in fact have stated "our first ever Cup win". Grant Maxwell contacted us to correct this - during the 2002/2003 season the Under 8's team, which he managed, finished Champions of the Watford Friendly League and were, of course, awarded a trophy for their achievement. Our sincere apologies to Grant for the omission, and we would like to restate both our thanks and full recognition to him for being the first Club manager to win silverware for E B Lions.

It would be wonderful if we could have a photo of the trophy, so that we can buy a replica trophy for winning this league and give it pride of place in the trophy cabinet at Edlesborough School. Youngsters joining the club will surely be inspired to see the evidence of the winning achievements of their predecessors. If anyone has a photo which we could copy from, could they kindly send it to us?

Focus readers may like to know that match reports are now appearing in the Leighton Buzzard Observer. You can also check up on our progress via our website www.eblions.co.uk.

Tim Sanders (Manager Under 10 Boys) and Liz Coates (Press Officer) 01442 842550
Lizcoates@btinternet.com

Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

Vicar: Canon Malcolm Grant - The Vicarage, 11 High Street, Eaton Bray - Tel: 01525 220261

Hon. Assistant Priest: The Revd John Heffer, 35 Pebblemoor, Edlesborough - Tel: 01525 220618

“The sky’s the limit” – at least, it is if the story of Jesus being raised from the dead is true. That is something we all have to decide for ourselves. The evidence is there – the stories in the Gospels, the history of Christianity, the personal experience of men and women all over the world that Jesus is alive and active – but we have to make up our own minds about it.

Once we say “yes” to the Easter story, everything is different. Life is not just this mortal, physical existence for a few short years, but leads on to something greater, something we can hardly even begin to imagine. Death does not lead to an empty void but to life with God. And in that context everything we do here and now has to be set against the backcloth of God’s eternity. Deeds – and even thoughts – have consequences, and we have to accept responsibility for what we do.

That could be an utterly depressing thought. We know our own frailty and fallibility. But, Jesus raised from the dead is Jesus vindicated, and what He showed us of God is the definitive truth about God’s nature. So we have to put the love and compassion of God alongside His holiness, and we know, through the cross that God is prepared to go to infinite lengths to forgive our failings and restore us to friendship with Him. The living Jesus shows us God as Father and Friend as well as Lord and Judge, and opens up for us the possibility of a personal relationship with Him.

More than that, Jesus shows us that evil and death are conquered powers, and that brings a glorious ray of hope into the darkness and tragedy of human life. Because of Easter, the world is a different place. How we need to be assured of this! To look for sunshine beyond the clouds is not just wishful thinking: because of the resurrection of Jesus it is a definite promise. And the challenge to Christians is to live out that hope now, in order to help make it a reality here and now. Beyond all the troubles of life is the triumph of God, which Jesus’s resurrection foreshadows and inaugurates.

That’s why we can say, “the sky’s the limit”. In the old-fashioned world-view, the sky (heaven) is the limit and the goal of human life. In terms of human aspirations there is nothing good and loving that we cannot dream of, and the God who raised Jesus from death can make our dreams come true. What a wonderful message of hope this is for our troubled world. I hope and pray that you will glimpse something of this transforming miracle this Easter, and recognize for yourself the power and activity of the living Jesus in your own life and in the world around us.

“Christ is risen – He is risen indeed. Alleluia”. That Easter greeting of the Eastern Orthodox Churches is my Easter greeting to all readers of *Focus*, and I invite you to come and share the joy in the worship of our Church congregations this Easter.

MALCOLM

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms – *“Brought to new birth in the family of the Church”*

February 26 Leah Lilley

Funerals – *“Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest”*

March 2 John Alexander Lyon of Leighton Road, Edlesborough

March 8 Mollie Barber of Moor End, Eaton Bray



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

TUESDAY, 25 APRIL at 8.00pm
EATON BRAY VILLAGE HALL
Open to all whose names are on the
Church Electoral Roll

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS
TUESDAY, 25 APRIL at 7.45pm
EATON BRAY VILLAGE HALL

Services at St Mary's Church

SUNDAYS :	8.00am – The Eucharist 10.00am – PARISH SUNG EUCHARIST (with Sunday School) on Second Sunday of each month: 10.00am – WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE – a less formal service with Holy Communion
WEEK-DAYS :	Tuesday: 7.30am - Eucharist 2.00pm (2nd Tuesday) - Toddlers' Church Wednesday: 9.30am - Eucharist 8.15pm (2nd Wednesday) - Healing Service Thursday: 7.30pm - Eucharist (on 2 nd Thursday at All Saints', Dagnall)

St. Mary's Parochial Church Council

At the February meeting of the Parochial Church Council it was reported that the inaugural event to raise funds for the church roof, a coffee morning, was a great success raising a considerable sum. Details of the upcoming lent courses were outlined and it was suggested that all members of the PCC may like to attend at least some of the sessions. There will also be a Passover meal in Church on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

A Chairman has been found to start the ball rolling on the 'Friends of Edlesborough Church' project. Their first task is to get together a group of like minded people to take the plan forward.

All PCC members were reminded that they have to submit their nominations if they wish to continue as a member of the PCC.

Plans are in hand to replace the existing pulpit in church which is in a rather poor state. Designs for a new pulpit are to be drawn up and submitted for approval.

The Church architect has provided the specifications for the roof repairs and these have been passed to the builder to submit a quotation for the work.

There was a discussion about raising the awareness of legacies and the contribution they make to the Church finances.

The PCC met on 9th March. The path from the Church to the toilet in the Village Hall is now safe to use. The arrangement is for the toilet near the Green Room, accessed from the side door, to be available to the Church when services, such as weddings and funerals are being held. A grant to replace the cooker in the Village Hall has been obtained and as soon as it is installed a Sunday Luncheon Club will be instigated.

Work on Edlesborough Church will be completed in time for the Easter Day evening service to be held there.

Various events have been planned to raise funds for the Parish Project, Kagando, starting with a Beetle Drive at Edlesborough Memorial Hall on 21st April. The Open Gardens scheme will be held on Sunday, 11 June when local gardens will be open to the public and refreshments and stalls will be available in Eaton Bray Village Hall. Other planned events include a Hog Roast in the Vicarage garden on 9th July (to be held early enough in the day to accommodate the football) and a Barn Dance on 30th September. It is hoped to have an African evening, details of which will be announced later.

Other fund raising plans were discussed, this time for repairs to the Church roof, with maybe a "talents" scheme, whereby parishioners are given a "talent" i.e. money, to use (legally!) to make more money. (Matthew 25 v14-30 was the inspiration)

A Vision for Action Study Pack has been received from the Diocese, which is a 6 week study course to be run later in the year.

A revised Electoral Roll for St Mary's is currently being prepared and it was agreed that the enrolment forms for parishioners should be more easily available, perhaps by including them in the Welcome Pack for new residents.

'FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT'

on
Friday April 28th at 7.30pm

International theatre organist

LEN RAWLE

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Totternhoe Road, Eaton Bray**

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between Northall & District Age Concern
and Eaton Bray Methodist Church**



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Sunday 21st May 2006

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The Box Office (Eaton Bray 221733)

Bar Available but do bring your own table and chairs
Free car parking

All proceeds in aid of Iain Rennie Trust
Remember 1 in 3 of us are likely to need their help



Local 'green-fingered' Beaver Scouts get planting for others

From Erika Pratt – Beaver Scout leader, 1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Beaver Scouts, contact 01525 220834

1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Beaver Scouts recently learnt about caring for others by decorating and planting several garden pots for residents of Westlands in Leighton Buzzard.

The 6 – 8 year old Beavers have been working towards their Friendship Challenge badge and wanted to do something for other people.

With support from the Garden Centre in the Rye, Eaton Bray, the boys, working in their 'lodge' groups were able to plant primulas and hyacinths and create a unique design on each pot.

The pots have now been presented to the Leighton care home and will hopefully bring some spring colour to the resident's garden.

Photograph: 1st Eaton Bray and



Introduction to Wills & Intestacy

INTESTACY – The Rules of Intestacy will apply to the distribution of your Estate’s assets if you die without leaving a valid Will. The Court of Protection appoints any guardians. The Court of Probate decides who will administer your estate.

The Rules of Intestacy are inequitable in their application. For example, the surviving widow(er) with no children is entitled to a larger lump sum than if they had had children, whilst 50% of the assets over £200,000 will be inherited by a hierarchy of beneficiaries starting with the Deceased’s parents, if alive, and finishing with the Crown.

Common law partners (and step children) have no status under the Rules of Intestacy so have no rights to inherit anything. There is no guarantee that a bereaved common law parent will retain custody of any children, e.g. the parents of the Deceased may seek to demonstrate a stronger claim on any children to the Court of Protection. If there are no children, then the whole estate is left to a hierarchy of beneficiaries starting with the Deceased’s parents, if alive, and finishing with the Crown.

Intestacy can result in extreme family hardship, whilst family disputes and long term bitterness are common. The Rules of Intestacy never match the Deceased’s own or the family’s wishes. The person(s) administering probate is often placed in an invidious position becoming the butt of everybody’s ill will. They can seem to do no right, yet are required by law to administer the estate correctly. The worst of human traits can surface. Of course, it is not always so.

The Rules of Intestacy only deal with the monetary value of a Deceased’s estate, whereas a Will typically records who is to get what, any nominated guardians and who is to administer the estate. It can also include bequests of specific items (e.g. family heirlooms) or monies to individuals, charities etc; funeral arrangements; donation of organs; in fact, anything you fancy. Your Will may not please everybody, but it is likely to avoid the trauma too often associated with intestacy.

Your Will should also be structured to minimise any inheritance tax and long term care costs. Dying without a Will (intestate) gives such monies to the Exchequer – that is not where I want my hard earned money to go!

Except for the simplest of Wills, you need professional guidance, typically a solicitor and ideally one providing an in - home service, such as my practice.

KEY POINT: Intestacy is not good for anybody. Instead, a Will is a must have.

Death can strike at any time. You need a valid Will to be in place today.

Next Month: I will address Wills and House Ownership.

Tony Duke BA (Hons), FCII

The Will & Probate Practice

1 Eaton Park, Eaton Bray

Tel. 01525 220644

'How The Other Half Loves' by Alan Ayckbourn

Thursday 6th April until Saturday 8th April

Tickets available from the Leighton Buzzard Theatre Box Office 01525 378310

This farcical comedy is about three suburban couples who are linked by the work of the husbands. The action takes place at two dinner parties given on two consecutive nights where misunderstandings, outright lies, and confused assumptions set the scene for some hilarious comedy. Not to be missed!

Leighton Buzzard Drama Group are the proud winners of the Regional Noda award for Best Drama Production 2004.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

Dunstable Church of England Schools
(Ashton Middle School & Manshead Upper School)

Parents are reminded that if they intend to apply in the autumn for children to be admitted to either of these Schools in September 2007 on the basis that they are practising members of the Church of England, the Governors require to be assured that they have attended public worship on at least one Sunday each month during the six months preceding the application. The clergy of the North Chilterns Group have agreed that they will sign applications only when they have written evidence that the Governors' attendance criteria have been satisfied. Anyone who will be making such an application should ask for an attendance card at the church, and ensure that they have it signed by the Vicar or a Churchwarden each time they attend. Without such evidence of regular attendance the Vicar will not be able to sign the application.

St. Mary The Virgin Edlesborough

The Easter Sunday Service at St. Mary The Virgin on April 16th will mark the reopening of the church after another major conservation contract. Highly skilled craftsmen have carried out major repairs to the chancel roof which had to be completely taken off and put back again. Although it is hard to see from the ground the roof is now covered by slates rather than concrete tiles. The buttresses have lost their concrete casing which has been replaced by beautiful, local stone again. Rain and high winds permitting the scaffolding will be taken down shortly.

Inevitably after such a major building project the ground is muddy so stout footwear is recommended.

The Churches Conservation Trust which is responsible for St. Mary The Virgin is working closely with the Parish Council to improve the access to the church and particularly to the churchyard.

St. Mary's will be open from May to September on the first Sunday afternoon of the month as part of a local church trail initiative. If you would like to visit at other times, the keys are kindly held by Sandra Cain at the Bell and Hays IT.

If you have any queries about the church or could help in any way please contact Chloe Cockerill, Regional Development Manager, Tel 01223 290439, e.mail ccockerill@tct.org.uk

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Mothers Union Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

March meeting

We met in the Coffee Tavern on 8th March and thirteen members attended. Mary opened the meeting with prayers and then introduced Mr. Reg Fossey to talk about his experiences as Mayor of Dunstable, his period of office running for two years from May 1995.

Grove House in High Street North was the official residence and it was the Mayor's policy for anyone to be able to visit the Mayor's Parlour each Friday. Mr. Fossey attended 390 functions during the first year; he also had to provide his own transport. He judged the floats in the Eaton Bray Carnival for two years. He did not like heights, but during a visit to the Fire Brigade he was carried down the ladder!

Childrens' fetes and charitable functions he particularly enjoyed and was always very busy at Christmas

Mrs. Fossey enjoyed being the Mayoress. She arranged a Flower Festival at Grove House and raised £7000. It was the Mayor's duty to attend many funerals and on Remembrance Sunday the Police always stopped the traffic. The Mayor's Ball was a special function which they both enjoyed both years. At the presentation of prizes at a children's dance competition held at Manshead School, a one-armed barman was in attendance. He also attended two 100th birthday celebrations and presented both ladies with their telegrams from the Queen.

Mr. Fossey's talk was very interesting, enlightening and amusing, and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.



Edlesborough Tennis Club

We have entered five senior teams and five junior teams into the South Beds Summer League and matches will start in earnest in April - so blow the cobwebs off those rackets and start practicing in readiness!

Our very successful annual quiz night held in the Edlesborough Memorial Hall will take place this year on Saturday 8th April at 7.30pm for an 8 o'clock start. Quizmaster Miles Emmett will again be hosting the evening, there will be lots of prizes and a tasty fish and chip supper - all the ingredients to make a very entertaining night! Come along either on your own or with friends and support your local tennis club. For tickets please phone Iona Mclean-Hall on 220562 or Margaret Bis on 220326.



Support Your Local Pharmacist in her Egyptian Fundraising Campaign

I have committed myself to raise a minimum of £2,750 for the British Heart Foundation (Registered Charity Number 225971) and I need your help to get me there!!

I shall be cycling 408km through Egypt in November. This extremely tough challenge will take its 40 participants through contrasts of flat to undulating routes, and from fertile green vegetation to desert - all along the lifeblood of Egypt, the River Nile.

As you may know, heart and circulatory disease is still the BIGGEST killer in the UK, touching every one of us either personally or through family and friends.

I would be enormously grateful for any pledges or sponsorship towards this truly worthwhile cause (and ongoing support for all the cycling and training I shall now have to be getting into - if I look exhausted at work from now on, you will know why!!) Please don't hesitate to pop into Edlesborough Pharmacy for more information or to make a pledge whenever you are next passing.

Many thanks and wish me luck!!

Claire Davies

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Dear Editor

I am writing this letter as a resident of the Parish not as a Parish Councillor or School Governor.

I have personal concerns about the poor standard of driving in the village. Residents cannot blame the speeding on people just travelling through the village. Many residents are also responsible for the speeding problems. I would like to ask people to drive within the speed limit designated, also not to talk on hand held mobile phones when driving, this is also illegal.

Parents taking their children to and from school and driving above the limit are contributing to the speeding. I am sure you would be extremely upset if one of their children was killed or injured by a speeding motorist.

Please local residents, act responsibly and help to reduce the difficulties we have in the village from poor driving.

Marian Heyland.

In Memory of Bert Moriarty

The Moriarty family would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and kind messages received following the death of Bert. Seeing the amount of people at the funeral proved what a popular man he was and much loved in the community of Edlesborough. He will be deeply missed by all of his family and many friends.



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Contact:

Jane Lodge (PGCE MUS B HONS)
Telephone 01525 222803

Dear Editor,

While the employment of a Police Community Support Officer for Edlesborough, Ivinghoe & Pitstone is to be welcomed, it is a pity the three parishes concerned have to spend even more of our money on improving local security, when Thames Valley Police, (whose job it really is!) receive an even bigger slice of council tax than Aylesbury Vale. Can we expect a rebate from the police force?

Yours faithfully

J Webster, 22 The Green, Edlesborough

In memory of Pansy Jamieson

(not Pearl as previously printed)

Samuel Jamieson would like to thank the many friends in Edlesborough and Dagnall with special thanks to the wonderful staff in the local pharmacy who assisted me on the death of my beloved wife. 01525 220057

My family and I were greatly comforted by the tributes you paid to Kay, by attending her funeral service. Thank you also for your messages of sympathy and for your donations which will be forwarded to The Keech Cottage Childrens Hospice

My grateful thanks

Perry Pitkin



National Trust

Friends of Ashridge

GENTLE STROLLS

Brian and Sian Barton will lead the first of these 2 hour informal walks on Wednesday 12 April 11am
Meet at Ling Ride car park, off Beacon Road. Map ref SP 982 143.

WALKS AND TALKS

Ashridge Estate nature experts will lead the first of these walks on Tuesday 2 May 7pm.

The Woods at Bluebell Time.
Meet at the Visitor Centre.

Dagnall News

Over 60's

On March 18th we were privileged to receive a visit from Jean Martyn who gave us a wonderful and varied concert on her electronic organ in the village hall. The funds of both the Over 60's and the Church Extension Fund will benefit from this concert.

At our normal monthly meeting on March 21st we had a talk called "On the Fiddle" by Lorna Stephens, a violinist of some distinction and a remarkable lady.

In April we have a return visit by the Glebe Entertainers, a very popular concert party, much appreciated by our members. Please note the date is **APRIL 25th** to avoid clashing with the Easter weekend.

Dagnall Village Fete - 2006

The fete will take place on Saturday 20th May between 12.30 and 4.00 pm, on the recreation ground.

We are planning lots of enjoyable events for everyone to enjoy. We have booked a brass band to give us a bit of oom-pah-pah. There will be dancing to watch from the children of Dagnall school and, of special note, the locally famous 'Dagnall and district' cake bakers work will be available on the cake stall and in the refreshment tent. What more could you want. In return we invite you to join us, and to spend some money with us.

Last year's fete raised over £3600 – a huge sum, especially considering the appalling weather conditions that prevailed on the day. This money supported the Village Hall and Dagnall School.

We would love to hear from you if you could offer help in any way. In particular if you would help by running a stall for an hour or two, please contact one of us below.

- Donate goods or services
- Provide sponsorship (Contact Kathy on 01442 842796)
- Advertise in the programme (Contact Vicky on 01442 843361)
- Run your own stall (Contact Liz on 01442 842550)
- Be a pair of hands on the day (Contact Richard on 01442 843241)
- Join the committee

Put the date in your diary now!!!!

Dagnall Church

The Dagnall Church Extension Committee is hoping to contact all persons who have, during past years, had any connection with the church through Marriage, Baptism, Sunday School etc. who no longer live in Dagnall. Can you help with names and addresses? If so please pass details to:- Mrs. Vicky Lee, Fir Tree Cottage, Ringshall Road, Dagnall. HP4 1RL. Tel: 01442 843361. Email vickilee35@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Dagnall School

A poem about Mothering Sunday by a child at Dagnall school.

Mummy's Counting Poem

One Nice Mummy was picking me up from school
Two Cool Mummies going to work
Three Lovely Mummies taking me to the park
Four Pretty Mummies going shopping
Five Yummy Mummies getting me a drink
Six Good Mummies growing sunflowers
Seven Nice Mummies on the computer
But my Mum is special because she lets us use spouty beakers
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Edlesborough Cricket Club



After successive seasons of just missing out on promotion followed by just missing out on relegation, Edlesborough's Saturday league side never threatened to go anywhere in 2005. The club finished their campaign in Division 2 of the Marrant Four Counties Cricket League with a record of 6 wins, 6 losses and the rest of their games either drawn or abandoned due to bad weather. Absence from some games by key players, accompanied by loss of form by others, again revealed the lack of depth in the side, which was only partially offset by a couple of promising youngsters coming through from the Colts. The Sunday friendly side also had an evenly balanced record of wins and losses, which included particularly close, high-scoring games against Studham and Dunstable Town III, the former just won and the latter just lost.

Over the whole season, the league batting averages of Matthew Merrick (46.8) and Graham Hacking (43.2) stood out from the crowd, with Graham's score of exactly 100 not out to win the home game against Eggington Foresters being one of the club's only two centuries. The top score of 105 was made by Marcus Bates in the home game against Newport Pagnall, who nevertheless topped Edlesborough's total of 241 for 4 in a close fought game. In the friendlies, half a dozen people scored half centuries during the season, with a top score of 74 by Neil Morgan in the home win over Gaddesden Row.

In the club bowling statistics for league games, Mark Brown, Jaco Jacobs and Matthew Merrick all averaged just over 20 runs per wicket, with Mark's record of 21.1 just topping the list and including two 5 wicket hauls in the home wins against Eggington Foresters and Stewkley. Including friendly games as well, Mark emerged as quite easily the club's best bowler over the whole season, with an average of 16.8. However, the best performances in individual games were Jaco Jacobs's 5 for 21 in the home league win over Willen and Barry Jenkins's 5 for 16 in the last game of the season, a losing friendly against Dunstable Town III. Despite being officially retired, Barry emerged from hibernation in mid July when the club was short of players for a friendly and subsequently turned out regularly, if not usually with quite the same brand of wizardry as in days of yore.

The Colts team has more fixtures than in previous years, playing twice against each of Tring, Milton Bryan, Northchurch, Dunstable and Ivinghoe & Pitstone. As for the adult sides, they had a season of balanced fortunes, but beat all their opponents except Northchurch at least once. Andrew Kight (43 ret.), Declan Hall (42 not out) and Chris Mortimer (41 not out) made the season's highest scores in the wins over Tring, Milton Bryan and Ivinghoe & Pitstone respectively, with Chris Kimpton, Adam Lee, Owain Prys-Jones and Jadeep Shah all playing innings in excess of 20 at different times. Notable bowling performances included Andrew Kight's 5 for 19 and Chris Kimpton's 3 for 2 in the win over Tring and Charlie Dear's 3 for 14 against Milton Bryan. Many of the players were relatively young and should still be available for the 2006 side, when the Colts will be playing in a local league.

Edlesborough Cricket Club welcomes new members of all standards and abilities for the 2006 season. Adults (including youths aged 15 upwards) interested in playing either league or friendly cricket should contact Chris Deciacco (01525-220945) or Graham Hacking (01525-384177 or 07834-849695) as soon as possible. Prospective new Colts (school years 7 to 10 only please) who did not play in 2005 should contact Rod Hacking (01525-221710), Paul Mortimer (01525-222342) or Robert Prys-Jones (01525-221520).

Robert Prys-Jones

Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings

3rd Thursday of every month
7.30pm Memorial Hall
Next meeting: Thursday 20th April 2006

.....

Eaton Bray Parish Council Meetings

1st Monday of every month
7.30pm The Coffee Tavern
Next Meeting: Monday 3rd April 2006



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A local course will run at Northall Baptist Church on Tuesdays 25th April to 18th July at 7.30pm. For more information, or to book your place (and meal) at the 'taster' session on 25th April, contact Steve and Helen Orchard on 01525 373106 or email northallchapel@tiscali.co.uk

The course begins with an introductory, no obligation evening with buffet supper, followed by viewing the video 'Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant?' On following Tuesdays topics such as 'Who Is Jesus?' and 'How Does God Guide Us?' will be considered.

Meet people, listen, learn, discuss, discover, and ask anything. Alpha aims to be a place where no question is too simple or too hostile. It's low key and friendly and it's supported by all the main Christian denominations.

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For more information contact: Steve and Helen Orchard 01525 373106

There has been a Baptist Chapel in Northall for more than 200 years. Today we continue to seek to worship God, serve him in our daily lives and support and encourage one another in the difficult and the joyful times.

Invitation to

Alpha Buffet Supper

7.15 for 7.30pm Tuesday 25 April 2006

at Northall Baptist Church, Chapel Lane, Leighton Rd, Northall, LU6 2HF

with introductory Alpha video

'Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant?'

A no obligation opportunity to enjoy good food and find out more about Alpha
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**To book your place (and meal) at this 'taster' session
contact 01525 373106 or northallchapel@tiscali.co.uk**

The Alpha Course at Northall Chapel
on Tues evenings from 2 May to 18 July (except 30 May) & on Sat 10 June

Eaton Bray Parish Council

Highlights of meeting – Monday 6th March 2006

Public Open Forum

Residents attended to make comments on the following:

Northall Road Fly Tipping: Victoria Sutton the spokesperson for the residents told the Council that she had met with the local MP Andrew Selous and he had given her his support. She is keen for residents to complain directly to the Council on **01582 474133**.

Councillor Piggott is working with Beds CC to try to find a resolution.

A resident had concerns about a planning application in Moor End. The Council agreed with her objection and will forward these to SBDC.

Residents of May Close attended with concerns over a planning application to redevelop the Roebuck Garage and build 8 houses on the site. They raised concern over the number of parking spaces, loss of privacy, and visual height of the planned houses. The Owner and his Architect also attended to give information.

The Council did not object to this but have forwarded the residents concerns to SBDC.

Cold Calling Signs

These have now been placed around the Village and stickers and leaflets included in Focus for all residents. Thanks are given to the distributors.

Speeding and Traffic Calming

The Bedfordshire Highways team are to walk the Village to give their recommendations.

The possibility of flashing 30 signs is being investigated.

SID device can be loaned to the PC again for more speed checks to take place.

Learner HGV Lorries are using the Village more often again. Clerk to write to Test Centre again.

School Council meets the Parish Council

This meeting took place on 23 February with lots of interesting dialogue with the youngsters. They have lots of very interesting and thoughtful ideas and are to be congratulated, we wish them well and look forward to the next meeting which will hopefully be at the Coffee Tavern in the Summer.

Next Council Meeting

Monday 3rd April 2006 7.30 p.m .at the Coffee Tavern.

A full copy of the minutes can be viewed on or can be obtained from the Clerk; Mrs E Hopwood, 12 School Lane, Eaton Bray, Beds, LU6 2DT, Tel: 01525 222501, ebpc5@aol.com



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Talk

Wednesday, 5th April 2006 7.45pm

Salvation Army Centre, Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable
Pearls Before Swine? The Story of a Royal
Necklace - Jane Kelsall

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Catherine de Medici*

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Edlesborough Parish Council (including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall) News

The following issues were discussed at the February General Purposes Committee and Parish Council Meetings.

Community Policing

The sum of £7,000.00 is to be expended on the employment of a Police Community Service Officer (PCSO)

Traffic Calming

A quotation is awaited for the purchase of yellow backed signs and roundels.

Buckinghamshire County Council are re-assessing the Dagnall 'Build Out'

Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall Villages

A further meeting has been held to discuss the Edlesborough Memorial Hall floor replacement and quotations requested. It is possible that funding may be available towards this project.

With the assistance of John Bercow MP and pressurising by the Parish Council a new pavement in Taskers Row is being constructed and work to the remaining pavement will be carried out in the new financial year.

The 'Hand Car Wash' sign has been removed from Pine Trees Garage and an Enforcement Notice will be served on the operators.

Numerous road repairs have been reported most of which will be carried out shortly, other repairs will be monitored and work carried out when considered appropriate by the County Council.

The Parish Council will be holding a Quiz for the adults and a drawing competition for the children on it's stalls at both Dagnall Village Fete on 20th May and Edlesborough Carnival on 1st July. More details to follow.

Councillors have attended the Aylesbury Vale Local Committee meeting and the Parish Council will be enquiring as to whether the No. 61 bus could extend it's route to cover Dagnall and to make further enquiries regarding traffic problems between Chapel Lane and Slapton turn in Northall.

Burial fees have been reviewed and updated and appear on the website www.edlesborough.gov.uk

To confirm with Licencing regulations users of Edlesborough Memorial Hall have been requested to obtain their own TV Licence if a television or DVD player is to be used.

New guttering and anti-vandal paint is to be applied to the Pavilion.

Overgrown bridleways and road repairs have been reported.

Parish Plan

Several favourable responses have been received and the Parish Council will arrange a date for a special meeting at the next Parish Council meeting.

Roving Village Refuse Freighter Service

The AVDC Village Freighter will be visiting the three Villages twice again this year as follows:

Edlesborough:	15 th May 12.00 to 15.30 Village Hall Car Park
	20 th November 7.30 – 11.00 Village Hall Car Park
Dagnall:	15 th May 7.30 – 11.00 Village Hall Car Park
	15 th November 7.30 – 11.00 Village Car Park
Northall:	18 th July 7.30 – 11.00 Village Hall Car Park
	21 st November 12.00 – 15.30 Village Hall Car Park

The Freighter is for **HOUSEHOLD WASTE ONLY**, Fridges, freezers, clinical waste, tyres, exhausts, batteries, oils etc. hazardous waste – Asbestos etc. Commercial waste – any waste generated as part of a business, building rubble etc. paint, liquids, garden chemicals etc. **MUST NOT** be deposited in the Freighter but should be taken to Civic Amenity site or special collection arrangements made.

EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 20th April 2006

at Edlesborough Memorial Hall commencing 7.30pm

The Chairman, Mrs Anne Thompson, and all Parish Councillors invite the Parishioners of Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to enable you to learn more about the Police Community Service Officer (PCSO), Parish Plan, Traffic Calming together with the opportunity of discussing with the Councillors any problems you may wish to raise.

Salvation Sound. . . . April 2006

April, with it's sunshine, showers and rainbows, the days are longer, leaves are showing on the trees, some are already flowering. Birds are nesting, bumble bees are busy amongst the wildflowers, butterflies are starting to emerge, and tadpoles can be found in the pond. It is a busy month. The farmer has started harrowing the winter sown crops, the gardener is planting his early potatoes.

“Now spring has come it is quite clear
It brings new life both far and near,
We see the lambs all out to play
And all of Nature's on display;
Its beauty is for all to see
To bless the lives of you and me,
As we receive from God's creation
The wonder of His revelation.”



So Easter ends the wintertime, what else does it offer to us? Chocolate eggs, buns, simnel cake, a Bank Holiday weekend.

There is something else on offer too, God's offer of forgiveness. He gave His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. What God offered all those years ago to the people of Jerusalem is still on offer today. Himself as a sacrifice for our sin.

The cross means many things to people, sometimes it is but an ornament to be worn around the neck, or a brooch for a jacket lapel, but to me it is a symbol of the dark day long ago when Jesus endured agonies beyond comprehension for my sake.

“God showed His heart of love
When He sent Jesus from above,
His life on earth shows us the way
To live our lives through every day;
And through His death brought victory
That from our sin we are set free,
To live according to His word
Once we its glorious truth have heard.”

So dear reader, as you indulge in your ‘Hot Cross Buns’, think of what they represent, and remember the forfeit that Jesus paid for your sake.

Why not join in with us and the dawn chorus, on top of Ivinghoe Beacon for a sunrise service at 6-30a.m. on Easter Sunday; or perhaps at our services later in the day at 11a.m. and 6p.m. at the Salvation Army Hall in Booth Place. Eaton Bray.

The Salvation Army, Booth Place Weekly Activities

Sunday	
Sunday School	9.45am
Morning Service	11.00am
Evening Service	6.00pm
Monday	
Games Night (Ages 5-8)	4.30pm
Wednesday	
Home League (Ladies Meeting)	2.30pm
Thursday	
Young Ladies Fellowship (Last Thursday in every month)	
Friday	
Young People	5.00pm
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## Becca's letter from Uganda

Hopefully you are getting used to my letters by now. I am working as a physiotherapist on a missionary placement in Kagando Hospital, in SW Uganda, the Hospital being the Parish Project for 2006 for St Mary's Church in Eaton Bray. I am sure many of you will remember my family, the Baldock's, who originated in Dunstable; in particular Eric Baldock, my grandfather, who used to run Herrington's chemist at the top of George Street in Dunstable.

I have indicated that if you want to find out more about Kagando you can do so at [www.kagando.org](http://www.kagando.org) but since not everyone has access to the internet, and for some it may be too much trouble, I thought I would tell you something about, Uganda, the hospital and its work.

Uganda lies on the elevated basin that rises between the eastern and western branches of the Great Rift Valley. Most of the country is over 1,000m in altitude, and the topography is generally quite flat. Most of Uganda is well watered and fertile. Almost 25% of the country's surface is covered by water and yet only 38% of the population have access to clean water.

The country has a population of almost 20 million and an annual increase of 2.5% per annum. This rate is low by African standards, partly due to the high incidence of AIDS, a disease that originated close to Kagando, over the border in the Congo. Life expectancy in Uganda is around 40 years. Christianity is widespread and, here at Kagando, I am supported by a lively Church community.



Kagando was originally a Leprosy Settlement located over the hills in Congo but in 1963 it was moved into Uganda and became a more generalised hospital, supported by the Ugandan government who invited an Africa Inland Mission (AIM) missionary doctor to start a hospital in the area. The strong Christian foundation to the work of Kagando has remained throughout – the emphasis in the hospital being placed on Christ-like caring for patients and all those suffering.

TEAR fund became involved in the work from early 1979. With their help a new hospital was built supported by a hydroelectric scheme, based on a small river flowing out of the mountain near Kagando. In response to a severe cholera epidemic, which killed thousands of AIM volunteers, capped springs on the mountainside bring clean water to the hospital and local communities. As a result there have been dramatic reductions in water borne disease and with new pipelines and outlets more communities now have access to clean water.

Over the intervening years the work of the hospital has gradually expanded and, today, a busy District General Hospital is at the heart of Kagando providing a full range of services for patients.

Kagando has established a seed bank to help local farmers and a tree nursery, which encourages tree planting in order to reduce the effects of erosion. In addition, with Fairtrade, the development has established a honey collection unit to produce local honey. A grinding mill has been set up, which encourages and supports local farmers and there are workshops where local people can learn and develop skills in woodwork, mechanical, panel beating etc.

A nursery school, originally established for the staff's children grew into a full Primary School, which now provides a high standard of education for more than 800 children in the surrounding area.

Despite the wonderful work carried out in Kagando over the past 40 years, the needs and challenges facing the project today remain great.

- More doctors are needed to work medium or long-term contracts. Doctors are a mobile workforce and Uganda faces competition to retain its trained doctors, not least from the UK, which is continually striving to recruit more overseas doctors to meet the demands of the NHS.



- Financial shortfall – the costs of running the project escalate constantly, and although every effort is made to contain costs, and maximise income, there is a constant need for subsidy.
- Threats to water and electricity supplies. The hydroelectric power turbines and generators are now old and require upgrading and frequent repair. The water and electricity supply run alongside a road that is to be upgraded. Kagando are being asked to meet the costs of moving the pipe and cable, even though the community benefit from the supplies without cost.
- Growing work load – the needs are overwhelming
- Changing technology – With increased sophistication of treatments available, and increasing demands by the Ugandan Ministry of Health to follow accepted good practice in all areas of the hospital and project mean that costs escalate.

I know the hospital and the trustees are very grateful for the support from the St Mary’s Parish Project and I hope that people who read my letters will be inspired to turn out and help, or at least take part in the events that are planned. In particular, I understand that a number of villagers are opening their gardens on 11 June. That sounds great and I wish you every success. I can assure you that all the money you raise is both desperately needed and will be used to good purposes to provide hospital services that we in the UK take for granted when we go into hospital.

Prayer requests

- Please continue to pray for Kagando and its staff and managers
- Pray for the efforts of those supporting Kagando through St Mary’s Parish project
- Give thanks that the elections in Uganda went off relatively peacefully

Thank you

Rebecca Baldock



## Eaton Bray WI

Our President welcomed guest speaker Marion Maule to the members March meeting. Marion gave a talk on “Weird and Wonderful Weddings” (from around the world). She brought along a large number of items associated with meeting that “special person”, love and marriage. Also wedding clothes from different countries that included a beautiful Japanese wedding kimono.

Marion told us that she was born in Borneo. Her father was in the “oil business” and as a child her family had travelled extensively around the world.

We were then introduced to Marion’s extensive collection of wedding memorabilia, collected from countries she had visited. Marion explained the many hidden messages, meanings, and signals to attract the opposite sex behind some very every day objects, such as wearing a flower, a hat, or clothing in a certain way.

In some countries there are hidden meanings in the way food is arranged when a meal is presented to a potential partner.

We listened with interest as Marion gave us details of love potions and charms, designed and used to get the attention and attract that special person. Some of which were certainly weird and strange and involved standing a broom by the front door, other weird ways included using nutmegs and lettuce leaves in a certain way!

Eaton Bray WI is hosting the spring group meeting with other WI friends from Dunstable and surrounding villages in April. A members coffee morning is planned for later this month and details of the summer outing were circulated.

The next meeting is our AGM followed by a social event, on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.30pm in Eaton Bray Village Hall friends and new members are always welcome.

### Eaton Bray Cricket Club 100 Club March Results

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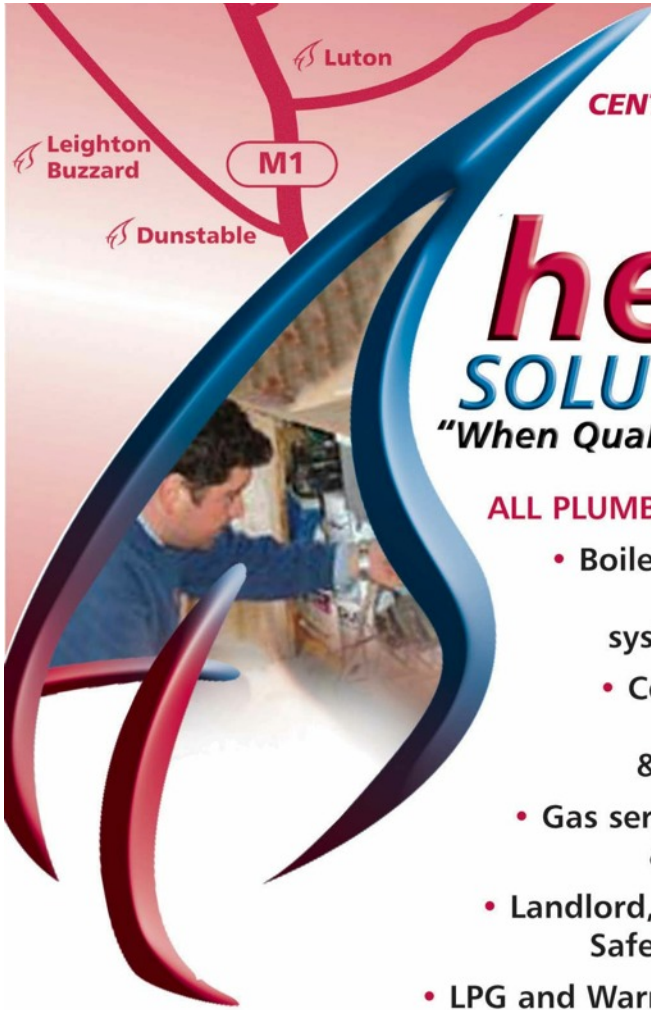
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