

# Easton Village Newsletter

Issue 99

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## FARMER BURTON'S COUNTRY TALK - Against the Elements



When I last wrote at the end of September I was waiting for some rain so I could start drilling the wheat seed as the ground was so dry, it was like concrete! Well, when it started it didn't know when to stop, which has made it really hard to get on with the Autumn land work. I have managed to get all of our land set with crops but larger farmers have become bogged down and very behind this year, with many thousands of acres still to be drilled and this would need a prolonged period of continuous dry weather. Another problem that this wet and mild weather has

caused is the prolific breeding of slugs, which has been the worst for many years. They love young tender wheat shoots and can devastate a crop. To stop the slugs breeding I could really do with some cold weather (but I dare not wish this as we will end up with 6 foot of snow and permafrost until next Christmas!).

Arable farmers have weather to contend with but all types of farming have their challenges; dairy farmers are fighting for survival with a low price for their milk and the price of animal feed increasing due to the poor harvest; sheep farmers are being urged to scan pregnant ewes (female sheep) for lamb losses associated with Schmallenberg Virus which has crossed Europe carried on midges blown across the Channel and I have also been looking at our woodland for signs of another problem from Europe - Ash Dieback - but our trees seem clear at present.

The shooting season has started and I am feeding pheasants on the farm to help them in the cold weather but it is not only benefits the game birds but also the small birds as well, often flocks of finches are seen in the pheasant cover and at feeding sites.

## SERVICES DURING DECEMBER

2 <sup>nd</sup> December	-	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
9 <sup>th</sup> December	-	6.00 p.m.	Evensong (this will be an opportunity to meet the new Rector of Kimbolton, Fr. Stephen Bowring)
16 <sup>th</sup> December	-	9.30 a.m.	Eucharist
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	-	<b>6.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	-	<b>9.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Christmas Eucharist</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> December	-	10.00 a.m.	Benefice Eucharist at Spaldwick



## THANK YOU

The PCC would like to thank everyone who turned up for the churchyard tidy-up which was a great success. Special thanks are due to Tony Ellis who has been quietly tidying up the old gravestones and also put weed-killer down earlier in the year, and to John Hill for his work in cleaning up the war memorial. We are very grateful for all this help.

## ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Quiz Night will take place on **Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013** in Spaldwick School Hall at 7.30 p.m. for a prompt 8 o'clock start. Ticket prices remain at £5 per head and you can order a fish and chip supper on the night. Please bring your own drinks!

Merry  
Christmas