

EAST RAINTON

VICAR:

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CHURCHWARDENS:

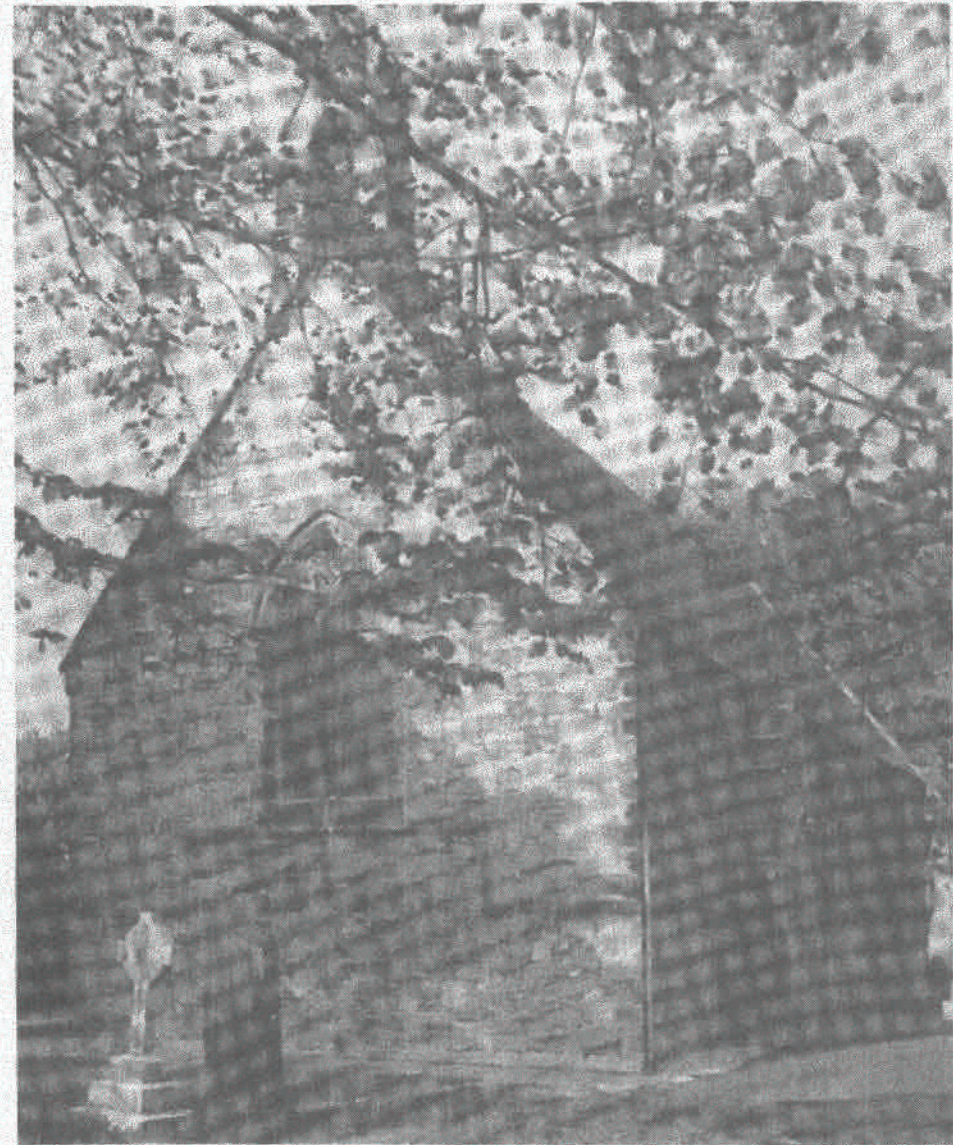
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EASTER 1985



PARISH NEWS

EASTER 1985

Editorial

Whilst encouraged by the reception of our first issue, we are acutely aware that this magazine can be greatly improved both in content and circulation. Although Parish News is published by the Parochial Church Council, its aims include discussing village life and reporting on village affairs, as well as serving the function of a Church magazine. It is hoped to include more matters of interest to the community and in some small way help to contribute to the quality of life in East Rainton.

The Parochial Church Council has requested the inclusion in Parish News of all births, deaths and marriages within the parish; these are shown in this issue and will continue as a permanent feature. There have also been requests for more information on the history of the village. With these requests in mind we have included more photographs of old buildings, some now demolished, and comments on life in the village towards the close of the 20th Century.

As we stated in our Christmas editorial however, we should also be involving ourselves with life today. Certainly there have been many changes in society during the past 40 years or so which have been reflected in the life of the village and also of the Church to some extent. Has the community some responsibility in attempting to ensure that these social changes do not detrimentally affect the environment in which we live?

Increasing problems associated with litter, rubbish dumping, vandalism and wanton destruction to property constitute a permanent challenge to society. East Rainton, like other villages on the periphery of large conurbations, has suffered in some degree; signs of vandalism, graffiti and destruction to public property are evident and many of the pleasant walks surrounding the village are marred by irresponsible dumping of rubbish. Should members of the community be making greater efforts to control these nuisances which may lead to even greater anti-social behaviour in the future?

We posed the question in our last editorial as to whether or not we are a caring community. Certainly smaller communities appear in general to be more caring than the larger urban areas. But do we care sufficiently? As Bob Hope the famous comedian once remarked 'If you haven't got charity in your heart you have the worst kind of heart trouble'.

Perhaps it would be a valuable exercise for those who have lived in the village for some time to reflect on life 20, 30 or even 40 years ago. Is East Rainton as attractive a village as it was then? Are our social and recreational facilities being used in the best possible way? Are the village organisations succeeding in their declared aims and objectives? Indeed is the Church

itself supplying the necessary spiritual stimulus? All these questions are of some importance and even by thinking about the issues raised we may succeed in changing attitudes and making our village a more congenial and caring place in which to live.

EAST RAINTON IN 1896

In the last issue of Parish News we dealt with village life in 1851. We now move forward some 45 years to a period during which some of the parents of today's community would undoubtedly have lived through.

The intervening years saw the erection of St. Cuthbert's Church in 1866 and two years later East Rainton became an ecclesiastical parish in its own right; previously it had been part of the 'combined' parish of Rainton. Rev. John Croisdale M.A. who had previously served as curate at West Rainton was appointed vicar in 1866 and remained in office until his death in 1909.

By 1896 the private adventure schools of the mid-19th century had been replaced by a National School built in 1866 for 136 children. National schools were provided by the Church of England which, aided by government grants, built many new establishments prior to the Education Act of 1870. According to this Act, school boards were to be elected for those parishes in which there was a deficiency of elementary school places. However, East Rainton's National school satisfied the criteria laid down in the Act and consequently a school board was never necessary

in the parish. Richard Thomas Sagar, who had been appointed the first head of the school in 1868 was also still in office and was to give long and no doubt meritorious service to the educational needs of the village.

In 1896 John Bailey was in business as a cartwright, joiner and farmer whilst other farmers included George Hardy, Thomas Walker, Humphrey Hutchinson and Thomas Hutchinson. Sarah Ferguson and George Hodgson both had grocery shops in the village, John Gibson was the blacksmith, William Moor the shoe maker and Dora Saints kept a general shop.

According to records of that year Jane Gregg was landlady of the Travellers Rest and Tom Sutheran of The Village Tavern; the former hostelry is of course still with us and the latter is within living memory of most. Other public houses of that era were the Plough Inn where Patrick O'Neil presided, the Rose and Crown with Richard Stephenson as mine host and the Blacksmiths Arms which had Thomas Tate as its landlord.

Although the Marquess of Londonderry was still a substantial land owner the North Hetton Coal Company now operated coal mines both around East Rainton and in Moorsley. Among these were the Dunwell, Hazard and North Pit still familiar names with village elders.

At this stage although East Rainton had its own post office with William Forrest as sub-postmaster, West Rainton was the nearest money order and telegraph office. You could buy your postal orders at East Rainton but you had to journey to West Rainton to cash them!



HERDS HOUSE, EAST RAINTON

This dwelling which was situated on the old village green reputedly dated back to the 17th century. When it was demolished about 1963 it was probably the oldest building remaining in the village.

Unfortunately the local authority at the time required the demolition of many of these old stone dwellings among them Stewart House, previously occupied by the Parker family who are still resident in East Rainton. Herds House was occupied towards the end of its life by the Crane family and the Jarvis family.

This photograph was taken a few years prior to demolition for a series of local history articles written by C.A. Smith.



RAINTON HOUSE

This imposing dwellinghouse, now demolished, was situated on the west side of the village giving it a commanding view over miles of open country.

It was originally built about the middle of the 19th century by a colliery engineer named May. Shortly after it was bought and occupied by Mr. Thomas Wood, a mining engineer, who extended the property in 1901 and again in 1908. Mr. Wood's son, Mr. Hugh Wood, established the mining engineering company of Huwood located on the Team Valley Trading Estate.

The house was eventually bought in 1928 by Mr. E.H. Suggett, another mining engineer, whose son Mr. Norman Suggett, a former head of the village school, still lives in East Rainton. During this period the house was occupied by Mr. Fred Hutchinson, a director of Huwood.

It is understood that the land on which Rainton House was situated is now scheduled for housing development.

BAPTISMS

ANDERSON, Sarah Jane, 38 School Road, East Rainton
 HUGHES, Ashleigh Louise, 3 School Road, East Rainton
 RACE, Andrew James, 3 Lister Close, Houghton-le-Spring
 WILSON, Andrew James Foster, 2 Summerhouse Farm,
 East Rainton

CONFIRMATION

On 10th February 1985 by the Bishop of Jarrow
 ROBINSON, Mrs Brenda, 2 Cowley Crescent, East Rainton
 ROBSON, Miss Susan, 3 Fieldside, East Rainton
 WISEMAN, Miss Elizabeth K., 'Camelot', 2 South Street,
 East Rainton

FUNERALS

1984

November 23 KEMP, Thomas, 24 Meadow Street, East Rainton
 Age 87 years
 December 1 ARMSTRONG, Lilian May, 6 Corrighan Terrace,
 East Rainton Age 62 years
 December 29 WALKER, Mary, 17 Corrighan Terrace,
 East Rainton Age 67 years

1985

January 9 O'NEIL, Francis Jeffrey, 27 Corrighan Terrace,
 East Rainton Age 60 years
 January 18 WALKER, Teresa Richardson, Summerhouse Farm,
 East Rainton Age 75 years
 February 13 CLOUGH, Margaret, late of Handley Crescent,
 East Rainton Age 87 years
 February 23 BENNETT, Derrick, 37 Meadow Street,
 East Rainton Age 52 years

SCHOOL REPORT

Recently Mr Vipond's class held a sponsored swim. The money raised came to about £90 and has been sent to the Young Save the Children Fund, to help with famine relief in Ethiopia. Before Christmas my own class organised a series of games and competitions, held during break times, by way of raising money. (These, incidentally, arose out of a lesson about 'Caring for Others' and actually coincided with the news about the famine in Ethiopia). The activities generated a great deal of fun and excitement as well as providing money for famine relief. Other, smaller groups, entirely on their own initiative, have held their own fund raising activities and altogether some £200 has been sent to Young Save the Children Fund to help those suffering so desperately in Ethiopia.

Children, I find, are naturally sympathetic to those in need and give readily both in terms of money and in energy and enthusiasm whatever the reason. (And we, as adults, must be sure that that reason is a valid one, and that their efforts are channelled towards a definite purpose which will be fulfilled).

The Young Save the Children Fund is an offshoot of the Save the Children Fund and is an ideal way of helping young people become aware of what is happening in the world beyond their own surroundings, as well as providing them with a vehicle by which they can make a real contribution towards helping the poorer nations. This is part of our Christian duty but it also helps young people realise the responsibility we all have for one another.

Young Save the Children Fund send back pennants, posters and news-sheets for their members, as well as certificates for different amounts raised. They inform the children of where and how the money is being used, and, because it is an established charity, with teams working in trouble-spots throughout the world, it can be accepted that money raised will, in the form of relief, reach the people who need it, and will not be side tracked on the way.

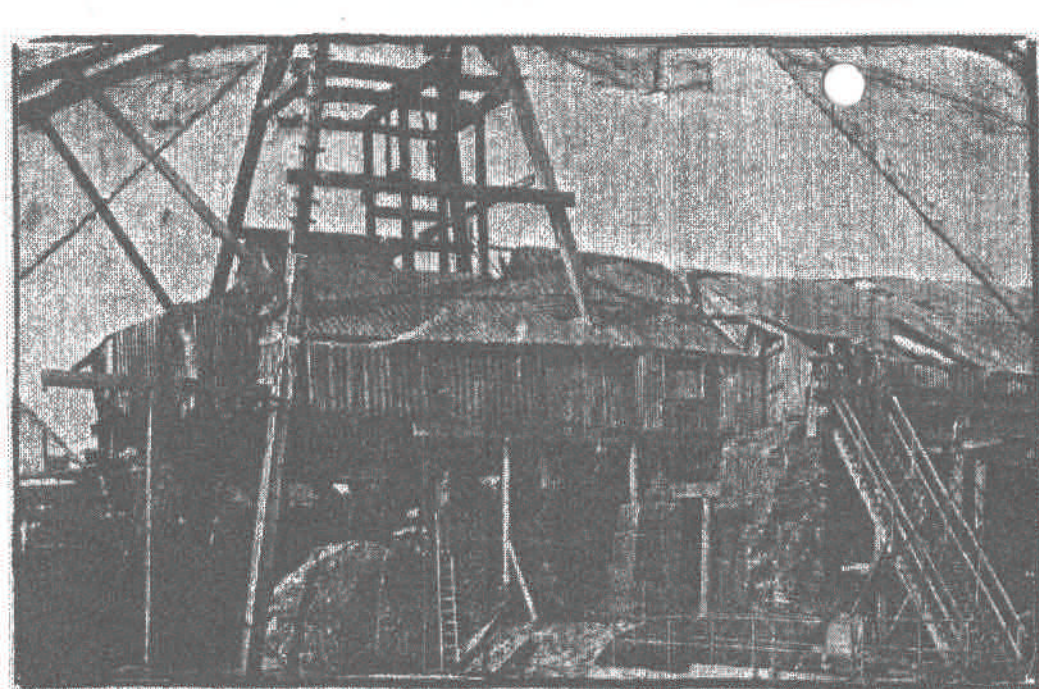
Of course it needs to be stressed once again, that we are very grateful for the support of parents and neighbours, in all our fund raising efforts, particularly to those, who because of unemployment or because they have been involved in industrial action, have still given, despite the hardship they too, are suffering. Many thanks

J. WISEMAN, Deputy Head
East Rainton Junior School

*** PLEASE NOTE ***

* The Honorary Treasurer of the Parochial Church
* Council is now Mrs. Joan Weighill of 23 Fairburn
* Avenue, Houghton-le-Spring and not Mr. Lockwood
* as printed on the cover of this magazine.
* Mrs. Weighill is also responsible for the
* distribution of magazines and requests for
* additional copies should be addressed to her.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE WILL BE THE HARVEST
FESTIVAL EDITION. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES AND
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDITOR BY 31ST JULY.



HAZARD COLLIERY

This colliery, originally sunk in the early part of the 19th century was owned for much of its life by the North Hetton Coal Company. It eventually passed into the ownership of the Lambton and Hetton Colliery Company and was closed in 1934. A Number of older residents in the village remember the colliery well and some worked there in various capacities.

The original wooden 'head gear' and screens were replaced with steel during the First World War. Until a few years ago the colliery shaft and engine house remained but they were demolished in a reclamation scheme and none of the old mine buildings now remain.

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

From time to time I hear someone's very loud voice shouting a name. After happening two or three times I have realised that it is a parent calling a child home for a meal which is ready. My neighbours may well have heard my wife or I doing the same: "Robert! Andrew! Teas ready!" Sometimes the calling works and the youngster appears at the table. But over the years it seems that a clear message is appearing - for some reason, some children, some days, do not want to come for the meal. We perhaps can recall similar situations in our own lives, when what we were doing was more important than going home for tea. Or maybe we did not want to admit that we were where the parent thought we were - doing something that we did not think the parent would approve - we might be "found out" in something. But it may have been that we were so engrossed, so enjoying what we were doing that we simply could not act on the instruction to come home, even though we knew the prize of "mother's home-made" food awaited.

Having heard neighbours calling in their offspring, sometime several times before said offspring responded, it occurs to me that God has the same problem with his children - us! He calls us to come home; he calls us to a banquet; he calls us to come in to receive free gifts. But so often we are not sure whose voice it is, so often we don't want to admit that we heard (that might involve us or commit us in some way), so often we are so busy living that we have no time to pause and find life, so often we put off saying, "Yes! I'm coming!" not because we don't want to, but because we want to finish

doing or continue doing whatever we are engaged in; saying in effect "I'm coming - in a minute!" Like St. Augustine many of us respond to God with, "O God, make me good, but not yet!" It's as if we want to go on enjoying what we are doing until later. This may account for the predominance of older people in many Churches - the lessons of life and the approach of death raise a response. Fortunately it is also true that the other most responsive age group is the child and surprisingly the teenager - they often look for idealism and the Way of Jesus makes sense to many of them.

1984 was a fascinating year. Some had looked forward to it with a dread - with all the George Orwellian ideas worrying our minds. But it turned out to be a year of thought-provoking challenges. A year in which God was very much in view - hardly a night went past without some feature on the national news on T.V., or the front page headlines of the Sunderland Echo (and other daily papers) dealing with the doctrinal issues raised by our good bishop David Jenkins, or the latest regarding Mission England and the evangelism of Dr. Billy Graham. More recently God's hand has been seen at work through his servant Terry Waite in dealing on a religious level with the Libyan leader.

This "activity of God", this intrusion into our lives and the life of the world (seen also in the human compassion and concern for a more just and equitable sharing of the world's resources in Ethiopia) is all part of God calling us to be his people and to "do it His way". It is almost as if, like the Psalmist wonders, God has been away on a

journey, or had fallen asleep and forgotten us for a while - but has suddenly come bursting in on us with all his love displayed, calling to each of us his children to come home and enjoy his company around his table.

If you have any stirrings of thought, any activity in your conscience, that you ought to do something about your life, please don't try to put it off till later or another day. Respond quite naturally to God - he is your Father (Jesus actually says he is your "Dad" - Abba!) - He is your brother - Jesus says that whoever does the will of God is brother or sister. How good to patch up a family's unity again, to restore the love that once existed. Fortunately God is not like us humans, he doesn't seek revenge or hold on to a grudge. He is like the Father in the parable of the Prodigal Son - he comes out to welcome the returning son who "has come to his senses". Lent, Passiontide, Holy Week, Easter - "Return to me" says the Lord.

May you know Joy and Peace in your heart,

R L WELSH

Vicar

WEDDING DAY - a story by Helen Tait (age 11 years)

It was ten o'clock on Saturday and our Frank was getting married. I came downstairs in me best suit, the one I keeps for funerals and weddings. I just bent down to fasten me lace and me jacket split right up the back. Our Frank screamed and complained and our youngun burst out laughing. Tom did an' all and he had been sulking.

Then the doorbell rang. The wedding car had arrived. Frank shouted "You're not coming to my wedding looking like that dad!" Then me wife came in, saw me jacket and made her presence felt in no understanding way! "You idiot. Well you'll have to stay behind until I've sewn that rip up". "I know" said our Frank, "you can borrow my old suit" And he ran upstairs to get it.

He came back down a couple of minutes later with the suit. "Here", he said and he passed us the suit. I put it on. It was too small but me wife said it didn't matter so I had to sit all through the wedding as if I was trussed up in a straight jacket. At the end of the wedding all the ladies were laughing!

SELF-JUDGEMENT

I have to live with myself, and so
I want to be fit for myself to know;
I want to be able as days go by,
Always to look myself straight in the eye.
I don't want to stand with the setting sun
And hate myself for the things I've done.

Edgar A. Guest