

## Church Newsletter June 1960 Extract

The annual garden party takes place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June in the Rectory Garden. The proceeds are for the repair of the walls of the Churchyard. It will be opened at 3.00pm and there will be the usual stalls and other attractions. Admission is free.

Many of you will have heard of the proposed modernisation and extension of one of the schools in the village. The authorities have chosen bottom school for this purpose. As the choice has appeared to have caused some anxiety a public meeting will be held in the church Hall on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 8.00pm, when representatives of the LEA will explain the authorities plans.

In 1536 the authorities of the church and state ordered that throughout England the dedication festival of all parish churches should be kept on the first Sunday in October.

Perhaps the reason for this order was that the actual date of dedication had been lost for there are few if any ancient churches which have any record of this event.

The occurrence of "Wakes" (as they are called in the north) and "Feast" Sundays as they are called in Northamptonshire may however have a connection with the annual commemoration of the saint under whose protection both the local community and church were placed.

Our own church is dedicated to God in commemoration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The feast occurs in July and the nearest festival of the Blessed Virgin Memory to the date is the visitation of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth mother of St John the Baptist. The only fact against this identification is the fact that the feast of the visitation was not founded until approximately 1400.

Feast Sunday then, is a religious festival probably commemorating the original dedication of the building to God in the name of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It has a long history going back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century when the lord of the manor founded the church and appointed the person / parson. Many millions have worshipped within the walls, been baptised, confirmed, and married. It stands there by the Nene, its spire pointing like a finger to the skies.

It is the house of God reminding all who pass it of the abiding realities of life and death.

"How inspiring is this place. This is none other but the house of God and this is the gate of Heaven"  
Genesis ch28 v 17