

## Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary



Clipping/Clypping/  
Yeclepping the Church

### Clipping/Clypping the Church

Clipping has its source in the old Anglo-Saxon word *clyppan* meaning to embrace or clasp. The congregants ring the church clasping hands, usually facing outward, but not always. A hymn may be sung. Then there will be a sermon in the church followed by refreshments. Easter Monday, or Shrove Tuesday are traditional dates for a clipping. The earliest written reference goes back to 1825, but the custom has much earlier origins, not necessarily pagan.

Among the few churches that continue to observe the custom are St Peter's, Edgmond, Shropshire (revived 1867), St. Mary's, Painswick, Gloucestershire (now only with children) and several other churches. At St. Lawrence, Somerset, (1850 painting) the people dance around the church then rush at it cheering. The 11<sup>th</sup> century church of St. Andrew, Wissett, revived the custom as an ecumenical event with gourmet food and the Salvation Army band. All in all, clipping is a charming custom, and a way of expressing our love for and desire to protect our church.