



January, 2003

PARISH NEWS

Pett Level

"The Rector's Reflections in Rosemary and Peter James Lanes"
 or
"Bernard's Baffling Bemusements whilst traversing the Benefice"

Although I gave up on New Year resolutions years ago, there is something when we stand on the threshold of a New Year that urges us to improvement or achievement. Hope always springs eternal in the human breast.

For me the greatest encouragement at the start of a New Year is to look back to the last. Unfortunately, reviewing reveals many mistakes (too many of the same) and always the feeling that I could have handled or done things better. But nevertheless, despite failings and weaknesses, I have the real sense that God has been there, not only alongside, but guiding and leading. I can join with the words of Psalm 139 and say, *"Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord"* and, *"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before they came to be."*

The sense of God's presence is very reassuring, but also, very profound. Quoting from the same Psalm, *"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain."*

So because I can't be profound for too long (another of my failings) I usually end up singing that lovely, simple song which some may be familiar with. I print it here in full because all the words are simple and true and if you don't know the tune, I'll sing it to you some time.

I do not know what lies ahead
 the way I cannot see;
 Yet One stands near to be my guide,
 He'll show the way to me.

*I know who holds the future,
 and He'll guide me by his hand;
 with God things don't just happen,
 everything by Him is planned.
 So as I face tomorrow
 with its problems large and small
 I'll trust the God of miracles, give to Him my all.*

I do not know how many days
 of life are mine to spend;
 but One who knows and cares for me,
 will keep me to the end.
I know who holds the future

I do not know the course ahead
 what joys and griefs are there;
 but One is near who fully knows,
 I'll trust his loving care.
I know who holds the future

With every blessing and wishing everyone a happy New Year.

Bernard Crosby

GUESTLING ROTAS FOR JANUARY 2003

- 5 MORNING PRAYER - 2nd Sunday Of Christmas (White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Mr Ken Holmes
 FLOWERS - Mrs Wicking, Mrs Hull, Miss Quaife
 SIDESMEN - Mrs Williams, Mr Jennings
 READERS - Mr Tytherleigh - Jeremiah 31:7-14
 - Mr Greenwood - Ephesians 1:3-14
- 12 PARISH COMMUNION - 1st Sunday Of Epiphany (Gold or White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Geoffrey Brooke
 FLOWERS - Mrs Carpenter, Mrs Coppins, Lady Ashburnham
 SIDESMEN - Mrs M Smith, Mrs Broadhurst
 ELEMENTS - Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Williams
 READERS - Miss S Barnett - Genesis 1:1-5
 - Mrs M Smith - Acts 19:1-7
- 19 PARISH COMMUNION - 2nd Sunday Of Epiphany (White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman
 FLOWERS - Mrs J Perry, Mrs Greenwood, Mrs Beal
 SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs J Perry
 ELEMENTS - Mrs Betson, Mr Jury
 READERS - Mr Barnett - 1 Samuel 3:1-10
 - Lady Ashburnham - Revelation 5: 1-10
- 26 PARISH COMMUNION - 3rd Sunday Of Epiphany (White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Geoffrey Brooke
 FLOWERS - Mrs Jennings, Mrs Griffiths, Mrs G Perry
 SIDESMEN - Mr Perry, Mrs Gilbey
 ELEMENTS - Mrs M Smith, Mrs Broadhurst
 READERS - Mr Perry - Genesis 14:17-20
 - Mrs Gilbey - Revelation 19:6-10

PETT & PETT LEVEL ROTAS JANUARY 2003

- 5 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION - Pett
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Geoffrey Brooke
 INTERCESSIONS - Miss M Deasy
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs D Goodsell, Mrs K Jury
 SERVER - Mr T Coby
 READER - Mrs J Coby - Ephesians 3,1-12
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack
- 12 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION - COMMON WORSHIP - Pett Level
 CELEBRANT - Revd Bernard Crosby
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - Revelations 5,1-10
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs R Moon
- 10.45am METHODIST COVENANT SERVICE - Methodist Church
 LED BY - Revd Derek Brice
 PREACHER - Miss M Deasy
- 19 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION - Pett
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Bernard Crosby
 INTERCESSIONS - Mrs A Hawksley
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs D Goodsell, Mrs K Jury
 SERVER - Mr J Underwood
 READER - Mr J Underwood - Revelations 5,1-10
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs A Hawksley
- 26 8.00am HOLY COMMUNION BCP - Pett Level
 CELEBRANT - Revd Bernard Crosby
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley - Romans 12,16-21
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs M Parsons
- 9.30am MORNING WORSHIP - A special service for Farm Africa - Pett
 LEADER - Miss M Deasy
 SPEAKER - Mr T Jury
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs K Jury, Mrs A Hawksley
 READERS - Miss M Turner - to be arranged
 - Mr K Gill - to be arranged
- 2 FEBRUARY 9.30am PARISH COMMUNION - Pett
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Geoffrey Brooke
 INTERCESSIONS - Mr J & Mrs R Taylor
 SIDESPERSONS - Mr T & Mrs P Hindson
 SERVER - Mr T Coby
 READER - Mrs J Coby - Hebrews 2,14-18
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack

SERVICES IN FAIRLIGHT

5 January - Second of Christmas or Epiphany
 8.00am Holy Communion - St Peter's - Bernard Crosby
 10.30am Family Service - Bernard Crosby

12 January - First Sunday after Epiphany or Baptism of Christ
 10.30am Morning Prayer - Ken Holmes
 6.30pm Evening Prayer - Meriel Deasy

19 January - Second after Epiphany
 8.00am Holy Communion - Bernard Crosby
 10.30am Parish Communion - Owen Thomas and Ken Holmes
 6.30pm Praise and Worship - St Peter's

26 January - Third after Epiphany
 10.30am Morning Prayer - Bernard Crosby
 6.30pm Holy Communion - Bernard Crosby

2 February - The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
 8.00am Holy Communion - Bernard Crosby
 10.30am Family Service - Bernard Crosby

A BIG "THANK YOU" - Ken and Val Gill would like to thank everyone for their great support, cards, good wishes and prayers during Ken's recent illness and incapacitation. It has been completely overwhelming and something we will always remember with much gratitude. Ken is improving slowly with lots of TLC which he hopes will not stop (a rather drastic way of obtaining it in the first place and definitely not recommended!). Once again, our grateful thanks. Take care and God bless (1 Thes 5 Vs 23 & 24).

THE BIBLE SOCIETY will be holding a China evening in Rye Baptist Church on 6 January. Please arrive at 6pm for a 6.30pm start. There will be a Chinese meal followed by a talk by a speaker from the Bible Society. Admission is free and you are invited to join us. If you are interested, please ring Maureen Griffiths on 751558.

A 5 DAY HOLIDAY to Monet's gardens and house. Staying in St Valery-en-Caux in Normandy and visiting Rouen, Joan of Arc Church etc, Calvados farm, Honfleur and other interesting places. Dinner, bed & breakfast costs £279 per person with 40 people, and £269 per person with 45 people. This is with Waterhouse Direct, leaving on 30 June 2003. Pick up in Pett. For a full itinerary, contact Beryl Vick on 814188.

ALPHA

There is a lot of ignorance about Christianity. People presume to know about it and yet haven't really studied the evidence. Not only the people outside the church but also in the church there are many who are confused and uncertain about why they go to church and worship. If you are a churchgoer and would like to understand more, or if you wish to find out more about the Christian faith then come to Alpha, because it is for:

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith. People of all ages are welcome.

Learning and laughing. It is possible to learn about the Christian faith and have fun at the same time.

People meeting together. An opportunity to get to know each other and to make new friends.

Helping one another. The small groups give you a chance to discuss issues raised during the talks.

Ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is regarded as too simple or hostile.

There is an
Introductory Evening at 7.00pm on Tuesday 14 January 2003
 at St Peter's Church, Waites Lane, Fairlight
 and the 10 week course will begin on
Tuesday 4 February 2003, again 7.00pm at St Peter's

If you are interested, contact
 Revd Bernard Crosby tel: 812799
 Mr John Miles tel: 812913
 Mr Graham Atfield tel: 717382

PETT VILLAGE HALL EVENT

You do not have to go far to enjoy "A NIGHT AT THE RACES". In fact, it is coming to you on 22 February at 7.30pm.

The management committee have engaged the services of a professional compere to host the evening and provide up-to-the-minute British horse races, with a commentary by BBC Radio's Peter Bromley. Before the races are shown, an introductory film sets the scene for the evening's entertainment. The compere will explain the rules and introduce the tote betting system. Even if you have never seen a horse race before, you can't fail to understand what is going on and experience all the fun of the races.

There will be a fully stocked bar and the ticket price of £4 will include a free chilli supper. So why not keep this evening clear and join in? You can, if you wish, pre book a table for your own party and own your own racehorse for the night. You could be a winner!

Contact Ali Hudson 814175 ... Chris Saint 813047 ... Terry Cox 813967 for tickets, or Phil in his Butchers Shop from mid January. Corporate and other groups are especially welcome.

Hall Management Committee

FLICKS IN THE VILLAGE

Our December film "About A Boy" attracted our 500th member of the audience and we even had a round of applause at the end of the evening show. This was a real milestone in the establishment of our local film society and a tribute to the growing support Pett and the surrounding villages have given. A BIG thank you to you all.

Some of you may have been expecting "The Importance of Being Ernest", but owing to unreliability of release dates, I have opted for the film "Ocean's Eleven", starring Brad Pitt, George Clooney and Julia Roberts. It will be shown on 2nd January at 7.30pm only.

If you wish to join Flicks or require any further information or wish to help with the work of the Society, contact me on 813047 or email pettbus@btinternet.com. Alternatively, collect a membership form from the Butchers Shop.

Chris Saint

PETT PLAYGROUP NEWS

Pett Playgroup children raised £5.40 for "Penny for a Guy" (the children made

the Guy themselves).

The recent table sale raised £210. Father Christmas was a huge success even though he was unable to do his "magical sleigh rides" due to bad weather!! Thank you to everyone who donated, helped and attended.

Our next event will be our "Cliff Dean Walk" and will take place on 12 January. There will be a ploughmans offered afterwards with red wine and beer. Approximate timings for the event are 11am to 3pm. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £2.50 for children, or £12 per family. To book now, contact Kate on 813784.

PARAGRAPHS FROM THE PAST:

Two items from the January 1957 issue of the Parish Magazine, both were reproduced from "The World Christian Digest".

Wedgewood and the Nobleman

A certain nobleman, paying a visit to the famous works of Josiah Wedgewood, was given a boy of fifteen as his guide, and at first shocked, but afterwards amused the boy by his bad language and scoffing at sacred things. Mr Wedgewood, who was following, was hotly indignant and when the nobleman returned to the office he picked up a vase of rare workmanship and began to point out its beauties and to describe how carefully and wonderfully it had been made.

The nobleman was charmed and held out his hand to receive the vase, but as Mr Wedgewood was handing it to the visitor he let it fall, and it lay shattered in a hundred pieces. The nobleman was very angry. He reproached his host for having destroyed the beautiful vase he had so much wanted to possess, but the potter replied, "My Lord, there are things more precious than any vase like this for you, but you can never give back to the boy who has just left us the pure heart which you have destroyed by making light of sacred things, and by using impure words."

Prayer

A young person was recently quoted as saying, "I believe in prayer, but my mother once heard me praying and said, "Son, don't bother to give God instructions; just report for duty."

John Taylor

PETT VILLAGE HALL will be holding a weekly coffee/tea morning and book exchange for senior citizens on Fridays at 10.30am, beginning on 17 January. Please come along for coffee/tea and a chat.

T Cox (Pett Village Hall Management Committee)

PETT CHURCHYARD

"The Churchyard is a sermon not only in stones but in plants and animals." This quotation is from a very informative little book called 'Wildlife in Church and Churchyard' (Nigel Cooper - 2c-2001). My own experience is that the Churchyard is an ongoing dispute rather than a sermon.

Some people feel that the grass in the Churchyard should all be cut short; others feel that the priority should be the nurturing of wildlife. As in so much of life, a balance is what is needed.

All of us who have been involved in the care of the Churchyard over the years have done our best. I am always amazed that some of the critics can be quite so unpleasant to us.

The main things I have learned are:

1 Churchyards provide such wonderful habitats for plants and wildlife because they have not been affected by herbicides, fertilisers and pesticides.

2 In order to preserve and encourage the habitats you need to plan very carefully the management of the Churchyard.

What we need is a patchwork of sites within the Churchyard which may need cutting and care at different times during the year. We have been fortunate in having John Osborn to mow the Churchyard over many years but I now propose that we need to *manage* the Churchyard. What is recommended is as follows:

- (a) survey
- (b) management plan
- (c) explanation and consultation
- (d) review of management plan

There may be a European grant (of course!) available for an attractive information noticeboard in the Churchyard.

While all this is under way, Joan Medlock and I plan to summon an ongoing Churchyard Working Party. We will meet every Saturday starting on 5 January at 9.30am. Even if we pay for help (with the generous assistance of the Parish Council) there will still be plenty to do.

Please do let me have your constructive views on any of the above.

Angela Hawksley
(Trainee Churchyard Worker & Churchwarden)
Tel: 812705

NATURE NOTES

January is named for the Roman god Janus, who guards the gate or door. He is usually depicted as having two faces, one looking backwards and one forwards - which is what most of us do at the start of a new year. If anyone is short of an idea for a new year resolution, why not make one to spend more time enjoying our beautiful local countryside? If you are unable to get out and about you can give yourself endless entertainment by setting up a bird feeding station outside your window.

Some friends on the Level saw a large white bird flying amongst several Grey Herons. It was as big as the Herons, and a similar shape. I wonder whether this could have been a Spoonbill, or the White Stork which was in the area around mid-October. Another interesting sighting was of swallows flying around the Royal Oak on 10th November.

There have been some spectacular sunrises and sunsets lately, and also some wonderful cloud formations. Early on 30th November there were three distinct layers of cloud, giving the sky a curiously 3-D effect, as though one were looking at the carved interior of an inverted bowl. The nearest clouds seemed to be moving in the opposite direction to those further away, which added to the impression. I thought that if it started snowing it would be like being inside one of those glass paperweights which produce a snowstorm when you upend them.

Mistletoe was believed by the Druids to be a gift from the gods, and the tree on which it was found - usually an apple or an oak - was sacred. It was a symbol of fertility and was also believed to have healing powers. The berries are poisonous.

By the time you read this we shall have passed the Winter Solstice. Commonly called the "shortest day", it is actually the longest night - 21-22 December. After that, although sunrise still gets later until after Christmas, the evenings start to get lighter. Rejoice and be glad!!

Avril Thurley

Copy for the February magazine should be sent to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes, Pett Road, Pett, TN35 4JG, telephone 813437 by Wednesday 15 January please.

LUNSFORD FARM DIARY

Extracts from my grandfather's diary for December 1898.

"Thursday 1st - Will took 70 bushels mangels to Mr Wadman. Got up litter from Hopgarden, thorns from Upper Chick Hill & Ellasfield, & litter from 5 acres... Drove Mr Harman to Rent Audit at Hall." (*The Lucas-Shadwell's at Fairlight Hall were Grandfather's landlords.*)

"Saturday 3rd - Will ploughing, self sowing, Fred Standen & Jack carting swedes."

"Monday 5th - Will ploughing, sowing & harrowing. Jack & self clearing swedes & Hopgarden. Jim finished pulling & then helped to fill cart."

"Wednesday 7th - Will tying straw. Jim working in garden & throwing tumpis into heap. Self Rye, sold 5 sheep for 47/- (*a man's wage for three weeks*). Fred Standen took 22 trusses seed hay to Chealls and 24 to Richardsons."

"Friday 9th - Fine day at Hendon (*his father's home*), wet till 10 at Pett. Will ploughing. Jim half day at garden. Self came down by midday train and walked out."

"Saturday 10th - Will got up 2 loads litter in morning, afternoon hook-harrowed lucerne. Fred took 50 trusses meadow hay to Vaughans, brought back 4th load from Austins. Turned Kit (*a horse*) into marsh. Started to give lambs 3 1/2 gallons oats & put them onto fold. Met John & George in evening." (*His younger brothers.*)

"Sunday 11th - Self & boys (*his brothers*) walked round Winchelsea in morning."

"Monday 12th - ... John & George, 2 Barlings, Merricks, Wickens, Mr Cook & self shot 23 rabbits. Drove boys in in evening."

"Thursday 15th - Will got load litter from 5 acres. Self (*hay*) racks etc. Jack & self put 13 big beasts into Francom from bottom ground, and got up ram."

"Wednesday 21st - Will got material for gates from Estate yard & took to Bardens. Put load dung to 8 acres. Fred Standen took 100 (*trusses*) straw to Strickland, loaded home gas lime to 3 acres. Geo Standen tied meadow hay. Self getting ready for cattle etc."

"Thursday 22nd - ... Self (*went to*) Watford (*to visit his grandparents*) & back to Hendon."

"Friday 23rd - ... Self went to Crayford, walked to Temple & stayed night." (*Crayford & Temple are near Dartford, where one of his brothers farmed.*)

"Saturday 24th - Walked over Temple, came up (*to Hendon*) with David & William." (*More brothers.*)

"Sunday 25th - Christmas Day - Very fine day. General muster in evening." (*At Hendon.*)

"Monday 26th - Will day off. Kit got into ditch in Francom but got out herself. Played golf, George & self, John & Andrew. Lost 1 game, won the other."

"Tuesday 27th - Will finished Pett Barn Field. Self came down by corridor train, walked out. Jack got 13 big bullocks in."

"Saturday 31st - ... Self went up in evening, met George & saw "La Poupee" & saw New Year in at St Paul's."

Rain was recorded on 11 days, and frost on 3.

Andrew Dunlop

PETT LEVEL NATURALISTS SOCIETY next meet on 17 January at 7.30pm in Pett Village Hall to hear Kay Gobbett talk about 'Touring America' Part 2. Visitors and new members are always very welcome.

PETT SHORT MAT BOWLS, Pett Village Hall. We have been successful in our application for a lottery grant through Awards for All. This grant will enable us to purchase all the necessary equipment to have an open evening in late January 2003. Experienced players or absolute beginners are welcome. Please telephone Ann or Tony on 813357.

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY SERVICE		PATT	
1st Service	10:00 a.m.	1st Service	10:00 a.m.
2nd Service	11:00 a.m.	2nd Service	11:00 a.m.
3rd Service	12:00 p.m.	3rd Service	12:00 p.m.
4th Service	1:00 p.m.	4th Service	1:00 p.m.
5th Service	2:00 p.m.	5th Service	2:00 p.m.

PATT LEVER - Holy Communion

8:00 a.m. - 1st & 4th Service

CHURCH OFFICERS		PATT	
CHURCHWARDEN	Mr. M. Brown	CHURCHWARDEN	Mr. M. Brown
SECRETARY	Mr. J. Green	SECRETARY	Mr. J. Green
TREASURER	Mr. J. Brown	TREASURER	Mr. J. Brown
WELL OFFERING	Mr. J. Brown	WELL OFFERING	Mr. J. Brown
LECTURE	Mr. J. Brown	LECTURE	Mr. J. Brown
DEPUTY CHURCH WARDEN	Mr. J. Brown	DEPUTY CHURCH WARDEN	Mr. J. Brown
ORGANIST & CHOIR	Mr. J. Brown	ORGANIST & CHOIR	Mr. J. Brown
DEANERY SYNOD	Mr. J. Brown	DEANERY SYNOD	Mr. J. Brown
RECTOR	Mr. J. Brown	RECTOR	Mr. J. Brown

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

GUESTLING (ALL AT 11 AM)

1st Sunday - Matins
 2nd Sunday - Parish Communion
 3rd Sunday - Family Service
 4th Sunday - Parish Communion
 5th Sunday

PETT

9.30 a.m - Parish Communion
 9.30 a.m. - Family Service
 9.30 a.m - Parish Communion
 9.30 a.m - Matins & Address

SHARED BENEFICE SERVICE

PETT LEVEL - Holy Communion

8.00 a.m - 2nd & 4th Sunday

GUESTLING

CHURCHWARDENS
 Mrs M Barnett - 754974
 Mr K Tytherleigh - 751516

SECRETARY
 Miss J M Groves - 813341

TREASURER
 Mr K Tytherleigh - 751516

FREE WILL OFFERING
 Mrs K Greenwood - 812790

ELECTORAL ROLL
 Mrs B Wicking - 438027

DEPUTY CHURCH WARDEN
 Mr J Jury - 812584

ORGANIST & CHOIR
 Mr J Springford - 830200

DEANERY SYNOD
 Mr S Challacombe

CHURCH OFFICERS

CHURCHWARDENS
 Mrs A Hawksley - 812705
 Miss P M Deasy

SECRETARY
 Mrs F Taylor - 813437

TREASURER
 Mrs A Hawksley - 812705

STEWARDSHIP RECORDER
 Mrs A Hawksley - 812705

ELECTORAL ROLL
 Mrs E Darnell

ORGANIST & CHOIR
 Mrs J Medlock - 812173

JUNIOR CHOIR AND CLUB
 Mrs E Greenfield - 813370

DEANERY SYNOD
 Mrs A Hawksley - 812705
 Mrs R Taylor - 814674

RECTOR: Rev B Crosby
 The Rectory
 Battery Hill
 Fairlight

Telephone 01424 812799