

PARISH NEWS

10p.

Pett Level

CWB

January 1986

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RECTOR'S LETTER

My Dear Friends,

During December we were fortunate to have two special speakers at our Services. On 1st, during St. Andrew's tide, we welcomed Mr. Ronnie King who came to our churches to talk about the work of Missions to Seamen. He gave us a lively talk at both Pett and Guestling and we were able to fly the Red Ensign to welcome him at Pett. I am most grateful to the anonymous donor of this flag and to Mr. Bernard Parsons who sewed in the toggles for it to be flown. Bernard has done an enormous amount of work with Eric, and they both share the care of the flags and flagpole. At Guestling we welcomed Ronnie with a special Service Sheet with a lovely picture of a Clipper Ship produced by Mr. Griffiths. "Griff" regularly finds an attractive motif on the theme of the Service and I do appreciate that. On 8th we welcomed Mr Stanley Filtness at Pett who talked to us about the work of the "Gideons". Mr Stanley Davies came to talk to us at Guestling on a similar theme. I personally find it most helpful to have special speakers, it lifts our eyes above our local concerns to what is being done by the wider church. We see something of the work of other Christians in specialist ministries, the problems of which we could be quite unaware.

The Missions to Seamen have "The Flying Angel" hostels all over the world, and chaplains and workers in all the major ports. They combat loneliness and help sailors who find themselves in unfamiliar places and potentially dangerous environments. There is much hardship among merchant seamen and often facilities for the care of the sick are far from them. In the trouble-spots of the world there is actual danger from weapons and missiles, and it is often down to the Missions to Seamen chaplains to find medical care for those coming ashore with injuries due to attacks on merchant shipping. May we keep them constantly in our prayers. The "Gideons" are a large group of professional men whose concern is that the Bible should be available to all. They work principally to provide Bibles in

hotels, hospitals, ships, prisons and schools. In places where people are most conscious of having lost their way in life, and where they are most likely to need the guidance of the Word of God, and least likely to find it. Both Mr. Filtness and Mr. Davies brought out these points most forcibly, and gave examples of many who have had cause to be grateful to the "Gideons", whose Bibles have helped them from ignorance of God's Word to a living faith. The "Gideons" also provide Bibles for new scholars in secondary schools; they contain the New Testament and Psalms. The beginning of secondary education is a point at which young people can find the scriptures a helpful guide, and Mr. Davies gave an example of a girl who had re-discovered her "Gideon" New Testament in later life and had become a Christian. She in turn had contributed most generously to the work of the "Gideons". The distribution of the scriptures runs into millions of copies each year.

The necessity of going to press early in the month sometimes means that major subjects which one would expect to be covered by my letter are not covered. Christmas is of necessity one of those subjects. At the time of writing, (December 7th), I am looking forward to all the festivities in the church and parish. I am hoping that all the extra events and services will be a tremendous success. By the time you and I read this magazine we shall know! Suffice it to say that I know how much care is being put into preparations for all the various aspects of Christmas and I would like to say a warm "thank you" to everyone who is working so hard so that I am sure we shall be able to say, "What a wonderful Christmas we had at our churches". I would also like to say "Thank you" in advance to all those who send cards and greetings to the Rectory; we appreciate them so much and as you know, it would just be impossible for us to reciprocate, there are simply so many and they are always so heart-warming.

At this time we are all wishing each other a Happy New Year. For each and every one of us this will mean something slightly different. Happiness in the New Year will come as our own individual concerns

and the plans of our families reach fruition. Happiness will come to us in various ways. It may come as a result of careful, meticulous planning, or it may come completely unexpectedly or as a long-awaited answer to prayer. We may be faced with some eventuality which is far from likely to bring us happiness. Whatever happens we can do no better than go into the New Year with faith and hope, casting all our care and anxiety on God. Let God become a living reality in your life, rather than the one we call on when all else has failed. "Cast your care on Him for He careth for you." The feast of Christmas sets the seal on God's care for us. He made us, but He wanted to take the fullest possible part with us so He came to us, Emmanuel - God with us.

May God bless and keep you.

Yours sincerely,

Michael.

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JANUARY SERVICES

Pett Level

12 and 25	Holy Communion	8.00
Wednesdays	Holy Communion	10.00

(It would be especially good to regard the Celebration on 1st January as Corporate Communion for both Guestling and Pett so that we are all together asking God's blessing on us in another New Year. Rector).

Pett

5 and 19	Parish Communion	9.45
12	Family Service	10.00
26	Morning Prayer	9.45

Pett Methodist

12 th	United Service to join with Methodist friends in Covenant Service	3.00
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Guestling

5	Family Service	11.00
12 and 26	Parish Communion	11.00
19	Morning Prayer	11.00

Rye Parish Church

2 Feb	Deanery Candlemas Service	6.30
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February Magazine: Closing date, 12th January.

Pett Playgroup: There will be a Jumble Sale at the Village Hall on 1st February at 2.00 p.m.

Pett Keep Fit: Classes recommence on Tuesday, 14th January in Pett Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Classes are held each Tuesday and new members will be very welcome.

New Year Disco for the Under-11s: On 2nd January from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at Pett Village Hall.

Tickets 75p in aid of FOTOP Fuel Fund. Refreshments. One or two more adult helpers are needed. Please

contact Lynda Watson (814292) or Anne Scott (813100)

Pett Level Naturalists: Mr. Clifford Dean will give the second part of his talk on "Australian Landscape and Wildlife" on Friday, 17th January at 7.30 p.m. in Pett Village Hall.

Guestling Collections: The November collections, including F.W.O. envelopes, amounted to £149 for church expenses. The total for the year to date is £2,070. In addition the Remembrance Sunday collection for the Earl Haig Fund was £27.

Feed the Hungry Fellowship: For November the amount collected was £68 which goes again to help the Sudan, via Christian Aid. We received a very warm letter of thanks from Sue Ryder (the Sue Ryder Foundation), saying how, in their terribly long hard winter, the Poles have to stand in queues for long hours in the bitter cold. Many can no longer afford their meagre rations because of astronomical rises in food prices. (This was our October collection.) So, as ever, grateful thanks indeed.

J.A.S. and I.S.

Poppy Day Appeal: The amounts collected were £136.06 in Pett and £257.02 in Guestling. The total for the Area was £955.

Pett P.C.C.: Meeting at Rectory, Tuesday 21st, 7.00 p.m.

Deanery Overseas Group: Meeting Winchelsea, Saturday 25.

Meeting Point: "Backstage at the Theatre", on Wednesday 8th January at 8.00 by Norman Coby at "Meadowcroft", Pett Road, (a few doors up from Butcher's shop towards Church Lane Crossroads).

Parish Pancake Party: Please keep Shrove Tuesday evening free. (11th February) Details next month.

Turning Round

That is the exact meaning of the word conversion, a turning round, the kind of thing which happened to St Paul on the road to Damascus. The dramatic story is told in the ninth chapter of the Book of the Acts, verses 1-30. That is a good passage to look up here and now in the beginning of a new year and the month when the Church celebrates the conversion of Paul.

What happened to him, of course, was that he was, basically, turned in another direction. He had been a persecutor of the followers of Jesus, now he became a follower himself, and one of the greatest of them all. But conversions do not have to be dramatic, like this one. They can be quiet and gradual, as with so many people. The only time we should get worried about it is when nothing in particular ever

seems to happen to us in the living of the Christian life. The very least is that it should give us a sense of direction, a way to follow.

Right Time

So the beginning of a new year is the right time to try and see where we are going. Are we going in any particular direction, or are we just drifting along? Are we going in a wrong direction, or just nowhere in particular? 'God's

reign has come into the world and the coming of Jesus. That is the good news,' as Bishop Lesslie Newbigin says in his book, *The Good Shepherd* 'It is a reality which is hidden from those who have not undergone a radical repentance, a complete turning round so as to face in the opposite direction.' That is the kind of turning round to look for, because it is that which we need, many of us, here and now as we face another year.



photo: Stephen Mayes

Great Prayers of the Bible

A Prayer for Guidance

The psalms are rich in great prayers. A very noble one is to be found in Psalm 25 and can be used, like so many of these prayers in the psalms, with particular meaning at various points of our lives. So this one is essentially a prayer for guidance as we face, in this month of January, the

challenges of another year, stretching out before us with all its unknown hazards. To know something of God's truth, and to know something of his ways, are great things to ask for. In this psalm the writer prays for protection, guidance and forgiveness. And always, among his supplications, are expressions of a trust which rests upon the steadfast love of God. That love always involves forgiveness and, since none of us is perfect, all of us need this. So the prayer for guidance in the future includes

also a plea for forgiveness of past offences.

Make me to know thy ways,
O Lord; teach me thy paths.
Lead me in thy truth, and teach
me, for thou art the God of
my salvation; for thee I wait
all the day long.
Be mindful of thy mercy, O Lord,
and of thy steadfast love, For
they have been from of old.
Remember not the sins of my
youth, or my transgressions;
according to thy steadfast love
remember me, for thy
goodness' sake!

Psalms 25.4-7 (RSV)

YOUR LETTERS



Questions? Problems? Opinions? Let the Editor hear about them. Write to 'Your Letters and Comments', *The Sign*, St Thomas House, Becket Street, Oxford, OX1 1SJ. Please enclose s.a.e. A £4 Book Token will be sent to the writer of any letter published.

Does violence on TV have a bad effect on children? That was the question we put to our readers. Most, judging by the many replies, think that it does. There were, however, a few who felt otherwise. Here is a selection from letters received. — Ed

Bad Examples

My own two grandsons of seven and nine are glaring examples in their everyday emulation of their screen heroes, not only in their play but in their reactions to reprimand and discipline. Highly recommended to me by the eldest grandson as good entertainment was a programme I watched with them. It didn't take long to recognize the defiant attitudes,

karate kicks, and swaggering mannerisms of the two adored handsome stars. These were the models admired by my two grandsons and imitated by them. Only the loving care and example of their home life can help them to rise above this daily brainwashing of violence. — M. RANDALL, NORWICH

The Need to Imitate

I feel certain that violence seen on television has a bad effect on children. For a start, children of all ages have basic needs to imitate and experiment. This is how their own moral values are adopted and developed. Those of tender years are not equipped to be able to evaluate between what should and should not be copied. Most children will test adults in authority, whether parents, teachers, or leaders of social groups, to see how far they can go and just what is acceptable before a reprimand. Television has a bad example in this area, and children left to view alone suffer most.

— R. J. RIMMER, LYDBURY NORTH

Weak Discipline

There can really be no doubt that the amount and quality of violence seen on many television programmes today

does have a bad effect on children's behaviour. It is not only the violence of so many entertainments that is often so appalling, but also the quality of the language and speech that goes with it. The combination of bad English and badly spoken English with acts of aggression seems to pass unchecked by so many parents and schoolteachers nowadays. Discipline, consequently, is very weak and unconstructive and badly conceived entertainment is no substitute for constructive study and healthy recreation.

— G. E. BEECHY, HULL

Show at a Later Hour

I think that the young people of today know too much already, and watching programmes of this kind only shows them more ways of violence. Therefore, if such films must be shown, I suggest it is at a much later hour during the evening when most children have gone to bed.

— B.E.M. PEAT, BRIGHTON

Another Viewpoint

Generally speaking, violence on TV has little or no effect on children. There is no evidence to suggest that the way in which children behave has anything to do with the kind of TV programmes they watch. Before the age of TV, older readers will recall the host of 'Tuppenny Bloods', as the weekly magazines read by all boys in the thirties were called. The main content of these was extremely violent and bloodthirsty, and the stories were greedily devoured by the nation's boyhood. But they never seemed to be translated to real life behaviour.

— K. E. BECKET, ILFORD

Tablets for Today



A simple guide to the Commandments.

by Canon William Purcell

IT IS TIME the Ten Commandments were looked at afresh. Many readers of *The Sign* have said so and they are right. The fact is that the Commandments have a great deal to say which is meaningful in the world of 1986. Where exactly, do they fit into life now?

It is a fact of experience that without some generally accepted standards of behaviour confusion can result. No one questions, for instance, the making of traffic regulations, such as being commanded to drive on the right in this country. That is because it is generally recognized that without such regulations accidents would result. But how far does this principle reach? Does it extend into areas of human experience where moral judgements arise, and where issues of right and wrong are involved. Is there in fact any standard to which we can still appeal when faced with the many forms in which the question 'why shouldn't I?' can present itself?

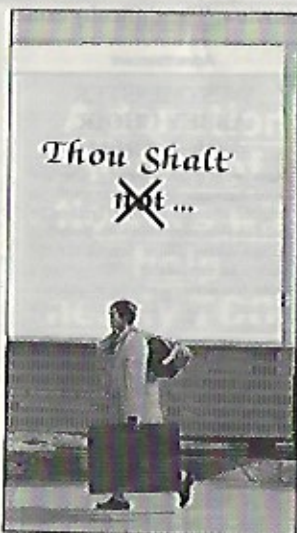
So is there in practice any body of moral law which carries absolute authority and is meaningful in all ages and

places and is strong enough to serve as a guide to how we should conduct ourselves? This question is not new. But an answer to it is now more necessary than ever. For example, in the field of sexual morality, the possibility of pregnancy might have had some effect in discouraging promiscuity. But the advent of the contraceptive pill has altered all that. And, in the whole realm of military affairs, the advent of the bomb has raised acute questions as to whether and when war is ever justified. Without religious conviction moral standards of any sort perish because there is nothing to underpin them. But moral standards of that heavyweight are rare. They cannot be invented. They have to be discovered. It can be discovered in the Ten Commandments — still.

Reputation

The reputation of these Commandments was once very great. But in modern times, they have tended to drop out of sight, which is a great loss and a great pity. The purpose of this series in *The Sign*, of which this is the first article, will be to look at them afresh.

They should be called an attempt at maker's instructions for the conduct of human life and are presented in the Bible as taking their authority from a source high above time and circumstance, with God alone. What is more, the Commandments proclaim principles of universal value, which is yet another reason why they deserve an unprejudiced look by all concerned with sanity in human relationships. Covetousness, to take one instance, is an evil in any society. Murder, theft, lying and adultery are destructive of the good life under any banner. These things are universal so principles are needed for a proper ordering of all lives.



The great thing is to find what the Commandments in fact really mean for today. And that is what these articles will be about, starting next month with the First Commandment 'I am the Lord your God: you shall have no other gods before me'.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 W Naming of Jesus
- 5 S 2 after Christmas
- 6 M Epiphany
- 12 S 1 after Epiphany
- 19 S 2 after Epiphany
- 25 Sa Conversion of St Paul
- 26 S 9 before Easter (3 before Lent, Septuagesima)

MY FAITH

The Schoolmaster

By Barry Ford

Deputy Headmaster of an Oxford school

The question of the place of 'faith' in one's work was brought home to me about ten years ago when I was appointed as Deputy Head in a Church of England Comprehensive School. During my interview I had been tested with questions on current educational thoughts and development, all of which were dealt with following the correct preparation before the interview. The difficulty came



when a priest on the interviewing panel quietly leant forward and asked, 'Tell us, how would you show your Christian commitment in your classroom teaching?' Inwardly I gasped as I realized that of all the questions asked this one was the most fundamental, and the danger is that until it is considered one takes the situation for granted.

Commitment

Appointed I was, and in the ensuing years the places of commitment and faith have been central to my work in school. Teaching, and administrating, in an inner-city Comprehensive School, is not straightforward, as in recent years social pressures have entered the organization of a school as never before. The twin prongs of education, the pastoral and the academic must ideally be interwoven, with patience and flexibility being the two guiding principles if one's faith is to be kept going in a constructive way. Specifically, in my own subject of English, one is aware of qualities of human nature and behaviour which

one learns to respect and understand. The purpose of education in preparing young people for the outside world is helped if one has faith in the individual qualities of the pupils. No pupil should be 'written off,' as talents, sometimes hidden for years, do emerge by careful coaxing and encouragement. Allowing the pupils to have faith in themselves helps enormously. This faith extends in my own case to the multi-cultural qualities of the school. There is generally a healthiness in the relationships between young people of different cultural backgrounds, and this in turn helps one to have faith in society in the future.

New perspective

Just over a year ago a new perspective of faith emerged for me when a new school was formed by the amalgamation of the Church of England school with a Roman Catholic school. Christian faith rather than sectarian faith was the result. Differences and difficulties there may be between the Anglicans and Roman Catholics but I am happy to say that these unite us rather than divide us, as life has been enriched in so many ways ecumenically by the amalgamation. If understanding another's faith helps one's own faith to grow then in my present situation I am in a privileged position. In the shock following the question of my Christian commitment all those years ago I was not aware of what I said in reply to the priest. But now, it is sufficient to say 'Jesus, yesterday, today and tomorrow.' That, for me, is the core of belief and my guiding principle.

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in Elizabeth's reign



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RICHARD HOOKER, BY HIS WRITINGS, SHOWS THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND TO BE TRULY CATHOLIC



ELIZABETH SUCCEEDS IN RESTORING DECENT WORSHIP THROUGHOUT ENGLAND

AFTER THE FINAL DEFEAT OF PERSISTENT ATTEMPTS, BACKED BY SPAIN, TO RESTORE ROMAN CATHOLICISM, THE ENGLISH CHURCH IS SEEN AS CATHOLIC AND REFORMED

Illustrated by C. W. Bacon M.S.A.D.

Smile Please

When the results were announced, aunts were thrown across the house and there were cries of 'resign'.

Parliamentary Report

Bible Quiz

Find these references to Dust

1. Who smote the dust of the earth?
2. Who had dust and stones flung at him?
3. Who were told 'Shake off the dust of your feet'?
4. Who threw dust into the air?
5. Who said he would sleep in the dust?
6. Whose soul was 'bowed down to the dust'?

Solution on page 7

Light on Old Sayings

To Upstage Someone
To put another person down by assuming airs of consequence and superiority.



This comes from the language of the theatre. Most stages slope slightly from the footlights up towards the rear. So an actor 'upstage' that is, towards the rear, is in a position to speak towards other players near the front.

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A donation in lieu of flowers will help nearly 7000 children get a little more out of life.

The Children's Society.
The Church of England Children's Society,
Old Town Hall, Kennington Road,
Kennington,
London SE11 4QD.

QUESTION COMPETITION REPORT

We asked readers, *Does violence on TV have a bad effect on children?* The winning reply comes from G. Cremer of Hornsey, who writes:

The bad effect of TV on children is greatly exaggerated. Children are great mimics and

no doubt do try to imitate some of the stunts they see on TV. But there are also many good educational programmes to counteract the bad ones. The violence aspect gets a great deal of unwarranted publicity, but little or nothing is said about the good achieved. Lack of home influence in our present society has much to do with child behaviour today. Parents who blame TV for their children's behaviour should ask themselves what they are doing to resist it.

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What Do You Think?

Question Competition

If you could write an eleventh commandment what would it be?

Answers in not more than 100 words, should be sent to Question Competition, The Sign, St Thomas House, Becket Street, Oxford OX1 1SJ by 31 January. A £6 Book Token will be awarded to the winning entry.

WOMEN TODAY

by Marjorie Idle

A happy New Year to you all. I very much enjoyed your letters last year and look forward to this year's.

Great water containers

I have been reading 'The Mothers' Union World-Wide News'. It gives a vivid picture of the Mothers' Union at work in missionary situations overseas.

A member writes, 'It was distressing to see the problems in the drought areas... but in one village MU members have been providing and erecting great water containers ready for the rain when it does come'. A thousand members gathered in South Africa, most of whom had heard of the meeting by word of mouth, 'usually bus drivers stopping at trading posts'.

continued on page eight

COME, TASTE & SEE

COME to the 2nd Christian Resources Exhibition at the Royal Horticultural New and Old Halls, Westminster, London SW1.

TASTE for yourself the plentiful provision that exists in all areas of God's work. SEE what has been built up from the success of the first exhibition. A huge increase in the number of standholders who have come together to serve the needs of your parish, church, school or ministry; to assist clergy and lay leaders of all denominations in every aspect of church management, the provision of worship, community work, education and outreach.

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Opening Hours — 5th & 7th February 10 am-6 pm.
6th February Special late night, 8th February 10 am-5 pm.

Admission £2 — 10% reduction for party groups of 10 or more.

Send for leaflets, including lecture programme, stating quantity required from: Christian Resources Exhibition, P.O. Box 242, Speen, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP17 0SX. Tel: (024028) 675.



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FOR CHILDREN

Have you noticed, in the lists of prizewinners, that some names occur over and over again? Do you know why that is? It is because these children keep on trying, month by month, and never give up. Sometimes a whole class in a school, or a Sunday school, send in entries each month, so that you can be sure that one day someone in that class will get a prize. How about making a New Year resolution never to give up trying for whatever you may want? Here is a story of a king who did just that.

Jennie



Illustration by Charles Bannerman

The King who tried again

In the year 1305 Scotland decided it wanted a king of its own, and crowned Robert Bruce. The King of England was angry, and sent an army to fight the Scots, and

'The spider has taught me a lesson', thought Robert. He gathered his army together, and after many battles defeated the English. King Edward III was forced to declare Scotland to be an independent country, with its own King — and all because of a spider!

Competition. Draw a picture of a spider's web on a frosty day. Send, by 31 January, with name, age and address, to Jennie, St Thomas House, Becket Street, Oxford OX1 1SJ. Prizes.

Solution to Bible Quiz
on page 5

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Ex. 8.17 | 4. Acts 22.23 |
| 2. 2 Sam. 16.13 | 5. Job 7.21 |
| 3. Matt. 10.14 | 6. Ps. 44.25 |

Think it Over

The only light upon the future is faith.

Theodor Hoecker

Prizewinners: For Children,
August 1985.

Ruth Bestwick, Timperley.
Kim Court, Alvechurch.
Julia Pick, Driffield.

New Light on the Parables

by the Revd Dr A. L. Moore

A secret for the time being

He said to them, 'Do you bring in the lamp to put it under the meal-tub, or under the bed? Surely it is brought to be set on the lamp-stand? For nothing is hidden unless it is to be disclosed, and nothing put under cover unless it is to come into the open. If you have ears to hear, then hear.'

Mark 4.21-23 (NEB)

THIS IS A parable about the parables. Jesus was always telling stories, many of them now well-known and well-loved, stories like the Good Samaritan or the Prodigal Son.

Helpful

We think of them as helpful, easily-understood illustrations of his message (rather like sermon illustrations). But this is not the whole truth. The word 'parable' comes from the Greek meaning 'put alongside' and therefore it does indeed denote an illustration, perhaps a clear portrayal in story form of an otherwise difficult message. But in the Greek translation of the Old Testament 'parable' is used to render a Hebrew word with a much wider range of meanings including 'enigma', 'puzzle' or 'riddle'. With this background in mind we shall expect Jesus' parables to be like riddles, not transparently clear but rather puzzling and perplexing. (That is why

apparently the disciples even could not readily understand them, see Mark 4.10-20 and 4.34.)

Master teacher

Jesus was the master teacher. What better way to capture an audience than by telling stories? What better method of deepening understanding than by presenting puzzles that the hearer must work out for himself? But in speaking in riddles Jesus was doing more than showing himself an able teacher. He was carrying out in his speech a policy which he also carried through in his person; a policy, moreover, to which God has always been committed in his dealings with mankind. We might call it the policy of concealed revelation. God discloses himself, yet at the same moment conceals himself — and he does this so as not to overwhelm us or deprive us of our sanity (for who can see God in his full light and retain his senses?). So, in Jesus God reveals himself; yet he also conceals himself in the guise of a carpenter. In Jesus' speech God reveals himself, for Jesus speaks divine truth ('no man ever spoke like this man', John 7.46), yet this divine truth is veiled within the form of a puzzle.

Only temporary

But our parable reminds us that this concealment is only temporary. For just as light is meant to dispel darkness, so God's light is intended to be seen and understood. God humbly veils his light for the time being and speaks to us in riddles now, but ultimately we shall see him as he truly is and he will speak to us plainly (see John 16.29).

WOMEN TODAY from page six
I skimmed down the Wave of Prayer, praying for today's names. I recommend it to help your prayers too.

Charity shop

January is the time for moving our possessions along. Most towns have a charity shop where surplus gifts and chattels are received with open arms. Our Oxfam shop has a visiting jeweller who mends and values any watches they are given.



photo: Oxfam

And the blouses! One woman's mistake is the next woman's treasure. So give those nice oddments to charity and have a tidier cupboard before spring-cleaning begins.

Memories

Thank you for a large post about memorial stones. I shall be printing some of your comments next month.

Who's cooking?

Who cooked your Christmas dinner? Are there any good reasons why men shouldn't cook? Write and tell me what you think. Please send your letters to Mrs M. Idle, c/o Saint Thomas House, Becket Street, Oxford OX1 1SJ.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

We welcome:-

Jennifer Groombridge, daughter of Stephen and Jacqueline, baptised at Pett on 8th December.

Jennifer Kate Millman, daughter of Robert and Lindsay and granddaughter of David and Maureen Griffiths, baptised at Guestling on 8th December.

May God bless them and their families.

Funerals

We commend to God's keeping the souls of:-

John Gibbs

Gertrude Walker

Zoe Keilich

Mr. Haines

Doris Smith

Simone Stunt

Elizabeth Coote

Our sympathy goes to their families in their bereavement.

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RECTOR'S NOTES

Guestling Churchyard

We have reached a point which our ancestors must have reached on several occasions before us; the time when only one more space exists for the last interment before the churchyard is full. This problem was foreseen by my predecessors who made some enquiries and took certain steps against the time when we should have to decide what is best in the short term and long term future of the churchyard and its place in the community. There are three alternative solutions: I will set them out for you.

1. The most obvious is to go through the legal process of having the churchyard officially closed to further interments. There could be no more burials, so that those who specifically requested burial would have to be buried in Hastings Corporation cemetery whereas they had envisaged a plot in the local churchyard. As I understand it, interment of ashes could still take place in the churchyard.
2. The second alternative would be to approach a local land-owner and request the purchase of a piece of land as an extension to the already extended and large churchyard where great difficulty is experienced in its upkeep. The disadvantages are obvious. Such a purchase would render another acre of valuable agricultural land lost to agriculture, and it would be a further expense for the

6 local community to sustain in purchasing at commercial rates in inflationary times.

3. The third alternative is to re-inter the area of the churchyard which has not been used for burials for 150 years. The requirement of law is 100 years. Some years ago an area was found fulfilling the requirements and a faculty was obtained to permit removal of the remaining decayed stones. This area is highly suitable for reinterment. The advantages are obvious. Residents of the Parish who have requested burial rather than cremation could rest in the assurance that they could be buried in a churchyard where perhaps their parents and relatives have been laid to rest. In the second place it would mean that quite a large area of the old churchyard now so sadly overgrown would be brought back into use with the interest and care of relatives with new graves there. At present the ancient graves receive no attention since after 150 years no relatives survive to care for them. If we were to adopt this course, I do not envisage the problem arising again for many years. It would be gratifying to know that the facility of burial at the local parish church was still available to the very few who still wish it.

This is obviously a very delicate area, but I hope I have said enough to reassure you that no step will be taken without the most careful thought. The area designated as that in which new burials could take place has been marked out and will shortly be cleared of undergrowth so that it can be inspected by anyone wishing to see it. I will be very happy to talk to anyone who would like to discuss it with me. I have discussed it with the P.C.C. and there is an overwhelming measure of agreement that of the three options the third one is the most acceptable.

Rebinding of Pett Hymn Books

You will have noticed that the Ancient and Modern Revised Hymn Books have been rebound most beautifully. Avril managed to find Mr Ash of Sussex Binders who agreed to do 70 books for £15. In addition to binding, he has stamped each one with the original lettering and we are most grateful to him for doing this. Mr. Ash is currently rebinding the Lectern Bible which has been in use for 120 years and is a link with the rebuilding of Pett Church. It was a gift from parishioners to the Church when it replaced a previous one on the site. Thank you Avril and Mr. Ash. We are delighted.

Mission Praise Hymn Book

As a result of the generosity of an anonymous donor we have bought congregational copies and 6 full music copies for the choir. Mission Praise is a new book which brings together many "old favourites" from various denominational backgrounds, and as such is a most useful book for a village church where many have worshipped in other traditions as well as C of E. It contains the wonderful hymn "And can it be" by Charles Wesley with which we commenced our Confirmation Service. Bishop Peter liked it and wrote to me requesting words and music. There are also many modern hymns which are coming into regular Anglican use. My most grateful thanks to such a generous donor.

Guestling Lych Gate

A favourable quotation for renewing the lych gates in substantially their original style and in good old English Oak has been received. Sir Denny Ashburnham has very kindly agreed to finance this work and we are most grateful to him for his kind and most generous gesture. The gates were originally placed there as a memorial to his grandfather. The work is shortly to be undertaken, as also is replacement of rotted guttering. It will be good to have this lovely old gate restored again.

Guestling Church Services

1. 1662 Holy Communion

In the November magazine I said that the P.C.C. had decided to experiment with Rite B on 5th Sundays, replacing the 1662 service. I had a number of people mention that they would regret losing this from our programme of Services. As the P.C.C. has no wish to hurt the feelings of worshippers for whom 1662 is precious, it has been decided to retain the 1662 Holy Communion on the 5th Sunday.

2. Family Service

The same P.C.C. expressed concern that there was no Service at Guestling for the young families of the parish. It had been suggested that a number of young mothers would be very keen to attend a family service. Therefore it has been decided to have a Family Service on the 1st Sunday each month, replacing Matins. I hope very much that the regular congregation will turn out in full strength to support this freer style of worship from Matins and more suitable for young children. The first service is on 5th January.

Guestling

- 5 Flowers: Mrs Gill, Mrs Pearson, Mrs White
Sidesmen: Mr Barnett, Mr Jennings
- 12 Flowers: Mrs Brooks, Mrs. Quaife
Sidesmen: Mrs Wicking, Mrs Saville
Elements: Mrs Sankey, Miss Groves
Readers: Mr. Tytherleigh (Isaiah 42, 1-7)
Lady Ashburnham (Ephesians 2, 1-10)
- 19 Flowers: Mrs Sankey, Mrs Rugg, Lady Ashburnham
Sidesmen: Mrs Gainsbury, Mr. McCausland
Readers: Mr Barnett (I Kings 20, 1-29)
Mrs Griffiths (Matthew 13, 44-end)
- 26 Flowers: Mrs Jennings, Mrs Saville, Mrs Williams
Sidesmen: Mr Hughes and young people
Readers: Mr Fisher (Proverbs 3, 1-8)
Mrs Williams (I Corinthians 2, 1-10)

Pett

- 29 Flowers: Mrs Medlock, Mrs Grundy
- 5 Flowers: Mrs Bacon, Mrs Owen
Sidesmen: Miss Daly, Mr. Cooper
Server: M. Plank
Reader: Miss Daly (Isaiah 60, 1-6;
Revelation 21, 22 - 22, 5)
- 12 Flowers: Mrs Jury, Mrs Butler
Sidesmen: Mrs Bowman and young people
- 19 Flowers: Mrs Strickland, Mrs Hickman
Sidesmen: Mr Underwood, Mr Slack
Server: J. Underwood
Reader: Mrs Trueman (I Samuel 3, 1-10;
Galatians 1, 11-end)
- 26 Flowers: Mrs Pannell, Mrs Harris
Sidesmen: Mrs King, Mr Ward
Reader: Mrs Scott (Job 28; Luke 6, 20-38)

Pett Level

As notified

DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

Both parishes support this most excellent work, and at the request of Mrs. F. Read, Deanery Leader, the Rector is writing a series of articles about it. The first is to appear next month. You will be pleased to know that the representative for Pett and Guestling is Mrs. Ray Taylor of Paxtead, Pett Road.

**THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCHES OF ST. LAURENCE,
QUESTLING AND ST. MARY AND ST. PETER, PETT
Diocese of Chichester**

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Pett Rectory. (Hastings 813234)

Reader:

Mr. B. W. Pannell, Pett.

Editor of Magazine and Diocesan Reader: Mr. J. King.

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Three Oaks. (Hastings 814235)

Choirmaster:

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Hillcrest, Three Oaks.
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Mrs. E. L. Carey
Miss J. M. Groves

PETT

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Organ and Choir:

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Chick Hill, Pett.

Deanery Synod:

Dr. and Mrs. E. Butchers

Diocesan Synod:

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