



SEP 1986

GUESTLING

PETT

# PARISH NEWS

10p.

Pett Level

CWB



SEPTEMBER 1986

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RECTOR'S LETTER

My Dear Friends,

May I begin by saying on behalf of Hazel and myself how touched we have been by the warmth of parishioners in the sad loss of Hazel's father. His death was most unexpected since we had no idea of the seriousness of his illness when we left for our holidays. We kept in touch with the family while we were away and we gradually reached the conclusion that our place was back at home so that Hazel could visit him and accordingly cut short our holiday. As things turned out we are so grateful that we took this course. Pett and Guestling seem to have been blessed with all the good weather since I understand it remained dry when everyone else was having rain, including us down in Somerset. While away we visited Lynton and Lynmouth; you will recall the flood disaster of the early 50's. We spent a day at Cricket St Thomas (film location for "To the Manor Born"). There is a fairly large zoo and a Shire Horse Centre and we were able to see a shire horse being re-shod. I did not envy the farrier one bit, since between him and the enormous power of the heavy horse there was only the horse's tractable goodwill! I was able to take Ian and Nicola trout-fishing to a well-stocked lake where success is guaranteed! They were able to enjoy the excitement of feeling the fighting fish and feel the satisfaction of landing about 9 in all. This contrived fishing would not suit me for long, but for a child who wants a fish every half hour or so it was ideal. The caravanning went well and we very much enjoyed our new acquisition. We also stumbled across three West Country Morris Dancing teams in Dulverton, and enjoyed their dancing. On our return home we had an afternoon at Beachy Head and were able to see a magnificent display by the Red Arrows. All in all the holiday afforded the opportunity of being in the right place at the right time.

The other day I caught the end of a programme on the radio in which an American scientist was being asked about his conviction that there were other planets in space on which life existed. We have known for some time that life could in theory exist on other planets. Science Fiction has for many years created characters who were intelligent and rational. In his talk the American scientist said that the research of his team over a period of years had led to the conclusion that there were planets in the universe which have conditions under which life could come into being and evolve in a way



similar to that with which we are familiar. In this process beings come and go through a system of selection and rejection, survival of the fittest and so on and in the course of time intelligent and rational beings evolve. If this is the case then it poses some interesting thoughts for man on earth in general, but for Christians in particular. Scientific hypothesis on the subject of Creation and the Created Order are bound to pose interesting questions for theologians. We have only to look back to such men as Copernicus (1473-1543) and to Galileo (1564-1642) to see how scientific discovery has made the church re-think its doctrine in the light of new discoveries. Both Galileo and Copernicus put forth the view that the Sun is the centre of the Universe, the Earth moves round it rather than the Earth being the centre with everything else in subordination. The question posed by this discovery was that this apparent relegation of the Earth and Man in importance in the Universe seemed to strike at the heart of the Christian Doctrine of man as the crown of Creation and first in line in relation to God. These views brought Copernicus and Galileo under attack from both the Protestants headed by Martin Luther, and the Roman Catholics whose famous Jesuits launched an attack upon their opinions. In time things settled down and it was realised that the position of the Earth in the Universe has nothing really to do with man's importance under God. In the 19th Century the opinions of Charles Darwin once more rocked the foundations of the Church's beliefs concerning creation and man. This time Darwin's opinions challenged the Old Testament belief that man was put upon the planet Earth in tack, complete, fully developed as he is known to-day. The Bible put it like this, "In the image of God" a rational, moral being.

What of the view that there could be rational life on other planets? With the hypothesis that other planets in the Universe could contain rational life, we go a stage further down the road where certain long-held doctrines may need to be re-thought. I am thinking of the subject of man in relation to God in general and his position as the primary and most perfect being in God's creation with all the privileges and responsibilities that position lays upon him. Man's pride and glory, often synonymous with his downfall stand in the balance when the possibility of other rational intelligent life in the Universe is suggested as probable. The questions which spring to mind at once are of this order. If there is rational life on other planets does that life have or believe itself to have the same position of sovereignty in creation which man believed he has? If he has, then has that rational life responded in trust and faith to its creator. In Christian doctrine, the Fall is one of the early events in man's history of failure. Murder, hatred, war and violence of all sorts have been the black

spots in a world which in itself was seen as Paradise. If there is rational life elsewhere with a relationship to God similar to our own, have these sort of black spots marred it, and if so have there been other redemptive events on a par with the Incarnation, Crucifixion, and Resurrection and Pentecost. If indeed rational life on other planets has not Fallen but has in all respects maintained its perfection then what has that to say for the pride and waywardness, the wickedness and guile of man on this planet? If that rational life has in fact Fallen have there been other Incarnations, has Jesus, The Son of God, the Word of God with God from the first visited and redeemed those beings too? What was their response to him, did they reject him as man has done in the main, or did they receive him and take him to their hearts? These questions and many like them are appropriate to theology in the event of there being rational life elsewhere in the Universe.

You may well think what is the point in thinking, let alone writing, something about a situation which is only hypothesis or scantily backed hunch; surely there are more "down to earth" subjects. I would say that it is always important to involve God in all subjects and situations. St Paul in the Epistle to the Colossians, Chapter 1, v15 onwards, reminds us of Christ's supremacy in all creation so every area falls within the scope of theology. On the other hand we are reminded that the most intricate and seemingly mundane events of our lives also fall within his scope and we need to involve God in all aspects of our life.

May God bless you,  
Yours sincerely,  
Michael

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#### The Pett Church Piano

I am delighted to be able to tell you that the piano is now back in service after an extensive over-haul and repolishing. We are also fortunate to have received the gift of a piano-stool in matching wood. I am most grateful to Mrs Joan Medlock who put this work in hand and raised the money for the over-haul at her coffee morning and also to a most generous anonymous donor who paid for the French-Polishing and gave the stool. Many thanks.

Rector



# FAMILY SOCIAL WORK THE GREAT TEA PARTY

Where can you get sandwiches, scones, cream and jam, a selection of cakes, cups of tea galore, for 50p. Why! at Icklesham Village Hall 2.30 - 4pm Tuesday 9th September. All proceeds in aid of Family Social Work. Raffle - Bring and Buy. We promise you a good afternoon. Gifts of food and raffle prizes welcome. Please contact Mrs E. White. Hastings 814380

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## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Marriage

We congratulate, Urs Eichenberger and Naomi Ceinwen Hughes on their marriage which took place at Guestling on Sunday 16th August. May God Bless them in their life together.

### Funerals

We commend to God's keeping the Souls of:

Mrs Hazel May Roffe who was buried at Guestling on Tuesday 29th July.

Mrs Kathleen Aldred. Whose funeral took place at Pett on Monday August 18th.

"Rest Eternal Grant Unto them O Lord,  
and may light perpetual shine upon them."

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

<u>Pett Level</u> 14 & 28	Holy Communion	8.00am
<u>Pett</u> 7 & 21	Parish Communion	9.45am
14	Family Service	10.00am
28	Harvest Festival: Parish Communion	9.45am
	Evensong	6.00pm
<u>Guestling</u> 7	Family Service	11.00am
14 & 28	Parish Communion	11.00am
21	Morning Prayer	11.00am

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## AROUND THE PARISHES

Pett Level Preservation Trust: There will be a Boot Fair on Saturday, 20th September on the Trust land at Pett Level in aid of the Trust.

Three Oaks W.I.: On 11th September the Speaker will be Mr Collins on "Folk Lore of Wild Flowers".

Pett Keep Fit: Classes re-commence on Tuesday, 23rd September at 7.30pm in Pett Village Hall. They are great fun, and people of all ages are welcome. If you haven't been before, don't be afraid to come and see what it is all about.

Pett Cricket Club Home Fixtures: 6, Flimwell; 7, Winchelsea; 14, Hawkhurst; 21, Newenden; 28, Gustavius Adolphus. (all at 2pm)

Royal British Legion: The next meeting takes place at The Smuggler on 1st September at 7.30pm.

Pett Level Naturalists: The first meeting of the new season will be held in Pett Village Hall at 7.30pm on Friday, 19th September. For details, see fixture card.

Meeting Point: On 17th September please meet at 8pm at Mrs E. Greenfields, 6 Rectory Park, for poetry and to see the badgers.

Pett P.C.C.: Next meeting is on Tuesday, 16th September at The Rectory at 7pm.

Guestling P.C.C.: On Friday, 5th September at 7.15pm at Park Cottage, Playing Fields, Guestling by kind permission of Mrs Gainsbury.

Three Oaks Movement to Music: Classes recommence at the Village Hall on Friday, 19th September at 7.30pm (until 9pm).

Three Oaks Flower & Vegetable Show: This will take place at the Village Hall on Saturday, 6th September at 2.30pm

Guestling Collections: The July collections were £252 and the total for the year to date is £1581.

Deanery Synod: On Friday, 26th September at Camber at 7pm.

Guestling Harvest: Supper and Entertainment on Friday, 3rd October, 7.15 for 7.30pm. A warm invitation is extended to Pett Parishioners.

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PETT SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The collection on Sea Sunday amounted to £45, and this has been sent to the Missions to Seamen. I should like to make it clear that the contents of the blue envelopes (FWO) are not included in the special collections. If you would like to contribute to the charities concerned you will need to put loose cash in the alms bag. The next special collection will be on September 28th (Harvest), when the loose collections will be sent to the Sue Ryder Foundation.

Avril Thurley (Hon. Treas. Pett)

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PETT W.I.

The September meeting on Friday, 19th will be followed by a talk by Mrs J. Field entitled "New Trends in Crafts". We shall be holding the usual Raffle and providing tea. The competition is for a Dressed Wooden Spoon; bring out your creative talent!

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SPONSORED BICYCLE RIDE

This takes place on Saturday, 6th September and our Churches will be open from 10am to 6pm to welcome and sign in visitors. Will those willing to steward please sign the rota forms in Church or advise Miss Avril Thurley or Mr John Hughes.

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SUSSEX FAMILY CONCILIATION SERVICE

The Sussex Family Conciliation Service is now in operation under the sponsorship of the Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Social Work.

Our Service aims to help couples who are separating or divorcing and experiencing conflict over matters concerning the future of their children. The continuing affection, interest and concern of both parents are important to children. Divorce or separation does not end parental responsibility and both parents should make every effort to play a vital part in the lives of their children, no matter who has custody.

Our service is not a substitute for legal advice. It is confidential. We do not investigate for or report to the Court.

At a stage when partners can be distressed and confused, we wish to offer a safe and neutral setting for couples to work out their own arrangements for the future custody and access of their children. If the partners consent, these arrangements can then be conveyed to their respective solicitors.

It is hoped that the arrangements made can be fair and satisfactory to both partners and their children. Referrals may be made by solicitors or any other agency. We also welcome direct contact from parents themselves.

Enquiries 9am - 1pm on weekdays. Tel: Brighton 550563  
Further information can be obtained from Mrs D. Elliott, Co-ordinator, Sussex Family Conciliation Service, Garton House, 22 Stanford Avenue, BRIGHTON, BN1 6DD.

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BODIES

At a certain Church there was a parishioner called Somebody, who had three friends, Anybody, Everybody and Nobody. One day Somebody pointed out a job which needed to be done. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Everybody said it wasn't his job. Nobody realised that Everybody would fail to do it, so in the end Nobody did it. Then Everybody blamed Somebody because Nobody did what Anybody could so easily have done.

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BONES

There are four types of bones in any organisation:

Jawbones - those who talk a lot about what should be done, but never actually do it.

Wishbones - those who wish someone else would do the work.

Knucklebones - those who knock everything anyone else tries to do.

Backbones - those who see what needs doing, and do it.

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OCTOBER MAGAZINE

The closing date for receipt of contributions will be 14th September.



Pett Level

- 7 Mrs Butchers 14 Miss Daly  
 21 Mrs Hawksley 28 Mrs Slack  
Sacristan: Mrs Underwood

Guestling

- 7 Flowers: Mrs Jennings, Mrs Saville, Mrs Williams  
 Sidesmen: Young people
- 14 Flowers: Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Groves, Mrs Wicking  
 Sidesmen: Mr Barnett, Mrs Wicking  
 Elements: Miss Groves, Mrs Gainsbury  
 Readers: Mr Tytherleigh (Jeremiah 32: 6-15)  
 Mrs Mitchell (Galatians 2: 15 -3:9)
- 21 Flowers: Mrs Cook, Mrs Payton, Mrs Sharman  
 Sidesmen: Mr Jennings, Mr Hughes  
 Readers: Mr Barnett (Ecclesiastes 5: 4-12)  
 Lady Ashburnham (Matthew 19: 16-end)
- 28 Flowers: Mrs Gill, Mrs Pearson, Mrs White  
 Sidesmen: Mrs Williams, Mrs Saville  
 Elements: Mrs Sankey, Mrs Quaife  
 Readers: Mr Fisher (Daniel 6: 10-23)  
 Mrs Williams (Romans 5: 1-11)

Pett

- 7 Flowers: Miss Turner, Mrs Harris  
 Sidesmen: Mrs King, Mr Slack  
 Server: J. Underwood  
 Reader: Mrs Newton (Deut 15: 7-11;  
 1 John 4: 15-end)
- 14 Flowers: Mrs Pruden, Mrs Parsons  
 Sidesmen: Mrs Bowman and young people
- 21 Flowers: Mrs Kind, Mrs Appleton  
 Sidesmen: Mr & Mrs Taylor  
 Server: M. Plank  
 Reader: Mr Taylor (Prov 3: 9-18; 2 Cor 4: 1-6)
- 28 Harvest Festival, all help please for decorating  
 Sidesmen am: Mr Underwood, Mrs White  
 pm: To be arranged  
 Server: J. Underwood  
 Reader: Mr Underwood (Readings to be arranged)

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCHES OF ST. LAURENCE,  
GUESTLING AND ST. MARY AND ST. PETER, PETT

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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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