



PARISH NEWS

10p

FEBRUARY 1988

RECTOR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Although it must seem a very long time ago, Christmas was for us a very happy time in the parish. We did all the usual things before Christmas - carol singing round the parish; we paid our annual carol-singing visit to Five Villages and performed our Nativities and services of lessons and carols in the two churches. I should like to record my thanks to all those concerned with the rehearsals and performances of the various items. I am happy to report a very gratifying number in the congregations on each occasion. The churches were beautifully decorated for the festival and my thanks are extended to the flower ladies and decorators. Thanks to all who in any way helped to increase our enjoyment of Christmas.

The last visitors to the stable were the Three Kings from the East. Traditionally, their visit is a clear indication that the gift of Our Lord Jesus Christ is a universal gift for the world and their return to their own lands a beginning of the Christian Mission. There is more to their visit than at first meets the eye. We have always taken their gifts as being prophetic as to Jesus' person and the course of His Life. Fr. Geoffrey Preston has a most thoughtful reflection on their significance in his commentary on Epiphany in his book "The Hallowing Time". They represent, he suggests, all the questions posed by a non-believing world; gold, the currency of politics, economics and commerce; frankincense, the material of worship, signifies man's questions about the divine; and myrrh, the ointment of death, "the supreme question mark set against all the activities of man. Thus all man's searching is laid at the manger, wherein lies the answer, the way, the truth and the life".

As we look forward at this Epiphany to the greater Epiphany that is yet to come, I would like to leave you with a most beautiful passage from Father Preston's book.

"With the wise men we celebrate the supreme Epiphany of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, that is, His appearing in glory at the end of time. Love for that appearing is meant to permeate our love for all the preliminary

Epiphanies; and we love them aright when our delight in them does not dilute our longing for the last and greatest Epiphany. We are given the Eucharistic bread and the bread of the Word as food for our pilgrimage, rations for the way. We are given the wine of the Eucharist and the wine of song and psalm to cheer our hearts in this our exile. But they are intended to make us more hungry and more thirsty for what we still have only in promise and forshadowing. Blessed, happy, fortunate are those who hunger and thirst like this, who still crave for God's great Epiphany even though they have already been filled with good things. Happy are they, says the Lord Himself, because they will have their fill".

In the Gospel narratives, the Epiphany is followed almost at once by the Baptism of Jesus. His Baptism marks the point when Jesus openly identified Himself with us by this act of ceremonial cleansing and a new start. It has a two way function because Baptism is that rite in which we are identified with Him. Just as Jesus came to be with us, the gifts of the three kings show how the world lies at God's feet and how the affairs of the world are God's affairs and that we must take Him into account in those affairs. This belief lies at the root of intercessory prayer. As we embark on a New Year, let us take our everyday practice from the action of the Wise Men. Let us bring the world and its needs to God, our worship to His throne and our questions and our fears. The Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

May God Bless you and give you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL.

The Prayer and Praise Group meets on Wednesday, 3rd February and the Fellowship on the 10th - both at 7.30 p.m. The remaining Wednesdays are taken up with the Lent Group Studies.

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Please note that the closing date for receiving contributions for the March Magazine is TUESDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

There were no Baptisms in December.

Marriages:

We congratulate Stephen Alan Briggs and Charon Tracey Boakes on their marriage which took place at Guestling Church on Saturday, 12th December. May God Bless them in their life together.

Funerals:

We commend to God's keeping the soul of Miss Eva Bilson whose funeral service took place at the Guestling Chapel and was followed by burial in Pett Churchyard. Our deepest sympathy goes to Miss Beryl Bilson and the family. Eva will be sadly missed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Wednesday, February 17th:	Ash Wednesday
Monday, February 22nd:	Guestling Bradshaw School Governors' Meeting. 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 23rd:	Pett P.C.C. at the Rectory. 7 p.m.

Lent Groups 1988:

As usual there will be three Lent Groups meeting in the Benefice. The groups will meet at the following times at the venues set out below.

The groups begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through Lent.

Group Meetings at Mrs. Sankey's house. St. Andrew's Peep on Wednesdays at 2.00 p.m. (Beginning Wednesday, 17th February).

Group Meeting at the Rectory. Wednesdays. 7.30 p.m. Beginning Wednesday, 17th February.

Group Meeting at the home of The Rev'd and Mrs. R. Brooks. Brighnorton, Eight Acre Lane, Three Oaks. Beginning on Tuesday, 16th February at 7.30 p.m.

The Lent Course is entitled "Who on earth are you?" The Course aims to help groups from different churches to explore and reflect relationships which people have in their family, in places where they live and work, and in the world. But it does not stop there; rather it goes on to help those taking part to see how, in those relationships, they can relate their faith in God to their daily lives and plan for action as a result of it.

The Course is very different from the kind many people are used to, for it arises from the challenge of the last national Lent Course in 1986 and responds to the needs expressed in the returned questionnaires.

Please do come to one of the Courses, especially if you have not attended before. I hope you will find them stimulating.

Rector.

AROUND THE PARISHES

Royal British Legion: The next meeting will take place on 1st February at 7.30 p.m. at The Smuggler, Pett Level.

Pett Level Naturalists' Society: Mr. George Delemare will talk on 'Around Oxney' on Friday, 19th February at 7.30 p.m. in Pett Village Hall.

Caring - Sharing: Thanks to all members of Caring - Sharing for their support in 1987. Greatly appreciated. New members very welcome. Please contact me if you would like any information. Pett 812421. Elly Elliot.

Guestling Collections and Finances: The December Collection, including F.W.O. envelopes for Church expenses, was £373 and the total for the year was £2,682. Although annual covenants, for which we are duly grateful, and the tax recovered thereon brought in a further £1,580, our Church, Parochial and Diocesan expenditure has totalled £6,850 in 1987 and will probably reach £7,800 in 1988.

While Spring Fairs and Flower Festivals help to bridge the gap, increased regular contributions either in the Collection Plate or through the Envelope Scheme, will be very welcome. Please remember that all regular contributions, whether weekly, monthly or annually, may be covenanted by those who pay tax. These benefit the Church at no extra expense to the donor.

J.M.C. Hughes

GUESTLING FREEWILL OFFERINGS 1987 - TOTAL: £877.99

1.	138.54	7.	52.00
2.	111.00	9.	11.20
3.	52.00	10.	35.00
4.	10.40	11.	41.00
5.	45.80	12.	63.00
6.	9.50	13.	125.00

14.	9.80	22.	14.65
16.	61.00	30.	26.00
17.	12.00	31.	6.10
19.	24.00	33.	30.00

Grateful thanks to all contributors.

FEED THE HUNGRY FELLOWSHIP

£120 has been collected for November and December 1987. This sum goes to 'Save the Children' towards help for the starving in Ethiopia. Grateful thanks to all members. J.A.S.

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PETT W.I.

"Small Pieces of Silver" - the Talk on 19th February, by Mrs. Hynard, should be very interesting.

The Christmas Tree Party was held on the 11th December and included a One-Act Play by members, followed by Carol Singing.

Craft Classes commenced on Wednesday, 13th January, the subject being "Calligraphy" by Mr. Rose.

Badminton continues each Wednesday morning in the Village Hall. Mrs. P. Fox.

C.M.S. LENT BOXES

The C.M.S. Lent Boxes for PETT will be available at the back of the Church from the beginning of February and all are welcome to take one. C.M.S. will be most grateful for contributions towards their most valuable work.

In their latest 'NEWSLETTER' for NGORA, UGANDA, our Link Missionaries, Tim and Frances Britton, report cattle raids, a battle between Government and Rebel troops; even an attack by Government troops on the local hospital. Because of the situation, the Patriot community is dwindling, but Tim and Frances continue their work and, in particular, the 'GO FORWARD' Programme is progressing well. (A copy of the Newsletter is displayed on the C.M.S. NOTICE BOARD in Pett Church).

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POSTING a parcel which contained a Bible to her God-daughter, a woman was asked at the Post Office 'Does it contain anything breakable?' 'Only the Ten Commandments' she replied!

GUESTLING ROTA

Flowers and Cleaning

Feb.	7th	Mrs. Gainsbury	Mrs. Groves	Mrs. Wicking
	14th	Mrs. Pearson	Mrs. Gill	Mrs. Jagger
	21st	Mrs. Brooks	Mrs. Quaife	Mrs. Parks
	28th	Mrs. Sankey	Mrs. Rugg	Lady Ashburnham
Mar.	6th	Mrs. Jennings	Mrs. Durrant	Mrs. Williams

Sidesmen

Feb.	7th	Young People	
	14th	Sir Denny Ashburnham.	Mrs. Sankey
	21st	Mr. Hughes	Miss Groves
	28th	Mr. Barnett	Mrs. Breeds

Elements

Feb.	14th	Mrs. Williams	Mrs. Quaife
	28th	Miss Groves	Mrs. Sankey

Readers

Feb.	7th	Young People	
	14th	Mr. Griffiths	Numbers 15.32-36
		Mr. Tytherleigh	Coll.1.18-23
	21st	Lady Ashburnham	Exod.17.1-13
		Mr. Barnett	Matt.26.1-30
	28th	Rev. Brooks	Gen.7.17-end
		Mrs. Brooks	1.John 3.1-10

ST. NICHOLAS ROTA

Flowers and Cleaning

Feb.	7th	Mrs. Underwood
	14th	Mrs. Slack
	21st	Mrs. Hawksley
	28th	Mrs. Butchers

SACRISTANS - Mr. & Mrs. Underwood

PETT DUTY ROTA

Flower Rota

Feb.	7th	Mrs. Rootes	Mrs. Phillips
	14th	Mrs. Medlock	Mrs. Grundy
	21st	Mrs. Jury and	helper
	28th	Mrs. Strickland	Mrs. Hickman

(No Flowers for Lent)

Servers

Feb.	7th	Julian Underwood
	21st	Mr. Bowman

Readers

Feb.	7th	Mrs. Newton	2 Kings 5.1-14.	2.Cor.12.1-10
	14th	YOUNG PEOPLE		
	21st	Mrs. Rootes	Gen.4.1-10	Heb.4.12-end
	28th	Mrs. Scott	Amos 3.	Matt.26.31-56

Sidesmen

Feb.	7th	Mr. Underwood	Mr. Ferguson
	14th	YOUNG PEOPLE	Mrs. Scott
	21st	Mrs. Rootes	Mr. Slack
	28th	Mr. King	Mrs. King

SUNDAY SERVICES

Feb.	7th	Parish Communion	Pett	9.45 am
		Family Service	Guestling	11.00 am
	14th	Holy Communion	Pett Level	8.00 am
		Family Service	Pett	10.00 am
		Parish Communion	Guestling	11.00 am
	21st	Parish Communion	Pett	9.45 am
		Matins	Guestling	11.00 am
	28th	Holy Communion	Pett Level	8.00 am
		Matins	Pett	9.45 am
		Parish Communion	Guestling	11.00 am

Holy Communion at St. Nicholas,
Pett Level, every Wednesday at 10.00 am.

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

Diocese of Chichester

Rector:

Rev. M. Butler,
Pett Rectory. (Hastings 813234)

Readers:

Mr. B.W. Pannell (Pett)
Mr. J. King (Diocese)

Editor of Magazine: Rev. R. Brooks,
"Brighnorton", Eight Acre Lane,
Three Oaks. (Hastings 754432)

Church Officers

QUESTLING

Churchwardens:

Lady Ashburnham,
Little Broomham,
Questling. (Hastings 813085)

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Holly Cottage, Pett Road,
Pett. (Hastings 813440)

Secretary:

Miss J.M. Groves,
13 Mill Lane,
Questling. (Hastings 813341)

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Mount View, Butchers Lane,
Three Oaks. (Hastings 814235)

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St. Andrews Peep,
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Haslemere, Rock Lane,
Three Oaks. (Hastings 438027)

Organist:

Mrs. S. Hughes,
Mount View, Butchers Lane,
Three Oaks. (Hastings 814235)

Choirmaster:

Mr. K. Tytherleigh,
Hillcrest, Three Oaks.
(Hastings 751516)

Deanery Synod:

Mrs. A.P. Williams
Miss J.M. Groves

PETT

Churchwardens:

Mr. B.W. Pannell,
Springdale Cottage,
Pett Road. (Hastings 812117)

Mr. J. King,
Red Gables,
Pett Road. (Hastings 813316)

Secretary:

Dr. E. Butchers,
Witchwood,
Lower Waites Lane, Fairlight.
(Hastings 813552)

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Miss Avril Thurley,
Rectory Cottage,
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Miss Avril Thurley

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Organ and Choir:

Mrs. J. Medlock,
Goldcrest, Chick Hill,
Pett. (Hastings 812173)

Deanery Synod:

Dr. and Mrs. E. Butchers

Diocesan Synod:

Mrs. A.P. Williams,
Woodbine Cottage, Pett Road,
Pett. (Hastings 813402)