



PARISH NEWS

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: Monday, February 22nd:

Ash Wednesday 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

GUES	TLING	FREEWILL	OFFERINGS	1987	-	TOTAL:	£877.99
1.	138	.54		7.		52.00	
2.	111	.00		9.		11.20	
3.	52	.00		10.	Auri 1	35.00	
4.	10	.40		11.		41.00	
5.	45	.80		12.	50	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).

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

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7th	Mrs. Gainsbury	Mrs.	Groves	Mrs.	Wicking
14th	Mrs. Pearson				Jagger
21st	Mrs. Brooks	Mrs.	Quaife		Parks
28th	Mrs. Sankey	Mrs.	Rugg	Lady	Ashburnham
6th	Mrs. Jennings	Mrs.		Mrs.	Williams
	Sides	men			
7th	Young People				
14th	Sir Denny Ashburn	nham.	Mrs. Sankev		
21st	Mr. Hughes				
28th	Mr. Barnett		Mrs. Br	eeds	
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14th	Mrs. Slack				
	14th 21st 28th 6th 7th 14th 21st 28th 7th 14th 21st 28th	7th Mrs. Gainsbury 14th Mrs. Pearson 21st Mrs. Brooks 28th Mrs. Sankey 6th Mrs. Jennings Sides 7th Young People 14th Sir Denny Ashburs 21st Mr. Hughes 28th Mr. Barnett Eleme 14th Mrs. Williams 28th Miss Groves Read 7th Young People 14th Mr. Griffiths Mr. Tytherleigh 21st Lady Ashburnham Mr. Barnett 28th Rev. Brooks Mrs. Brooks ******** ST. NICHO Flowers an	7th Mrs. Gainsbury Mrs. 14th Mrs. Pearson Mrs. 21st Mrs. Brooks Mrs. 28th Mrs. Sankey Mrs. 6th Mrs. Jennings Mrs. Sidesmen 7th Young People 14th Sir Denny Ashburnham. 21st Mr. Hughes 28th Mr. Barnett Elements 14th Mrs. Williams 28th Miss Groves Readers 7th Young People 14th Mr. Griffiths Mr. Tytherleigh 21st Lady Ashburnham Mr. Barnett 28th Rev. Brooks Mrs. Brooks ******************* ST. NICHOLAS ROT Flowers and Clean	14th Mrs. Pearson Mrs. Gill 21st Mrs. Brooks Mrs. Quaife 28th Mrs. Sankey Mrs. Rugg 6th Mrs. Jennings Mrs. Durrant Sidesmen 7th Young People 14th Sir Denny Ashburnham. Mrs. Sa 21st Mr. Hughes Miss Gr 28th Mr. Barnett Mrs. Br Elements 14th Mrs. Williams Mrs. Qu 28th Miss Groves Mrs. Sa Readers 7th Young People 14th Mr. Griffiths Numbers Mr. Tytherleigh Coll.1. 21st Lady Ashburnham Exod.17 Mr. Barnett Matt.26 28th Rev. Brooks Gen.7.1 Mrs. Brooks Gen.7.1 Mrs. Brooks T. John ***********************************	7th Mrs. Gainsbury Mrs. Groves Mrs. 14th Mrs. Pearson Mrs. Gill Mrs. 21st Mrs. Brooks Mrs. Quaife Mrs. 28th Mrs. Sankey Mrs. Rugg Lady 6th Mrs. Jennings Mrs. Durrant Mrs. Sidesmen 7th Young People 14th Sir Denny Ashburnham. Mrs. Sankey 21st Mr. Hughes Miss Groves 28th Mr. Barnett Mrs. Breeds Elements 14th Mrs. Williams Mrs. Quaife 28th Miss Groves Mrs. Sankey Readers 7th Young People 14th Mr. Griffiths Numbers 15.32 Mr. Tytherleigh Coll.1.18-23 21st Lady Ashburnham Exod.77.1-13 Mr. Barnett Matt.26.1-30 28th Rev. Brooks Gen.7.17-end Mrs. Brooks Gen.7.17-end

SACRISTANS - Mr. & Mrs. Underwood

Mrs. Hawksley

Mrs. Butchers

21st 28th

PETT DUTY ROTA

Flower Rota

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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	

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	window? a ma	
	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
a au		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.

PETT CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and friends, Pett Church has been able to send £169.50 to children's charities this Christmas. The gifts and toys which were brought to the Junior Choir's Nativity Play, together with the collection of £37.50, were given to local charities for children. Thanks go to Dr. Catherine Hollman for arranging the distribution. £23 was sent to the Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Social Work, after the Carol Service. (This may seem an unexpectedly small amount in view of the large number of people present, so perhaps I should mention that the contents of the Envelopes are pledged for Church upkeep and are, therefore, not included in special collections for charities).

The collection at our riotously successful Christingle on Christmas Eve was £64 and this was sent to the Church of England Children's Society.

Unfortunately, the first of our two scheduled Carol Singing evenings around the village had to be cancelled because of the weather. However, the rain held off (just about!) for the second evening, when we raised £45 for St. Nicholas' Fellowship, St. Leonards-on-Sea, which provides care and accommodation for young people in need. We then made our way to Rectory Park where Dr. Ann Haines revived us all with hot soup and assorted Christmas goodies.

Thank you, to all who contributed to these events, and to Michael for organising them all.

Avril Thurley.

GIFTS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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This Christmas a collection amounting to £37.50 was given, together with some beautiful toys, following the Children's Nativity Play held in Church on Sunday, December 13th.

This money and the toys were then distributed to two of the Social Services' Patch Teams in Hastings, and to the recently established East Sussex N.S.P.C.C. Child Protection Centre at Silverhill. Mrs. Fiona Cialfi and Mr. Brian Willis, Team Managers of the All Saints and Hollington Patch Teams, and Mr. Peter Dale, Team Leader, N.S.P.C.C., have asked me to convey their sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributed so generously.

Catherine Hollman.

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

Rector: Rav. 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

GUESTLING

Churchwardens: Lady Ashburnham, Little Broomham, Guestling. (Hastings 813085)

Mr. W.H. Fisher, Holly Cottage, Pett Road, Pett. (Hastings 813440)

Secretary:
Niss J.N. Groves,
13 Mill Lane,
Ouestling. (Hastings 813341)

Treasurer: Mr. J.M.C. Highes, Mount View, Butchers Lane, Three Oaks. (Hastings 814235)

Free Will Offering: Mrs. E. Sankey, St. Andrews Peep, Questling. (Hastings 812336)

Electoral Roll: Mrs. B. Wicking, Haslemere, Rock Lane, Three Oaks. (Hastings 438027)

Organist: Mrs. S. Highes, Mount View, Butchers Lane, Three Caks. (Hastings 814235)

Choirmaster: Mr. K. Tytherleigh, Hillcrest, Three Caks. (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)

Treasurer: Miss Avril Thurley, Rectory Cottage, Pett Road, Pett.

Free Will Offering: Miss Avril Thurley

Electoral Roll: Mrs. J. Gillow, Redruth, Pett Road, Pett.

Organ and Choir: Mrs. J. Medlock, Coldcrest, 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)