



PARISH NEWS

10p

APRIL 1988

The following is a reading read by the Archdeacon
Max Godden, on Sunday morning, February 28th, 1988.

OUR LORD'S SUSTAINING PRESENCE

What a difference there is between a mere memory and a presence. At first, indeed, when we have just lost a relation or friend, memory, in its importunity and anguish, seems to be and to all that a presence could do - perhaps even more. It gathers up the past and heaps it on the present; it crowds into the thoughts of a few minutes the incidents of a lifetime; it has brought about it an eagerness and a vividness which was wanting, while its object was still with us! But then memory decays. That it should do so, seems impossible at first; we protest to ourselves and to the world that it will be as fresh as ever to the last day of our existence. But memory is only the effort of the human mind, while a presence is independent of it. And the human mind has limited powers, which are easily exhausted; it cannot always continue on the strain. So a time comes when memory's first freshness passes. Then other thoughts and interests and occupations crowd in upon us and claim their share of the little all we have to give; and thus that which seemed to be so fresh and imperishable is already becoming faded and indistinct. Think of some personal friend or of any of the celebrated men whose names were on every one's lips, and who have died within the last few years. At first it seems as you might predict with confidence that the world would go on thinking and talking of them for at least a generation. But already the sure and fatal action of time upon memory, however great and striking, is making itself felt. Even in our thoughts about them, the departed are passing into the land of shadows, where shadows soon die away into that indistinguishable haze and gloom beyond.

It is otherwise with a presence, whether we see it or not; we know that it is here. If our friend is in the next room busily occupied and unable to give us his time just now, still the knowledge that he is close at hand, and can be applied to if necessary, is itself a comfort to us. We can go to him if

we like. His being here places us in a very different position from that which we should occupy if he had left us, and we could only think of him as having been with us heretofore, though really absent now. A presence is a fact, independent of our moods of mind; it is a fact whether we recognise it or not, and in our Lord's Presence there is a fullness of joy which means hope, work, power, eventual victory.

This is a factor in the life and work of the Church of Christ with which persons do not reckon who look at her only from the outside and judge of her strength and prospects as they would judge of those of any human society. They say she will die out because of this or that force which has undoubted weight in the affairs of men is for the time being telling heavily against her. If large sections of popular feeling or literature, or the public policy of some great country, or the influence of a new and enterprising philosophy, or the bias of a group of powerful minds are against her, forthwith we hear the cry, 'The mission of the Apostles is now coming to an end; the Church will fail'. Do not be in too great a haste, my good friends, about this; you have yet to reckon with a force invisible and perhaps, so far as you are concerned, unsuspected, but never more real and operative than at this moment; you have forgotten the Presence of Christ. He did retreat to Heaven when His first Apostles died; He promised to be with them unto the end of the world; He spoke not merely to the eleven before Him, but to the vast multitude of successors, who defiled before His Eye down to the utmost limits of time. 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world'. With us by His Spirit; with us in the great Sacrament of His love; with us amid weaknesses, divisions, failures, disappointments; He is with us still. And it is His Presence alone which sustains His envoys and gives to their work whatever it has had, or has, or has to have, of vigour and permanence.

Amen.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your calls, love and concern. We will be needing your practical help in the days and months to come and will unashamedly call on you. In the meantime continue with your prayers. I must write to you because I do not want you to be depressed, but full of hope.

Obviously we are all confused, but Michael wrote a lovely letter saying how much he loved and cared for us and that includes you, I know. Love is the positive thing we can draw from this - God's love for us and our love for each other. I hope you gain strength as I do from my Bible notes, for Friday. Please read Hebrews 10, 19-25 in the N.I. Version: 'Hold unswervingly to the hope - if you are tempted to swerve from loyalty to Jesus today, hang on - He is dependable, 'from Alive to God' Scripture Union.

Thank you once again. Your concern is such a blessing to us.

Love from Hazel, Ian and Nicola.

AN APPRECIATION

Michael came to us from a Team-Vicar organisation at Ovingdean (nr. Brighton), to become Rector of our combined Parishes in February 1984.

To undertake such an extensive area as the combined Parishes of Guestling and Pett is no small assignment. Extending as the Parishes do from the sea-shore of Pett Level, through the village of Pett to the sparse and scattered community of Guestling and Three Oaks, Michael had a wide and distributed area to visit. Yet it was in this area of his duties that he excelled. Each district would call upon him for his care and advice; the sick, the bereaved, young and old; each enjoyed his sympathetic approach or joyful enthusiasm, according to their circumstances.

Alike in his ministry, or in his visitations, he gave of his full wisdom and tact. The material and practical aspect of the Rector's duties found expression in the care of Church property, for both churches demanded much of his time due to extensive repairs to the roofs and walls. In this respect much time would be given to correspondence and the checking over of estimates with the Churchwardens. He enjoyed especially interviewing couples for marriage, or individuals for Baptism and Confirmation.

We all miss his fellowship and assistance, but thank God for his spiritual guidance and practical help. A private funeral service for the family only was held at Pett Church on Monday, March 7th, and the interment took place in Guestling Churchyard.

A Thanksgiving Eucharist Service was held at Guestling Church on the afternoon of Sunday, March 13th, attended by the Bishop, Archdeacon, Rural Dean and local clergy, including the Archdeacon of Colchester who was Michael's first Vicar, and the Rev. R. Chatwin, a close friend. Hazel, Ian and Nicola, together with members of the family, were present. With parishioners and friends, together with members of the Pett Level Inshore Rescue Service, for which Michael acted as Chaplain, the Church was filled to overflowing for this very memorable occasion.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms:

We welcome Jemma Cooke, one year old daughter of Richard and Lydia Cooke of 6, Glebe Cottages, Elm Lane, who was baptised on 28th February by the Rural Dean, Canon Derek Landreth.

Funeral:

The funeral took place on 3rd March of Thomas William George Twigg, aged 76.

AROUND THE PARISHES

- Royal British Legion: The next meeting will take place on 11th April at 7.30 pm. at The Smuggler, Pett Level.
- Pett Level Naturalists: Mr. & Mrs. Burt will talk on 'Botanising in Western Australia' on Friday, April 15th at 7.30 pm. in Pett Village Hall.
- Guestling Collections: The February collections, including F.W.O. envelopes for Church expenses were £211. The total for the year to date is £459.
- Meeting Point: We are still trying to arrange a visit backstage to The Stables Theatre in April. We are booking seats for Godspell in May. Please contact Anne Scott (Tel: 813100) if you are interested in either of these.

Pett Level Preservation Trust: 'Pett Level Old and New Slides' will be shown on Saturday, 9th April at 7.30 pm at the Beach Club, Pett Level.

St. Michael's Hospice: Come along to the

COFFEE MORNING

at

THREE OAKS VILLAGE HALL

Saturday, 16th April, 10.30 to NOON. Stalls - Raffles - etc. Admission 30p. Includes Coffee and Biscuits.

OTHER EVENTS AT THREE OAKS VILLAGE HALL:

Three Oaks Gardening Club: Spring Flower & Vegetable Show. Saturday, 9th April opening 2.30 pm.

Keep Fit Class: Friday evenings from 7.30 - 9 pm. New members always welcome.

Whist Drives: Tuesday afternoons 2 pm - 4 pm.

If anyone would like a game of Table tennis, there is a table in the Hall which can be used. To book the Hall, the hire charge is £1.25 per hour plus electricity. Please ring 752242.

Lilies for Remembrance at Easter: Would those who would like to donate a lily in remembrance of departed loved ones, please contact E. Sankey.

C.M.S. Pett: As a result of the year's collection for February 1987 - February 1988, remittance of £88 has been sent to C.M.S. Headquarters for Timothy and Frances Britton, our Link Missionaries. Very many thanks to all concerned for this generous gift.

Feed the Hungry Fellowship: The sum collected for January and February amounted to £122. This goes to the Sue Ryder Foundation, for her work with the underprivileged overseas, especially in Poland.

As ever, grateful thanks to all members.

J.A.S.

Pett W.I.: At their last meeting members enjoyed a talk and exhibition of Silver. On 15th April there will be a demonstration and talk by the Potato Marketing Board. Visitors will be most welcome.

Mrs. P. Fox

GUESTLING ROTAFlowers and Cleaning

Apr	3rd	Easter Decorations. All help please		
	10th	Mrs Sankey	Mrs Rugg	Lady Ashburnham
	17th	Mrs Jennings	Mrs Durrant	Mrs Williams
	24th	Mrs Gainsbury	Mrs Groves	Mrs Wicking
May	1st	Mrs Pearson	Mrs Gill	Mrs Jagger

Sidesmen

Apr	1st	Mr Hughes	Miss Groves
(am)	3rd	Mr Barnett	Miss Breeds
(pm)	3rd	Mr Jennings	Mrs Williams
	10th	Mrs Gainsbury	Mr McCausland
	17th	Young People	
	24th	Sir Denny Ashburnham	Mrs Sankey

Elements

Apr (am)	3rd	Miss Groves	Mrs Sankey
	10th	Mrs Williams	Mrs Quaife
	24th	Mrs Gainsbury	Mrs Quaife

Readers

Apr	3rd	Mr Griffiths	Exod. 14. 15-22
		Mr Tytherleigh	1 Cor. 15. 12-20
	10th	Mr Griffiths	Exod. 16. 2-15
		Mrs Brooks	1 Cor. 15. 53-end
	17th	Young People	
	24th	Lady Ashburnham	1 Kings 17. 17-end
		Mr Barnett	Coll 3. 1-11

ST. NICHOLAS ROTAFlowers and Cleaning

Apr	3rd	Mrs Hawksley	10th Mrs Slack
	17th	Mrs Butchers	24th Mrs Pannell
		SACRISTAN	Mrs Hawksley

TUESDAY, 12th April is the closing date for receiving contributions for the May Magazine.

PETT DUTY ROTAFlower Rota

Apr	2nd	Easter. All help - 10 am.	
	10th	Miss Turner	Mrs. Harris
	17th	Mrs Pruden	Mrs Parsons
	24th	Mrs Kind	Mrs Appleton
	30th	Mrs Rootes	Mrs Phillips

Servers

Apr	3rd	Mr Plank	17th Mr Bowman	May 1st Julian Underwood
-----	-----	----------	----------------	--------------------------

Readers

Apr	1st	Young People		
	3rd	Mrs Sands	Exod. 14.15-22	1 Cor. 15. 12-20
	10th	Young People		
	17th	Dr. Butchers	Ezek. 34.7-16	1 Peter 5.1-11
	24th	Mrs King	Ezra. 3.	Rev. 3. 1-13
May	1st	Mrs Taylor	Prov. 4.10-19	2 Cor. 4-13-5.5

Sidesmen

Apr	1st	Young People	Mrs Bowman
	3rd	Mrs Jury	Mr Cooper
	10th	Mrs Scott	Young People
	17th	Dr. Butchers	Mrs Butchers
	24th	Mrs King	Mr King
May	1st	Mr Cooper	Mr Underwood

Everyone has shown me great kindness and support since Michael's death and I am really grateful that hardly anyone has asked me about it.

However, there is one aspect of the tragedy which I feel I must make clear. I have been distressed to hear that several people have thought Michael intended me to find him. He did not. He left a message very clearly instructing me not to go into the covered way and he was so used to me obeying him that it would never have occurred to him that on this one occasion I would fail to do so. There is absolutely no blame to be attached to Michael. His last act was completely out of character and, if his longstanding and deeply depressing medical problem had been resolved, he would certainly never have done it.

AVRIL.

Mar 31st	Maundy Thursday	10.00 am	H.C. Pett
		6.30 pm	H.C. Guestling
Apr 1st	Good Friday	10.00 am	Family Service Pett.
		2-3 pm	Last Hour (Canon Harvey - Guestling)
Apr 2nd	Easter Eve	Lighting of Pascal Candle, Renewal of Baptismal Promises at Pett.	
Apr 3rd	Easter Day	8.00 am	H.C. Pett Level
		9.45 am	Parish Communion Pett.
		11.00 am	Parish Communion Guestling
		6.00 pm	Songs of Praise Guestling
Apr 10th	Holy Communion	8.00 am	Pett Level
	Family Service	10.00 am	Pett
	Parish Communion	11.00 am	Guestling
17th	Parish Communion	9.45 am	Pett
	Family Service	11.00 am	Guestling
24th	Holy Communion	8.00 am	Pett Level
	Matins	9.45 am	Pett
	Parish Communion	11.00 am	Guestling
H.C.	ST. Nicholas - Every Wednesday	10.00 am.	

* * * * *

THREE OAKS W.I.

At the March meeting of Three Oaks W.I. members were anticipating a 'Play Reading' by members of the Institute, but unfortunately time ran out and they were unable to perform. They will do so at a later date. The 'Bring and Buy' stall was quite successful and added quite a few pounds to the W.I. Funds. The speaker for the afternoon was Mrs. Janet Payne V.C.O. who is in charge of W.I. Books. Members took advantage of the Books on display and quite a number were purchased.

At the April meeting on the 14th, Miss Cox will be talking on 'Treasures of the Past', which should be very interesting. New members would be warmly welcomed. Why not attend as a visitor first. We meet on the second Thursday in the month at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall.

A. Quaife.

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

Rector:

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:

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

Treasurer:

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

Free Will Offering:

Mrs. E. Sankey,
St. Andrews Peep,
Guestling. (Hastings 812336)

Electoral Roll:

Mrs. B. Wicking,
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 Cables,
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)