



JULY 1994

PARISH NEWS

15p

Pett Level

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

JULY
1994

PARISH DIARY * JULY 1994

P = PETT * L = PETT LEVEL * G = GUESTLING

Sun. 3rd.	9.30	- P - Parish Communion	Trinity 5
	11.00	- G - Family Service	St. Thomas
Wed. 6th.	10.00	- L - Holy Communion	
Sun. 10th.		- L - *[NO SERVICES AFTER 6th.]*	Trinity 6
	10.45	- P - Family Service - Methodist Church	
	11.00	- G - Parish Communion	
Sun. 17th.	9.30	- P - Parish Communion	Trinity 7
	11.00	- G - Matins & Address	
Mon. 18th.	7.15p.m.	- G - Parochial Church Council	
Sun. 24th.	9.30	- P - Matins & Address	Trinity 8
	11.00	- G - Parish Communion	
Mon. 25th.			St. James
Sun. 31st.	10.30	P & G Holy Communion B.C.P.	Trinity 9
		[Combined Service - Guestling Church]	

ROTAS FOR JULY 1994

GUESTLING - 3rd. FAMILY SERVICE - (RED) - TRINITY 5
FLOWERS - Mrs. Williams - Mrs. Jennings - Mrs. Griffiths
SIDESMEN/READERS - Young people

PETT - 3rd. PARISH COMMUNION - (RED) - TRINITY 5
FLOWERS - Mrs. Jury - Mrs. Hogan
SIDESMEN - Mrs. P. Bowman - Mr. W. Cooper
READER - Miss K. Bowman - Ephesians 4 - 17 to end
SERVER - Mr. M. Plank

PETT LEVEL - CLEANING - Mrs. Moon

PETT LEVEL - CLEANING - Mrs. Balcombe

Being unable to hear clearly has been a problem. It seems that those with soft voices invariably sit at the back of the church or room. Nobody likes sitting in the front rows, especially in church, and clergymen are no different. (They tend to sit away from the front too). But I often feel if everyone sat nearer the front, it would be better for all concerned, and the clergyman would never have to wonder whether he was using the wrong kind of after-shave.

I have been very fortunate in having very good, loyal and kind churchwardens in all my parishes. Our Christmas card list contains the names of most of them. We shall certainly miss the support and friendship of Lady Mary Ashburnham and Ken Tytherleigh in Guestling and Meriel Deasy and Angela Hawksley in Pett, and we thank them for all they have done for the churches and for us.

There is a lot of good work being done in both parishes, and it is therefore always dangerous to try to thank people, as you inevitably leave out somebody. Despite that, there are some whom we must thank by name. Firstly, my colleague, the Revd. Raymond Brooks has always been there, and although he has been forced to curtail his assistance, it has been good to have him in Guestling. He also edited the Parish News for some years, and did a very useful job.

The churchyards are a great problem. In the growing season, they can get out of hand, so that it is difficult for some people to tend their family graves. In Pett, with help of the Parish Council grant (for which we are very grateful) we have been able to employ someone to cut the main paths. Both Joan Medlock and Barbara Lloyd-Worth (who are no longer in their teens) have laboured unceasingly to keep down the rest. They will doubtlessly go on doing so until they are physically unable, but they could always do with assistance. Everybody's garden is growing at the same time, we know, but the odd hour spent in the churchyard would make all the difference. Please think about it. Very many thanks to Joan and Barbara for all they have done for many years now. Also to Eric Newton, who, very quietly and without any fuss, has been clearing up and burning the rubbish at the back of the church when the wind is in the right direction; and has been generally tidying up after the grass cutters have been along the bank at Pett church, as well as hoisting the flag in the churchyard as required. He kindly cleaned the church paths on one occasion, to ensure nobody slipped on the algae in wet weather. Such thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

In Guestling we now have John Jury making a great impression with the church strimmer. Many thanks to him and to Bill Wicking who has tended the newer part of the churchyard there. Guestling too receives a grant from the Parish Council. Again many thanks. Any help would always be appreciated. Nobody expects a country churchyard to look

like the test wicket at Lord's, but nobody likes going on safari when trying to visit a relative's grave either. People tend to take tidy churchyards for granted, and grumble when they are overgrown, true, but although there are always some people who don't bother about looking after family graves when they could do (and grumble when they can't find them, as a result!) others left behind are getting older and infirm. It is a problem, and, like the poor, will always be with us. We do what we can.

People visiting the church often make complimentary remarks about the state of the churches when putting their names in the Visitors' Book. They do so because there are a number of church folk (mostly, if not entirely ladies) who voluntarily clean and decorate the churches. They, too, are not getting any younger, and we are grateful for what they are doing.

Since Mr. Brooks relinquished the editorship of the Parish News, Griff has been filling the chair. It has been good to have their willing help. In previous parishes (where I produced a parish magazine looking rather like the Mirror or Sun - without page 3 of course!) I not only typed every word, laid out the copy, took it to the printer, and proof-read it, but acted as the paper's reporter and advertisement manager. It was enjoyable work, but took up a lot of time. (In one mining parish in the north, we sold 1200 parish newspapers in a parish of 1500 houses - and made a profit too!) The disadvantage of having the Rector or Vicar as editor is that, as soon as he leaves the parish, and is succeeded by another man who doesn't have the same inclination or flair, the magazine goes by the board. So it is always good to have a layman or woman as editor, and in thanking Griff for all he's done, I hope somebody else will feel moved to take over.

I am only too aware that there are many homes I have not visited. I suppose that if I visited every house in the two parishes for a quarter of an hour, non-stop day and night, it would take nearly a fortnight. Add the time taken to get round - and there are still some houses I haven't found! - and the need to call back because people weren't in, and this fortnight is getting close to becoming a month. Bearing in mind the fact that many people will not open the door at night - quite rightly so nowadays - which restricts visiting to day-time, the month stretches out to two. Remembering

that a great deal of visiting time is spent calling on invalids and those who are ill and/or in hospital or hospice; that there are services to take at three churches, with all the preparation necessary for this, and services at the crematorium; and that the Rector is a trustee of five trusts (some meeting more often than others), and a school governor, the situation is fast becoming impossible. Even hymn-lists for the two churches, if they are to be selected properly, take a whole afternoon, as they have to be chosen with the lessons and sermons to be preached, in mind. Add meals, bedtime, etc.

This is not an excuse, but an explanation. So if you don't see your new Rector, or see him as often as you think you should, please remember that he will have Fairlight as well, and that is a larger parish than either Guestling or Pett. If you really want to see him, you can either phone him, asking him to call, or, better still, turn up at church on Sunday, where you are bound to see him at Communion services.

Finally please remember that "the church" is not a building. (That is "a church"). There were no church buildings in the early days of Christianity. The church is people. So if a particular church building is not being used one Sunday, because of a shortage of staff, the church is still meeting somewhere else. A closed church building is not a good reason for having a day off! Although you may find it strange to worship in another building and prefer your own, we just cannot afford the luxury of personal preferences today. We are lucky to have as many churches open as there are. Many free churches have been forced to close because of a shortage of worshippers and/or money. If you want to keep your churches, you know what you have to do, because, if you don't, nobody else will bail you out.

So with many thanks for all the kindnesses we have received, we say "Goodbye and God Bless you."

Norman and Catherine Greenfield.

P.S. from Catherine - Some kind person lent us a blue and white flan dish for our daughter's wedding reception. Please claim it before we leave.

THE P.C.C., CONGREGATION & RESIDENTS of Pett and Pett Level would like to wish Norman and Catherine a very happy retirement. Thankyou for all you have done for us; congratulations Norman on the fortieth anniversary of your ordination and congratulations to both of you on your Ruby Wedding Anniversary on August 7th. Enjoy your new home in Eastbourne - keep cutting the grass, Norman!

PARISH REGISTERS

We congratulate on their marriage, and send our best wishes to :

May 21st. James Scott of Ore and Alison Mary Crisford, Jaques, Pett Road.

*Mrs. Crisford writes : On behalf of Alison and James, I would like to thank the Rector, Kay and her helpers, who created such wonderful flower arrangements, the organist, Val and Eric, for making their Wedding Day so beautiful. We will all remember Pett Church with great affection.

We offer our sympathy to the relatives and friends of :

May 31st. Eric Dudley (Jim) Stevens, Granville, Butchers Lane, Three Oaks, who died aged 73 years.

June 3rd. Eileen Neal, Oak Tree, Friars Hill, Guestling. who died aged 66 years.

*Eileen's son Andrew writes : I would like to thank all those who visited my mother while she was in St. Michael's Hospice, or who wrote to offer their prayers and good wishes. I know that she was very grateful for your support and love and greatly comforted by it. My thanks also go for your messages of sympathy since her death and to those who have sent donations to St. Michael's.

A HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those born in July, and especially to :

4th. Ann Hunter	17th. Abigail Jury
5th. Melissa Strange	23rd. Alexander Goodsell
8th. Judy Novis	23rd. Robin Jury
10th. Wayne Blackman	28th. Laura Hills
11th. Alexander Sarkies	30th. Aimee Rose
12th. Jack Richardson	31st. Holly Lander

PETT & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
FLOWER SHOW & FETE - SATURDAY, 30th. JULY

The Society is holding its ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW & FETE on Saturday, 30th. July at Pett Recreation Field commencing at 2p.m. - Children's Fancy Dress at 2.15p.m. and Children's Sports at 3p.m. Teas and lots of sideshows including a bouncy castle, raffle, tombola, bottle stall, plants, pots, etc. Free car parking.

We should be most grateful for :

CAKES for the tea tent PLANTS for the plant stall
BOTTLES for the bottle stall TOMBOLA items

Anyone who can help in any way, please ring the Secretary on 0424 812370

PETT PUZZLE '94'

Throughout July and August you will be able to purchase and solve this year's Pett Puzzle. Puzzle 'A' follows Sir Jack Broadsword's two mile search across the lovely fields and lanes of Pett for two of the three armies involved in the infamous Battle of Pett (1294). For those who wish to solve a problem at home, Puzzle 'B' concerns six knights who fought in the battle and how the Rector (of the time) put them in their place!!!

Copies of the puzzles, price £1 each, may be obtained from : the Butcher's Shop, the Country Stores, the Post Office, Norris Upholsterers, Pett Level Market Stores, and J. Taylor (Paxstead, Pett Road).

Do have a go - it's quite easy; enjoy yourself and help raise funds for the church at the same time.

Prizes for the first three correct solutions, of either puzzle, drawn from a hat at Pett Church Fete, will win £10, £5, and £2 respectively.
J.T.

NATURE NOTES

A friend asked me to rescue a slow worm which was in the middle of her drive and in danger of being run over. Not long afterwards I evicted an insomniac blackbird which had entered another friend's house late at night. I have every sympathy with people who find themselves unable to handle certain creatures. Although I am quite happy with reptiles, rodents or birds, I have to put on gloves to pick up big spiders. Dragonflies and hawkmoths hold no terrors for me, but cockchafer are the stuff of nightmares. Perhaps we ought to set up a register of who can remove what from each other's houses!

Early in May I watched a weasel hunting in Guestling Wood. It went in and out of the roots of an old tree stump for some time, and must have seen me as I made no attempt at concealment. I have encountered these fierce little predators in the same area before, and they always seem quite unafraid of a mere human.

My blue tits have raised two broods, but I have no martins nesting, and I haven't had so much as a glimpse of a spotted flycatcher. The latter used to nest regularly in a box half buried in ivy on my woodshed, but it is three years now since they raised a family there. However I have been delighted to share my garden with baby robins, thrushes, blackbirds, starlings and dunnocks, and near neighbours have also had linnets, greenfinches and chaffinches. Why are there no baby sparrows?

Another little creature which has had an excellent breeding season is the rabbit! I looked out of the window and saw one biting the flowers off my thrift, so I tapped the glass. The rabbit looked up, gave me a look which said quite plainly "mind your own business", and carried on munching.

Avril Thurley.

PETT LEVEL RESCUE BOAT GALA DAY - Saturday, 6th. August
Come and join in the fun at the Boathouse 12 to 4p.m.
(by the Smuggler pub, Pett Level).

SEA DISPLAYS - LIVE MUSIC - TRACTOR RIDE - LOCAL CRAFTS
BARBEQUE - VARIOUS STALLS - DAISY ROOTS (Morris Dancing)
VINTAGE BUS SERVICE, the length of Winchelsea Beach.

AROUND THE PARISHES

HELP WANTED - Pett Level Rescue are looking for new rescue boat crew members. For further information please contact the boathouse, Sunday mornings only, on 0424 812222.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION : The next meeting will be at The Smuggler, Pett Level, on Monday July 4th. at 7.30p.m.

PETT W.I. : Will meet at Pett Village Hall on Friday, 15th. July, 2.30p.m. Mrs. D. Balcombe speaks on "Aromatherapy". Visitors are very welcomed.

THREE OAKS W.I. : Looking forward to the July meeting in the garden of Miss Pat Horne and Mrs. Mary Horton. July 14th. at 2.15p.m.

THREE OAKS FETE : this year will be held on July 9th. at 2p.m. at the Village Hall and grounds. Many attractions and plenty of sideshows.

THREE OAKS VILLAGE HALL : WHIST DRIVES - Mondays @ 2p.m.
YOGA - Monday 7.30p.m. KEEP FIT begins in September.
LIBRARY VAN - 11th. & 25th. July 9.45 to 10.30a.m.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Parishioner - Where do you get your wine vicar?
Vicar - I make it at the vicarage.
Parishioner - Doesn't travel very well does it?

Grandchild - Were you in the ark grandad?
Grandfather - No child!
Grandchild - Then why weren't you drowned?

Balloons portraying a picture of the vicar were being sold at a church bazaar stall with a notice nearby proclaiming:-

"Support your parish church and blow up the vicar!"

** NOTICE - COMBINED AUGUST/SEPTEMBER PARISH NEWS **

Our printers begin their summer holiday in July until early September.

I shall need all notices and rota information by July 14th. at the latest, for both August and September.

Jesus said - I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,
I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another. St. John 15.

My best wishes to you all,

Sincerely
J. Galt



Happy are they!

*Happy are they, they that love God
Whose hearts have Christ confessed.*

HOW TRUE IT IS! In fact when we get down to it, is it not the only real happiness worth bothering about? I love this hymn just because it makes no bones about it and faces up to the facts of life as we all know it, without a lot of phoney sentimentalism.

*Christ to their homes, giveth his peace
And makes their loves his own
But ah, what tares the evil one
Hath in his garden sown!*

IN OUR HYMN BOOKS the words are themselves a happy alliance of France and England long before the days of any 'Common Market'. The French connection is centred in 18th Century Paris in the person of the Rector of Paris University - his name **Charles Coffin**, the greatest Latin scholar France has ever produced. He wrote many famous hymns (in Latin) and they were published as *Hymni Sacri* in 1736. In various translations they have deservedly found their way into most hymnals and I only have to mention a few for it to be obvious how popular they are - Advent hymns like **ON JORDAN'S BANKS**, **THE BAPTIST'S CRY**, Christmas - **GOD FROM ON HIGH**, **HATH HEARD**, Epiphany - **WHAT STAR IS THIS THAT BEAMS SO BRIGHT**, and other well established favorites such as **O HOLY SPIRIT**, **LORD OF GRACE** and the beautiful evening hymn **AS NOW THE SUN'S DECLINING RAYS**.

THE HAPPY ALLIANCE to which I referred is of course one of translation and on the English side leads us to none other than **Robert Bridges**, our famous Poet Laureate and author of the *Testament of Beauty*. He went to live in Yattendon, Berkshire, in 1882 and from there, with the help of his collaborator **H.E. Woodridge**, published in 1899 his *Yattendon Hymnal* containing many treasures and amongst them the fine English translation of Coffin's **HAPPY ARE THEY**, which the latter had written for Tuesday night Vespers in the Paris Breviary of 1736 (*O quam Juva!*). And another part of the alliance is the superb tune 'Binchester' to which **HAPPY ARE THEY** is always sung. The composer was the great **William Croft**, who succeeded the even more famous **Dr. Blow** as organist of Westminster Abbey in 1708.

ON ANY RECKONING therefore, both the words and music of my choice this month are 'classics' and no matter how often they are sung, never seem to lose their appeal. In fact it is, in my view, an ideal choice for a funeral or memorial service, expressing just the right note of what should be in our hearts as we say farewell to a loved one -

*Then shall they know, they that
love him
How all their pain is good
And death itself cannot unbind
Their happy brotherhood. ■*

RECTOR : Rev. N. Greenfield : Pett Rectory : Hastings 813234

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

GUESTLING [all at 11 a.m.]

PETT

1st.Sunday - Family Service
2nd.Sunday - Parish Communion
3rd.Sunday - Matins
4th.Sunday - Parish Communion
5th.Sunday - H.Communion BCP

9.30a.m. - Parish Communion
10.00a.m. - Family Service
9.30a.m. - Parish Communion
9.30a.m. - Matins & Address
9.30a.m. - H.Communion BCP

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PETT LEVEL - Holy Communion

(Family Service - Methodist)
(Church alternate months at)
(10.45a.m.)

8a.m. - 2nd. & 4th. Sunday
10a.m. - Wednesday

GUESTLING -- CHURCH OFFICERS -- PETT

CHURCHWARDENS

Lady Ashburnham - 813085
Mr. K. Tytherleigh - 751516

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs. A. Hawksley - 812705
Miss P.M. Deasy

SECRETARY

Miss J.M. Groves - 813341

SECRETARY

Mrs. K. Jury - 812537

TREASURER

Mr. K. Tytherleigh - 751516

TREASURER

Mrs. P.J. Gerreli - 812699

FREE WILL OFFERING

Mrs. K. Greenwood - 812790

STEWARDSHIP RECORDER

Mrs. P.J. Gerreli - 812699

ELECTORAL ROLL

Mrs. B. Wicking - 438027

ELECTORAL ROLL

Mr. M. Plank - 812154

CHOIRMASTER

Mr. K. Tytherleigh - 751516

ORGANIST & CHOIR

Mrs. J. Medlock - 812173

ORGANIST

Miss H. Gainsbury

DEANERY SYNOD

Mrs. F. Taylor
Mr. W. Cooper

DEANERY SYNOD

Mrs. & Mrs. D. Greenwood

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mr.D.Griffiths - Sunnyside
Eightacre Lane - Three Oaks.