

GUESTLING

January, 1996

PETT

# PARISH NEWS

20p

Pett Level



1  
**ROBIN WRITES:**

**"OWN IT!"**

A few years ago the Church focussed on "Children finding faith". The discussion was initiated by the report "Children in the Way", and an attempt was made to investigate why so few seem to make it into adult Christian Church membership. There is a process in a person's development when eventually they have to "OWN" their faith. Being a practising and believing Christian does not depend on others, but finally upon our own PERSONAL COMMITMENT.

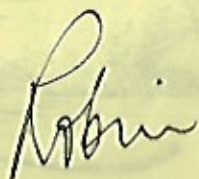
I believe the style of churchmanship that has pervaded the Church of England, for maybe hundreds of years, carries the seeds of its own destruction. In the book "Set my people free" written by Ruth Etchells, the Archbishop's Lent book for 1996, she identifies the nub of the problem. *"In many of our churches we have a mind-set which sees the clergy as the REAL (ONLY?) FULL-TIME Christians, ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE for the church's continuum."*

Nobody is really to blame. Inbred tradition and habit die hard. It cannot easily be replaced. It is not solved by the Rector handing over large scale areas of his work to unprepared, resistant laity. It needs PRAYER AND SENSITIVE CONSULTATION to begin with. If more in our community would OWN the church, as many have done with "conservation" or the "wildlife" (which I loudly applaud!) we would begin to put the Church high on the list of our priorities. If God in some ways nudges you with these words, I would love to hear from you. I would see it as my PRIOR role to help the church THINK DEEPLY about its future!

Firstly, identify with one of the Christian family groups in the Benefice this year. Every six years members of the Church of England have to re-sign their membership on the ELECTORAL ROLL. This has to be completed two weeks before each church Annual Meeting. Simply by getting a form, filling it in and returning it to the relevant officer will be the first step in OWNING your faith as a Christian within the life of the local Church.

Secondly, I challenge you to consider attending the last few sessions of the Diocesan Video "It's Us". I have been surprised by its approach and content. Do come if you can. Start owning your faith this year within your local Church and community.

May God grant you a very happy and blessed New Year.



**GUESTLING ROTAS - JANUARY 1996**

7 January - MATINS - Epiphany 1 - (White)  
PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe  
FLOWERS - Mrs Carpenter, Mrs Coppins, Lady Ashburnham  
SIDESMEN - Miss Groves, Col Parks  
READERS - Mrs Brooks - Genesis 8:15 - 9:17  
- Col Parks - Acts 18:24 - 19:6

14 January - PARISH COMMUNION - Epiphany 2 - (Green)  
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe  
FLOWERS - Mr Greenwood, Mrs Greenwood, Mrs Brooks  
SIDESMEN - Mrs Williams, Mrs Smith  
ELEMENTS - Mrs Gainsbury, Mr Jury  
READERS - Mrs Wicking - 1 Samuel 3:1 - 10  
- Mrs Smith - Galatians 1:11 - end

21 January - FAMILY COMMUNION RITE A - Epiphany 3 (Green)  
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch  
FLOWERS - Mrs Jennings, Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Perry  
SIDESMEN - Young People  
ELEMENTS - Young People  
READERS - Mrs Page - Deuteronomy 8:1 - 6  
- Mr Greenwood - Philipians 4:10 - 20

28 January - PARISH COMMUNION - Epiphany 4 - (Green)  
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen  
FLOWERS - Mrs Groves, Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Smith  
SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds  
ELEMENTS - Mr Hughes, Miss Groves  
READERS - Mr Barnett - Jeremiah 7:1 - 11  
- Miss Groves - Hebrews 12:18 - end



PETT AND PETT LEVEL ROTA - JANUARY 1996

3 January - 11.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)

7 January - 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen

INTERCESSIONS - Mrs E Greenfield

SIDESPERSONS - Miss M Deasy, Mr J Greenfield

SERVER - Mr J Taylor

READER - Miss M Deasy - Ephesians 2:1 - 10

Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack

14 January - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)

CELEBRANT - Revd Derek Owen

READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - Galatians 1:11 - end

Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs D Griffiths

10.45 am FAMILY SERVICE (Pett) at the Methodist Church

21 January - 9.30 am - PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)

PRESIDENT - Canon Michael Townroe

PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch

INTERCESSIONS - Mrs D Griffiths

SIDESPERSONS - Mrs D Griffiths, Mr W Cooper

SERVER - Mrs A Hawksley

READER - Mr W Cooper - Philippians 4:10 - 20

Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack

28 January - 8.00 am - HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)

CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch

READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley - Hebrews 12:18 - end

Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs A Hawksley

9.30 am - MATINS (Pett)

LEADER/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe

SIDESPERSONS - Mrs A Scott, Mrs K Jury

READERS - Mrs A Scott - Amos 7:1 - 15

- Mrs R Taylor - John 8:1 - 11

MEALS ON WHEELS

This service now operates from the Rye Memorial Centre at Playden and provides "meals on wheels" to mainly older persons who live on their own, and are unable to cook or provide adequately for themselves. It operates for 7 days a week and has a delivery service to Rye and also the surrounding areas including Icklesham, Pett, Fairlight and Guestling.

Unfortunately, there is a shortage of volunteers, both drivers and assistants in our areas on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Can you spare a couple of hours over these days to ensure that this very necessary and worthwhile service continues? It is so important particularly during the winter period.

If you can then please contact Mrs Nan Hacking, Billingham Farm, Udimore, Nr Rye, East Sussex TN31 6BD or telephone 01424 882348. Any time that you can spare will be most appreciated. Thank you.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pett, Fairlight, Guestling and Icklesham Branch meets in the Smuggler Inn, Pett Level on the first Monday of each month at 7.30 pm. New members are always most welcome. Anyone requiring assistance should contact Ken Gill 01424 812293, the Services Welfare Officer, in the first instance.

A FOND FAREWELL

We are sad to say "goodbye" to Graham and Barbie Cooper who have been licencees at the Smuggler Inn. They are leaving, but will be living in Fairlight, and we will still see them from time to time. We are grateful for the warm welcome they have given us over the years, and especially for hosting the Royal British Legion activities and fundraising. We re glad that the Legion will be accommodated by the new licencees. We look forward to welcoming them.

Robin Balch

THE MEMORIAL CARE CENTRE

Recently we have had a number of medical services advertised in the magazine. If you wish to avail yourself of the clinics in the Medical Wing of the Centre in Peasmarsh Road, Rye please ring 01797 223810.



**PETT CRICKET CLUB** - A lady in the village, commenting on my notes, said that all the names in the averages were strangers, and most did not even come from Pett. Not true anyway, but it is perhaps interesting that of those who played more than the odd game, 7 of them had fathers who played for Pett, 7 (not all the same) had uncles who played for Pett, 5 had grandfathers who played for Pett. Andrew Goodsell had a great grandfather who was a noted, if not always unbiased, umpire for Pett. (He only had one eye and obviously believed at times in the Nelson touch of putting his telescope to his blind eye). Andrew Dunlop's grandfather took the chair at the inaugural meeting of the Pett Cricket Club in, I believe, 1904 and Jamie Dunlop's great great grandfather was a fine cricketer who also played for Pett.

Not bad for continuity in this changing world.

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**PETT GARDEN CLUB** - No meeting in January or February. For March details - watch this space.

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**PETT WI** - The first meeting in 1996 will be on 19 January at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall, when the guest speaker is Mr Brion Prudey, and his subject - Titus Oates.

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**PETT LEVEL NATURALISTS' SOCIETY** - will meet on 19 January in Pett Village Hall at 7.30 pm. This month Dr Arthur Hollman will talk about the Wetlands of North America and Africa (Everglades and Okovango).

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#### **PETT FLOWER ROTA**

7 January	Mrs Carr, Mrs Ainsworth
14 January	Mrs Hickman, Mrs Jackson
21 January	Mrs Harris, Miss Turner
28 January	Mrs Pruden, Mrs Moir

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Copy for Guestling for the February magazine to Mr Griffiths at Sunnyside, Three Oaks.

Copy for Pett for the February magazine to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes, Pett Road by 17 January please.

**PARKING AT GUESTLING CHURCH** - The piece of land adjacent to Guestling Church is not a car park, but the owner very kindly allows churchgoers and visitors to use it as such.

Because it has been abused by dog walkers, its use will be limited to churchgoers and visitors in future. We regret having to enforce this, but fouling of the area and bad parking has, of late, been an embarrassment to those attending services, funerals and weddings. In addition, the fouling is a health hazard to children. We cannot accept responsibility for any untoward consequences.

Matters came to a head when six or seven cars could not be parked adequately at a large funeral, causing some further distress to mourners.

We should be most grateful if readers pass this on to anyone concerned.  
Guestling PCC

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**GUESTLING FLOWER FESTIVAL COFFEE MORNING** - We raised £119.00. Thank you all who helped and supported our worthwhile and enjoyable event. A special thank you to Eileen and Robin for inviting us to use their home.  
RG

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**THREE OAKS WI** - On 11 January (ref diary) Mr M Betts will speak on '1066 Country'. New members will be made most welcome, or why not come just as a visitor. We have a most interesting programme for 1996.  
AQ

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I do hope you enjoyed a restful Christmas break and wish you good health and happiness throughout the coming year. I pass on to you a little prayer handed to me by a parishioner.

Griff

C ome Holy Spirit  
H eal our hurts  
R enew our faith  
I nspire us all to  
S erve you gladly  
T hrough Jesus Christ our living Lord.

Burrswood Arrow Prayer (Church of Christ the Healer)



ST LAURENCE DIARY - JANUARY 1996

- Monday 1 - Naming of Jesus
- Wednesday 3 - 3.00 pm Prayer and Praise Group, 3 Oaks Methodist Hall
- Friday 5 - 7.30 - 8.45 pm Keep Fit, Three Oaks Village Hall
- Saturday 6 - Epiphany
- Sunday 7 - 11.00 am Epiphany 1, Matins
- Tuesday 9 - 7.30 pm House Group, Windswept, Winchelsea Road
- Wednesday 10 - 9.45 - 11.15 am KFA Keep Fit classes begin - Fairlight Village Hall. Details ring 812250 - New members welcome.
- Thursday 11 - 2.15 pm WI meeting, Three Oaks Village Hall
- Friday 12 - 7.30 pm Choir practice  
- 7.30 - 8.45 pm Keep Fit, Three Oaks Village Hall
- Sunday 14 - 11.00 am Epiphany 2 Parish Communion  
- Bishop's visit to Fairlight - lunch Fairlight Village Hall 12.30 pm (Pett and Guestling welcome)
- Wednesday 17 - 7.30 pm Garden Club AGM, Three Oaks Village Hall
- Thursday 18 - 7.30 pm 'It's Us' video at the Rectory
- Friday 19 - 7.30 pm Benefice Families Work meeting at the Rectory  
- 7.30 - 8.45 pm Keep Fit at Three Oaks Village Hall
- Sunday 21 - 11.00 am Epiphany 3 (Rite A) Family Communion
- Monday 22 - 7.30 pm Benefice Ministerial Team at the Rectory
- Tuesday 23 - 7.30 pm House Group, Windswept, Winchelsea Road
- Wednesday 24 - 7.30 pm Bingo!! Three Oaks Village Hall
- Thursday 25 - Conversion of St Paul  
- 7.30 pm Eucumenical Songs of Praise, Fairlight Village Hall
- Friday 26 - 7.30 pm Choir Practice  
- 7.30 - 8.45 pm Keep Fit, Three Oaks Village Hall
- Sunday 28 - 11.00 am Epiphany 4 Parish Communion

NATURE NOTES

I have just been shown a most ingenious birdseed holder made from a plastic bottle. It would take too much space to explain how to make it, but John Osborn will show you if you ask him.

At the beginning of November, when I was recovering from a particularly unpleasant "bug", a friend called to say she had just seen an interesting bird. Ignoring my protests that I should be left to die in peace, she bundled me into her car and whisked me off to Pett Level, where we had excellent views of a Snow Bunting on the beach. We then had to inspect the Ponds, where there was a Barnacle Goose amongst the Canadas, and lots of different waders. By the time my friend brought me home I'd almost forgotten I was supposed to be ill, which just goes to show the therapeutic effects of nature watching!

My peanut holder is attached to the kitchen window frame, so that when one of the larger birds lands on it, it swings against the glass. This makes me look to see who's visiting, and I was delighted recently to see a Great Spotted Woodpecker. I've seen them on other nutbags, but always at a distance, so it was exciting to see one only a few feet away.

Did you notice the Hawthorn on 'Hyde Park' near Faith Cottage? It was covered in flowers and berries at the same time. One of my greenhouse cacti has come into flower, in December would you believe - it normally flowers in May.

I would like to thank everyone for the snippets of news and sightings; I am always interested even if I can't always find room for them in these notes.

Avril Thurley

SPECIAL "NON BUSINESS" PCC FOR PETT

The Pett PCC has asked for a special PCC to discuss our strategy of ministry and mission, without reference to Church business (eg fabric and finance). This will be open to any member of the Church who may be interested.

It is to be held on **MONDAY 29 JANUARY at 7.30 pm in the Rectory**. It would be a help to Robin and Eileen, if you are not a member of the PCC, to tell them you are coming. Apologies in the usual way would be appreciated.

We hope to discuss the present climate of the Church of England, and inter-church activities, as well as local matters of concern regarding the future of the Church in Pett.

**Demonstrate that you are vitally concerned by attending.**



## NEW YEAR IN THE BENEFICE

January

- 3 11.00 am Communion at St Nicholas, Pett Level
- 7 6.30 pm Healing Ministry at St Peter's, Fairlight Cove
- 13 9.00 am - 1.00 pm ALPHA TRAINING COURSE (at St Helen's Church, Ore. Personnel from Benefice attending. Please ring Robin for details.
- 14 10.45 am Family Service at Pett Methodists. In future all Family Services at Pett Parish Church.
- 10.30 am THE BISHOP'S VISIT TO FAIRLIGHT to dedicate the Church renovation and launch the 150th Anniversary Year
- 12.30 pm Lunch at Fairlight Village Hall. Members from the other churches welcome. Please ring Eileen Balch for tickets.
- 18 7.30 pm at the Rectory "It's Us" Video. We missed the last session because of the bad weather. This time "The People of God in worship". Watch out for news of the next two meetings! (Robin says they are very good). All welcome.
- 19 7.30 pm FAMILIES' WORK PLANNING MEETING (at the Rectory). More details from Eileen Balch.
- 21 11.00 am Families' Communion service at Guestling.
- 6.30 pm Informal Praise and Worship at St Peter's, Fairlight Cove. All welcome from the Benefice.
- THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**
- 25 7.30 pm ECUMENICAL "SONGS OF PRAISE" involving Anglicans, Methodists and Catholics especially, at Fairlight Village Hall. All very welcome.
- 31 2.00 pm Missionary Planning Group meets in Fairlight. Any from Guestling and Pett interested in attending have a word with Robin Balch.

INTO FEBRUARY

- 2 7.30 pm Candlemass service at St Mary's, Rye.

## "WHAT'S THE CHURCH FOR?"

### "IT IS ... IN ORDER THAT"

'In-order-that' - what? Two PRIMARY AND EQUAL PURPOSES.

**ONE** dear to all our hearts in the churches, is the **coming together in worship** of a community of believers who, inspired by the Spirit, share delight in responding to the Christ of the saving story, who has set them free in a joy which bursts out in praise to him and the Father. It is a community held together by that same Holy Spirit in the fellowship which grows from shared worship; a community which seeks to learn (and to share) more and more deeply of the truth and reality and meaning and implications for life today of the Jesus they met in the story and have taken into their hearts so that they know him personally. A community which consequently 'models' the Kingdom of God which, Jesus told his followers, is his very self 'come among you'. This is the in-order-that which so many of us have worked at and given our lives to over the years.

**THE OTHER** equally important in-order-that is of Christ's own '**great commission**' to his followers, prior to his Ascension; 'Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to the whole Creation'. That is: we the church are called into existence not least so that the world beyond our community may know itself blessed, and take that blessing to itself. 'If the church is the event of people coming together in response to the good news of Jesus, it is also the event of those same people being sent out to carry that good news to others, and invite them to the gathering.' As one writer has it 'The church's being called out of the world sends her into the world; her being sent into the world calls her out of the world.'

Not only are the TWO PURPOSES of the in-order-that church of equal importance; this double calling is equally the task of LAY and ORDAINED CHRISTIANS, who are before God equal members of the faith community and, therefore, EQUALLY ACCOUNTABLE to him in fulfilling their in-order-that nature as church.

"THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S LENT BOOK. Our plan is to study the sessions for GROUP WORK provided by the book during LENT 1996. Please respond by signing up for a group when they are announced.

The book is available, priced £5.99 from your church.



## NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

GUESTLING [all at 11 a.m.]

PETT

1st Sunday - Matins	9.30 a.m. - Parish Communion
2nd Sunday - Parish Communion	10.00 a.m. - Family Service
3rd Sunday - Family Service	9.30 a.m. - Parish Communion
4th Sunday - Parish Communion	9.30 a.m. - Matins & Address
5th Sunday - H. Communion BCP	9.30 a.m. - H. Communion BCP

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PETT LEVEL - Holy Communion	Family Service - Methodist
8.00 a.m. - 2nd & 4th Sunday	Church alternative months at 10.45 a.m.

11.00 a.m. 1st Wednesday in each month

GUESTLING - CHURCH OFFICERS - PETT

### CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs M. Barnett - 754974  
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

### CHOIR MASTER

Mr K. Tytherleigh - 751516

### ORGANIST & CHOIR

Mrs J. Medlock - 812173

### ORGANIST

Miss H. Gainsbury

### DEANERY SYNOD

Mrs F. Taylor  
Mr W. Cooper

### DEANERY SYNOD

Mr & Mrs D. Greenwood

Rev. Robin Balch (PRIEST IN CHARGE), The Rectory, Pett - 813234  
Rev. Derek Owen (ASSISTANT), Church House, Waite's Lane,  
Fairlight, Hastings - 813104