



GUESTLING

February, 1996

PETT

PARISH NEWS

20p

Pett Level

ROBIN WRITES:"HIS CURE AND OURS"

We were delighted to have Bishop Ian visit the Benefice on 14 January when he dedicated St Andrew's Church after its renovation and he also launched the ANNIVERSARY YEAR. When I was instituted as incumbent of this UNITED BENEFICE, Bishop Ian handed me the mandate and said "Your cure and mine". In other words, the responsibility of caring for the churches and the parishes is **shared between bishop and people**. Bishop Ian has taken this seriously and produced a PASTORAL LETTER of 9 pages, indicating how we should proceed, "**Developing a Pastoral Strategy**", which he considers vital for the future of the Church in this area.

He wants all the Churches to read and discuss this document, and has sent enough for every PCC member to read in preparation for debate at the next PCC meetings in the coming weeks. Before that I will have met with the Ministerial Team to discuss it. I feel that this is so important, that I am going to make it the basis of the LENT DISCUSSION GROUPS, which begin the last week in February.

You may recall from last month's magazine that I was hoping to base the Lent Studies on the book "Set my people free" by Ruth Etchells. On reading this book further, the task to tackle GROUP WORK is too difficult and demanding. However, Bishop Ian does quote this book and recommend its reading, and I will bear this in mind as I prepare questions based on the Pastoral Letter. I do hope that many ordinary members of the Church and parish will be interested in meeting others to talk about the future of our churches.

The Bishop asks that we look at FOUR STRANDS, where he hopes to see developments, they are:-

**Renewal in Worship,
Co-operation in Mission,
Lay Ministry, and
Resources for the Future.**

In each section there are invitations to share the care that he has for the Churches. In his name I too invite you to share in this discussion to discover God's future for us in this Benefice.

Robin

GUESTLING ROTAS - FEBRUARY 1996

4 February - MATINS - 3rd Before Lent - (Green)

PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen
FLOWERS - Mrs Pearson, Mrs Gill, Mrs Jagger
SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds
READERS - Mr Tytherleigh - Job 28:9 to end
- Mr Barnett - St Luke 6:20 - 38

11 February - PARISH COMMUNION - 2nd Before Lent - (Green)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
FLOWERS - Mrs Wicking, Mrs Parks, Mrs McCausland
SIDESMEN - Mrs Williams, Mrs Smith
ELEMENTS - Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Page
READERS - Mrs Smith - 2 Kings 5:1 - 14
- Mrs Page - 2 Corinthians 12:1 - 10

18 February - FAMILY COMMUNION - Next Before Lent - (Green)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen
FLOWERS - Mrs Lady Ashburnham, Mrs Carpenter, Mrs Coppins
SIDESMEN - Young People
ELEMENTS - Young People
READERS - Mr Greenwood - Numbers 15:32 - 36
- Mrs Wicking - Colossians 1:18 - 23

25 February - PARISH COMMUNION - Lent 1 - (Violet)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
CLEANING - Mrs Greenwood, Mr Greenwood, Mrs Brooks
SIDESMEN - Miss Groves, Mr Jury
ELEMENTS - Col Parks, Mr Barnett
READERS - Col Parks - Genesis 4:1 - 10
- Miss Groves - Hebrews 4:12 to end

GUESTLING CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE - Once again we offer our thanks to Harborough Nurseries for their kind gift. We do appreciate the time and effort given to the church - a real labour of love. KT

GUESTLING CHURCH CHOIR - My personal thanks to my fellow 'songsters' for their hard work throughout the year, especially at Christmas time.

Our practices are happy times, with as much laughter as singing. 'God Loveth the Cheerful Giver', I am sure he also loves a cheerful singer. With much appreciation

Ken

PETT AND PETT LEVEL ROTA - FEBRUARY 1996**4 February - 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)**

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen
 INTERCESSIONS - Mrs A Hawksley
 SIDESPERSONS - Mr J Underwood, Mr W Slack
 SERVER - Mr J Taylor
 READER - Mrs A Hawksley - 1 Corinthians 2:1 - 10

Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack

7 February - 11.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)

CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch

11 February - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)

CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch

READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - 2 Corinthians 12:1 - 10

Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs D Griffiths

10.30 am FAMILY SERVICE (Pett)

CONDUCTED BY - Mrs Eileen Balch
 SIDESPERSON - Mr W Cooper
 READINGS - Young People

18 February - 9.30 am - PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
 INTERCESSIONS - Mrs C Hollman
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs J Coby, Mr N Coby
 SERVER - Mr T Coby
 READER - Mr N Coby - Colossians 1:18 - 23

Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack

25 February - 8.00 am - HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)

CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch

READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley - Hebrews 4:12 to end

Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs A Hawksley

9.30 am - MATINS (Pett)

CONDUCTED BY - Revd Robin Balch
 PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs K Jury, Mr J Greenfield
 READERS - Mrs R Taylor - Exodus 17:1 - 13
 - Mrs Mr J Taylor - Matthew 26:17 - 30

NB - From this month all FAMILY SERVICES in Pett will be held at St Mary and St Peter on the SECOND SUNDAY of each month at 10.30 am (not 10.00 am or 10.45am).

They will be conducted alternately by Anglican and Methodist Ministers, eg February - Anglican, March - Methodist etc.

YOUR REGULAR AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT IS VALUED.

FEBRUARY IN THE UNITED BENEFICE

- 1 7.30 pm "It's Us" Video at the Rectory
 Session 3 "The People of God and witness"
 7.30 pm Family Work Planning meeting at the Rectory
- 2 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
 7.30 pm Candlemass Service at St Mary's, Rye
- 3 From 10.00 am Coffee Morning organised by St Andrew's at Fairlight Village Hall
- 4 6.30 pm COMMUNION and HEALING at St Peter's (all welcome from the Benefice)
- 7 11.00 am Communion at Pett Level (St Nicholas)
 There is a Communion at St Peter's, Fairlight 'Cove' every Wednesday at 10.00 am. Others in the Benefice welcome.
- 12 7.30 pm Fairlight PCC (St Peter's)
- 15 7.30 pm "It's Us" Video (last session) at the Rectory
 "The People of God and fellowship"
- 18 6.30 pm Praise and Worship (informal service) at St Peter's
 All welcome
- 19 7.00 for 7.30 pm RYE DEANERY SYNOD at Northiam.
 Looking at the Bishop's Pastoral Letter.
- 21 ASH WEDNESDAY
 10.00 am Communion at St Peter's, Fairlight
 6.00 pm Communion at St Laurence, Guestling
- 22 7.30 pm Guestling PCC meets at the Rectory
- 26 7.30 pm Pett PCC meets at the Rectory
 START OF LENT GROUPS IN THE BENEFICE continuing for 5 weeks

INTO MARCH

- 2 Deanery Day Workshop for Intercessions
 (St Peter's, Fairlight Cove) 10.00 am - 3.30 pm led by Canon Jeremy Haselock

JOINT TOY SERVICE AT PETT - A very big "Thank you" from myself to everyone who brought gifts to this service held on 10 December in Pett Parish Church. Your generosity allowed me to take a large box of toys to each of three centres caring for children with special needs, namely Elphinstone Family Centre in Hastings, Fernside Family Centre in St Leonards and the NSPCC Centre at Silverhill. All three were delighted with the gifts and have written to Robin Balch to express their thanks.

Catharine Hollman

TO ALL PETT CHRISTINGLERS! - THANK YOU - The Christmas Eve Nativity Service was a pure delight and it is a pleasure to report that the church was "standing room only". Thank you to all those who made Christingles, and very special thanks to Elizabeth Greenfield and her helpers, Joan, Catharine, Ray, Gill and I think that there are others as well.

Thank you also to all the children who took part. The service certainly got Christmas off to a good start and provided some of the special magic and twinkle of Christmas for our children as well as for our grown up children!!!

ST MARY & ST PETER'S JUNIOR CHOIR - SOS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Catharine Hollman and all the children of our choir and their parents who have supported us through the year, and whose help made our nativity on Christmas Eve such success. The service was also enhanced by other children joining in and taking part on the day.

To be able to continue with our junior choir, we need more children to join us. We meet in our church on Friday evenings, 5.15 pm to 6.15 pm, when we enjoy practising singing and drama.

If any children would like to join us, we will be pleased to welcome you.

Elizabeth Greenfield, 813370

PETT LEVEL NATURALISTS' SOCIETY - will meet on 16 February in Pett Village Hall at 7.30 pm. This month's subject is Catsfield & Rotherfield Nature Reserves - Derek Bates.

PETT WI - The next meeting is on 16 February at 2.30 pm in Pett Village Hall. The talk this month will be given by Mr N Gosling on 'How to Create a Butterfly Garden'. New members always welcome.

PETT FLOWER ROTA

4 February Mrs Jury, Mrs Spore
11 February Mrs Medlock, Mrs Grundy
18 February Mrs Jury, Mrs Hogan
NO FLOWERS DURING LENT

PETT BOWLS CLUB - As the commencement of the outdoor bowling season approaches, we are looking forward to another full programme of both league and friendly matches through to the end of September. We improved our league position by three places last season and hope to continue this progress during the coming season.

Our last AGM saw some changes in our elected officers, with Roger Gibson becoming Chairman and Tony Meek becoming Club Captain. New members, including juniors, will be very welcome whether experienced or not, so please feel free to come along to our Open Day at 2.30 pm on Saturday 27 April 1996, when you can meet present members and try your hand on the green! Current fees are £18.00 for full membership and £6.00 for associate membership per season.

Anyone requiring further information in the meantime should contact Roger on 812806 or Tony on 813357.

Joy Hankin, Hon Sec

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.

THREE OAKS W I - The next meeting will be on Thursday 28 February. Mr Ken Gill's address will be on 'The British Legion'.

AT THE VILLAGE HALL on Saturday 10 February a Book Sale will be held in aid of Three Oaks Hall funds. Entrance fee includes refreshments - 40p

RETIRING COLLECTION at Guestling - 11 February - St Luke's Hospital.

ST LAURENCE DIARY - FEBRUARY 1996

- 1 7.30 pm "It's Us" - at the Rectory 'The People of God and Witness'
- 2 Presentation in the Temple
7.30 pm - Candlemas Service in Rye
- 4 11.00 am - 3rd Before Lent - Matins, Septuagesima, Revd D Owen
- 5 7.30 pm - Parish Council meeting at Three Oaks Village Hall
- 7 11.00 am Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Pett Level
3.00 pm - Prayer and Praise Group, Three Oaks Methodist Hall
- 8 2.15. pm - WI meeting at Three Oaks Village Hall
- 9 7.30 pm - Choir Practice
- 10 10.00 am - noon - Book sale at Three Oaks Village Hall
- 11 11.00 am - 2nd Before Lent - Parish Communion, Sexagesima,
Canon Michael Townroe
- 13 7.30 pm - House Group at Windswept, Winchelsea Road
- 15 7.30 pm - "It's Us" at the Rectory, 'The People of God in Fellowship'
- 18 11.00 am - Next Before Lent - Family Communion, Rite A
Quinquagesima - Revd D Owen
- 19 Deanery Synod at Northiam
- 20 Shrove Tuesday
- 21 Ash Wednesday - 6.00 pm Holy Communion at Guestling
7.30 pm - Bingo at Three Oaks Village Hall
- 22 7.30 pm - PCC meeting at the Rectory
- 23 7.30 pm - Choir Practice
- 25 11.00 am Lent 1 - Parish Communion - Revd Robin Balch
- 27 Lent Course - House meetings begin

MONDAYS - 2.00 pm - Whist Drives at Three Oaks Village Hall
FRIDAYS 7.30 pm - Keep Fit at Three Oaks Village

NATURE NOTES

A doorbell continued to ring after the visitor stopped pressing it. Investigation revealed an earwig trapped inside the bell. It is not recorded whether the earwig survived, but since this story was told to me on New Year's Eve I am unable to resist the temptation to re-write the well known verse:

Ring our wild bell, to the wild sky -
The flying cloud, the frosty light -
The earwig's dying in the night,
Ring out wild bell, and let him die!

Sorry about that, and I hope not to receive any hate mail from the Earwig Preservation Society.

Walking with a friend in the woods during the December snow, we put up a partridge from almost under our feet. We must have come close to treading on it, but had it remained still we wouldn't have seen it. The woods were a winter fairyland, as indeed were the gardens, but the days when the temperature didn't rise above freezing must have been very difficult for the wildlife. The birds' water was frozen within minutes of being put out for them. I can remember my Mum putting a water bowl on an upturned flower pot over a nightlight, but I am quite unable to make this system work. Either there is not enough air and the candle can't burn, or too much draught and it blows out. If you know the secret I would be grateful if you would share it with me. Incidentally, I find it perversely comforting that humans with all their technology can be brought to a slithering halt by a few inches of snow. No matter how clever we think we are, we cannot (and, I believe, never will) control the forces of nature.

A heron has been much in evidence in Pett lately. Perhaps he has found a convenient 'take-away' in the form of a garden pond. Have you counted your goldfish lately?

Avril Thurley

PETT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Three deputy co-ordinators required for Allards to receive messages on the Neighbourhood Watch Crime Ring. Anyone willing to help please contact Mr C Spore on 813477.

THE REGISTERS

Welcomed into the life of the Church in Holy Baptism

2 December 1995 Luke William Revell
son of John and Sonia (nee Jury) Revell
now living in Peterborough
(grandson of John Jury)
at St Laurence, Guestling

(With apologies for not recording this in last month's magazine. It was lovely to have the family back among us. There were many remembrances for early days).

Funeral and Burial at St Laurence, Guestling

20 December Violet Maude Dinah Fellows (86)
of "Silverhill", Pett Road, Guestling

(Dinah, formerly a Cooke, had a long association with the area, and for a while lived at Church Farm, Guestling, with many memories of those days. Dinah was buried in her husband George's grave. George died in 1976 after a full life in farm and country. We extend our sympathies to the family, especially Jean and Vic and the grandchildren).

Congratulations to Jon and Kim Stainsby on the birth of Katharine Elizabeth. Kitty kept us waiting for a while, but arrived in good shape. We look forward to seeing the family around. Jon and Kim were married at St Laurence in 1994.

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

Copy for Pett for the March magazine to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes. Pett Road by 14 February please.

FEBRUARY 1996

CANON HARVEY'S STORIES OF FAVOURITE HYMNS

'AND NOW O FATHER MINDFUL OF THE LOVE'

The 'Don from Doncaster'



MORE THAN A GENERATION ago when I was editing *Church Illustrated*, *Anglican World* and *Sunday* magazines at Westminster, my good friend Richard Tatlock, then on the staff of the Religious Department of the BBC, instigated a 'Poll' (much more of an innovation then than now!) asking readers to name their 'Top Ten' favourite hymns. I well remember that the postman had to work overtime and that we were inundated with thousands of entries from all parts of the UK and indeed overseas as well. We all had our own ideas as to which would be the overall winner. No - it was not 'Abide with me' (4th), 'The King of Love' (5th), nor 'Praise my soul, the King of Heaven' (8th), and 'The Day Thou Gavest', 'For all the Saints', 'Lead Kindly Light' and Blake's 'Jerusalem' all had their firm supporters at that time. But far and away, most popular with all ages in the number one place, came a famous Communion Hymn written by an Oxford Professor of the last Century, William Bright, beginning with the words: 'And now O Father mindful of the love That brought us once for all on Calvary's Tree'.

WILLIAM BRIGHT was born in 1824 and after being tutored by the great Dr ARNOLD of Rugby went up to Oxford and eventually became Regius Professor of Church History at Oxford University, earning the nickname of the *Don from Doncaster* where he was born. A staunch Tractarian, like many others at the time he suffered persecution for his (allegedly) 'popish' beliefs, but nonetheless when the first edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* was produced in 1866 there were no fewer than ten hymns of his in it.

HE WAS ALSO an eminent liturgical authority and published in 1857 his scholarly work on *The Ancient Collects* which was later to form the basis for the revision of the BCP in the 1928 *Revised Prayer Book* (old hat now of course but then very controversial indeed.) Some maintained that Bright was the only person since Cranmer who could really write a good English Collect (certainly those who were responsible for many of the new Collects in the ASB could take a few lessons from him!). But to return to his lovely hymn - Bright's words provide a

powerful 'musical prayer' giving admirable teaching on the Eucharistic Sacrifice. (1 Cor. 11 v.26).

*'Look Father on his anointed face
And only look on us as found in Him
Look not on our misusings of Thy grace
Our prayers so languid and our faith so dim
For lo between our sins and their reward
We set the Passion of Thy Son our Lord'*

Not surprisingly this fine hymn has found its way into the *Methodist Hymnal* and pretty well every denominational collection worldwide. In the 1950's it topped the Poll whereas in my survey in (1994/95) it came 54th - which in itself is a comment on the many changes in worship and doctrinal emphases which we see around us today. Be that as it may it is also a very down to earth approach for the ordinary worshipper who, whatever the churchmanship, wants to pray for the 'dearest and the best' when he comes to the altar.

*'And then for those, our dearest and our best
by this prevailing presence we appeal
O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast
O do thine utmost for their soul's true weal
from tainting mischief keep them white
and clear
and crown thy gifts with strength to persevere'*

BRIGHT'S WORDS ARE actually a paraphrase from the Oblation in the *Canon in the Latin Mass* beginning 'Unde et Memores', first published in 'The Eucharist Presentation' by Bright in 1873. The tune is also similarly named - it may not be outstanding musically but everyone loves it and it is unlikely to be sung to any other tune. It was composed by the famous Dr. William Henry Monk, organist at Stoke Newington Church, musical editor of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* who died in 1889 just after the latest supplement had gone to press.

LET DR. BRIGHT himself have the last word -
*'in thine own service make us glad and free
and grant us never more to part with thee'*

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

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

Revd. Robin Balch (PRIEST IN CHARGE), The Rectory, Pett - 813234
 Revd. Derek Owen (ASSISTANT), Church House, Waites Lane,
 Fairlight, Hastings - 813104