



March, 1996

# PARISH NEWS

20p

Pett Level

**ROBIN WRITES:**

**SPRING IN THE AIR**

Lent has always been a meaningful time in the life of the Church. The word comes from the Old English "Lenten" which meant "Spring". Early Christians identified the time with the testing of Jesus in the wilderness before His ministry with the power of the Holy Spirit "burst" upon the land of Israel. After what has seemed a long cold winter we all long for the stirrings of Spring and new life.

There have been times in the history of God's Church when all seemed bleak and cold. In those days faithful Christians "fasted and prayed" longing for God to break through in the lives of Christians and those who did not believe to come to living faith. Every Saturday morning at 8.30 am a small group of church members (who actually come from each parish in the Benefice) have met in St Peter's Church to pray with Eileen and I. Sometimes it has been very difficult to make the effort, but God has always been with us. Our prayer has always been for God to visit us again with a spiritual "Springtime".

Even as I write this letter I see in my garden signs of spring flowers beginning to push through the soil. Usually by Mothering Sunday (the fourth Sunday in Lent) daffodils, tulips and crocuses are well established. I have to say I also strain my spiritual eyes to see signs of a spiritual Spring coming. I was greatly warmed by the special open PCC held by Pett Church last month. I was encouraged by the Family Service a few days later, and the support given to both grieving and celebrating families in the village of Pett.

I was also thrilled by the response to the ALPHA TRAINING DAY and the decision made together by representatives from all the parishes to support the launch of Alpha Groups in the Benefice after Easter. One will be held in Fairlight and another in Guestling/Pett starting in April and running for ten weeks. There have been something like 100,000 groups worldwide (80,000 in this country). More news next month.

I encourage all members to attend the Annual Meetings and sense that Spring is in the air.

Have a blessed Lent.

Best wishes,

**GUESTLING ROTAS - MARCH 1996**

**3 March - MATINS - Lent 2 - (Violet)**

PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman  
CLEANING - Mrs Jennings, Mrs Perry, Mrs M Griffiths  
SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds  
READERS - Mr Tytherleigh - Amos 3  
- Mr Barnett - St Matthew 26:31 - 56

**10 March - PARISH COMMUNION - Lent 3 - (Violet)**

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe  
CLEANING - Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Groves, Mrs Smith  
SIDESMEN - Mrs Gainsbury, Col Parks  
ELEMENTS - Mrs Williams, Miss Groves  
READERS - Col Parks - Genesis 12:1 - 9  
- Mrs Brooks - 1 Peter 2:19 to end

**17 March - FAMILY COMMUNION - Lent 4 - (Violet)**

MOTHERING AND REFRESHMENT SUNDAY  
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch  
CLEANING - Mrs Pearson, Mrs Jagger, Mrs Gill  
SIDESMEN - Young People  
ELEMENTS - Young People  
READERS - Mrs Wicking - Genesis 45:1 - 15  
- Mrs Smith - Ephesians 3:14 to end

(Ref Lectionary - Readings as for Pentecost 14 - Year 2)

**24 March - PARISH COMMUNION - Lent 5 - PASSION SUNDAY (Violet)**

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen  
CLEANING - Mrs Wicking, Mrs Parks, Mrs D Griffiths  
SIDESMEN - Mrs Williams, Mrs Page  
ELEMENTS - Mrs Gainsbury, Mr Jury  
READERS - Mr Greenwood - Jeremiah 31:31 - 34  
- Mrs Page - Hebrews 9:11 - 14

**31 March - HOLY COMMUNION BCP - PALM SUNDAY (Red)**

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen  
CLEANING - Lady Ashburnham, Mrs Carpenter, Mrs Coppins  
SIDESMEN - Mrs Smith, Mr Jury  
ELEMENTS - Mr Barnett, Col Parks  
EPISTLE - Mr Griffiths - Philippians 2:5 - 11

**PETT AND PETT LEVEL ROTA - MARCH 1996****3 March - 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)**

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen

INTERCESSIONS - Mrs P Bowman

SIDESPERSONS - Mrs P Bowman, Mr W Slack

SERVER - Mrs A Hawksley

READER - Miss M Deasy - 1 John 3:1 - 10

Pett Level cleaning - Mrs J Slack

**6 March - 11.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)**

CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch

**10 March - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)**

CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch

READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - 1 Peter 2:19 to end

Pett Level cleaning - Miss M Deasy

**10.30 am FAMILY SERVICE (Pett)**

PREACHER - Revd Derek Brice (Methodist)

SIDESPERSON - Mr W Cooper

**17 March - 9.30 am - PARISH COMMUNION (Pett) Mothering Sunday**

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch

INTERCESSIONS - Mr J Underwood

SIDESPERSONS - Mrs A Scott, Mr J Underwood

SERVER - Mr J Taylor

READER - Mrs A Scott - 2 Peter 1:16 - 19

Pett Level cleaning - Mrs J Slack

**24 March - 8.00 am - HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)**

CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch

READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley - Hebrews 9:11 - 14

Pett Level cleaning - Mrs A Hawksley

**9.30 am - MATINS (Pett)**

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe

SIDESPERSONS - Mrs K Jury, Mr J Greenfield

READERS - Mrs B Vick - Isaiah 53:7 to end

- Miss M Turner - Matthew 27:33 - 54

**31 March - 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION BCP (Pett)**

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch

INTERCESSIONS - Miss M Deasy

SIDESPERSONS - Mrs J Coby, Mr N Coby

SERVER - Mr T Coby

READER - Mrs J Coby - Philippians 2:5 - 11

**MARCH IN THE UNITED BENEFICE****1 10.30 am WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

(for whole Benefice) at St Peter's Church, Fairlight Cove, speaker - Mrs Jo Cundy (The Bishop's wife)

**2 10.00 am - 3.30 pm Deanery Day for Intercessors (at St Peter's)**

led by Canon Jeremy Haselock (all welcome - just come)

**3 6.30 pm Healing Service (St Peter's)****SECOND WEEK OF LENT HOME MEETINGS**

(see churches for venues and times)

**9 CPAS OUTREACH TRAINING DAY**

9.30 am - 12.45 pm (St Peter's) led by CPAS Evangelist Roger Murphy

**11 Visitation and Inspection by the Archdeacon****15 FAIRLIGHT ANNIVERSARY LADIES MEETING**

"White Cottage", Battery Hill. Details from the clergy

**17 6.30 pm Songs of Praise at St Peter's (informal praise and worship)****21 Guestling School Governors' meeting****25 FAIRLIGHT ANNUAL MEETING****28 9.30 am School Easter Service****29 7.30 pm PETT ANNUAL MEETING (Village Hall)****31 PALM SUNDAY - Distribution of palms at services.**

**JOYOUS OCCASION IN PETT** - We were thrilled with the announcement that Bill Cooper was to marry Gladys at Pett Church in February. We read the Banns over the prescribed 3 Sundays while Gladys' Banns were read in All Saints, Sidley and they were married at St Mary & St Peter on Saturday 10 February. The church was full and a happy service was held with Elizabeth Greenfield reading a lesson (John was best man) and Elizabeth and Beryl Vick sang during the signing of the Register. Joan Medlock played the organ ably supported by the choir, and the Rector conducted his first wedding at Pett Church. Robin's Nest was packed for the reception afterwards and a very happy occasion was enjoyed by all. We are so glad that Bill and Gladys will make their home in Pett, and we hope to see them often, unless he whisks his bride off to South America! We wish them both many, many years of happiness together. We were so glad to share their joy.

**ERNIE McCLOUD** - We convey our sympathies to Angela and also Christine, Barbara and Christopher and the five grandchildren. Ernie was very active in the community of Three Oaks, on many committees and was also well known among his bowls colleagues in Hastings. He was a greengrocer in Hollington. Having purchased "The Firs" previously, he and Angela moved there on his retirement. He had fought his illness for a year and a half, but his end came much sooner than expected. He will be very sadly missed. The Rector conducted the service at Hastings Crematorium.

**PETT LEVEL NATURALISTS' SOCIETY** - will meet on 15 March in Pett Village Hall at 7.30 pm. AGM followed by 'Early days at Mallydams' - John Goodman.

**PETT WI** - The March meeting will be held on Friday 15 at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall. Our speaker is Mrs P Matthews and her subject 'Waterways, Meandering by Narrow Boat'. Visitors will be made welcome.

**PETT GARDEN CLUB** - The new season starts on Tuesday 12 March in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Mrs Downey and Peter will come again by popular demand and talk about general propagation.

**PETT FLOWER SHOW** - The AGM of the Horticultural Society will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on 19 March. Everyone invited to attend.

#### **PETT CHURCH FLOWERS**

No flowers during Lent. Decorating for Easter on 6 April at 10.00 am. All help please. Those wishing to donate lilies in memory of loved ones, please contact Kay Jury - 812537.

**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.

**JUMBLE SALE** - Saturday 13 April at Pett Village Hall, 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm in aid of church funds. Please bring your donations to the Village Hall between 11.00 am and 12 noon or phone 812443 if collection is required. There will be a cake stall, raffle, tea and coffee will be available.

Pett PCC

**GUESTLING ANNUAL SPRING FAIR** will be on 18 May. We will need bottles and tins for the tombola as well as anything that might sell, bric-a-brac, plants etc. Please start collecting and growing now. (Details in May magazine)

**EASTER LILIES** - Anyone requiring Easter Lilies in memory of a loved one should contact Rosemary Gainsbury on 812254.

**SIGNBOARD** - The new church signboard at the junction of Church Lane and the A259 is the admirable handiwork of Derek Greenwood. Thank you Derek. We begin to wonder if there is anything you cannot do!

**THREE OAKS WI** - meets on 3rd Thursday, 21 March at 2.15 pm at Three Oaks Village Hall. Mr B Purdey will speak on 'Measures of the Library Local History Collection'. New members and visitors welcome.

**THREE OAKS GARDEN CLUB'S FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW** takes place on Saturday 30 March at 2.30 pm.

**GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY MEETING** will be on Monday 25 March at 7.30 pm in Three Oaks Village Hall.

**QUIZ NIGHT** at Three Oaks Village Hall will be on Wednesday 3 April at 7.30 pm. Anyone wishing to form a team (max 6) should contact Phil Colgate on 814484.

#### **THREE OAKS VILLAGE HALL**

Whist	Mondays, 2.00 - 4.00 pm
Keep Fit	Fridays, 7.30 - 8.45 pm
Bingo	20 March at 7.30 pm
Jumble Sale	13 April
Annual Fete	6 July

#### **CANON PETER HARVEY**

We are sad to announce the death of Canon Peter Harvey on 19 February. Our deep sympathies to Betty and the family. There will be a service of requiem and thanksgiving at St Mary's, Rye on Friday 1 March at 12.30 pm. We shall write further about Canon Peter in the next issue.

**ST LAURENCE DIARY - MARCH 1996**

- 1 St David's Day (Dydd Dewi Sant)  
7.30 pm Choir Practice
- 2 10.00 am-3.30 pm Deanery Intercessors' Day, St Peter's, Fairlight Cove
- 3 11.00 am - Lent 2 - Matins - Revd H Newman
- 4 9.45 am - Library van, Three Oaks Village Hall
- 5 7.30 pm Lent Group, 'Windswept', Rye Road
- 6 3.00 pm Lent Group, Three Oaks Methodist Hall
- 9 9.30am - 12.45 pm CPAS Training Day, St Peter's
- 10 11.00 am Lent 3, Parish Communion (Canon Michael Townroe)
- 11 Archdeacon's Visitation
- 12 7.30 pm Lent Group, 'Windswept', Rye Road
- 13 3.00 pm Lent Group, Three Oaks Methodist Hall
- 15 7.30 pm Choir Practice  
7.30 pm Ladies' Viewpoint at Fairlight (see magazine for details)
- 17 11.00 am Lent 4 - Family Communion Rite A  
Mothering Sunday - Refreshment Sunday (with Parade) Revd R Balch
- 18 9.45 am Library van, Three Oaks Village Hall
- 19 7.30 pm Lent Group, 'Windswept', Rye Road
- 20 3.00 pm Lent Group, Three Oaks Methodist Hall
- 21 School Governors' meeting
- 24 11.00 am Lent 5 - Parish Communion, Passion Sunday (Revd D Owen)
- 25 Annunciation
- 26 7.30 pm Lent Group, 'Windswept', Rye Road
- 27 3.00 pm Lent Group, Three Oaks Methodist Hall
- 28 9.30 am School Easter Service
- 29 7.30 pm Choir Practice
- 31 11.00 am Palm Sunday - Holy Communion BCP (Revd D Owen)

**KNOWN FUTURE DATES**

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|--------------|--|
| May 5        | 7.00 pm Hastings Area Wind Orchestra, St Laurence  |
| May 11       | Christian Aid Coffee Morning                       |
| May 18       | 2.00 pm Spring Fair, Guestling Village Hall        |
| July 14      | Garden Party, Three Oaks (Ken and Doreen's garden) |
| July 21      | Reserve date for Garden Party                      |
| August 16    | (for 3 days) St Laurence Flower Festival           |
| September 27 | Harvest Supper                                     |
| September 29 | Harvest Festival                                   |
| October 12   | 2.00 pm Jumble Sale, Guestling Village Hall        |

**NATURE NOTES**

Coming in from a walk, I opened the back door and my blackbird flew out past me, scolding angrily. This is one of the hazards of having birds which come into the kitchen; the other is the fact that they are not house-trained. His accidental imprisonment has not deterred him, and the only way I can make him go away is to throw a handful of currants outside the door. For currants he is anyone's, just as the robin will sell his soul for cheese.

I was very pleased to hear that two barn owls were seen recently in Pannel Lane. When I first came to Pett 20 years ago there were nightly choruses of tawny owls, and I often saw little owls during the daytime. Now all three species seem much more scarce - in fact I haven't seen a little owl for ages. The tawnies disappeared when my horse chestnut was blown down in the hurricane, but I'm glad to say I heard them loud and clear a few days ago in the big beech next door.

Walking through the fields to Pickham Farm I came across the biggest Mole City I've ever seen. What industrious little creatures they are! I know they're not always welcome in gardens, but if you pick up the excavated soil it does come in handy for your summer containers.

Avril Thurley

**PETT & GUESTLING ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION**

We have had a good response from prospective exhibitors, so we have decided to go ahead. The exhibition will be in Pett Village Hall on Saturday 23 March, and will be open to the public from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Exhibits can be staged between 8.30 and 9.30 am and should include a card giving the name of the exhibitor and any other information you think relevant.

If you would like to exhibit, please send the following details in writing to Terry Cox, Ambleside, Pett (opposite Rectory Park) not later than 14 March:

Your name, address and telephone number, whether your exhibit will need to be hung, and how much table or wall space you will require. Exhibits will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

Please come and help to make this a successful village event.

## THE REGISTERS

### **Internment of ashes at St Laurence, Guestling**

31 January Edna Lottie Munday (72 years)  
Wykeham House, Wykeham Road, Hastings

### **Funeral at St Mary and St Peter, Pett**

8 February Cecil Reginald Aldred (75 years)  
High Elms Farm, Pett Road, Pett

### **Funeral at Hastings Crematorium**

15 February Ernest McCloud (64 years)  
The Firs, Butcher's Lane, Guestling

16 February Pamela Jean Goodman (66 years)  
2 Brambletye, Pett Road, Pett

### **Marriage at St Mary and St Peter, Pett**

10 February William Edison Cooper and Gladys Lilian Yeo

We convey our deep sympathies to the family and friends of **Cecil Aldred** and also **Pamela Goodman**, residents of Pett.

The service for Cecil was held at Pett Church which was packed to say "goodbye" to him. He was held in high regard and deep affection in the village, and his loss will be keenly felt. The service was conducted by the Rector and Andy Dunlop, a long time friend, gave the eulogy while Ann, his niece, read the lesson. The congregation were reminded of many incidents in his life and qualities of his personality. Hymns were sung that recalled his love of the country and farming, and flowers from his garden were placed in the church. Our sincere sympathies to Joan, his sister, and her family and all who knew and loved him.

We were so sad to hear of the death of Pamela Goodman while visiting her son Paul in Yorkshire. We convey our deep sympathies to her husband Alan and her sons. Her death has been a shock to all, not least to the Rector who had just made her acquaintance. She had previously lived in Fairlight and had a short stay in West Africa. She had obtained a BA degree in later life and was a guide at Battle Abbey for a while.

Copy for Guestling for the April magazine to Mr Griffiths at Sunnyside, Three Oaks. Copy for Pett for the April magazine to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes, Pett Road by 20 March please.

## MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF PETT PCC HELD ON 29 JANUARY IN THE RECTORY

Robin introduced the Bishop's Pastoral Letter "Developing a Pastoral Strategy". Every Deanery in the Episcopal Area had been asked to draw up a strategy. Rye had published its report in 1994 in which the Benefice of Fairlight, Guestling and Pett was discussed, together with the possibility of joining Northiam, Ewhurst and Bodiam. (The latter was not pursued).

The Pastoral Strategy - Robin identified 7 "settlements" in the Benefice eg Fairlight, Fairlight Cove, Pett, Pett Level, Guestling Green, Guestling Thorn and Three Oaks. A "Pastoral Presence" was needed in each place, or at least in each original parish, as the incumbent's role is increasingly administrative. Robin felt "stretched" due to the large area and fragmentation of the work. The meeting agreed and "blamed" the system not the incumbent. The provision of pew cards, with a "Who's Who" was suggested with a delivery to every house in the Benefice.

Worship/Mission - Most of the discussion was on those as yet outside the life of the church. The following suggestions were made:- A review or audit of church life, a visitation and questionnaire, special services which would involve the community. John Taylor suggested showing the Diocesan "It's Us" video in homes, with invitations to friends and neighbours to introduce them to church life. Catherine Hollman was enthusiastic in supporting the arranging of an Alpha Course. Coffee to be served after each service, provided we could get a rota of help. Assistance with the churchyards might release Robin from legalities of management and give him more time for community involvement.

Lay Involvement - The Bishop recommended "Teams" and "Training". Robin explained his attempts to operate teams eg ministry (for worship), administration (wardens and treasurers) and families. A good deal of training has been received. The suggestion was to compile a "time/talent" register, with people taking up specific tasks. Robin would like to extend the network, whereby he knew several people well, and they in turn would influence others, and extend the priest role in the village. He invited the PCC to be his "eyes and ears" in the community and welcomed names to visit or a flow of information. The meeting finished at 9.30 pm.

NB. The Bishop's Letter is to be discussed in the Lent Groups. You would be especially welcome at the Pett venue "Paxstead", Pett Road on Thursdays at 7.30 pm or the Guestling venue "Windswept", Rye Road on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm. We plan a follow up meeting for the whole Benefice after Easter to hear views and opinions.

## NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

GUESTLING [all at 11 a.m.]

PETT

1st Sunday - Matins	9.30 a.m. - Parish Communion
2nd Sunday - Parish Communion	10.30 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

8.00 a.m. - 2nd & 4th Sunday

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 (RECTOR), The Rectory, Pett - 813234  
Rev. Derek Owen (ASSISTANT), Church House, Waites Lane,  
Fairlight, Hastings - 813104