



April, 1996

PARISH NEWS

20p

Pett Level

ROBIN WRITES

LIFE AFTER DEATH

I write as we try to come to terms with the Dunblane massacre. Nothing has so deeply touched the soul of our nation for many years. We struggle to deal with the pointless evil that destroyed such young lives and their teacher. Much has been said, although words seem totally inadequate. We have stood with the shattered community in prayer and deep-felt emotion.

Easter is with us early in this month. The Spring has been delayed this year, but the signs are with us. The message is of hope and new life. Our secularised, rational, materialistic society scorn us talking about "the resurrection of Jesus" from the dead and the certainty of our Christian hope of "life after death". Interestingly Christian Aid decided on the slogan "We believe in life before death". I see the point, but I affirm that "Christ is indeed risen, and is the first of those who have fallen asleep" (to rise like him and live the resurrection life). **We do believe in life after death.** Just now this may be a limited comfort to those who have lost their little ones, but **we have no doubt they are safe with Jesus.** We will affirm this belief, praying that we all may know the experience that "nothing will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord".

"Life after death" is the very essence of Christianity. Sometimes life becomes unbearable, but through the love and grace of God, we can discover this "resurrection" life. Jesus always promises us that "the best is yet to be". Many can testify that faith has transformed their lives. St John records Jesus' words in his Gospel **"Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, he has crossed over from death to life"**. (John 5:24)

If Christianity has anything to offer Britain in these immediate "post-Dunblane" days, surely it must be that evil can never finally overcome goodness. In the very last analysis the victory is with Jesus who offers eternal life to all who believe and trust in Him. These are the days to grasp with hope and faith that there is **"life after death"**. Hallelujah!

Robin

GUESTLING ROTAS - APRIL 1996

5 April - 2.00 pm THE LAST HOUR - Revd Robin Balch

7 April - PARISH COMMUNION - EASTER DAY (White)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen
 FLOWERS - All help please - Saturday 6th - 9 am
 SIDESMEN - Mrs Gainsbury, Col Parks
 ELEMENTS - Mrs Williams, Miss Groves
 READERS - Col Parks - Isaiah 12
 - Mrs Brooks - Revelation 1:10 - 18

14 April - MATINS - Easter 1 (White)

PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen
 FLOWERS - Mrs Greenwood, Mr Greenwood, Mrs Brooks
 SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds
 READERS - Mr Barnett - Deuteronomy 4:25 - 40
 - Mr Tytherleigh - Revelation 2:1 - 11
 Retiring collection - Church Pastoral Aid Society

21 April - FAMILY COMMUNION - Rite A - Easter 2 (White)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 FLOWERS - Mrs Jennings, Mrs Perry, Mrs M Griffiths
 SIDESMEN - Young People
 ELEMENTS - Young People
 READERS - Mr Greenwood - Ezekiel 34:7 - 16
 - Mrs Wicking - 1 Peter 5:1 - 11

28 April - PARISH COMMUNION - Easter 3 (White)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen
 FLOWERS - Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Groves, Mrs Smith
 SIDESMEN - Mrs Williams, Mrs Page
 ELEMENTS - Mrs Gainsbury, Mr Jury
 READERS - Mrs Smith - 1 Kings 17:17 to end
 - Mrs Page - Colossians 3:1 - 11

FLOWER FESTIVAL AT CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL - 30 May to 1 June.
 Craft, music, art and plant stalls. Refreshments/cakes required for cake stall.
 Contact Mrs Eileen Owen 813104. Coach from Fairlight - Friday 31 May - book
 with Mrs Margery Lane 872477 asap. The festival is in aid of the Cathedral
 Trust and St John's Ambulance.

PETT AND PETT LEVEL ROTA - APRIL 1996

- 2 April - 7.30 pm HOLY COMMUNION (Pett)
 3 April - 11.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
 4 April - 7.30 pm HOLY COMMUNION (Pett)
 5 April - 9.30 am PRAYER AND MEDITATION (Pett) Good Friday
 LEADER - Revd Robin Balch
 SIDESPERSON - Mr W Slack
- 7 April - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level) Easter Day
 CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley - 1 Corinthians 15:12 - 20
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack
- 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen
 INTERCESSIONS - Miss M Deasy
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs D Griffiths, Mr W Cooper
 SERVER - Mrs A Hawksley
 READER - Mr W Cooper - Colossians 3:1 - 11
- 14 April - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT - Revd Derek Owen
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - 1 Corinthians 15:53 to end
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Miss M Deasy
- 10.30 am FAMILY SERVICE (Pett)
 LED BY - Family Service Team
 SIDESPERSON - Mrs K Jury
- 21 April - 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 INTERCESSIONS - Mrs R Taylor and Mr J Taylor
 SIDESPERSONS - Mr J Greenfield, Mr J Hiett
 SERVER - Mr J Underwood
 READER - Mrs E Greenfield - 1 Peter 5:1 - 11
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack
- 28 April - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs D Griffiths - Colossians 3:1 - 11
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs D Griffiths
- 9.30 am MATINS (Pett)
 LEADER/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 SIDESPERSONS - Miss M Deasy, Mrs P Bowman
 READERS - Miss M Deasy - Ezra 3:1 - 13
 - Mrs B Vick - Revelation 3:1 - 13

APRIL AROUND THE BENEFICE

- 1 6.00pm Communion at Guestling
 2 7.30 pm Communion at Pett
 3 10.00 am Communion at St Peter's 11.00 am Communion at Pett Level
 4 (Maundy Thursday) - Communion Services
 7.30 pm St Peter's, Fairlight 7.30 pm Pett Parish Church
 5 (Good Friday) 9.30 am Prayer at the Cross (Pett)
 10.30 am Prayer/Meditation with Passiontide hymns, St Andrews
 2.00 - 3.00 pm Hour at the Cross, Guestling
 7 EASTER DAY 8.00 am Holy Communion, St Peter's, Fairlight Cove and
 St Nicholas, Pett Level
 9.30 am Parish Communion, Pett Parish Church
 10.30 am Family Service and Communion, St Andrew's
 11.00 am Parish Communion, Guestling Church
 6.30 pm Communion and Healing, St Peter's
 13 2.00 pm Jumble Sale, Pett Village Hall
 7.00 pm Concert at St Andrew's, Fairlight Abraxas String Quartet. £2.00
 18 GUESTLING ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
 7.00 pm Supper, Three Oaks Village Hall 8.00 pm Annual Meeting
 20 BENEFICE OPEN MEETING at Pett Village Hall 10.00 am - 12 noon.
 Summarising our views on the Bishop's Pastoral Letter.
 21 6.30 pm Informal Praise and Worship at St Peter's
 25 7.30 pm Home Meeting at Paxstead, Pett looking at the "It's Us" video
 ALPHA commences at "Windswept", Rye Road

ST LAURENCE DIARY - APRIL 1996

- 1 6.00 pm Holy Communion
 9.45 am Library van, Three Oaks Village Hall
 3 6.00 pm Holy Communion
 7.30 pm Quiz night, Three Oaks Village Hall
 5 2.00 pm Good Friday - The Last Hour. Short choir practice follows.
 6 10.30 am Coffee Morning & Hot Cross Buns, 3 Oaks Methodist Hall
 7 11.00 am Easter Day - Parish Communion (Revd D Owen)
 12 7.30 Choir Practice
 14 11.00 am Easter 1 - Matins (Revd D Owen)
 15 9.45 am Library van, Three Oaks Village Hall
 18 7.00pm Supper 8.00pm Annual Church meeting 3 Oaks Village Hall
 20 10.00 am Benefice 'Open' meeting at Pett Village Hall
 21 11.00 am Easter 2 Family Communion Rite A (Revd R Balch)
 25 7.30 pm Alpha Course begins at Windswept, Rye Road
 26 7.30 pm Choir Practice
 28 11.00 am Easter 3 - Parish Communion (Revd D Owen)
 29 9.45 am - Library Van Three Oaks Village Hall
 Three Oaks Village Hall - Mondays - 2.00 - 4.00 pm - Whist
 Fridays - 7.30 pm - Keep Fit

EASTER DECORATING AT ST LAURENCE CHURCH - All help please on Saturday 6 April from 9.00 am. Flowers and foliage appreciated. Anyone requiring Easter lilies in memory of a loved one, contact me on 812254. Please remember also our Spring Fair on 18 May when we shall need bottles, tins, plants and anything that sells.

Rosemary Gainsbury

HASTINGS AREA WIND ORCHESTRA will perform at Guestling Church on Sunday 5 May at 7.00 pm. Tickets £2.50 (adults) £1.00 (children) include the price of tea or coffee during the interval. Tickets in advance from Margaret 754974 or Rosemary 812254 - also available at the door. Last year's concert was a great success with many comments of appreciation. Come and enjoy an evening out, supporting both the young musicians and the church.

Margaret Barnett & Rosemary Gainsbury

CHANGE OF GUESTLING CHURCH REFUSE SITE - So that we can keep the car park clean and tidy, the refuse site has been moved to the south east corner of the churchyard. Direction signs are posted. Burnable material only would be appreciated.

John Jury

THREE OAKS WI - The April meeting will be on the 11th at 2.15 pm at the Village Hall. Miss D M Ede's address will be 'The Charm of New England in the Fall'. Visitors welcome.

A Q

JUMBLE SALE - Three Oaks Village Hall on Saturday 13 April at 2.00 pm in aid of hall funds.

QUIZ NIGHT - Please refer to March Parish News. Wednesday 3 April at 7.30 pm

PETT LEVEL NATURALISTS SOCIETY - the next meeting is on 19 April at 7.30 pm in Pett Village Hall. This month's talk is on Woodland Life by Melvin Smith.

Copy for Guestling for the April magazine to Mr D Griffiths, Sunnyside, Eight Acre Lane, Three Oaks and copy for Pett to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes, Pett by 17 April please.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK is on the horizon! Between 12 and 18 May there will be house-to-house collections of money to help the poor of the world to help themselves and, as always, every bit of support will be welcomed and appreciated. The week will start off with a Coffee Morning at Paxstead, Pett Road on Saturday 11 May from 10.00 am - 12 noon. Please do come if you can and bring your friends and neighbours with you to make this a really happy social occasion! More details in next month's Parish News.

Ray Taylor

PETT SPORTS ASSOCIATION will be holding its AGM at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 17 April in the pavilion on the Recreation Ground. Any members of the Bowls, Cricket, Stoolball and Tennis Clubs are invited to attend.

JUMBLE SALE - Saturday 13 April in 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 and tea and coffee will be available

Pett PCC

PETT WI - The April meeting will be on Friday 19 April at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall. Our speaker is Miss A. Whitehead telling us all about Crufts. New members and visitors will be welcome to join us.

PETT GARDEN CLUB - Tuesday 9 April at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Wendy and Ray Bates will talk about Alpines and Sink Gardens. Annual subscription £3.00 Visitors 50p.

PETT CRICKET CLUB - 60 members and friends attended the annual dinner at Beauport Park Hotel which was organised by Andrew Dunlop junior. Trophies were presented as follows: Trudi Barlow cup for the best all-rounder won by Andrew Goodsell (at present in Australia so it could not be presented). "Royal Oak" Sportsman of the Year cup presented by our MP Jacqui Lait to Alan Farnes. J Y Shearer cup for the most improved player of the year presented by Alan Shearer (Club Chairman) to Gary Osborn. Oscar Spencer Memorial Trophy for Best Individual Performance of the year presented by Jo Spencer to Mark Cook. In his speech Andrew Dunlop mentioned that a record number of players (52) had turned out for Pett last summer, of whom no less than 39 had bowled. Another record was the number of runs scored in an afternoon (512) in the match against touring side Franklin Lewin. For the first time 2 Pett batsmen scored over 1000 runs in the summer, Andrew Goodsell with 1302 and Alan Farnes with 1013.

VISIT TO CORPUS CHRISTI, ARUNDEL - is anyone interested in going to see the carpet of flowers on Wednesday 5 June. There will also be a visit to a garden centre and tea. Cost of coach £6.00. Contact Beryl Vick on 814188

ROBERT CLAUDE DAVIS - 3 December 1915 - 29 January 1996

Bob Davis was one of those exceptional people who will be remembered for many different activities which were always aimed at improving the life of the community. His boyhood was spent at Gatehurst Farm Pett and he attended a little school which was held at the Royal Oak and run by one of the Miss Lloyd-Worths. In his early years Bob was a farmer, concentrating on building up a herd of Friesians, firstly with his father at Salehurst and later, after his marriage to Daphne, at Guestling. During this time Bob was very involved in the community in many ways. He was leader of the Young Farmers' Club, the Bowls Club and the Badminton Club. He was from time to time Chairman of all these organisations as well as being founder of the Badminton Club. He was also Chairman of the Guestling Village Hall Committee until last year. He was also Treasurer of the Battle Combined Society which raised money for sports clubs, TV licences for old people's homes and Christmas parcels for the elderly. He will be best remembered for his involvement, with Daphne, in the conception, planning and development of Five Villages House. After their 'retirement' Bob and Daphne took on the onerous task of wardens at Five Villages House. With his enthusiasm for fund raising Bob started the draw to raise funds for Five Villages House and this became a major part of his life. In addition he ran regular whist drives at the House and at the Icklesham Memorial Hall. Bob's passing will leave a gap in many people's lives and he will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with Daphne and the family. May he rest and grow in peace.

IN THE REGISTERS

At Pett Church followed by burial in the churchyard
7 March - (Agnes) Rose Neal-Morris (94), "French Lodge", Pett Road

Internment of ashes in Pett churchyard
8 March - Lawrence Butler (72) late of Fareham
(Lawrence's ashes were buried in the grave of his son Glen who died at the age of 12 in the 1960s. We convey our sympathies to his widow and family).

We convey our deep sympathies to **Billy Neal-Morris** on the loss of his dear wife **Rose** at the age of 94 years. He married her at the end of the war after she had lost her first husband. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1994. They have lived together for nearly 30 years in French Lodge. She worked hard to create her lovely garden and they were well-known for selling eggs to the village. We know Billy will miss her terribly, and we promise our care and support.

NATURE NOTES

Wasn't the snow beautiful? The wind sculpted it into the most fantastic shapes, like breaking waves. Then, when the snow melted, quite suddenly we were surrounded by crocuses, snowdrops and even primroses. If you have a hand lens, it's well worth looking inside snowdrops and other tiny flowers. The intricate patterns and delicate colours on the tiny petals and stamens are a source of wonder - why are they so perfect, so symmetrical, so stunningly beautiful? It often seems that the smaller the flower, the more perfect it is.

Sometimes you may see a line of holly bushes, all but one of which have been stripped of their berries. This could well be because a mistle thrush is defending the berried one as his feeding territory. You may see him on a wild and windy day, singing his heart out from the highest available perch; hence his other name of "storm cock".

My blackbird appeared on the kitchen doorstep the other day on one leg. He made it quite clear that his only hope of survival was a constant supply of currants, which of course were immediately forthcoming. He didn't appear to be much handicapped by his mishap, except that he had to use a wing to balance himself while picking up the currants. He has now started using the injured leg again, somewhat tentatively, so hopefully he will make a full recovery with a little help from his friends.

Avril Thurley

CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL - Yet again the community has responded magnificently to a special appeal for help.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to send the Rotary Club of Rye and Winchelsea a cheque for £235 as our contribution towards medical supplies for the children's hospital in Minsk.

Thank you to the organisers for drawing this problem to our attention, and a very special thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who will be making the difficult journey to Minsk and we will be especially thinking of them on 26 April - the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

Meriel Deasy

Host families are needed for CHERNOBYL CHILDREN on a visit to the RYE DEANERY this Summer. The children are between 9 and 12 years old and will remain in pairs for their holiday. This visit will take place from mid-July to mid-August. Anyone who may have two beds to spare should contact JANET WADDAMS on 01797 223188 as soon as possible.

THIS AND THAT

Congratulations to John and Ray Taylor who celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary this month. We hope that they have a lovely day. We are grateful for all the hard work that they put into the life of the Church. They were thrilled with the diocesan video called "It's Us" and will be showing it at their house on Thursday 25 April at 7.30 pm. Let them know if you would like to attend.

We are pleased that Derek and Kath Greenwood are our representatives for the Archbishop's Commission on Rural Areas (ACORA). Their next meeting is on Saturday 27 April. We shall have a report that we can debate on our new PCCs

Guestling APCM is on Thursday 18 April in Three Oaks Village Hall. At 7.00 pm there will be a fish and chip supper (or salad), followed by the meeting at 8.00 pm. We are grateful for all who have served over the past year, especially Christine Rugg with David and Maureen Griffiths who will not be standing for re-election. We thank them for many years of service and look for new people to take their place. Please consult Joyce Groves if you are interested.

The Alpha Course begins in the Benefice this year. There will be a group in Fairlight and also at "Windswept", Rye Road, the home of Derek and Kath Greenwood. Please ring the Rector for details as soon as possible as the group may be full already. The first meeting is on Thursday 25 April.

CONCERT AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, FAIRLIGHT - The Abraxas String Quarter will be performing on Saturday 13 April at 7.00 pm. The all female string quartet is composed of young people who between them have attended 3 of the major London Music Colleges. With their wide repertoire ranging from classical to popular music they cater for all musical tastes and on this particular evening will be performing pieces from Handel, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Borodin and Pachelbel. Their recent engagements have included performances for the Variety Club of Great Britain, Cancer Research and Sky TV and recitals at Hole Museum, Trinity College, London and many churches in the London area - an opportunity not to be missed. Programmes price £2.00 are on sale at the Circle Stores, Fairlight, from Eileen Owen, Church House, Fairlight or on the day. Another event in support of the Anniversary Restoration Fund.

PETT CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

14 April	Mrs Carr, Mrs Ainsworth
21 April	Mrs Hickman, Mrs Jackson
28 April	Mrs Harris, Miss Turner

IN MEMORIAM

The funeral of the later Canon Peter Harvey was held at St Mary's, Rye (a Requiem and thanksgiving service). Peter was well-known in this Deanery having latterly served at Brede. The obituary in the Church Times mentions his long and effective ministry. Born in Wales and ordained in Monmouth he moved to England in 1946. He became an editor of a series of popular and ambitious magazines. His writing prowess continued even in retirement and after a debilitating stroke, working on the stories of popular hymns. A book on that subject is to be published later in the year, and we have featured his articles regularly in our magazine.

Canon John Heston wrote "It was however in Sussex that Peter's parochial Ministry developed and in 1979 he was appointed to a prebendal stall in Chichester Cathedral (made a Canon). As a pilgrimage leader he formed the Church Pilgrimage Association, once leading a pilgrimage of 300 to the Holy Land".

Peter was married to Vivienne, by whom he had six children. After her death he married Betty, and recently they have lived in Fairlight, to whom we convey our deep sympathies. He was in his 80th year when he died, remembered warmly by many in the Benefice.

In the past we have published Canon Peter's pages on favourite hymns. This is in place of the April issue, but we hope to include others in the future.

A BENEFICE BULLETIN

The Rector and the Ministerial Team warmly invite all church members to an Open Meeting for the whole Benefice on SATURDAY 20 APRIL at 10.00 am in Pett Village Hall to discuss the Bishop's Pastoral document and reflect on the Lent Groups, and to look to the future.

The meeting is open not only to those who attended Lent Groups, but especially to members of the three PCCs, Leaders of Groups and every church member who is interested in the development of the Benefice.

PLEASE COME IF YOU CAN

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

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