



May, 1996

# PARISH NEWS

20p

Pett Level



ROBIN WRITESA POWER FAILURE

We have become very used to throwing the switch and having a surge of power. Some years ago my previous car had an electrical fault and it kept breaking down. Sometimes I could start the engine and at other times it would go dead on me. One occasion after going visiting, I was at the other side of the parish. I had a lot of work to do and could not start the car. I had to call out the garage, and it took me a long time to walk to my calls and get back home. I remember feeling hot and bothered and very frustrated. A "power failure" makes you feel that way.

The Church has all the pieces in place; a long tradition, the ordained clergy, the ordered institution, many buildings, but it so often seems to be suffering from a "power failure". After the resurrection Jesus told his disciples this: "Wait for the gift my Father promised. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to me and you will be my witnesses". It is significant that Christmas is a time when all the churches are filled. Easter has extra visitors, but WHITSUN nearly always passes with little mention and interest. Paul, early in the story of the Church, met some Christians who also seemed to lack "power". He asked them "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit".

Sadly many churches are in that position. No wonder there is a "power failure" in many of them. We need to know that our loving Heavenly Father does not deny any good gift from us. Read Luke 11:13 "If we who are evil know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more will our Father in Heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask!" We should both ask and receive. Look out for the special services and events around Whit Sunday and come prepared to receive the gift. The Alpha Course has a suggested weekend away to deal with the subject of the Holy Spirit. On Whit Saturday some of us will be sharing at the Oaks Centre in Ewhurst. On Whit Sunday afternoon we will complete our learning and experience at St Peter's, Fairlight. Join us at 6.00 pm for a special service to share the Spirit. Many have asked for a "together" service again. It would be lovely to have members of each church present at this service.

Robin

GUESTLING ROTAS - MAY 1996

## 5 May - MATINS - Easter 4 (White)

PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe  
 FLOWERS - Mrs Pearson, Mrs Jagger, Mrs Gill  
 SIDESMEN - Miss Groves, Mrs Smith  
 READERS - Lady Ashburnham - Nehemiah 1  
 - Miss Groves - 1 Corinthians 15:1 - 28

## 12 May - PARISH COMMUNION - Easter 5 (White)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch  
 FLOWERS - Mrs Wicking, Mrs Parks, Mrs D Griffiths  
 SIDESMEN - Col Parks, Mrs Williams  
 ELEMENTS - Mrs Smith, Mrs Page  
 READERS - Col Parks - Deuteronomy 34  
 - Mrs Brooks - Romans 8:28 to end

## 19 May - FAMILY COMMUNION - Sunday after Ascension (White)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch  
 FLOWERS - Lady Ashburnham, Mrs Carpenter, Mrs Coppins  
 SIDESMEN - Young People  
 ELEMENTS - Young People  
 READERS - Mr Barnett - 2 Kings 2:1 - 15  
 - Mr Tytherleigh - Ephesians 4:1 - 13

## 26 May - PARISH COMMUNION - Pentecost - Whit Sunday (Red)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen  
 FLOWERS - Mrs Greenwood, Mr Greenwood, Mrs Brooks  
 SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds  
 ELEMENTS - Miss Groves, Mrs Williams  
 READERS - Mr Greenwood - Exodus 19:16 to end  
 - Mr Griffiths - Acts 2:1 - 21



**PETT AND PETT LEVEL ROTA - MAY 1996**

1 May - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)

5 May - 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Derek Owen

INTERCESSIONS - Mr K Gill

SIDESPERSONS - Mr J Underwood, Mr W Slack

SERVER - Miss M Deasy

READER - Miss M Deasy

Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack

12 May - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)

CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch

READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - Romans 8:28 to end

Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs D Griffiths

10.30 am FAMILY SERVICE (Pett)

LED BY - Methodist Minister

SIDESPERSON - Mr J Hiett

19 May - 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)

PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch

INTERCESSIONS - Mrs E Greenfield

SIDESPERSONS - Mrs A Scott, Mrs K Jury

SERVER - Mr T Coby

READER - Mrs A Scott - Ephesians 4:1 - 13

Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack

26 May - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)

CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch

READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley - Acts 2:1 - 11

Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs A Hawksley

9.30 am MATINS (Pett)

LEADER/PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman

SIDESPERSONS - Mrs P Bowman, Mr J Greenfield

READERS - Mrs R Taylor Joel 2:21 to end

- Mr J Taylor - Romans 8:1 - 17

**FLOWER ROTA**

5 May Mrs Pruden, Mrs Moir

19 May Mrs Medlock, Mrs Grundy

12 May Mrs Jury, Mrs Spore

26 May Mrs Jury, Mrs Hogan

**MAY TIME IN THE BENEFICE**

1 7.00 pm Alpha at the "Reddings", Broadway, Fairlight

2 7.00 pm Alpha at "Windswept", Rye Road, Guestling  
(Alpha meets regularly each week)

5 7.00 pm Hastings Area Wind Orchestra Concert, St Laurence

10-12 FAITH SHARING WEEKEND WITH CPAS

A welcome to Evangelist, Revd Anne Hibbert

11 10.00 am - 12 noon CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING at  
"Paxstead", Pett Road, Pett for both churches.

2.15 - 5.00 pm Faith sharing training at St Peter's, Fairlight

Church members from Pett and Guestling

12 10.30 am FAMILY SERVICE with CHRISTIAN AID FEATURE at the  
Parish Church, Pett

13 7.30 pm Royal British Legion meet at the Smuggler

16 SCHOOL ASCENSION DAY SERVICE at Guestling Church

13-18 CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

18 10.00 am - 12 noon SPRING FAIR, Village Hall, Guestling

20 7.30 pm Pett PCC meets at the Rectory

22 10.00 am - 12 noon A COFFEE MORNING with a difference at the  
Rectory, Pett featuring DEMELZA HOUSE (Hospice for children) also  
bring and buy (odd balls of wool welcome)

24 7.30 pm Guestling PCC meets at the Rectory

25 ALPHA GROUPS meet at the Oasts, Ewhurst Green

7.30 pm Concert for the Young at Heart led by music group from  
St Helen's, Ore (at St Andrew's) proceeds for Restoration

26 WHIT SUNDAY Communion: 8.00 am Pett Level and 11.00 am at  
Guestling. Afternoon Alpha Course at St Peter's.

6.00 pm concluding service at St Peter's, Fairlight

31 Benefice trip to Chichester Flower Festival

**FOCUSSING ON THE CATHEDRAL** - On 7 May the Benefice will be prayed for at the Eucharist in the Cathedral. We will also be prayed for at Evensong. If any are free to attend we are encouraged to join in the Bishop Bell Rooms at 4.15 pm for tea. Evensong follows at 5.30 pm. If any are free to attend they should tell Ken Holmes, our Cathedral link, or Robin to notify the staff.

**"DARKNESS INTO LIGHT"** - the Cathedral Trust have organised a "Festival of Flowers" from Thursday 30 May - Saturday 1 June. The Women's Fellowship have arranged for a coach on Friday 31 May. Details from Norma Newman. The cost of tickets are £4 (£3 for OAPs). The Festival is in aid of the Chichester Cathedral Trust and the St John's Ambulance.



**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12 - 18 May** - Although Christian Aid gives help and support to people all over the world, the materials for this year's Christian Aid Week focus on Peru.

When terrorists attacked their homes in the Andean Highlands, many Quechua Indians fled, taking with them only essentials for the journey. Among them were the Asto family, who walked for days before reaching the Huancayo area. They had nowhere to live, no jobs and no money, but they were helped by IDET, a local organisation funded by Christian Aid. IDET provides loans to help families start their own business. A loan from IDET enabled the Asto family to buy a lathe, a chain saw and some wood to start a chair-making business. The proceeds help to feed and educate the family, which means that they can live independently and retain their dignity, whilst providing their children with a chance of a better future.

Your help can bring hope to many other families like the Astos: please give as generously as you can to the house-to-house collections which will take place in Guestling and Pett during Christian Aid Week. You can be sure of a warm welcome if you come to the Christian Aid Coffee Morning on **Saturday 11 May** from 10.00 am - 12 noon at Paxstead, Pett Road. There will be a raffle, bring and buy, and a sale of Traidcraft (Christian Aid) goods. These are produced in poorer countries and marketed here to give the producers a fair financial return. Every bit of support for the Week will be much appreciated. Thank you!

Rosemary Gainsbury and Ray Taylor

**PETT JUMBLE SALE** - Many thanks to everyone who helped, donated and supported our recent Jumble Sale in aid of church funds. We raised £404.54.  
Christine Harris

**COFFEE MORNING** - the children of Pett Church Choir/Club are holding a special event in Pett Village Hall on Saturday 4 May 10.30 am to 12.30 pm to raise money for some microphones. Cake stall, tombola, raffle and bric-a-brac.  
E Greenfield 813370

**PETT CRICKET CLUB** - At the AGM of the Club John Osborn was elected secretary and Peter Spencer took over as Treasurer. Andrew Dunlop junior continues as Team Secretary. Saturday captain will be John Osborn and Alan Farnes continues on Sundays.  
May fixtures

Sunday 5 May - Winchelsea - away - 2.30 pm  
Saturday 11 May - Beaulieu - away - 2.00 pm (League)  
Sunday 12 May - Guestling & Old Hastings - home - 2.30 pm  
Saturday 18 May - Guestling & Old Hastings - home - 2.00 pm (League)  
Sunday 19 May - Park - away 2.30 pm  
Saturday 25 May - Rye 3rd - away 2.00 pm (League)  
Sunday 26 May - Clive Vale 2nd - home - 2.30 pm

50 years ago saw the start of the first post war cricket season with Vic Cooke as captain and star bowler. Mrs Morris provided teas at the Royal Oak and the sub raised to 3s 6d to buy hurdles to fence off the cricket square from the depredations of the horses grazing the field. We lost the first match against Udimore by 52 to 79. There were only 2 scores of over 100 in the whole season

**JOHN AND RAY TAYLOR** would like to thank all their friends for filling their recent Ruby Wedding celebrations with such warmth, kindness and happiness. Bless you all.

**PETT WI** - On 17 May at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall we hold our annual meeting to consider the resolutions which are later discussed at the National WI AGM in Cardiff. All members are welcome to voice their opinion and advise our delegate on which way we wish her to vote.

**PETT GARDEN CLUB** - Our guest speaker on Tuesday evening 14 May at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall will be Colin Page from Harborough Nursery. He will bring bedding plants, give hints and advise and answer our questions. Everyone welcome. Subscriptions now due.

**AGM OF GUESTLING & DISTRICT WELFARE ASSOCIATION** will be held at the Methodist Chapel, Pett on Wednesday 8 May at 2.30 pm. After the business Mrs Ray Taylor will give a talk on the Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Social Work. There will be a bring and buy stall, a raffle and a FREE TEA.

#### PETT ANNUAL MEETING

Churchwardens: Miss M Deasy, Mrs A Hawksley

Deanery Synod: Mr & Mrs W Cooper

PCC members: Cdr T Clarkson, Mrs P Gerrelli, Mrs D Goodsell, Mrs C Harris, Dr C Holman, Mrs K Jury, Mrs J Medlock, Mrs F Taylor, Mr & Mrs J Taylor, Miss M Turner, Mrs B Vick, Mrs J Zeepvat.

**ARE YOU A SINGLE CHRISTIAN PERSON** who is lonely and in need of Christian Company. Why not join us, we hold fortnightly meetings. For further details contact Norma on 01424 446633.



RECORDED IN THE REGISTERS

We welcome into the fellowship of the Church in Baptism

30 March - Lily Faith Lindon, daughter of Robert and Jane Lindon  
of Amhurst, Pett Road (at St Mary & St Peter, Pett)

Barbara Jane Goodsell (adult), 5 Harvest Way, Hastings  
(at St Mary & St Peter, Pett)

Internment of ashes in St Laurence Churchyard, Guestling

6 April Pamela Jean Goodman (66 years), 2 Brambletye, Pett Road

ST LAURENCE DIARY - MAY 1996

- 1 St Philip & St James  
7.30 pm Quiz night at Three Oaks Village Hall
- 2 7.00 pm Alpha Course at "Windswept", Rye Road
- 3 7.30 pm Choir practice
- 5 11.00 am Matins - Easter 4 - Canon Michael Townroe  
7.00 pm Hastings Wind Orchestra at St Laurence Church
- 9 2.15 pm Three Oaks WI meet at Three Oaks Village Hall  
7.00 pm Alpha Course
- 11 10.00 am Christian Aid Coffee Morning at Paxstead, Pett
- 12 11.00 am Parish Communion - Easter 5 - Revd Robin Balch
- 13 9.45 am Library van at Three Oaks Village Hall
- 14 St Matthias
- 16 Ascension Day - School Service at St Laurence Church  
7.00 pm Alpha Course
- 17 7.30 pm Choir practice
- 18 2.00 pm Spring Fair at Guestling Village Hall
- 19 11.00 am Family Communion Rite A - Sunday after Ascension  
2.00 pm Plant Market at Three Oaks Village Hall
- 22 10.00 am Coffee Morning at the Rectory for "Demelza House"  
7.30 pm Bingo at Three Oaks Village Hall
- 23 7.00 pm Alpha Course
- 24 7.30 pm PCC meeting at the Rectory
- 25 7.30 pm Youth Concert at St Andrew's, Fairlight
- 26 11.00 am Parish Communion - Whit Sunday - Revd Derek Owen
- 30 7.00 pm Alpha Course
- 31 Outing to Chichester Cathedral Flower Festival  
7.30 pm Choir practice

The WI meeting on Thursday 9 May will be a Resolution Meeting.

For the Spring Fair on 18 May we should be grateful for plants, cakes, bric-a-brac, tins and bottles for the tombola. A list of stall holders is in the church porch. Please come and support us.

NATURE NOTES

When I first saw the Comet I was disappointed; it just looked like a rather fuzzy star. Then I looked at it through my binoculars - and I was spellbound! It had a brilliant light whirling round it, making loops and irregular patterns, and I was so excited that I continued watching it until I had frozen fingers and a crick in the neck. It would be wonderful to see it through a really big telescope. I think I could get hooked on astronomy.

On 3 April at midday I saw a fox pass through a field of sheep with very young lambs. Most of the ewes took no notice, though some to whom he was closest called their lambs and watched him warily. The fox completely ignored the sheep. Two days later I walked through the same field with a friend's dog, on the lead of course. The sheep parted before us like the Red Sea before the Israelites, regrouped behind us, and watched us with much anxious baaing until we crossed the stile out of the field. I have seen foxes pass through fields of sheep before, always without causing panic, and it seems to me that this says something about the relative dangers to sheep from foxes and dogs - at least as perceived by the sheep themselves.

If you are waiting with bated breath to hear what happened to my blackbird, you will be relieved to know that he has made a full recovery from his leg injury. His latest escapade was to hop into the greenhouse through the door, which was only open about six inches, and then try to fly out through the same gap. He then panicked and crashed round the greenhouse bashing his head on the glass till I went and rescued him. He seems none the worse for the experience. I suspect his skull is fairly thick both literally and metaphorically.

Avril Thurley

**FAIRLIGHT DANCE CLUB** has vacancies for 1 or 2 couples who are keen ballroom and Latin American dancers and who would like to practice their steps at our weekly sessions. Must have partners as this is not a social dance. Contact 813540 for details.

If you can't make it to York for the "Miracle Plays" this year, go to St Andrew's, Fairlight on Saturday 22 June at 6.30 pm. You can even take part if you wish. Ring Carol Shortman on 812092 and give your name. For further details refer to Fairlight's May Magazine.



## LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF THE MEMORIAL CARE CENTRE, RYE

Spring Bank Holiday Fair - Monday 27 May 1996 - 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm  
Once again the League of Friends is taking a stall at the Spring Fair, organised by the Rye Council for Voluntary Service. In recent months the Friends have spent over £3,000.00 on necessary equipment for patients in the Medical Wing. We are also planning to erect a new bus shelter at the bus stop outside the Care Centre.

We ask for your help in two ways. We need lots of cakes and home-made produce for the stall. Please contact Tessa Potts at 4 Friars Road, Winchelsea tel: 01797 223050. You will also be welcomed if you support the stall on the day. Thank you.

John Priestly

Chairman of the League of Friends of the Memorial Care Centre, Rye

**WINDOW ON FAIRLIGHT'S ANNIVERSARY YEAR** - Members of Pett and Guestling are welcome to the below.

The ANNIVERSARY YEAR continues with the visit of ANNE HIBBERT, this is followed by the next LADIES VIEWPOINT on Friday 17 May at 7.30 pm when friends from Eileen and Robin's previous church in Erith come to tell their story. This will be at "White Cottage", Battery Hill by kind permission of John and June Dyer beginning at 7.30 pm. Ladies, young and older, are very welcome.

The younger members of the congregation and their friends are featured in a CONCERT to be held in St Andrew's on 25 May at 7.30 pm given by the SHABY "MUSIC GROUP" from St Helen's Church. Our own Ketland Dyer and Amy Shortman are members of the youth group here and they have come to help us in our Anniversary Year. The music will suit the young and those who are "young at heart", so please come regardless of age. Details from Church.

The WHIT WEEKEND will feature the "away day" for the ALPHA GROUPS. They will be at the Oasts on the Saturday and then finish their sessions on the Sunday afternoon in St Peter's. Derek and Robin thought it would be good to close the weekend with worship at St Peter's at 6.00 pm and invite other members of the congregations to share something of the "flavour" of Alpha. Please come!

Eileen Balch invites all friends to share in a special COFFEE MORNING in aid of DEMELZA HOUSE (featured earlier) in the RECTORY on 22 May from 10.00 am to 12 noon. There will be coffee, chat, cakes and biscuits and a bring and buy stall. There will also be a special feature on the work of the children's hospice, whose inspirer is Church Architect, Derek Phillips, and the project is named after his daughter who died from a brain tumour at the age of 24 years. Demelza was a children's hospice nurse. Please support enthusiastically.

Copy for Guestling for the May magazine to Mr D Griffiths, Sunnyside, Eight Acre Lane, Three Oaks and copy for Pett to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes, Pett by 15 May please.

## ALPHA by Mary Ewen

Mary, a young student at university, is known to Michael Townroe. He thought this article in her parish magazine would be of general interest.

EXCITING, CHALLENGING, REVITALISING, these are just a few words to describe Alpha. For those of you who have not yet heard of it, Alpha is a 10 week course which examines the foundations of the Christian faith. Personally I didn't realise such a thing existed until fairly recently but in fact the course was devised some 17 years ago when a clergyman began looking for a means of presenting the basic principles of the Christian faith to new Christians in a relaxed and informal setting.

They are mostly evening courses which begin with a meal, followed by a talk on topics such as Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How does God guide us? etc ... then, in true Christian style, there is a break for coffee after which we separate into small groups to discuss the topic although the discussion often leads to many other issues concerning Christianity. People are encouraged to be open and ask whatever questions they like. The course also includes a weekend away on the subject of the Holy Spirit.

Alpha began with a few people meeting in someone's living room but today courses are being run by almost every Christian denomination in Britain and around 45,000 people are estimated to be involved with an Alpha course somewhere in the country each week. It doesn't stop in the UK, courses are beginning in places like Australia, the USA, Germany and Kenya to name but a few. It is also being introduced into prisons and homeless projects.

Impressed? I was. I began my Alpha course 5 weeks ago and it is absolutely brilliant. I was a bit sceptical at first having been a Christian for some time. I expect most of you are thinking "if I'm already part of the church I don't need a course like this" but believe me you couldn't be more wrong. Being a Christian does not mean you know all the answers. There is always something new you can learn about God.

Being a Christian isn't easy but each week Alpha strengthens my faith and reassures me of God's love. It has given me the chance to meet new people outside University and make friends within my new church. To others it is an opportunity to introduce friends to Christianity and share with them about their faith. We have around 150 people each week and I was really surprised and encouraged to see how many were non-Christians. People from all sorts of backgrounds come wanting to find out more about Jesus.

It's not just an excellent way of reaching out to the community, it brings the church itself closer together. There are many ways in which you can get involved; administration, helping with catering, leading a discussion group or simply contributing to the discussions.

Many people have come to faith through these courses. They certainly give you a chance to consider just where God fits into your life. I believe it is important for those of us who are Christians to be questioned about this sometimes as often we push Him to one side as we become preoccupied with what's going on in our lives.

The growth of the Alpha course is extremely exciting and is being hailed by church leaders of all denominations as one of the most significant developments of the Decade of Evangelism. As Christians we are always in need of renewal, as Christians we are called to spread the Gospel message to others. If we are aiming to make our society a better place and to bring people back to God then I truly believe Alpha is a great way forward.



## 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