

March, 1997

PARISH NEWS

20p

Pett Level

ROBIN WRITES:

BAD NEWS or IS IT?

As I write this letter news has come about the further decline in attendance at CHURCH OF ENGLAND churches, at 3% in 1995 the biggest for 20 years. 100,000 less attend now compared with 1990. Statistics are notoriously difficult to interpret. One claim is that just as many attend but they come less frequently and this is reflected in the overall figures. Pressures on family life continue. At weekends people visit relatives who now live at some distance. It is noticeable that the greatest decline is among the young. In 1995 nearly 5% of under 16 year olds stopped going to church. All of this is BAD NEWS. It would be foolish to bury our heads in the sand, or even look for "scapegoats"! Our Benefice has embarked on an APPRAISAL and maybe we shall discover the reason why people have stopped attending church. Could I make some suggestions?

Lack of Faith. In our so-called Christian Country, fewer people actually believe in the faith of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and His Church. This starts in our homes and continues. There is little appetite to learn the Faith and study it. There is little teaching of Jesus and his way. A lack of knowledge and conviction lead to agnosticism and finally atheism.

Lack of Loyalty. I know some parents who ring the married children every day and see them at weekends! Many people think that once a month at Church or less is sufficient to maintain their relationship with their Heavenly Father. When inquirers or visitors come to Church and find the regular members absent it does not breed confidence!

Lack of Enthusiasm. There seems to be an aversion to religious fervour in this generation. It is all right to be keen on a sport. We can be "over the moon" about conservation, birds, animals and plants. We can worship our gardens and our cars, but when somebody discovers faith in Jesus and wants to express it, he or she is a fanatic. No wonder few attend if it is only a matter of a duty and rote!

However, there is plenty of GOOD NEWS. First the Gospel of Jesus Christ remains the same, regardless of a lack of faith, loyalty and zeal. Secondly, although a UNITED BENEFICE, overall numbers have not declined! More than 50 people have attended ALPHA courses in the past year, and there is sufficient support for a planned programme to make the Church more accessible and relevant to those who live in our villages. I invite you to give Church a chance, respond to our questionnaires and visit us.

ST LAURENCE ROTAS MARCH 1997

- 2nd MATINS - LENT 3 - (Violet)
LEADER/PREACHER - Mrs Eileen Balch
CLEANING - Mrs Greenwood, Mr Greenwood, Mrs Brooks
SIDESMEN - Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Betson
READERS - Mr Greenwood - Exodus 5:1 to 6 - 1
- Mrs Wicking - St Luke 22:54 to end
- 9th MOTHERING SUNDAY - LENT 4 - (Violet)
FAMILY PARADE SERVICE - Mrs Eileen Balch
CLEANING - Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Groves, Mrs Smith
- 16th PARISH COMMUNION (exchanged with 9th) LENT 5 - (Violet)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
CLEANING - Mrs Jennings, Mrs Perry Mrs M Griffiths
SIDESMEN - Miss Groves, Mrs Smith
ELEMENTS - Mrs Betson, Mrs Gainsbury
READERS - Miss Groves - Exodus 34:29 to end
- Mrs Smith - 2 Corinthians 3:4 to end
- 23rd PARISH COMMUNION - PALM SUNDAY - LENT 6 - (Red)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
CLEANING - Mrs Pearson, Mrs Jagger, Mrs Gill
SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds
ELEMENTS - Col Parks, Mrs Williams
READERS - Mr Barnett - Isaiah 50:4 - 9a
- Col Parks - Philippians 2:5 - 11

HOLY WEEK

- 24th Monday 6.00 pm - HOLY COMMUNION
- 26th Wednesday 6.00 pm - HOLY COMMUNION
- 28th GOOD FRIDAY 2.00 - 3.00 pm Hour at the Cross
- 30th - HOLY COMMUNION BCP - EASTER DAY - (White)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman
FLOWERS - All help please (Saturday 29th from 9.00 am)
SIDESMEN - Mr Jury, Mrs Page
ELEMENTS - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds
EPISTLE - Mrs Brooks - St Matthew 27:57 to end

PETT AND PETT LEVEL ROTAS MARCH 1997

- 2nd - 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 INTERCESSIONS - Miss M Deasy
 SIDESPERSONS - Mr J Greenfield, Mr J Hiatt
 SERVER - Mr J Underwood
 READER - Mrs E Greenfield - Colossians 1:24 - 29
 Pett Level cleaning - Mrs J Slack
- 5th - 11.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT - Red Robin Balch
- 9th - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - 2 Corinthians 3:4 - 18
 Pett Level cleaning - Miss M Deasy
- 10.30 am FAMILY SERVICE (Pett) - MOTHERING SUNDAY
 LED BY - Mrs Topsy Brice
 SIDESPERSON - Mrs E Greenfield
- 16th - 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 PRESIDENT - Revd Robin Balch/Canon Michael Townroe
 INTERCESSIONS - Mr K Gill
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs D Griffiths, Mr W Slack
 SERVER - Miss M Deasy
 READER - Mrs M Newton - Colossians 2:8 - 15
 Pett Level cleaning - Mrs J Slack
- 23rd - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level) - PALM SUNDAY
 CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley - Philippians 2:5 - 11
 Pett Level cleaning - Mrs A Hawksley
- 9.30 am MATINS - (Pett)
 LEADER/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs A Scott, Mrs K Jury
 READERS - Mrs B Vick - Jeremiah 7:1 - 11
 Mrs A Scott - Luke 19:28 - 40
- 25th 7.30 pm - HOLY COMMUNION (Pett)
 27th 7.30 pm - HOLY COMMUNION (Pett)
 28th 9.30 am PRAYERS AND MEDITATION (Pett) GOOD FRIDAY
 30th 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level) EASTER DAY
 CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Revelation 1:10 - 18
 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe/Revd Robin Balch
 INTERCESSIONS - Mrs A Hawksley
 SIDESPERSONS - Mr W Cooper, Mrs J Coby
 SERVER - Mr T Coby
 READER - Mr W Cooper - 1 Corinthians 15:12 - 30

THE REGISTER

Burial in Guestling Church after a service in St Mary's Star of the Sea (RC) Church
 19 February Elizabeth Parsons late of St Leonards (aged 93 years)

IN OUR THOUGHTS and PRAYERS

We have been so sorry to hear how ill STAN GRANT has been recently. This has been so difficult as he has looked after his wife, Gina, for some time. At the time of writing Stan is in the Conquest Hospital after treatment in Maidstone. In the future we expect them both to be looked after in a local nursing home.

Continue to pray for SUE KIND as she fights her illness. We are very much looking forward to the christening of her grandchild on 13 APRIL when the family arrive from Australia. For Pett people there will be no Family Service in the morning, and the congregation are encouraged to support the service which will be held at 3.00 pm in Pett Parish Church. Please pray that Sue will be much improved by this special occasion which will be conducted by the Revd John Read, previous Rector of Guestling and Pett.

Canon Michael and the Rector were able recently to conduct a service of laying on of hands and anointing of oil for NORMAN COBY, who on top of continuing ill-health has fresh complications. The following visit to the hospital revealed improvement. We give thanks to God, but ask you to continue to pray for him and his family at this worrying time. The Clergy believe in the Healing Ministry of the Church, and are looking for support for a regular time of ministry in the church programme. They would welcome any encouragement and support for this important ministry.

The ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS are to be held after Easter. The dates arranged are as follows:

GUESTLING - Thursday 10 April at 7.00 pm in Three Oaks Village Hall
 PETT - Tuesday 15 April at 7.00 pm in Pett Village Hall.

Please ensure that you are on the ELECTORAL ROLL in order to attend and vote. Nominations to secretaries in good time please.

ST LAURENCE DIARY

- 4 May Hastings Wind Orchestra Evening Concert in the Church - details later
- 17 May Spring Fair in Guestling Village Hall 2.00 - 4.00 pm. Plants, bric-a-brac, cakes, tins and bottles, raffle etc.
- 28 June Coffee morning in aid of Guestling Junior Choir funds in the home of Kathleen and Derek Greenwood, Windswept, Rye Road 10.00 - 12.00
- 20 July or 27 July (depending on the weather) Ken and Doreen's Garden Lunch Party 12.30 - 4.30 pm
- 15, 16, 17 August - Flower Festival
- 3 October Harvest Supper at the school
- 5 October Harvest Service 11.00 am
- 25 October Jumble Sale 2.00 - 4.00 pm in Guestling Village Hall

Please watch this space for full details nearer the time and try to keep the dates free.

EASTER DECORATIONS - The church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday 29 March from 9.00 am.

Anyone wishing to have a lily in memory of a loved one, please let Rosemary know on 812254 as soon as possible.

GUESTLING FAMILY SERVICE - We would like to have the opportunity of using 'JUNIOR PRAISE' at our monthly family services. The children use these books at school and love the words and music. The cost of each book is £1.80 and we need a minimum of 50 to get the discount. If you would like to donate/sponsor one or any number of these books please contact Ken Tytherleigh, Margaret Barnett or Gill Perry and together we can look forward to some exciting singing! One of the Junior Choir said last week "when can we sing some of the songs we know".

THREE OAKS WI - The next meeting will be held on 13 March at 2.15 pm in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Graham Lee and he will give an illustrated talk on the "Sue Ryder Foundation".

The next Quiz Night is on 5 March at 7.30 pm. Teams maximum of 6 - entry £1.00 per person including refreshments.

There will be a Coffee Morning, Art Show and Second Hand Book Sale in Three Oaks Village Hall on Saturday 1 March 10.30 am - 12.00 noon. Entry 40p to include coffee and biscuits.

PETT

SMARTIES - Thank you to everyone who so generously filled Smartie tubes with coins of the realm. £390.00 was raised in this way. Thank you to John and Ray whose idea it was - and a very special thanks to Phyllis who did the counting!

HELP NEEDED PLEASE - Pett PCC need a Treasurer. Training will be given to anyone who would be willing to take on this essential role. Please contact Meriel, Angela, Phyllis or Robin if you feel that you are able to help.

PETT FLOWER ROTA - No flowers during Lent.

All help please to decorate the church for Easter on Saturday 29 March from 9.30 am onwards. Those wishing to donate lilies on memory of loved ones please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you.

K Jury 812537

PETT CRICKET CLUB NOTES - This summer Pett CC will be combining with Guestling & Old Hastings CC (under the Pett banner) to run two teams in the League on Saturdays so that there will be a 'home' match at Pett nearly every Saturday. This is because Guestling & Old Hastings found great difficulty in fielding a full side on Saturdays last year.

The two clubs will continue to run independently on Sundays, though Pett may well be weakened by the calls of the Saturday sides.

At least this will give the boys every encouragement, and it is very pleasing to report a special club record. Two of our boys, Mark Cook and George Richardson, were selected for the County squads at under 16 and under 12 age groups respectively. Mark Cook also scored his first century for Pett.

PETT FLOWER SHOW - May I please remind Committee members of the Pett Flower Show that the AGM will be held on Tuesday 4 March in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. This is an open meeting and we would welcome support and ideas from the village.

For adult competitors wishing to 'get ahead', the handicraft section reads as follows:

- 53d Any hand knitted or crocheted garment
- 53e A draught excluder
- 53f Miscellaneous - any item of embroidery, tapestry etc not covered above
- 53g Miscellaneous - any item of pottery, papier-mache, woodwork, craft work etc not covered above.

Secretary, 812370

NATURE NOTES

Have you seen the new white calf at Lunsford Farm? He is pure white, not albino, and is the first to be born on the farm for many years. I gather he is already quite a character.

Somewhere near Bower Cottage there lives a rather cultured robin. He has been nipping in an open window and taking pot pourri from a bowl on the window sill, presumably to line his nest. A nestful of scented baby robins - what a lovely thought.

During the very cold weather a group of long-tailed tits were coming to the bird feeders. According to the RSPB these delightful little pink, black and white birds are becoming much more frequent visitors to gardens, mainly because people now offer good quality food rather than just stale bread.

Looking out of the kitchen window I saw a mob of sparrows attacking something on the ground. It turned out to be a dead vole. I have frequently noticed that birds are afraid of voles, shrews and mice, and will not approach the food if any small mammal is present, so presumably the chance to "get their own back" on a dead one was too good to miss.

My favourite shrub is now in full bloom, shining golden amidst fog, frost and rain, sweetly scented, hardy, doesn't need pruning, nothing eats it, and at its best when the weather is at its worst. I wouldn't be without a witch hazel. If you walk along the footpath between the Sawyers Field and Watermill Lane, you can see a really big one in the garden of Watermill House.

Avril Thurley

FOR THE CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL - You will be aware of the interest of the CHURCHES TOGETHER IN RYE in the "Children of Chernobyl". Pett was magnificent in raising more than £200.00 as a contribution towards the purchase of medicines and toiletries taken last April to the children. At Christmas more than 20 boxes of Christmas gifts were donated for Eastern European children.

MR SIDNEY VINCENT of Rye Baptist Church is running in the HASTINGS HALF MARATHON on 16 March. You will find sponsor forms in each church. All money will go to the CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL. This is a very worthy cause, now very close to the hearts of Christians in the Rye and District area. Your support is very welcome.

LISTENING YEAR - UNDER WAY!

We were very thrilled with REVD JOHN FORD's visit to us in January to launch the LISTENING YEAR. John managed to speak at the three Parish Churches on the morning of 19 January - which was quite a feat! He also managed to apply the same message in a different way to each church. We were very impressed with his talk to the children at the Family Communion at Guestling. We all learnt a lot and found it very interesting. The overall message was that we needed to be committed to Christ, and to be in co-operation with each other in the Benefice.

Nearly 60 attended the BENEFICE LUNCH at Guestling/Bradshaw School. He told us of the DIOCESAN DAYS on Mission and Renewal at Worth Abbey near Crawley on 25/26 April, when the officer for the Decade of Evangelism, Canon Robert Warren, will be the main speaker. A number from the three Churches have signed up to attend. There are details in the Churches for any who wish to join them on the Friday or Saturday.

On the Sunday afternoon about 20 people in all from the Churches met John to talk about the APPRAISAL. This involved responding to TWO DIFFERENT QUESTIONNAIRES. First for church members - finding out where they attend and why, and discovering ways to make their worship better for them. The second is for members of the community, to help us assess our role in the neighbourhood and how we are viewed. We do hope that you will encourage your friends and neighbours to take part.

The Appraisal will be conducted separately in each parish, then the representatives will meet together, as a Benefice, to exchange ideas and compare results. During LENT about 60 members in 6 groups will be studying and exploring "LISTENING PRAYER". On 7 June we have booked a part of the OAST HOUSES CONFERENCE CENTRE in Ewhurst Green for a QUIET DAY, led by our friend JOHN GOODING from CPAS who visited us, with much profit, two years ago. Another friend, SHEILA SHEPHEARD, will be assisting him.

We are also hoping to arrange for a coach to take us to ARDINGLY on 21 June for CARITAS. This will be a real spur to our faith. Please book the date in your diary and come with us!

PETT PARISH PUMP

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held in Pett Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 25 March, following a brief Meeting of the Parish Council. This is your chance to come along and make known any matters of concern within the Parish. If there is something you think should be discussed but you are unable to attend the Assembly, you can put your concerns in writing to the Clerk at Rectory Cottage, and your letter will be read out and discussed.

Each year the Parish Council invites someone to the Assembly to talk about a matter of local interest. This year the subject will be Traffic Calming Measures. I am unable to give you the speaker's name at present as details have not yet been finalised. This should be a very interesting talk, and if you are at all concerned about the speed of traffic through the Village you will probably find it well worthwhile to attend.

Minutes of the 1996 Parish Assembly will be posted on the notice boards in due course.

At the last Parish Council Meeting, concern was expressed about the siting of outside security lights, especially those which are triggered by passing traffic. The Council in no way wishes to discourage the use of these lights, but could you please check that the angle of the beam does not dazzle drivers when it comes on suddenly, as this could cause an accident.

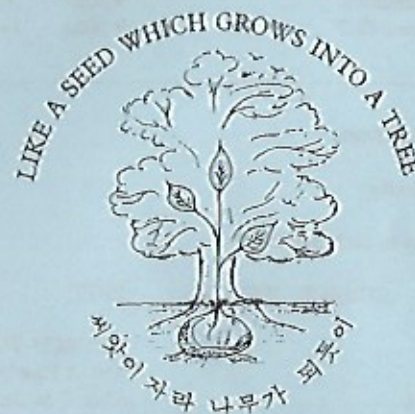
Two local farmers have had their sheep chased by dogs. Farmers have a right to shoot dogs caught worrying livestock. Please, dog owners, be responsible and keep your dog under strict control (which almost always means on a lead) when you are near sheep, or your dog could pay with his life for your carelessness.

Avril Thurley, Clerk to Pett Parish Council

Copy for the April magazine should be sent to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes, Pett Road, Pett, telephone 813437 by 19 March please.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(INTERDENOMINATIONAL)



**The Christian women of Korea invite you
to join them in worship. Local services
will be held as follows:-**

7th MARCH 1997

2.30 pm at Pett Methodist Church

The speaker is Joyce Groves

TRIANGLE FAMILIES PROGRAMME - Saturday 15 March 'Mad Hatters' Tea Party' at Guestling School - 4.00 - 6.00 pm - 50p entrance.

This poem by Emily Wright (aged 12) was read out in the Family Service.

Friends are helpful, friends are there,
when you're lost or afraid they will always care.
sometimes friends have little fights,
but they make up and it is all right.
Friends are helpful, friends are there,
when you're lost or afraid, they will always care.
when you're stuck on some work and can't do it, no doubt
friends are there to help you out.
Friends are helpful friends are there,
when you're lost or afraid they will always care.
ugly, pretty, thin or fat,
friends are friends and that is that.

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

GUESTLING (ALL AT 11AM)

1st Sunday - Matins
2nd Sunday - Parish Communion
3rd Sunday - Family Service
4th Sunday - Parish Communion
5th Sunday - H Communion BCP

PETT

9.30am - Parish Communion
10.30am - Family Service
9.30am - Parish Communion
9.30am - Matins & Address
9.30am - H Communion BCP

PETT LEVEL - Holy Communion

8.00am - 2nd and 4th Sunday

11.00am - 1st Wednesday in each month

GUESTLING

CHURCH OFFICERS

PETT

CHURCH-WARDENS

Mrs M Barnett - 754974
Mr K Tytherleigh - 751516

CHURCH-WARDENS

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 Gerrelli - 812699

FREE WILL OFFERING

Mrs K Greenwood - 812790

STEWARDSHIP RECORDER

Mrs P J Gerrelli - 812699

ELECTORIAL ROLL

Mrs B Wicking - 438027

ELECTORIAL ROLE

Mr M Plank - 812154

CHOIR MASTER

Mr K Tytherleigh - 751516

ORGANIST & CHOIR

Mrs J Medlock - 812173

JUNIOR CHOIR AND CLUB

Mrs E Greenfield - 813370

ORGANIST

Miss H Gainsbury

DEANERY SYNOD

Mr & Mrs 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