



April, 1997

GUESTLING

PETT

PARISH
NEWS

Pett Level

CWB

ROBIN WRITES:

"WE WANT TO KNOW"

You should be aware that the BENEFICE is undertaking a "LISTENING YEAR". This is under the direction of the REVD JOHN FORD (Adviser in Mission and Renewal for the Diocese of Chichester). Each parish has formed a small group to produce TWO QUESTIONNAIRES that invite your support.

(a) A Congregational Questionnaire If you attend Church we would want you to fill in the questionnaire that will be made available through the life of your own Church. It will give us an idea of how you came to church in the first place, what you find helpful and what unhelpful. It will enable the Church Councils to respond to the needs and wishes of each Church. A wide variety of people do attend and, therefore, we cannot guarantee that all demands are met, but it will be a help to know.

(b) A Community Questionnaire: We hope to reach as many people in the Benefice as possible with our community questionnaire. Fewer people are attending Church as years go by. We want to understand why this is, and whether we can reverse this trend. Once again we can make no guarantees that we will change our church because of the opinions of non-churchgoers, but their views matter to us. The Parish Churches are there for the people. With very limited resources, we want to be the greatest help to those who live in our communities. Please return your completed questionnaires and encourage your friends and neighbours to do the same.

As a part of our LISTENING TO GOD, we have booked the GRANARY in the OASTS CENTRE at Ewhurst on SATURDAY 7 JUNE from 10.00 am to about 3.30 pm for a QUIET DAY. We are very fortunate to have the services of the REVD DIANA WHITWAM, an experienced conductor of days of prayer and meditation. You will find brochures in the Churches. Please say that you will come so that we will continue to learn and grow together.

John Ford is to visit us again for a special day on 19 OCTOBER when we will be gathering all our information and discoveries together which will show us where to go from here.

ST LAURENCE ROTAS APRIL 1997

- 6th MATINS - EASTER 1 - (White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman
 FLOWERS - Mrs Wicking, Mrs D Griffiths
 SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds
 READERS - Mr Tytherleigh - Deuteronomy 11:1 - 15
 - Lady Ashburnham - 2 Corinthians 4 - 5 to end
- 13th PARISH COMMUNION - EASTER 2 - (White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
 FLOWERS - Mrs Carpenter, Mrs Coppins, Lady Ashburnham
 SIDESMEN - Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Betson
 ELEMENTS - Mrs Williams, Col Parks
 READERS - Mr Greenwood - Isaiah 25: 6 - 9
 Mrs Wicking - Revelation 19:6 - 9
- 20th FAMILY COMMUNION RITE A - EASTER 3 - (White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Robin and Eileen Balch
 FLOWERS - Mr Greenwood, Mrs Greenwood, Mrs Brooks
 SIDESMEN - Young People
 ELEMENTS - Young People
- 27th PARISH COMMUNION - EASTER 4 - (White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Owen Thomas
 FLOWERS - Mrs Jennings, Mrs Perry, Mrs M Griffiths
 SIDESMEN - Miss Groves, Mrs Smith
 ELEMENTS - Mr Jury, Mrs Page
 READERS - Miss Groves - Isaiah 62:1 - 5
 - Mrs Smith - Revelation 3:14 to end

Guestling urgently needs three people to join the cleaning and flower rota. If you are able to spare a couple of hours about every six weeks please let Rosemary Gainsbury know. Tel: 812254.

PETT AND PETT LEVEL ROTAS APRIL 1997

- 2nd 11.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
CELEBRANT - Canon Michael Townroe
- 6th 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
INTERCESSIONS - Miss M Deasy
SIDESPERSONS - Cdr T Clarkson, Mr W Slack
SERVER - Mrs A Hawksley
READER - Mr J Underwood 1 Peter 1:3 - 9
Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack
- 13th - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
CELEBRANT - Revd Humphrey Newman
READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - Revelation 19:6 - 9
Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs R Moon
- 3.00 pm BAPTISM (Pett)
CELEBRANT - Revd John Read
- 20th 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
INTERCESSIONS - Mrs C Hollman
SIDESPERSONS - Mr W Cooper, Mr J Hiatt
SERVER - Mr J Taylor
READER - Mrs R Taylor - 1 Corinthians 15:1 - 11
- 27th 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley - Revelation 3:14 to end
- 9.30 am MATINS (Pett)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
SIDESPERSONS - Mrs P Bowman, Mrs D Goodsell
READERS - Miss M Turner - Numbers 22:36 - 23:12
- Mrs P Bowman - Luke 16:19 to end

PETT FLOWER ROTA

- 6 April Mrs Carr, Mrs Hogan
13 April Mrs Hickman, Mrs Jackson
20 April Mrs Harris, Miss Turner
27 April Mrs pruden, Mrs Moir

PERSONALIA

Our thoughts and prayers are with SIR DENNY ASHBURNHAM who has had another stay in hospital recently and the REVD RAY BROOKS who is now in TUSKER HOUSE. We remember them and others who have been unwell during the past months.

As we pray for SUE KIND who continues her treatment, we are thrilled that her grandchild is to be baptised at ST MARY & ST PETER PETT by the REVD JOHN READ on Sunday 13 April at 3.00 pm. Members of the community are warmly welcome to support this service. There will be no Family Service in the morning due to the Confirmation Service being cancelled. (The Rector wishes to hear whether there are any wanting to be confirmed this year).

We are very sad to announce the death of STAN GRANT of Meadow View, Pett. The funeral service was conducted at the crematorium on 20 March by the Rector. Stan and his wife, Gina, had moved to Pett from Fairlight some six years ago. He had looked after Gina faithfully these past months and has now been struck down himself.

Stan will be remembered for his great love of birds, and his artistic ability. They moved from the Carshalton area, after discovering the Pett Pools on a previous excursion. His greatest love was wading birds and he undertook the "Tern Watch" on occasions! The family have travelled from South Africa and Australia to be with Stan at the end. Gina and the family expressed their sincere thanks to St Michael's Hospice for the love and care shown in these last days, and for the general nursing care given. He will be greatly missed by many friends in the area. Our prayers and thoughts are especially with Gina as she makes decisions about the future.

Our sincere thanks to all who have served on the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS over another year, working hard to maintain the Churches and Churchyards and organising fundraising. Our special thanks to PHYLLIS GERRELI who has been Pett Church Treasurer for some years. She is still looking for a replacement, but is continuing until the right person is found. We are so grateful for her commitment and hope we will find a successor soon.

The Bible Society will be holding a South American evening on 26 April at 7.00 for 7.30 pm in the Baptist Church Hall, Rye. Tickets price £1.50. If you are interested or want more details please see Maureen Griffiths, 751558.

PETT & GUESTLING CHURCH DIARY

Robin and Eileen on their post Easter break until 9 April.

- 2nd 11.00 am Communion (St Nicholas, Pett Level)
- 9th 7.30 pm **BENEFICE SUMMER SCHOOL** (at St Peter's Church, Fairlight Cove). "Listening through the scriptures", Robin leads a fortnightly examination in the opening chapters of the Revelation to St John. "HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES". All from the Benefice welcome to this LISTENING YEAR feature.
- 10th 7.00 pm **GUESTLING ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**
Supper followed by Meeting at Three Oaks Village Hall.
- 13th **NO FAMILY SERVICE**
3.00 pm **BAPTISM** at PETT PARISH CHURCH
- 15th 7.00 pm **SUPPER** followed by PETT ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING in Pett Village Hall.
- 17th 7.30 pm **TRIANGLE** (Benefice Children's work); Committee meets at the Rectory.
- 19th 2.00 pm **PETT CHURCH JUMBLE SALE** in Pett Village Hall.
- 25th/26th **DIOCESAN "AS YOU GO" CONFERENCES** at Worth Abbey with representatives from Guestling and Pett Churches attending on Saturday 26th.
- 30th 7.30 pm **PETT PCC** at the Rectory.

NB The PETT CHURCH Home Meeting is held on given Thursday evenings when announced.

The GUESTLING Home Meeting has been cancelled to encourage members to attend the **BENEFICE SUMMER SCHOOL MEETINGS**.

HASTINGS & ROTHER Music Centre will be performing a concert in Guestling Church on Saturday 3 May at 7.00 pm. We will be having items by the Croft Wind Orchestra and the Hastings & Rother Youth Singers. Tickets available in advance after church services or on the night at the door. Adults £2.50, Children £1.00.

THREE OAKS WI - the next meeting is on 10 April at 2.15 pm in Three Oaks Village Hall. The speaker is Mrs M Pink and her subject will be "Bells and Bell Ringing". Visitors will be very welcome.

JUMBLE SALE on Saturday 5 April at 2.00 pm in Three Oaks Village Hall. Entry 20p in aid of funds.

THREE OAKS GARDENING CLUB Flower Show will be held on Saturday 12 April at 2.30 pm. Enquiries to Sylvia Stevens 814387.

OAKTREE NURSERIES will be holding a "Plant Market" at Three Oaks Village Hall on Saturday 26 April from 10.30 am to 3.00 pm. Refreshments.

PETT GARDEN CLUB next meets in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on 8 April when our speakers will be Mrs Downey and Peter. We look forward to an interesting evening with information about Hanging Baskets. New members and visitors welcome.

PETT WI - the next meeting will be on 18 April at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall. Mr Richardson is our visiting speaker and his subject "Twittens and Cat Creeps in Old Hastings". New members and visitors welcome.

JUMBLE SALE - on Saturday 19 April in Pett Village Hall, 2.00 - 4.00 pm. Please bring your donations to the Village Hall between 11.00 am and 12.00 noon or phone 812443 if collection is required. There will be a cake stall, raffle and tea and coffee will be available. Cakes and raffle prizes will be gratefully received. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

PETT CRICKET CLUB - the Club held its annual dinner at the Beauport Park Hotel on 1 March. Trophies were presented as follows:

The Trudi Barlow Cup for the best all-rounder was won by Alan Shepard.

The J Y Shearer Memorial Cup for the most improved player went to Mark Cook.

The Oscar Spencer Memorial Trophy for the best individual performance was won by Iain Curry for his 62 runs and 7 wickets for 34 against Wadhurst 3rd in a League match. Iain also won the Royal Oak Sportsmanship Cup.

A fresh trophy of a hip flask, presented by Alf Marshal, was awarded to the batsman with most 'Did Not Bat's' in the season, to be shared this year by Gary Osborn and Tommy Dunlop who each had 10 appearances when they did not get a bat.

Possibly the dinner was almost too successful for Pett 1st were soundly beaten in an indoor cricket League match the following morning!

PETT PCC needs a Treasurer. If you think you can help, please contact Phyllis Gerrelli on 812699 for an informal chat about the job.

A CARPET OF FLOWERS - Thursday 29 May. A coach will be leaving Pett at 11.00 am calling for lunch at Round Stones Garden Centre, 15 minutes from Arundel - well worth a visit. This year we will see the procession of the Bishop and clergy to the Cathedral Church and out again to have benediction at the Castle. It should be an impressive sight. We will leave at 7.15 - 7.30 pm arriving back by 9.30 pm. Cost £6.00, please book early, ring Beryl Vick on 814188.

NATURE NOTES

Following a rather grey winter it is always a joy to see the first Spring flowers. After walking up Chick Hill it has been a real pleasure to stop for a breather and admire the lovely clumps of crocuses, cyclamen, primroses, snowdrops and miniature daffodils at the end of the drive to Goldcrest. Further along, the bank outside Lunsford Farm has been a mass of snowdrops and will soon be covered with daffodils. The biggest patch of snowdrops I saw was outside Shelley's Cottage in Church Lane, with the orchard opposite Elms Farm House coming a close second. Keep an eye open for the Spring Snowflakes or Angels' Tears (*Leucojum*) on the bank opposite the Recreation Ground.

I went up to Guestling Churchyard to tend a friend's grave, and found that everything on it had been eaten virtually to ground level. Since this included a Juniper with stems 1/2" in diameter, I refrained from muttering my usual threats about rabbit pie. In fact, the damage was such that had it been summer I would have suspected that someone had had an accident with a lawn mower. Then I noticed that a golden conifer in another part of the Churchyard had been eaten up to a height of about three feet. So the thought crosses my mind - has anyone seen any deer about? Do please let me know if you have.

I have had the pleasure of seeing Sue's Great Spotted Woodpecker on the nutbag outside her kitchen window. There is a splendid big dead tree in her garden so we are hoping for baby Woodies later on.

By the time you read this we should have heard the Chiff Chaff, and we'll all be listening hard for the first Cuckoo. Then we'll really know Spring has arrived.

Avril Thurley

"BLOOPERS" !!! - the following snippets are taken from actual church bulletins and newsletters. Reading them may bring a smile to your lips, but give a kind thought to the Editors of the items who must have suffered more than their fair share of embarrassment.

"At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?'. Come early and listen to our choir practice."

"Weight Watchers will meet at 7.00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance."

"Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to the Church Secretary."

"Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones."

It can happen to us all; who knows, perhaps the next "blooper" could appear in the Pett Parish News!

(With acknowledgements to "Focus" the parish magazine of John Keble Church, North London).

SUMMER SIGHTS

May

- 4th An evening concert by the HASTINGS WIND BAND at St Laurence, Guestling. Details from the church.
- 10th 10.00 am Christian Aid Coffee Morning at "Paxstead", Pett Road by kind permission of John and Ray Taylor.
- 11th 10.30 am CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE at Pett Parish Church, launching Christian Aid Week.
- 17th 2.00 pm Guestling Church Spring Fair in the Village Hall
DEANERY YOUTH FORUM (see details elsewhere in the magazine). Please tell the Rector if you would like to attend.
- 25th 3.00 pm BENEFICE OPEN AIR SERVICE meet at St Nicholas, Pett Level (Trinity Sunday)

June

- 7th BENEFICE QUIET DAY
- 14th 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm OPEN HOUSE and garden marking Robin's 60th Birthday (Rector)
TRIANGLE RAMBLE leaves from the Rectory at 6.00 pm
- 21st CARITAS at Ardingly (coach from the Benefice - book for all day trip)
- 28th Guestling Junior Choir Coffee Morning at "Windswept", Rye Road
- July
- 13th SEA SUNDAY
10.30 pm PETT FAMILY SERVICE at Parish Church
- 19th 2.00 pm PETT GARDEN FETE at the Rectory and GIFT DAY weekend
- 27th 12.30 pm GARDEN LUNCH at "Hillcrest", Eight Acre Lane

August

- 15 - 17th GUESTLING CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL
- 18 - 22nd CHILDREN'S SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB at Guestling/Bradshaw School

WHAT IS CARING AND SHARING?

Is it

(a) Just another charity?

(b) An overworked phrase?

(c) A means of helping the poorest people in the world, without it costing you an extra penny?

Correct answer (c) Interested? Contact Maurice Plank (812154) or Anne Williams (813402)

PETT PARISH PUMP

Last month the Parish Council asked dog owners to control their dogs properly when near sheep. This month I have to remind you to shut 'dog gates'. We are very lucky in that nearly all local farmers and land owners are helpful towards the dog walkers, and have had 'dog gates' of one form or another let into stiles to allow easy access. Most dog owners appreciate this facility and ensure that the gates are closed after use, but unfortunately there is a careless minority who leave them open. It only needs a lamb to get out through an open gate and the farmer will, justifiably, nail the gate up or wire the gap. As always the majority of careful, responsible owners will then have their walks spoiled because of the anti-social actions of a few. The Parish Council is not against dogs, but it is against irresponsible owners!

Pam Dunlop has given me a copy of Pett Parish Magazine for February 1926, and you may be interested to read the following quote: "The Parish Council met on 21 January, followed by a meeting of the Parochial Church Council It was agreed that £5 be allotted to the aid of the Parish Magazine, with the possibility of its being taken over by the Council." To put this in perspective, the entire PCC budget for 1926 was £131 18s 0d (it is now nearer £13,000).

At the last Parish Council meeting, concerns about flooding at Pett Level were discussed. The Environment Agency is responsible for issuing flood warnings on the marsh and along the Sea Wall. Rother District Council has a stock of sandbags which will be made available if required. It goes without saying that everyone will keep an eye on elderly or infirm neighbours to make sure they are safe. I should stress that there is no reason to believe that flooding is any more likely than it has ever been - the discussion related to a general query from a resident.

Avril Thurley, Clerk to Pett Parish Council

Would you like to have a 'Day Away'. A visit to Chartwell has been arranged for Wednesday 30 April. The cost of £10.00 includes transport, entrance fees and a guided tour of the house. Departure time is 9.30 am and the return time is 4.30 pm. Pick up and drop off points can be arranged. Please contact Meriel or the Leisure and Tourism Department at Hillcrest School (423756) for further information.

RYE DEANERY invites you to attend a FORUM to discuss the issues explored in the report YOUTH A PART - Young People and the Church on Saturday 17 May 10.00 am - 3.30 pm at The Northiam Oasts.

In 1996 the General Synod produced Youth a Part - a report about young people and the church which addresses many issues including Youth Cultures, (How does your church address the issues that are important to young people? Working Spiritually, (How can your church connect with the spiritual experiences encountered by non-church youth?) - Young People's Space, (How could your church develop its partnership with young people?) and the Church's Role - past, present and future.

The final chapter lists a series of recommendations, objectives and visions for the future at various levels from General Synod through to Dioceses and from Deaneries down to Parishes.

At a recent meeting, The Rye Deanery Synod, wishing to show concern for the spiritual welfare of young people within the Deanery, decided to hold a day's FORUM in order to discuss the problems and concerns of the youth and to find out how we as a Deanery can help and support the parishes in their work with young people between the ages of 11 and 25.

In the relaxed setting of the Northiam Oasts we shall hear what is already happening in the Rye Deanery. Key note speakers will talk about the present situation - Youth Culture and the Church and on a vision for the future - Where do we go from here? In small groups young people themselves will have the opportunity to contribute to the discussions about the issues which concern them and how we can address them. The day will end with a short act of worship and commitment to serving the spiritual needs of the youth in all the parishes in our Deanery.

There is no charge for the day but you are asked to bring your own packed lunch. Liquid refreshments will be provided.

Please see the Rector if you are interested in attending.

Copy for the May magazine should be sent to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes, Pett Road, Pett, telephone 813437 by 16 April please.

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

Rev'd Robin Balch (RECTOR), The Rectory, Pett - 813234

Rev'd Derek Owen (ASSISTANT), Church House, Waites Lane, Fairlight, Hastings - 813104