

June, 1997

GUESTLING

PETT

PARISH NEWS

Pett Level



ROBIN WRITES:

A "BARNABAS" BOY!

I was born on St Barnabas day 1937! It was some years ago that I realised that I was a "Barnabas" boy! When I studied the life of Barnabas, I was delighted to have him as my "patron saint". His name means "Consoler" or "Encourager" (literally "son of peace"). It also has overtones of "paraklesis" (comforter), the name given to the Holy Spirit. Barnabas was not an "up front" leader. His colleagues like Paul, Mark and Luke have taken pre-eminence, but Barnabas was always there as a support, a reconciler and an encourager. If you wanted a job done, you asked Barnabas to do it. Luke says of him "A good man, and full of the Holy Spirit". We have many saints associated with this Benefice. Maybe in the Millennium Year, we could have a celebration on each patron saint? What do you think?

On my actual birthday (11 June) we will be celebrating Holy Communion at St Peter's at 10.00 am. You could be "Barnabases" to me by supporting me on that occasion. It has been a testing time to be a lone stipendiary minister in these three parishes, but your support and encouragement has kept me going. I would value your support on this occasion.

When my Eileen was 50 we had an open house to any who would like to come. In our visitors book we recorded 100 names on that day. We are having OPEN HOUSE on SATURDAY 14 JUNE from 2.00 - 5.00 pm, and you are all invited to share with us. Our family will be here that weekend and I know that some from my previous ministry in Erith will be travelling down as well. One of the things our appraisal has discovered, is that there is a strong desire to do things together as a Benefice. I would be thrilled if people (church members and others) from the three parishes dropped in to see us that afternoon. I believe that there are plans to lay on a "Nice" tea, so DO COME!

A new decade in one's life makes you think of times past and time to come. My prayer is that with the spirit of "Barnabas" we will encourage one another, in cooperation not competition, and build a strong and growing Benefice.

Copy for the July magazine should be sent to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes, Pett Road, Pett (tel: 813437) by Wednesday 18 July.

2 ST LAURENCE ROTAS JUNE 1997

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 1st | MATINS - TRINITY 1 - PENTECOST 2 - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman
FLOWERS - Mr Greenwood, Mrs Greenwood, Mrs Brooks
SIDESMEN - Mr Jury, Mrs Page
READERS - Mrs Wicking - Deuteronomy 30:1 - 10
- Mr Barnett - St Matthew 18:10 - 22 |
| 8th | PARISH COMMUNION - TRINITY 2 - PENTECOST 3 - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
FLOWERS - Mrs Jennings, Mrs Perry, Mrs M Griffiths
SIDESMEN - Mrs Williams, Col Parks
ELEMENTS - Mrs Page, Mr Jury
READERS - Col Parks - Deuteronomy 6:17 to end
- Mrs Brooks - Romans 6:3 - 11 |
| 15th | FAMILY SERVICE - TRINITY 3 - PENTECOST 4 - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin and Eileen Balch
FLOWERS - Mrs Groves, Mrs Smith, Mrs Gainsbury
SIDESMEN - Young People
ELEMENTS - Young People |
| 22nd | PARISH COMMUNION - TRINITY 4 - PENTECOST 5 - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
FLOWERS - Mrs Pearson, Mrs Jagger, Mrs Gill
SIDESMEN - Miss Groves, Mrs Smith
ELEMENTS - Mrs Betson, Mrs Gainsbury
READERS - Miss Groves - Exodus 20:1 - 17
- Mrs Smith - Ephesians 5:1 - 10 |
| 29th | HOLY COMMUNION BCP - TRINITY 5 - PENTECOST 6 (Red)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Owen Thomas
FLOWERS - Mrs Wicking, Mrs D Griffiths
SIDESMEN - Mrs Betson, Mrs Gainsbury
ELEMENTS - Mrs Smith, Miss Groves
EPISTLE - Mr Griffiths - Acts 12:1 - 11 |
| 6 July | MATINS - TRINITY 6 - PENTECOST 7 - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER -
FLOWERS - Mrs Coppins, Mrs Carpenter, Lady Ashburnham
SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds
READERS - Mr Tytherleigh - Genesis 50:15 to end
- Mr Greenwood - 1 John 2:1 - 17 |

PETT AND PETT LEVEL ROTAS JUNE 1997

- 1st 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 CELEBRANT - Cannon Michael Townroe
 PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 INTERCESSIONS - Mr K Gill
 SIDESPERSONS - Mr W Cooper, Mr J Greenfield
 SERVER - Mr J Underwood
 READER - Mr W Cooper - 1 Peter 2:1 - 10
 Pett Level flowers - Mrs M Parsons, cleaning - Mrs J Slack
- 4th 11.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT -
- 8th - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - Romans 6:3 - 11
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs R Moon
- 10.30 am FAMILY SERVICE (Pett)
 PREACHER -
 SIDESPERSON - Mr J Hiatt
- 15th 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 CELEBRANT - Cannon Michael Townroe
 PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 INTERCESSIONS - Miss M Deasy
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs J Coby, Mr N Coby
 SERVER - Mr T Coby
 READER - Mr N Coby - Galatians 3:23 - 4:7
- 22nd 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley - Ephesians 4:1 - 10
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Miss M Deasy
- 9.30 am MATINS (Pett)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs D Goodsell, Cdr T Clarkson
 READERS - Miss M Turner - Nehemiah 8:1 - 12
 - Mrs B Vick - Luke 11:37 to end
- 29th 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 CELEBRANT - Revd Humphrey Newman
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs P Bowman, Mr J Hiatt
 SERVER - Mrs A Hawksley
 READER - Mrs P Bowman - Acts 12:1 - 11

THE BENEFICE IN JUNE

- 1 10.30 am Family Service in Fairlight
 6.30 pm Communion with Healing Ministry (St Peter's)
- 3 THE RYE DEANERY SYNOD (Details sent to representatives)
- 4 7.30 pm SUMMER SCHOOL in Revelations continues. "Listening to what the Spirit says to the Churches". (At St Peter's for all the Benefice)
- 5 7.30 pm Fairlight Standing Committee at The Reddings
- 6 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship in Fairlight with Valerie Luff
 "Great Thy Faithfulness"
- 7 THE BENEFICE QUIET DAY at THE GRANARY "The Northiam Oasts"
 10.00 am until 3.30 pm led by the Reverend Diana Whitwam (Guildford). Late applications welcome.
 1.00 pm Wedding of Colin Mitchell and Sally Sherwood (at St Mary & St Peter, Pett)
 3.00 pm Wedding of Paul Steppens and Jenny Dossett (at St Andrew's, Fairlight)
- 8 10.30 am PETT CHURCH OWN FAMILY SERVICE (Members of the church encouraged to attend)
 12.45 pm FAITH LUNCH in Fairlight
- 9 7.30 pm Fairlight PCC meets at St Peter's
- 11 BIBLE STUDIES at 7.30 pm (5 The Close and "The Reddings") also on 12th at "Beaulieu" (3.00 pm)
- 12 7.30 pm Fairlight Ecumenical Group "The Truth about Life"
- 14 1.00 pm Wedding of Peter Stewart and Victoria Hallett at St Andrews
 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm OPEN HOUSE at the RECTORY for Robin's 60th Birthday! ALL WELCOME
 6.00 pm Triangle (Three Villages children's work) meet at the Rectory to go on a ramble.
- 15 11.00 am FAMILY COMMUNION at St Laurence
 6.30 pm PRAISE AND WORSHIP at St Peter's
- 18 7.30 pm SUMMER SCHOOL
- 20 MEN'S and LADIES' EVENINGS
 7.15 for 7.30 pm Men's Supper at THE SMUGGLER with Jo Whiting (Fish and Chips £5.00 each)
 7.30 pm Ladies Viewpoint at St Peter's with Lauraine Wells from Erith
- 21 CARITAS at ARDINGLY SHOWGROUND
- 22 6.30 pm CONFIRMATION at St Helen's Ore with candidates from the Benefice
- 25/26 Home meetings as organised
- 28 10.00 am Coffee Morning at "Windswept", Rye Road in aid of Guestling Junior Choir
 2.30 pm Blessing of the wedding of Stephanie and Martin Cooper at St Mary & St Peter, Pett
- 29 MISSIONARY EXHIBITION and speakers at Fairlight Church
 Introducing ADRIAN and FLEUR BOYLE.

COFFEE MORNING - in aid of Church funds at the home of Derek & Kathleen Greenwood, Windswept, Rye Road on Saturday 28 June 10.00 am - 12 noon. Cakes, raffle, bring and buy etc. If you can help please see Kathleen Greenwood or Margaret.

THREE OAKS WI - will be meeting on 12 June at 2.15 pm at the Village Hall. Mrs Wilson will be addressing the meeting and her subject will be "Lifeline". Visitors and new members will be very welcome

A M Quaife

FIRST GUESTLING & PETT BROWNIES - will be holding a coffee morning in Pett Village Hall on Saturday 21 June 10.00am - 11.30 am.

PETT WI - the next meeting is on 20 June at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall. Our guest speaker will be Miss June Cox and her subject 'Swiss Straw Lacemaking' A chance to learn a new craft perhaps? Everyone welcome.

PETT GARDEN CLUB - next meets on 10 June at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. All our speakers are interesting - none more so than Wendy and Ray Bates with their Alpine Garden. Why not come and join a friendly and informative club.

PETT CRICKET CLUB - Sunday fixtures for June

1 June Westfield Bohemians - away - 2.30 pm

8th June Rye - away - 2.30 pm

15th June Conghurst - home - 2.30 pm

22 June Icklesham - away - 2.30 pm

23 June Franklin Lewin - home - 2.00 pm

29 June Guestling & Old Hastings - away - 2.30 pm

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone whose generous support enabled the Christian Aid Coffee Morning on 10 May to be so successful. £159 was raised, and in addition £116 worth of Traidcraft goods was sold. As I write the Pett house-to-house envelope collection for Christian Aid Week is in progress, and the result will be published when we know it. Meanwhile, optimism reigns!

Ray Taylor

DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY SOCIAL WORK - on Saturday 14 June the annual Hastings Charities Fair will be held in the White Rock Theatre, and Family Social Work will have its usual stall. If anyone could bake a cake or biscuits, or spare a pot of home-made preserve to help stock the stall, I would be most grateful - and so, indirectly, would people whom the Association is able to assist through our donations. Items can be collected by prior arrangement, but if they could be delivered to Paxstead, Pett Road by Friday 13 June that would be wonderful! Thank you for whatever support you can give.

Ray Taylor (tel: 814674)

QUESTIONNAIRES - At the end of March and as part of the "listening" year, questionnaires on how the Churches can best serve the community were delivered to each house in the parish of Pett. In addition members of Pett Church were asked to complete a congregational questionnaire. First I would like to thank those who willingly delivered the forms to households throughout the parish. During April completed forms have been returned via the Market Stores and the Post Office as well as the box in St Mary & St Peter Church. Many thanks to Rachel and Tony for their help.

I want to thank too all those who have made time to reply. All replies, comments, criticisms and suggestions will be considered most carefully. It will take time to analyse all the returned questionnaires (over 50 so far) and you can be assured that the identity of the originator of anything made public will remain completely confidential.

In July the Pett PCC will be discussing the results of the survey of people's feelings towards the Church, and in the Autumn the Parochial Church Councils of the three parishes of the United Benefice will consider the overall thoughts of their parishioners. Though it may take some time for any single suggestion or comment to be acted on, all will be considered and Pett PCC is most grateful for your response. The number of returned questionnaires may not be vast but the considered comments of those who have replied are of great value and will help in the long term planning for the future. Thank you.

JT

PETT FLOWER ROTA

1st	Mrs Hickman, Mrs Jackson	8th	Mrs Harris, Miss Turner
15th	Mrs Pruden, Mrs Moir	22nd	Mrs Jury, Mrs Spore
29th	Mrs Medlock, Mrs Grundy		

IN OUR THOUGHTS

We express our sympathies to Roger Barnett and the family in the recent loss of his mother, Betty, in Kingston after a long illness. We are also sad to announce the death of Lt Col Peter Brown of Stanton House, Pett. The service was conducted by the Rector at the Crematorium. A moving eulogy was given by Caroline Brown and a reception was held in the Two Sawyers afterwards, where Peter was so well known. We express our condolences to Pauline, Paul and Steven and the wider family, as well as his many friends.

Do remember in your prayers Dorothy Christenson who is in Heeley House, Gina Grant in Normanhurst and Ray Brooks in Tusker House. We miss them and wish them well in the future.

NATURE NOTES

Walking in Guestling Wood on a cold wet day at the end of April, we came across what appeared to be a dead slow worm. My friend picked it up, and it came to life in the warmth of his hand. Its tail was missing, so presumably it had had a brush with a predator, but it was otherwise unharmed. We put it under a pile of dry leaves at the base of a tree, and wished it well.

Two people have told me that they have grass snakes in their gardens, which is good news because this totally harmless snake is not very common. It is easily recognisable by its yellow neck markings, like a collar.

The scent of the bluebells in the woods is quite overpowering, and they form a carpet of blue in every direction. I once took a young friend to see them. She was wearing ankle socks and a short skirt, and by the time we returned home her legs were covered in a red itchy rash. Many plants have irritant sap, but not everyone is affected. Bluebells have no effect on me, but I come up in blisters after contact with any of the spurge family (Euphorbia).

I have been asked how to identify a spotted flycatcher. It's slightly smaller than a sparrow, and a paler brown with creamy underparts, but the easiest way to spot it (if you'll pardon the pun) is by its behaviour. It sits very upright on a post or fence, darts off to catch an insect, and then returns to the same post.

Flowers to look out for in June include the yellow toadflax and the blue devil's bit scabious; also elderflowers, popular for wine or pancakes. According to legend, if you burn elder wood indoors you will allow evil spirits to enter the house. Perhaps better grow a rowan by the front door, as that is supposed to keep evil spirits out!

Avril Thurley

IN THE REGISTERS OF THE BENEFICE

We welcome into the church through Baptism

4 May Laura Ruth Bishop and Nicole Janine Martin
(at St Andrew's Church, Fairlight)

We extend our sympathies to the relatives of:

20 April Ethel Frances Sheppard (82 years)
(Cremated remains in Pett Churchyard)

24 April Betty Nellie Rapson (76 years)
(Burial in Guestling Churchyard)

25 April Peter Archer (49 years)
Burial in Churchyard after service at St Andrew's

7 May Virginia Paula Miller (42 years)
(Burial in Fairlight, after service in Little Common)

LISTENING YEAR EVENTS AND NEWS

Thank you for returning your Questionnaires from the three parishes. Later in the year we will be processing them to see if we can learn anything about our role in the community.

We were glad that some ten people from the Benefice attended the "As You Go" conferences arranged by our friend, John Ford (Adviser in Mission and Renewal) on 25/26 April at Worth Abbey. More than 1000 people attended over two days, and enthusiastic reports have come back to share with the churches. One suggestion is that we book a Benefice party to go to the Spring Harvest in 1998! This would have to be in the week after Easter to include Robin and Eileen, and they thought we might go to Minehead rather than Skegness. As an early application in July is needed, please let Robin know if you are interested.

The Summer School has been progressing well, and we are learning much. A need was expressed for more opportunities for "united" activities and services among the Churches of the Benefice. We remind you that the services at St Peter's on Sunday evenings are open to all, especially the Praise and Worship on the third evening and the Communion with Healing Ministry on the first. At this time less than a tenth of the Electoral Roll are booked for the Benefice Quiet Day on 7 June. This is one of the major events of the year and we hope more will respond before the day. Do remember that John Ford is returning to us on 19 October. He will be preaching at all the services. There will be a shared lunch in Guestling Village Hall followed by a United Service at Guestling Church.

ASCENSION DAY VISION

*"The brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,
and upholding all things by the word of his power..."*

These words, from the Epistle to the Hebrews (1.3 AV) appointed for Ascension Day, happened to strike me early today. May I share just a few of the thoughts?

They were concerned with the beauty that surrounds us, as we enjoy views over this one area that enfolds all who live within one benefice. It gives incentive to make full use of opportunities, as they arise, to share in, gain from and enjoy occasions of meeting, and also reading, as a basis for prayer, the magazines, leaflets, notices etc, that come our way. In one sentence 'Give the Holy Spirit of the living God free movement in all three directions'!

ONLY in such ways might St Paul gladly write to us as he did to his friends in "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you for your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now". 1, 3-5. How blessed we are in this place!

Michael Townroe

PETT PARISH PUMP

The various tiers of local government hold regular joint meetings on subjects of mutual concern, and whenever possible one or more members of the Parish Council attend. June Barnes recently went to a seminar about rural transport, which included an interesting talk on the "Westfield Wheelies". This is a volunteer service which provides transport to reach Health Care services such as the hospital, GP, dentist or chiropodist. People ring the coordinator to ask for transport, and a volunteer driver is arranged from the list. A charge of 30p per mile is made to the passenger, of which 25p goes to the driver and the other 5p covers administrative costs.

This scheme was discussed at the last Parish Council meeting, but it was agreed that it is not required in a small friendly community like Pett, where there is no problem getting lifts from neighbours. Do you agree? If you personally ever have difficulty getting transport to a medical appointment, please tell me or any Parish Councillor, so that the scheme can be reconsidered.

Many angry parishioners justifiably complained about the disgraceful state of the grass verges after the mowers had been through. The Parish Council in turn complained to ESCC, who have apologised on behalf of their contractor. The contractor offered the excuse that a new machine was being used, would you believe, but said that more care would be taken in future. Thanks are due to those parishioners who went out and cleared up the worst of the mess.

The second phase of the Oak Fields development is now under way, and the Parish Council is pressing Rother to ensure that priority is given to prospective tenants living in, or having strong connections with, Pett or Pett Level. The Housing Association has given an assurance that the new houses will not be occupied until the sewage disposal problem has been solved.

Avril Thurley, Clerk to Pett Parish Council

"THE FLOWER AND THE GLORY" at Boxgrove Priory on 27 - 29 June 10.00 am - 6.00 pm. 3 miles NE of Chichester on the A27. Admission £3.00, £2.50 concessions, children under 12 free. The Priory, still in daily use as the parish church of Boxgrove, makes a perfect setting for the Flower Festival. Flower arrangers from the congregation and clubs from the surrounding area are working together to depict the church's year in flowers.

The Priory Church of St Mary and St Blaise was founded as a Benedictine monastery by monks from Normandy, it is one of the finest examples of Early English architecture in the country.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR A LISTENING YEAR

"Silence is the nutrient of devotion" Fenelon
 "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth" 1 Samuel 3:9
 "... after the earth a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice..." 1 Kings 19:12
 "He who kisses the joy as it flees lives in eternity's sunrise"
 "Behold a door was opened in heaven" Revelation 4:1
 "There was silence in heaven" Revelation 8:1
 "Lord, the scripture says 'There is a time for silence and a time for speech'. Saviour, teach me the silence of humility, the silence of wisdom, the silence of love, the silence of perfection, the silence that speaks without words, the silence of faith".
 A degree of stillness and silence is essential if the Holy Spirit is to enter our hearts and minds.
 In Jean Millet's famous painting of two peasants kneeling at midday in the field, both are calm, reverent and silent in the Normandy countryside.
 The Hebrew for Spirit is Ruach, meaning a light refreshing breeze. In Greek "Pneuma" (eg pneumatic-pertaining to air). "A young African boy got the point: 'Lord, I am a bicycle; but my tyres are flat. Pump them up and ride me.'
 We cannot see the wind in the sky, yet when the trees bow down their heads, we know that God is nigh.
 "The wind bloweth when it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit".

"AS YOU GO", WORTH ABBEY

Organised by Revd John Ford as part of the initiative of "Building for Mission", facilitated by Canon Robert Warren, the Archbishop's adviser on evangelism, and the Revd Stephen Cotterall from Wakefield. Their thoughts on evangelism included stimulating ideas about the church moving forward, gaining momentum and wider support in the community.

The clear message was the need to address change and evolution. The recognition that there is an overwhelming spiritual need in society, but a lack of feeling of identity with the Church.

We divided into groups to work with people from other parts of Sussex to discuss changes in society and its relationship with the Church.

There was a question and answer session and finally we were advised not to expect change to happen quickly. We left feeling inspired having experienced an event complementary to what is happening in our United Benefice through Robin's five year plan.

Neil Perry

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 ROLL

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