



ROBIN WRITES:

PERCENTAGE CHRISTIANITY

I have been fascinated as we began to undertake the "Appraisal" of the Benefice that most events this year asking for a united effort receive an average 10% support! The very helpful "Quiet Day" at the Northiam Oasts was supported by 26 persons. Interestingly there are 280 on the official membership list of the Benefice. Earlier we held a United Benefice open air service at Pett Level. Some 30 were present at a very happy and enjoyable time. (I was immediately asked when the next one would be!) The Summer Seminar on alternate Wednesdays has been supported by some 25 different people. All these numbers are close to the 10% figure. Our response from the community again received something like a 10% return, which we gather is the national average for questionnaire response.

After nearly 30 years in the ministry, I have long known that the church is maintained by a distinct minority. It is interesting that traditionally the People of God (O.T. and N.T.) have been required to provide the "Tithe" for the upkeep of the church. The Church of England (until recently) was able to provide clergy in every place, because of this principle in times past. The Church of England is no longer the rich organisation it once was (hence my appointment to do the work that three men did 30 years ago!)

Today the Church Commissioners talk about "the tithe" (1/10) of DISPOSABLE INCOME. ("Disposable" is variously defined). They do not expect a church member to give all this "tithe" to the church, but to use it for gifts to the many and varied charities and needs that come upon us daily. However the COMMITTED ANGLICAN MEMBER (suggests the Church Commissioners) should give 5% of his "disposable" income to the local church. If this was also "covenanted" the calculation is made that our financial problems would be solved overnight! It seems to me that some churches have found a way to increase THEIR PERCENTAGE SUPPORT. Maybe we have things to learn here!

I would love to see some 25% at our shared lunch with John Ford on 19 October and to stay for the United Service afterwards!

A "THANK YOU" from RECTOR ROBIN - Robin was overwhelmed by the love and best wishes that he received from the Benefice for his 60th Birthday. He is grateful for those who shared in the Birthday Communion Service and for more than 100 cards and many gifts that he received. Between 70-80 turned up for the Open House and he loved the "surprise" barbeque in the evening. He was deeply moved by the lovely gift from St Andrew's, Fairlight. He says "THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH".

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ST LAURENCE ROTAS JULY 1997

- 6th MATINS - TRINITY 6 - PENTECOST 7 - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman
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
- 13th PARISH COMMUNION - TRINITY 7 - PENTECOST 8 - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Owen Thomas
FLOWERS - Mrs Greenwood, Mr Greenwood, Mrs Brooks
SIDESMEN - Mr Jury, Mrs Page
ELEMENTS - Mrs Williams, Col Parks
READERS - Col Parks - Ezekiel 36:24 - 28
- Mrs Brooks - Galatians 5:16 - 25
- 20th FAMILY SERVICE - TRINITY 8 - PENTECOST 9 - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Eileen and Robin Balch
FLOWERS - Mrs Jennings, Mrs Perry, Mrs M Griffiths
SIDESMEN - Young People
ELEMENTS - Young People
- 27th PARISH COMMUNION - TRINITY 9 - PENTECOST 10 - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Revd Robin Balch
FLOWERS - Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Groves, Mrs Smith
SIDESMEN - Miss Groves, Mrs Smith
ELEMENTS - Mr Jury, Mrs Page
READERS - Miss Groves - Job 42:1 - 6
- Mrs Smith - Philipians 2:1 - 11
- August
3rd MATINS - TRINITY 10 - PENTECOST 11 - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER -
FLOWERS - Mrs Pearson, Mrs Gill, Mrs Jagger
SIDESMEN - Mrs Betson, Mrs Gainsbury
READERS - Mrs Wicking - Exodus 18:13 - 26
- Mr Barnett - Acts 6 (all)

PETT AND PETT LEVEL ROTAS JULY 1997

- 2nd 11.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
CELEBRANT - Canon Michael Townroe
- 6th 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
PRESIDENT - Canon Michael Townroe
PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
INTERCESSIONS - Mrs C Hollman
SIDESPERSONS - Mr J Greenfield, Mr W Slack
SERVER - Mr J Taylor
READER - Miss M Deasy - 1 Corinthians 12:27 and ch 13
Pett Level flowers - Mrs M Parsons, cleaning - Mrs J Slack

- 13th - 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - Galatians 5:16 - 25
Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs R Moon

10.30 am FAMILY SERVICE (Pett) SEA SUNDAY with Methodists
SIDESPERSONS - Mrs K Jury, Mrs D Goodsell

- 20th 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman
INTERCESSIONS - Mrs A Hawksley
SIDESPERSONS - Mr J Underwood, Mr J Hiatt
SERVER - Miss M Deasy
READER - Mrs M Newton - Ephesians 6:10 - 20
Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack

- 27th 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley
Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs A Hawksley

9.30 am MATINS (Pett)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
SIDESPERSONS - Mrs P Bowman, Mrs A Scott
READERS - Mrs R Taylor - 1 Samuel 18:1 - 16
- Mrs A Scott - Mark 9:33 - 50

PETT FLOWER ROTA

- 6 July - Mrs Jury, Mrs Hogan 13 July - Mrs Carr, Mrs Hogan
20 July - Mrs Hickman, Mrs Jackson 27 July - Mrs Harris, Miss Turner

IN THE REGISTERS OF THE BENEFICE

We welcome into the life of the church in baptism:

- 25 May Harry Charles Quaife of The Laurels, Butchers Lane, Three Oaks
(at St Laurence, Guestling)

We extend our sympathies to the families and friends of:

- 20 May Ian Alfred (Tingy) Collings (81 years) of 5 Willow Stream Close, Three Oaks (Crematorium)

- 23 May Audrey Anne Andrews (64 years) of Glenrosa, Guestling Green
(Crematorium)

At Pett Church followed by service at Hastings Cemetery:

- 16 June Major Alexander Bentley (Willie) Fairfax-Moon (94 years)
(His daughter Ann Murphy lives at "Nine Acres", Pett Road)
The service was conducted by Fr Dennis Enright assisted by the Rector.
(Ann is a member of the Roman Catholic Community in the villages and we were pleased to also welcome Fr Tom From St Mary's Star of the Sea)

At Pett Church followed by a service at the Crematorium:

- 16 June Gwendoline Mary Newman (87 years) of 7 Rectory Park, Pett Road
Gwen was very well known in the village having retired here in 1970 with her husband, Nugent, who died in 1985. She was very supportive of all the village activities, including the Flower Show. She loved her garden and made many friends in the village. We extend our sympathies to Graham and John and the wider family who loved her very much. (The Rector discovered that he had been at the same school as Graham and supports the same football team! Small world!)

We congratulate on their marriage in Pett Church:

- 7 June Colin Mitchell and Sally Sherwood

Copy for the August/September magazine should be sent to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes, Pett Road, Pett (tel: 813437) by Wednesday 9 July.

GARDEN PARTY LUNCH - swimming, table tennis, bowling, golf and at the same time enjoying our neighbours' gardens - at Ken and Doreens, Hillcrest, Eight Acre Lane, Three Oaks on Sunday 20 July 1997, 1.00 - 5.00 pm weather permitting. If weather inclement ring 01424 751516 - next available date 27 July 1997. Proceeds in aid of Guestling Church and the Heart Foundation. Price £4.00.

THREE OAKS WI - the next meeting will be held on Thursday 10 July in the garden of Miss Pat Horne by her kind invitation.

THREE OAKS ANNUAL FETE - is being held at the Village Hall on Saturday 12 July at 2.00 pm. There will be all the usual attractions and many new ones including the Hailsham & Vines Cross Modern Brass Band.

THREE OAKS METHODIST CHURCH - is having a Coffee Morning at Three Oaks Village Hall on Saturday 5 July from 10.30 - 12 noon. Produce stalls and Bring and Buy.

CHRISTIAN AID 1997 - it's good to be able to report that the house-to-house collections in Guestling and Pett during Christian Aid Week amounted to a total of £530.00. Moreover, as a result of further donations from people in both parishes the proceeds of the Coffee Morning held on 10 May have risen to £73.00. Many thanks to everyone for their generous support in this very worthwhile cause.

Rosemary Gainsbury and Ray Taylor

PETT FETE - at the Rectory on Saturday 19 July 2.00 - 4.00 pm. If wet in the Village Hall. If you are able to contribute prizes for the raffle, tombola, hoopla or items for the stalls, cakes, china, glass, bric-a-brac, garden produce, groceries, books, jewellery, clothing and plants all will be very much appreciated. If you are able to help in any way please contact 812443 or 812699.

PETT WI - next meets in the Village Hall at 2.30 pm on Friday 18 July when our visiting speaker will be Miss C Walling from Hastings Museum.

PETT GARDEN CLUB - the July meeting at 7.30 pm on 8 July in the Village Hall will be given a talk from Mr Kidney of Country Gardens about herbs. New members very welcome.

FAIRLIGHT WI - will be meeting in the Village Hall at 2.15 pm on 15 July. Speaker, Miss Marjorie Vinall on "Countryside in Music" Visitors most welcome.

ADVANCE NOTICE - SUPPER DANCE - do come to our Supper Dance at Fairlight Village Hall on Saturday 20 September (NOT a disco). Tickets £6.00

from Mrs Hawksley 812705, Hastings & Rye Conservative Association (Country Branches)

PETT CRICKET CLUB - July fixtures

5th	Eastbourne III	home	2.00 pm
12th	Bexhill III,	away	2.00 pm
19th	Beaulieu,	home	2.00 pm
26th	Wadhurst III,	away	2.00 pm

THROUGH JULY IN THE BENEFICE

- 11.00 am Communion at St Nicholas
7.30 pm THE BENEFICE SUMMER SCHOOL continues (and 16th) at St Peter's, Fairlight Cove. "Hear what the Spirit says to the Churches" from Revelation 2/3.
- 12.30 pm Wedding of Wayne Jury and Sally Woodward (at St Laurence, Guestling)
2.00 pm Wedding of Christian Kipps and Debbie Ede (at St Mary & St Peter, Pett)
- 7.30 pm SPECIAL PETT PCC MEETING looking at the Parish and Community Appraisal (Rectory).
- Fairlight Village Fete in the Cove
- Sea Sunday
10.30 am Pett Village Family Service with Parade (together with the Methodists) in Pett Parish Church with the Rector and Revd Derek Brice.
- Garden Party in Fairlight at "The Reddings", Broadway 11.00 am - 3.00 pm
PETT CHURCH GARDEN FETE 2.00 - 4.00 pm at The Rectory (please support)
- 1.00 pm Garden Lunch at Ken & Doreen Tytherleigh, Hillcrest, Eight Acre Lane, Three Oaks 1.00 - 5.00 pm
6.30 pm the monthly service of Praise and Worship at St Peter's Church, Fairlight Cove (all from the Benefice welcome to attend). Guest preacher - Revd Joe Whiting (Vicar of Camber)
- Monday 12.00 noon Wedding of Mike Hodgson and Ellen Harris
- (Fairlight) 2.00 - 4.00 pm Garden Sale for LEPROSY MISSION at junction of Knowle Road and Woodland Way
PETT FLOWER SHOW

NATURE NOTES

It was a wild and windy night, and the winter honeysuckle over the porch kept tapping on my bedroom window, reminding me that I should have given it its usual short back and sides. Next morning I set to work with secateurs. There was a brood of starlings under the tiles, and the parent birds were most displeased by the disturbance. They buzzed me, shouted insults, and did all in their power to drive me away. When I finished and left them in peace, I'm sure they thought they'd won a famous victory.

A few weeks later they got their own back, when a young starling fell down the chimney and crashed around the living room knocking things over and leaving large white calling cards all over the place. Such a contrast with the Tawny Owl who came in by the same route some years back and did several circuits of the room without touching a thing.

Following my remarks about the scarcity of grass snakes, I was pleased to be told that there are still plenty about down on the marsh. I wonder whether they eat the Marsh Frogs, which are somewhat bigger than the Common ones.

Interesting sightings this month include a wren in the greenhouse, delicately picking off the insects impaled on cactus thorns; a blackbird actually hanging on a nutbag; a turtle dove in Church Lane; and best of all - the one that made me green with envy - a kingfisher in a garden in French Court Lane.

Avril Thurley

There are two important things that I feel compelled to have mentioned in the Parish Magazine. The first is the success and happiness of the afternoon service at Pett Level on 25 May. There was a good turn out and it was a well thought out event. My loving relations, who had arrived an hour before the service started, were "made up with it" and thought that "the bloke with the accordion was really wicked". For those of us who are of middle years, plus a bit, "really wicked" means great! Thank you to Robin and Eileen for putting that together so soon after their return from foreign parts.

The second - as an arch opponent of anything to do with something called the Family Service, I feel that I have to climb down from my perch. Is it just me, or has anyone else noticed what lovely services we have had recently. The service has an easily recognisable structure, is well thought out, good hymns and choruses, excellent addresses (one hesitates to use the word sermon!) and there is a sense of involvement and cheerfulness about the whole occasion. It would be "really wicked" if more people were able to attend this service. Please think about it - you won't be disappointed.

Meriel Deasy

I HAVE ONLY ONE PAIR OF HANDS!

I was delighted to receive this poem on a birthday card that I received last month. I hope that they do not mind me sharing it with you.

*There is a man who lives in Pett
who, if you are quick, you will have met.
He's never here, he's always there
But if you've missed him don't despair.
Three parishes are under his wing,
There's Pett and Fairlight and also Guestling
Upon his time we all stake our claim
But "Superman" is not his name.
There is only so much he can do
For them and us and even you.
On 11 June, St Barnabas Day
He'll be sixty years old, so let us all pray
That he'll find some peace and a well earned rest
To do the things he likes doing best.*

I remember my mother once saying when I was small, "I have only one pair of hands" when I was making demands on her! I now appreciate how she felt. If any would like to help, I am needing three different kinds of people.

(a) A Gardening Assistant

If there is anybody out there who loves the Lord and loves gardening, the Rector and his wife could use you for both the Rectory and Church House. Sadly this job is for the love of the Lord, not payment, as the Rector's income does not run to this. This would, however, release us both to do more of the work expected of the Rector and his wife.

(b) A Legal Assistant

It would take a great weight from me if I could find somebody who could help with the legal aspects of the Benefice. This involves weddings, baptisms and funerals, the three churchyards and the many charity trusts with which I am involved as incumbent of three rural parishes. I am very grateful for the help I receive from Alan Chappell with the Fairlight charities, but there are many more, and extra help would be valuable.

(c) A Pastoral Assistant

It would be a tremendous help if one person in each parish could keep an eye on pastoral needs. I envisage a phone call on Monday mornings and I could give names of people on my mind. The assistant could check whether they needed a visit from me or not, or pass their names to others to visit.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU COULD HELP IN ANY OF THESE WAYS.

Robin

PETT PARISH PUMP

At the Parish Council AGM in May, Andrew Dunlop was re-elected Chairman and Tim Jury Vice Chairman. The office of Chairman is no sinecure, as I'm sure previous Chairmen will bear out. It involves a lot of preparatory work and the ability to meet people from other organisations 'on site' at short notice. Luckily both Andrew and Tim are able to rearrange their work schedules around site meetings when required.

The Council has always given its support to Neighbourhood Watch, and is grateful to Mr Charles Spore, the Pett organiser, for all his hard work. Now he is looking for someone to take over from him. Could this be you? If you are interested in doing this very worthwhile job for the village, please phone Mr Spore on 813447 and he will tell you exactly what is involved.

The Wheels Project is run by Hastings Trust and is aimed at young people aged 11-25 years who have an interest in cars and motorbikes. They can learn maintenance and conversion, welding and fabrication, all supervised by experienced instructors. The Project is free, protective clothing is supplied, and if necessary transport can be arranged. The number to ring if you are interested is 446373. There is a leaflet about the Project in the Post Office.

The Council asked for the steps to be put into the bank outside the Recreation Ground. Unfortunately the workmen took it into their heads to replace the perfectly good stile with a greatly inferior one. Once again the Council is grateful to Mr Eric Newton for making the new stile safe and user-friendly.

Mention in Despatches:- John Osborn, for clearing the nettles round the noticeboards at the Village Hall. You can now get close enough to read the notices without getting stung.

Connex South Central organised a 'Community Day' on the Hastings to Ashford line, for Parish Clerks and other interested parties along the route, to make the round trip and give their opinions of it. The train was 7 minutes late leaving Hastings and 12 minutes late arriving at Ashford. The first bit into Ore is pretty grotty, but after that it was a lovely journey across the marshes, with good views of herons, lapwings and a delightful family of swans with grey, fluffy cygnets. At Ashford we made a quick visit to the Civic Centre, and had a tour of Ashford International Station. The latter is very 'space age' and not at all my scene, but the staff were friendly and informative. Coming home, the train left Ashford 14 minutes late and arrived at Hastings 16 minutes late. I caught the last bus home to Pett with just 5 minutes to spare. Would I go again? Probably yes, if I ever had a reason to go to Ashford; but I wouldn't risk catching the last bus again.

Avril Thurley, Clerk to Pett Parish Council

WELL DONE GUESTLING/BRADSHAW

Congratulations to Guestling/Bradshaw C of E Primary School for a good result from their recent OFSTED inspection. The school has been pronounced "sound", meaning that it provides a good and thoroughly satisfactory education for the children who attend there. We knew that already, but it is a very demanding time being examined. I have now been the ex-officio governor at the school for four years, and I am full of admiration for the work of the headmaster, staff and all the helpers.

Teaching is an unenviable profession. More and more is demanded with less and less financial support. I believe the achievements at G/B are remarkable with all the cuts. Sometimes people make unthinking demands when resources are continually depleted. We hope as a Benefice to help the school in practical ways in the future. I do hope when the time comes you will give generously.

We have also to announce the "sealing" of a new scheme for the Bradshaw Trust (Schools Branch) that holds the land in trust. Since the three original schools of Fairlight, Pett and Guestling were amalgamated at the Guestling site, there has been some controversy about the role of the Trust. A view has been expressed that the Trust should be administered purely for children in the Guestling Parish, and that it should not have become a Church Aided School. The new sealed scheme can be viewed at the Rectory and the first meeting will be called in the near future.

The Trustees will be as follows: The Rector (ex-officio), Appointee from Guestling Parish Council and Guestling Parochial Church Council, also representatives from the Local Education Authority and the Diocesan Board of Education. The Governors of the school hope that the Trust and the Board of Governors will work well together in the future for the good of the school.

SEA SUNDAY - MISSIONS TO SEAMEN - (Pett and Guestling churches have collections on 13 July). WHAT DO MISSIONS TO SEAMEN DO? The Missions to Seamen is a missionary society of the Anglican Church reaching out to seafarers of all races and creeds in ports throughout the world. Last year Missions to Seamen made over 62,900 ship visits; provided transport for some 272,600 seafarers; held 1,700 church services attended by 10,500 seafarers; distributed over 600 bibles; visited 980 seafarers in hospital; welcomed over 852,000 seafarers to its centres; assisted in 988 welfare and justice cases; helped seafarers make over 153,000 international telephone calls.

PLEASE REMEMBER and PRAY for seafarers, their families and the Church's care for them through MISSIONS TO SEAMEN. On Sunday 13 July a special Family Service will be held in Pett Church when the Pett Level rescue boat will be blessed and the uniform organisations who meet in Guestwell will parade. Both the Anglican Rector and the Methodist Minister will be present. IT WOULD BE LOVELY TO HAVE A PACKED CHURCH - PLEASE COME!

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