



November, 1997

PARISH NEWS

ROBIN WRITES:

"UNDER REVIEW"

1997 is proving to be a very exacting year for the Rector of Fairlight, Guestling and Pett. Maybe when I look back on the events they will not seem so bad, but at the moment it is hard going!

The Listening Year Appraisal

It has been a painful exercise trying to come to terms with the changes that have happened since 1971 when Pett and Guestling were joined under one Rector, then in 1994 Fairlight was added to form the present Benefice. The APPRAISAL GROUP has worked hard with the DIOCESAN ADVISER, JOHN FORD, handling the questionnaires and responses. Two main decisions:

For the congregations: My Eileen has started to form a PASTORAL TEAM of visitors, especially to visit the sick, the housebound and newcomers. They will help with bereavement and also with baptism and wedding preparation. Her first meeting is on 10 November and we hope the new team will be commissioned for work next year.

For the parishes: In response to a widespread request we have arranged for a social/information meeting about faith and church life. We have booked St Peter's, Fairlight Cove for FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm. We are planning to provide wine and cheese, and to give a simple presentation, providing space for questions.

Next year we shall be producing a series of articles in the Church and Parish magazines to inform parishioners of the changes that are taking place in the Church and what we offer to the community.

ASSISTANT MINISTRY

It is with regret that we announce that at the time of writing we have been unable to appoint a minister for Fairlight. The main problems have been the extent of the work that would be involved for a non-stipendiary minister and the house, which seems unsuitable for a clergyman in spite of efforts to improve it.

An approach has been made to the Bishop and Archdeacon and our Rural Dean, Martin Sheppard, has taken a keen interest demanding a review of the situation. With their help I trust we can find a solution so we do not have to wait too long.

GUESTLING ROTAS NOVEMBER 1997

- 2nd MATINS - 4th Before Advent - Trinity 23 - All Souls (Green)
8th Before Christmas
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Ken Holmes
FLOWERS - Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Groves, Mrs Smith
SIDESMEN - Miss Groves, Mrs Smith
READERS - Miss Groves - Jeremiah 17:5 - 14
- Col Parks - Romans 5:12 to end
- 9th PARISH COMMUNION - 3rd Before Advent - Trinity 24 (Green)
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 7th Before Christmas
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
FLOWERS - Mrs Pearson, Mrs Gill, Mrs Jagger
SIDESMEN - Mr Jury, Mrs Page
ELEMENTS - Mrs Betson, Mrs Gainsbury
READERS - Mr Tytherleigh - Isaiah 2:1 - 5
- Mr Griffiths - Revelation 21:1 - 7
- 16th FAMILY COMMUNION RITE A - 2nd Before Advent - Trinity 25
6th Before Christmas (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Ken Holmes/Canon Michael Townroe
FLOWERS - Mrs Wicking, Mrs Hull
SIDESMEN - Young People
ELEMENTS - Young People
- 23rd PARISH COMMUNION - Next Before Advent - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
FLOWERS - Mrs Carpenter, Mrs Coppins, Mrs Rugg
SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds
ELEMENTS - Mrs Williams, Col Parks
READERS - Mr Greenwood - Isaiah 10:20 - 23
- Mr Barnett - Romans 9:19 - 28
- 30th HOLY COMMUNION BCP - Advent Sunday (Violet)
(St Andrew to 1 December) (St Nicholas 6 December)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman
FLOWERS - Mrs Greenwood, Mr Greenwood, Mrs Brooks
SIDESMEN - Mrs Williams, Col Parks
ELEMENTS - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds
EPISTLE - Mrs Brooks - Romans 13:8 to end
- 7 December - MATINS - Advent 2 (Violet)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER -
FLOWERS - Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Jennings, Mrs Perry
SIDESMEN - Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Betson
READERS - Mrs Wicking - Jeremiah 36:9 - 26
- Mrs Smith - St Matthew 25:14 - 30

PETT & PETT LEVEL ROTAS NOVEMBER 1997

- 2nd** 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman
 INTERCESSIONS - Mrs A Hawksley
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs A Hawksley, Mr J Hiatt
 SERVER - Miss M Deasy
 READER - Miss M Deasy - Romans 7:7 - 13
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack
- 5th** 8.00 pm HOLY COMMUNION BCP (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT - Canon Michael Townroe
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley - Philippians 3:17 - 21
- 9th** 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT - Revd Humphrey Newman
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - James 2:14 - 24
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs R Moon
 10.30 am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (Pett) attended by British Legion
 PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 SIDESPERSONS - Cdr T Clarkson, British Legion member
 READERS - Psalm 46
 - Habbakuk 2:1 - 14
- 16th** 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION BCP (Pett)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
 INTERCESSIONS - Miss M Deasy
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs P Bowman, Mr J Hiatt
 SERVER - Mr J Underwood
 READER - Mrs P Bowman - I John 3:1 - 8
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack
- 23rd** 8 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley - Colossians 1:13 - 20
 Pett Level flowers - Mrs M Parsons, cleaning - Miss M Deasy
- 9.30 am MATINS (Pett)
 PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch/Canon Michael Townroe
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs A Scott, Mrs D Goodsell
 READERS - Mrs A Scott - Genesis 6:5 to end
 - Mrs B Vick - I Peter 3:13 to end
- 30th** 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION BCP (Pett)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs J Coby, Mr N Coby
 READER - Mrs J Coby - Romans 13:8 - 14

RECORDED IN GUESTLING REGISTER

Service in St Laurence followed by burial in Churchyard

7 October - Emily Jane Waller of 21 Austen Way, Hastings (aged 102 years)
 Our sympathies to her daughters, Margaret and Sylvia

Wedding at St Laurence Church

18 October - Lee Francis Oldridge and Josephine Fowler
 (Many congratulations to Lee and Jo on their special day).

MOVING SERVICE AT PETT LEVEL

On Sunday 12 October the ashes of EMMA STEEL were scattered in the sea by her friend from the INSHORE PETT LEVEL RESCUE BOAT, while prayers of commendation were said by the Rector with Emma's family and friends on the shore nearby. We were grateful for refreshments provided at the "Smuggler" afterwards.

PETT & DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Annual Meeting is being held in the "Smuggler" on Monday 3 November at 7.00 pm. At this meeting Ken Gill will be retiring as Vice President and Welfare Officer. Ken has worked hard at this role and will be very missed. We also note that he and Valerie will be moving (around the corner) into Rectory Park this month. We wish them well.

Copy for December magazine to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes, Pett Road, Pett (813437) by Wednesday 19 November please.

THREE OAKS WI - the next meeting of the WI will be held on Thursday 14 November at 2.15 pm at the Village Hall. The speaker will be Mr Murray Davidson and his subject "Nature Conservation". Visitors and new members very welcome.

BONFIRE NIGHT - on 8 November there will be a Bonfire Night at 7.30 pm at the Three Oaks Village Hall grounds with fireworks and barbeque.

Adults £2.00, Children £1.00

QUIZ EVENING - there will be a Quiz Evening on Wednesday 12 November at 7.30 pm in Three Oaks Village Hall.

BINGO - there will be Bingo on Wednesday 19 November at 7.30 pm in Three Oaks Village Hall.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING/CRAFT SALE - on Saturday 29 November 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, Three Oaks Village Hall.

JUMBLE SALE - on 15 November at 2.00 pm Three Oaks Village Hall

GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL - meet on Monday 10 November at Three Oaks Village Hall at 7.30 pm

PETT GARDEN CLUB - has no meeting in November but offers of mince pies, sausage rolls etc and raffle prizes for December would be appreciated. Please ring 812615.

PETT WI - the November meeting is on the 21st at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall. Miss Charlotte Zeepvat will be our speaker and her subject "Romanov Autumn" should be fascinating and informative. Visitors are welcome to join us.

PETT LEVEL NATURALISTS SOCIETY meets on 21 November at 7.30 pm in Pett Village Hall. This month's talk is on Moths and Butterflies given by Colin Page.

THE FAIRLIGHT PLAYERS - will present their autumn play "Why Me?" - a comedy by Stanley Price at the Fairlight Village Hall on 13, 14 and 15 November 1997. Performances start at 7.30 pm. Admission by programme obtained from Fairlight Post Office at £2.50. Anyone in the neighbouring villages interested in acting/backstage would be most welcome.

Carol Harrington

Hon Sec 812484 (evenings)

NOVEMBER DAYS

- 1 6.30 pm TRIANGLE (Families in the Three Villages) Firework Party, Fairlight Church Field.
- 3 3.30 - 4.45 pm "Rediscovering Prayer" Group at Pax, Pett Road led by Canon Michael and Mrs Eileen Balch. Please tell Michael (813381) beforehand if you are attending.
- 5 6.00 pm Communion Service at St Nicholas, Pett Level (changed from 11.00 am) conducted by Canon Michael.
7.30 pm Robin leads a Bible School in St Peter's, Fairlight Cove on "The Bride of Christ".
- 9 10.30 am THE PETT & DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBRANCE SERVICE at Pett Church conducted by the chaplain, Robin Balch
- 15 The Rector at the Diocesan Synod (Brighton)
- 17-20 Rector away on conference at Swanwick in Derbyshire on Rural Evangelism conducted by Spring Board and Officer for Rural Ministry.
- 20 7.30 pm Group meets at "Paxstead"
7.00 for 7.30 pm Deanery Synod (details to be announced)
- 24 7.30 pm Pett PCC at the Rectory
- 25 5.00 pm Benefice Standing Committee meets
- 26 12 for 12.30 pm British Legion Seniors Lunch. Pett Choir to sing carols
- 30 ST ANDREW'S DAY (Patronal festival for Fairlight)
6.00 pm PATRONAL SONGS OF PRAISE at St Andrew's with Revd Joe Whiting (Camber). Members of Pett and Guestling welcome.

APPRAISAL YEAR FINAL MEETING on Wednesday 4 December at 7.30 pm at St Peter's, Fairlight Cove with Revd John Ford (Diocesan Adviser)

THIS AND THAT

The Deanery Synod met the new Bishop of Lewes at The Oasts, Northiam last month. Bishop Wallace revealed that he wants to be a teaching and pastoring Bishop. He gave three Bible readings to members of the Deanery, ie the Clergy chapter, the leading laity and the Deanery Synod. During the discussions the concern of the Deanery was discussed and a venture to employ a Youth Worker was debated. A prayer card has been devised by the Deanery which is available in the churches, saying:

Loving Father, lead us by your Spirit to know how to care for, and lead in faith, the young people of our Deanery. Guide and bless those who are exploring the possibilities. Help us all to play our part so that your will may be done. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We are fortunate to have our own TRIANGLE (Three Villages youth and children's team) GROUP led by Wendy Hatch from the Methodist Church and involving helpers from several local churches. Several activities are planned throughout the year, including our annual HOLIDAY CLUB. This month there is a FIREWORK PARTY (see diary). We are thrilled that TRIANGLE has launched a BIBLE CLUB at Guestling/Bradshaw School on Tuesday afternoons from 3.30 - 4.30 pm (open to all children 7-11 years) and known as PRIME TIME.

This month sees our annual REMEMBRANCE SERVICES (9 November). This year the Pett & District Branch of the Royal British Legion are holding their service at PETT PARISH CHURCH at 10.30 am (please note time). This will enable the silence to be at 11.00 am. Fairlight's service also commences at 10.30 am, while Guestling's service begins at 10.50 am.

Robin is away a couple of times this month. Robin and Eileen return to their previous church, St Paul's, Erith for their 96th Anniversary Service on SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER. Then from 17 - 20 November Robin attends a conference called "Good News in the Countryside" organised by Jeremy Martineau (Rural Officer) and Canon Michael Green (Springboard). It is to be held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

NATURE NOTES

Did you notice the nice big clump of Hedge Woundwort on the French Court footpath? Although this is not an uncommon plant, I haven't previously found it there. It is certainly a very attractive flower. As its name implies, it was used for healing wounds, its leaves having antiseptic qualities.

I have been given reports of an unidentified mammal in the Pannel Lane area. Three people have now seen the creature, which is described as being like a cat with long legs, a small head and a long tail with a distinctive upturned end. One sighting was in broad daylight. Has anyone else seen it?

Another interesting report was of a hedgehog skin found in a garden, the owner having been eaten. This was probably the work of a badger, or possibly a fox. Since coming to Pett 22 years ago I have never seen a live hedgehog. I will be only too delighted if you all tell me there are plenty about, as they are not only very attractive little animals but also great friends of gardeners.

A pipistrelle bat was found in Church on 14 September, unfortunately dead. It weighed 5 grams, which is about one fifth of an ounce. These attractive, delicate little mammals have suffered persecution in the past as a result of the old wives' tales about them getting in your hair and sucking your blood. They are now fully protected by law.

What a lot of craneflies there are this year. They are not amongst my favourite beasts, though no doubt they have their place in the scheme of things. They always remind me of that well-known parody of the Litany:

From Ghoulies and Ghosties and Long-leggeddy Beasties and Things that go Bump in the Night, Good Lord deliver us!

Avril Thurley

PARISH PUMP

As promised, here are the final costs for the work carried out to the Children's Play Area. The whole project cost £12,196.00. Of this, £9,235.00 was paid for by grants, £1,632.00 by local fundraising and £1,329.00 by the Parish Council (which works out at just over £2.00 per elector).

Most of us like to have a good bonfire or two in the Autumn, but please could you take into account the wind direction so as not to fill your neighbours' houses with smoke. Bonfires are not illegal, and there is nothing the Parish Council can do to prevent them, but it is obviously only common courtesy to try not to cause a nuisance to other people. The same applies to barbecues, the smell of which some people find more offensive than bonfires!

The electric blanket testing day will be held at Pett Village Hall on Monday 17 November from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm, following the Doctor's surgery. If you have a problem getting your blankets to the Hall, please get in touch with June Barnes on 813168, and she will arrange transport. The failure rate last year was nearly 50% which means that half the blankets tested were DANGEROUS. Do please take advantage of this opportunity - it could save your life and it is FREE.

I have been asked to remind you that although regular Parish Council Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December), it is sometimes necessary to hold interim Meetings in order to meet Rother District Council's planning deadlines. All meetings are advertised on the noticeboards outside the Village Hall and the Market Stores.

Avril Thurley
Clerk to Pett Parish Council

FAITH YEAR (1998) APPROACHING

Many of our plans for the next year in our development (Faith Year, following our "Listening Year") take the lead from recommendations from the appraisal that we have held this year. Decisions will be taken at the final meeting on WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER at St Peter's Church, Fairlight Cove, but we have some pointers already.

PETT PRAYER GROUP meets again on 3 November at 3.30 pm at "Pax", Pett Road led by Canon Michael and Eileen Balch. This will meet from time to time building a group of praying people at the heart of the Church.

PASTORAL TEAM CO-ORDINATION

Central to our plans for next year is to bring together and train a group of people who will follow up funerals, baptisms and weddings and meeting new people, as well as visiting the lonely and housebound. EILEEN BALCH is calling a group of people together this month as a core of a pastoral team. If you are at all interested in helping, please ring her on 813234.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING

The Bible Society has offered to help us in the New Year with a project of listening to the Holy Bible read on tapes. On BIBLE SUNDAY (7 December) the scheme will be launched in all the churches. Participants will make a commitment to listen to the whole New Testament on 12 tapes next year over 40 days. The total cost of all the tapes is £18.00 (NIV) or £24.00 (Dramatised Bible). The project is a spiritual exercise for the Church, and the Bible Society will be monitoring our progress and praying for us. More details will be available next month to help you take part.

DIOCESAN DISCIPLESHIP DAY

JOHN MANTLE, the Adviser in Lay Training, has agreed to come for a day of "Discipleship training", probably on a Sunday in the Spring. John came in my first year here and spoke to a group from Pett and Guestling. A Visit three years later would have great profit for the Benefice as a whole.

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS BIBLE STUDY

We have an excellent course of Bible Studies that bring us to the core of our Faith and we will encourage groups to use it in the New Year and through Lent. Please sign up to "brush up" on your beliefs!

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