

December, 1997

GUESTLING

PETT

PARISH NEWS

Pett Level

COMMUNICATION

We live in amazing days. The days of "the Internet", communication satellites, digital telephoning, mobile phones, faxes, programmers and many more. All these are for immediate communication, instantly around the world. The BENEFICE has found one of its major problems during this year has been HOW TO COMMUNICATE. We have learnt significant things and are moving to respond, but it is difficult to "get through" to both the church membership and the community.

This is not just our problem, but also for ALMIGHTY GOD Himself, as He tries to make contact with us. The Bible has this interesting verse "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son". (Hebrew 1:1,2). CHRISTMAS is GOD TRYING TO COMMUNICATE with us. God can be clearly seen in the Created order, and St Paul concludes that "men are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). We have the recorded writings of the prophets through the ages. We have the living witness of godly men and women through the years. MOST OF ALL WE HAVE THE HISTORIC, ACTUAL PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST. Many will this Christmas hear again of the "loving purposes of God ... brought to us by this Holy Child". (The Carol Service from Kings College, Cambridge). ONCE MORE WE ARE INVITED "TO HEAR AGAIN THE MESSAGE OF THE ANGELS". Once again God wants to communicate with us.

As we told you in last month's magazine, we are holding an INFORMATION MEETING on FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm at ST PETER'S CHURCH, FAIRLIGHT COVE. If this time and place is not convenient, other opportunities will be given, so that you meet leaders of the Church and find out our message and the changes that are taking place in these days. Do get in touch with any of the churchwardens or myself for details.

1998 is to be our FAITH YEAR. The idea is to try to deepen our own faith and help others to grow in their understanding of faith. Each month next year there will be articles explaining beliefs and practices in the contemporary Christian Church. Please find an outline for this year as agreed when the FOUR YEAR PLAN was launched in 1995.

Eileen and I wish everybody in the Benefice a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

GUESTLING ROTAS DECEMBER 1997

- 7th MATINS - Advent 2 - (Violet)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman
 FLOWERS - Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Jennings, Mrs Perry
 SIDESMEN - Mrs Barron, Miss Groves
 READERS - Mr Tytherleigh - Jeremiah 36:9 - 26
 - Mrs Brooks - St Matthew 25:14 - 30
- 14th PARISH COMMUNION - Advent 3 - (Violet)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 FLOWERS - Mrs Gainsbury, Miss Groves, Mrs Smith
 SIDESMEN - Mrs Williams, Col Parks
 ELEMENTS - Mrs Barron, Miss Groves
 READERS - Col Parks - Malachi 3:1 - 5
 - Miss Groves - Philippians 4:4 - 9
- 21st FAMILY COMMUNION RITE A - Advent 4 - (Violet)
 PREACHER - Revd Ken Holmes
 CELEBRANT - Revd Humphrey Newman
 FLOWERS - All help please
 SIDESMEN - Young People
 ELEMENTS - Young People
- 6.00 pm CAROL SERVICE
 PREACHER - Revd Owen Thomas
- 24th 11.15 pm MIDNIGHT MASS - CHRISTMAS EVE - (White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 FLOWERS - As 21st
 SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds
 ELEMENTS - Mrs Williams, Col Parks
 READERS - Mr Barnett - Isaiah 62:1 - 5
 - Mrs Wicking - Acts 13:16 - 26
- 25th HOLY COMMUNION - CHRISTMAS DAY - (White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Owen Thomas
 FLOWERS - As 21st
 SIDESMEN - Mr Jury, Mrs Page
 ELEMENTS - Mrs Betson, Mrs Gainsbury
 READERS - Mr Greenwood - Isaiah 9:2, 6 & 7
 - Mrs Smith - Titus 2:11 - 1
- 28th UNITED SERVICE at FAIRLIGHT
 No service at Guestling
- 4th January - First experimental Rite A Communion instead of Matins

PETT & PETT LEVEL ROTAS DECEMBER 1997

- 3rd 6.00 pm HOLY COMMUNION BCP (Pett Level)
CELEBRANT - Canon Michael Townroe
- 7th 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
INTERCESSIONS - Mrs R Taylor, Mr J Taylor
SIDESPERSONS - Mrs K Jury, Mr W Slack
SERVER - Mr J Taylor
READER - Mrs E Greenfield - Romans 15:4 - 13
Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack
- 14th 8 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - Philippians 4:4 - 9
Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs R Moon
10.30 am TOY SERVICE with PARADE (Pett)
LEADER - Mrs Eileen Balch
SIDESPERSONS - Mr J Greenfield, Mr J Hiatt
6.00 pm BENEFICE CAROL SERVICE (Pett)
SIDESPERSONS - Mrs D Goodsell, Mr J Hiatt
- 21st 9.30 am CAROL SERVICE (Pett)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon M Townroe/Revd R Balch
SIDESPERSONS - Mrs P Bowman, Cdr T Clarkson
Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack
- 24th 3.00 pm NATIVITY SERVICE (Pett)
SIDESPERSONS - Church Wardens
- 25th 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
CELEBRANT - Revd Humphrey Newman
READER/SIDESPERSON - Church Warden - 1 John 4:7 - 14
Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Miss M Deasy
- 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon M Townroe/Revd R Balch
INTERCESSIONS - Church Warden
SIDESPERSONS - Mrs K Jury, Mr J Underwood
SERVER - Church Warden
READER - Mr J Underwood
- 28th 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley
10.30 am UNITED SERVICE at ST ANDREWS, FAIRLIGHT
Pett Level flowers - Mrs M Parsons, cleaning - Mrs A Hawksley

RECORDED IN THE REGISTERS

Funerals conducted at Guestling Parish Church (followed by burial in the churchyard)

20 October Percy Thomas Beaney (84 years) of Benchwood Kennels, Rye Road

31 October Dorothy Jane Gammon (89 years) of 10 Higham Gardens

Funeral at Pett Parish Church and burial in churchyard
12 November Gary Ronald Chippett (45 years) of 15 Allards

We convey our sincere sympathies to all who mourn, especially to Betty in the loss of Percy after a long illness. Percy is remembered as a well-known character in the area, originally a butcher in Icklesham and latterly looking after the Benchwood Kennels with his wife Betty. Sympathies to daughter Norma and grand-daughter Emma.

Our prayers are also for all who remember Dorrie Gammon of Higham Gardens, long time member of St Laurence. We remember her husband Harold and the family as well as her many friends in Guestling. The service was taken by Revd Humphrey Newman as the rector was on holiday.

We are also thinking of Lorraine Chippett in the loss of her husband Gary at the young age of 45, just after his sister Linda had so tragically died at 43 leaving Charley-Rose. We think of Tisha and Joe, little Kirsty and Tyler. We were glad we could lay him to rest in Pett Churchyard, where he wanted to be.

ARTHUR ROBERTS - we were very sad to hear of the death of Arthur Roberts, well known as a wildlife artist and also to the Churches of Guestling and Pett. Arthur and his wife Mavis moved from "The Boathouse", Pett Level last year, after they had both suffered with ill-health. They attended Roger and Margaret Barnett's Silver Wedding celebration and then moved to Winchelsea Beach. Arthur's sudden death was a great shock to all who knew him, and we have lost a delightful and very talented man. The Churches convey their deep sympathies to Mavis on her loss.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS - the two communities of Pett and Guestling have been able to share two special birthday occasions. A party was laid on for ELIZABETH GREENFIELD in Pett Village Hall as she reached her 60s and Guestling Village Hall was the venue to celebrate JOHN JURY'S 70th a week later. Both occasions were really special and greatly enjoyed. Congratulations to Elizabeth and John.

At the Remembrance Service where TOM CLARKSON played a key role, we learnt that the day before (8 November) Tom had reached 75 years. We were surprised but pleased to hear that he had a really lovely day.

GUESTLING CHURCH Christmas decorating takes place on Friday 19 December from 9.00 am. All help please! We would also be grateful for holly and any other greenery.

The usual orders for door hangers, table centres etc will be taken but please order by 5 December. Order cannot be accepted after this due to other commitments.

Rosemary Gainsbury (812254)

GUESTWELL GUIDE & SCOUT GROUP Christmas bazaar and coffee morning - Saturday 6 December in Pett Village Hall. 10.00 am - 12.30 pm - cakes, raffle, tombola, games and Father Christmas.

A CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING will be held at the Little House, Friars Hill, Guestling on 14 December from 10.00 am - 12.00 noon.

JUMBLE SALE - our thanks to all who helped with the jumble sale, a total of £119.06 was raised.

GUESTLING CHOIR will be singing carols in Three Oaks on 19 December with a few friends from the Methodist Church. Meet at the Methodist Church at 7.15 pm and finish at the Three Oaks pub where we are assured of a warm welcome. We look forward to giving you a warm welcome at our carol service in Guestling Church on 21 December at 6.00 pm - a traditional service with well known carols. The midnight service is at 11.30 pm on 24 December when friends from Pett and Fairlight will be joining us. On Christmas Day we welcome our Lord's birth with a communion service at 11.00 am.

GUESTLING & DISTRICT WELFARE ASSOCIATION - the Association will be distributing about 35 parcels again this Christmas to those living in the area who may find it a very lonely time. Any help in making the parcels even better would be appreciated. Contact Pam Dunlop, Little Buds, Pett tel: 813368 or Avril Thurley, Rectory Cottage, Pett tel: 812675.

Older readers will be saddened to hear of the death of Betty Carey, who was our District Nurse and Midwife from 1956 - 1969 at a time when more mothers had their babies at home. She had a forceful, kindly personality and was both liked and respected especially by the young mothers. She had retired to Old Heathfield where she was very active in the local church and the WI.

PETT JUMBLE SALE - many thanks once again to everyone who helped, donated and supported our recent jumble sale in aid of the church restoration fund. After expenses had been deducted the amount raised was exactly £600.00 - a record!

THE HARVEST HOME - held at the New Beach Club on 27 September in aid of the RNLI raised £1,500.00. Many thanks to all the people of Pett who supported and gave so generously.

PETT GARDEN CLUB - holds a social evening for members only from 7.30 pm in the Village Hall on 9 December. Mince pies, punch, raffle and a competition.

PETT WI - will be having their Christmas Dinner at the Royal Oak on Friday 12 December. For details ring 813215.

CAROL SINGING IN PETT - if you can do come and join us on Monday 22 December as we sing carols through the village. We will meet in the Parish Church at 6.45 pm in our warmest clothes and waterproofs, even if it rains or snows! Bring lanterns or torches, carol sheets provided and, all being well, Robin will accompany us on his accordion. We leave the church at 7.00 pm sharp and sing joyfully along Pett Road towards the Two Sawyers. Money collected will go to support "Surviving Christmas" so we shall need goodly band of singers and collectors. After our efforts we will enjoy some welcome refreshments thanks to the kindness of Tom Clarkson. If any young folk wish to join us and their parents can't collect them at the end of the evening, we will ensure that they are brought home by an adult. Come and join us in this fun evening - everyone welcome and the more singers we have, the more we will collect for those less fortunate than ourselves. Look forward to seeing you at 6.45 pm in church on Monday 22 December.

John Taylor

PETT LEVEL NATURALISTS SOCIETY - the next meeting is on 19 December at 7.30 pm in the Pett Village Hall when Kay Gobbett will be talking on "Gilbert White's Selborne".

PETT EVENING HOUSE GROUP - will meet at "Paxstead", Pett Road on Thursday 11 December at 7.30 pm.

PETT FLOWER ROTA

7 December - Mrs Carr, Mrs Jury

14 December - Mrs Hickman, Mrs Jackson

21 December - decorating for Christmas - ALL HELP PLEASE - meet at the church 9.30 am onwards on Saturday 20 December.

28 December - Mrs Harris, Miss Turner

"A HOWLER"

"The choir are a group of people who lead the sinning". Does Joan know about this?

CHRISTMAS IN FAIRLIGHT, GUESTLING and PETT

We have a varied and busy Christmas programme in the Benefice this year. Make a note of your interests and come and share the Christmas spirit with us.

December

14th 10.30 am TOY SERVICE with PARADE at PETT PARISH CHURCH.
Bring toys in good condition for local children's charity.

6.00 pm FIRST UNITED BENEFICE CAROL SERVICE at PETT PARISH CHURCH (Please make choices)

16th 6.00 pm CAROL SINGING IN FAIRLIGHT (Meet at Church House).
Collection for "HASTINGS SURVIVING CHRISTMAS"

17th 2.00 pm GUESTLING GROUP of WOMEN'S INSTITUTES CAROL SERVICE at St Laurence, Guestling.

19th 1.30 pm GUESTLING/BRADSHAW SCHOOL CAROLS at St Andrew's, Fairlight

7.15 pm CAROL SINGING IN GUESTLING. Meet outside The Methodist Chapel, Three Oaks

20th 6.30 pm CAROLS IN THE BARN (organised by Pett Methodists) at Pickham Farm, Watermill Lane

21st CAROL SERVICES in the BENEFICE
9.30 am CAROLS at PETT PARISH CHURCH
6.00 pm CAROL SERVICE at ST LAURENCE
6.30 pm CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT at ST ANDREWS

22nd 6.45 pm meet at PETT CHURCH for CAROL SINGING in the parish.
Refreshments at Breanross.

24th 3.00 pm PETT "NATIVITY" (Parish Church)
11.15 pm BENEFICE CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION (St Laurence, Guestling)

25th (see rotas for Christmas Day)

28th 10.30 am ANNUAL UNITED SERVICE this year at St Andrew's, Fairlight (Rite A)

NATURE NOTES

A number of people have commented on my tribute to Sue in the October magazine, and have asked who wrote the poem. I'm sorry I don't know - does anyone else? It was sent to me by a friend after I lost my beloved Anna, and clearly I'm not the only one to find it very moving.

Sharon Harden, who lives at Hill House, Chick Hill, acts as a 'rehomer' of hedgehogs for Mallydams. She keeps them in her garden for a while before letting them go. Sharon would like to be informed of any hedgehog sightings in the area.

A tawny owl was found shot in Watermill Lane a few weeks ago. This is not only tragic, it is also illegal, and if anyone has any information about the gunman they should report it to the police.

If you leave your windfall apples where they lie, or put out over-ripe fruit, you may well attract Fieldfares and redwings. In the days before I knew what Redwings were I used to call them "Badger Birds" because of their prominent white eye stripes. When I was given a Bird Book for Christmas, I also discovered that my Tortoiseshell Finches were Bramblings, and my Mouse Birds were Dunnocks, amongst others.

While having tea with a friend in Rectory Park recently, a Kestrel landed on her patio and paused long enough for us to get a good view before flying away.

Another magic moment happened while I was dog-sitting for a friend at Westfield. I saw the dogs standing in a circle at the end of the large garden, and went to investigate. In the middle of the circle was a toad, inflated to bursting point and slowly pivoting to show his fearsome self to each of the six curious canine faces. (What you might call a toad in a bit of a hole) When I called the dogs away he withdrew in a very dignified manner into the undergrowth. I bet when he got back to Toad Hall he told Ratty and Mole that he'd defeated a whole pack of wolves single-handed!

Avril Thurley

RYE HEALTH & CARE LTD - Christmas Fayre at St Mary's Church, Rye on 6 December 10.00 am - 3.30 pm. Christmas Workshop, Rye Foreign on 18 December 10.00 am - 3.00 pm - Swags, Garlands and Wreaths - How to create a decoration extravaganza! Tickets £20.00 including lunch - ring 01797 226770 or 01797 223377 - numbers limited so book early!

League of Friends of the Memorial Care Centre - Christmas cards are on sale in The Care Centre Reception or from Tessa Potts, 4 Friars Road, Winchelsea.

Copy for January magazine to Frances Taylor, Summerhayes, Pett Road, Pett, tel: 813437 by Wednesday 10 December please.

PARISH PUMP

You will be sorry to hear that after all the time, money and effort which has been put into upgrading the play area at the Recreation Ground, the roundabout has already been vandalised. The culprit is known (he was caught in the act) but is too young to be prosecuted, and unfortunately the old fashioned tried and tested ways of deterring vandals are no longer open to us. It would be helpful if all users of the Recreation Ground would keep an eye on the play area. The roundabout should be repaired by the time you read this, and the new seat (theoretically vandal proof) should be installed.

Still on the subject of the Recreation Ground, there have been one or two piles of dog faeces left there lately. Anyone's dog, no matter how well-trained, can get "taken short", and no harm is done if the owner picks up after it. You can buy proper Poop Scoops at Pet Shops, but a plastic bag is equally effective. There has also been a lot of litter left lying about; Tim Jury picked up a large sackful recently. Please help to keep our lovely Recreation Ground clean for everyone's enjoyment.

Several people have expressed concern about the use of Chick Hill by the school buses. As the Hill is a public highway, there is nothing the Parish Council can do to prevent its lawful use by the bus company. ESCC Highways Department has been asked to ensure that the Hill is thoroughly gritted in the event of icy weather.

Just a reminder that there will be no regular meeting of the Parish Council in December. If it is necessary to hold a meeting to meet Rother's planning deadlines, this will be announced on the notice boards.

Avril Thurley
Clerk to Pett Parish Council

PARISH TREASURER

After many devoted years as Treasurer to Pett PCC Phyllis Gerrelli is retiring in the New Year. We all thank her enormously. We now need a new Treasurer! You can be assured that the accounts are in good order and that Phyllis will help her successor.

Angela Hawksley
Church Warden (812705)

(or Phyllis 812699)

BENEFACT FOUR YEAR PLAN

Reminder 1997 THE LISTENING YEAR
1998 THE FAITH YEAR
1999 THE ACTION YEAR
2000 THE CELEBRATION

PLANS FOR THE 1998 FAITH YEAR

FAITH COMES BY HEARING. This will be launched in the New Year. The Rector will be preaching on the project on **SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER** at Pett and **14 DECEMBER** at Guestling. Members are encouraged to buy tapes of the New Testament and listen to them over a 40 day period. The cost for 12 tapes will be £18.00. More details on the Sundays.

Spring Term

Home Groups based on the
LIFEBUILDER COURSE "CHRISTIAN BELIEFS"

During Lent all are invited to a LENT COURSE led by the Bishop of Lewes. He will be teaching from ST JOHN'S GOSPEL (Chapters 13-17) on Wednesdays at St Mary's Church, Battle from 8.00 pm until 9.15 pm on 4th, 11th and 25th March and 1st April.

PLEASE SIGN YOUR ATTENDANCE and we shall arrange for transport if necessary.

RETURN VISIT of JOHN MANTLE (Diocesan Training Officer) on 28 March for the "CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP" CHURCH CONFERENCE from 10.00 am - 1.00 pm (venue announced in the New Year). John will also be at our FIRST UNITED BENEFACT SERVICE on SUNDAY 29 MARCH probably at 10.30 am, church to be announced later. (Book these dates in your diary).

Attendance at SPRING HARVEST at Minehead from Saturday 4 April - Thursday 9 April. Members from Guestling and Fairlight attending and will report back after Easter.

Summer Term

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES
A Summer School on "The shape of Christian Leadership
in the Benefice of Fairlight, Guestling and Pett"

Autumn Term

CHRISTIAN RESOURCES
A preparation and response to Christian Stewardship and a review of the Benefice, its publicity, services and groups

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