

January, 1999

GUESTLING

PETT

PARISH NEWS

Pett Level

CWB



1
ROBIN WRITES:

WELCOME VENERABLE NICHOLAS

It is going to be a real pleasure and encouragement to welcome THE VEN. NICHOLAS READE, Archdeacon of Lewes and Hastings) to our Benefice on SUNDAY 31 JANUARY at 11.00 am at St Laurence Church, Guestling to both preside at our BENEFICE COMMUNION and preach the sermon.

First I have to deal with complaints from both Fairlight and Pett that their church is not the venue for his visit. Fairlight is having the post Christmas Benefice Service a few weeks earlier. If, as we hope, we have a good response of some 150 people (as we did last January) then accommodation and parking at Pett would be very difficult. I am sad to hear such comments after the first year of United Benefice Services around the churches has gone so well. This service is a part of a plan to cover the next two years, 1999 and 2000 with a variety of shared activities that will fully use the buildings we have.

The Archdeacon has given us considerable time in talking through with the leaders of the benefice the way forward, and has expressed a desire to visit each church in turn. Perhaps it would be good to book visits to Pett and Fairlight in his diary while he is with us on the Sunday. Recently at our Alpha Course, we established that the CHURCH OF GOD is not buildings or ordained clergy but the PEOPLE OF GOD. I believe that history and the setting of Guestling will prove a very worthy venue for his first visit to us.

I do hope that you put your personal view on one side and make a SPECIAL EFFORT to meet with OUR ARCHDEACON. I know that he will have something to say that is relevant to us in this Benefice and for our future as a part of God's Church in East Sussex. May I just mention that in a year's time, BISHOP WALLACE will be coming on the FIFTH SUNDAY, JANUARY 2000 and we have already booked ST ANDREW'S, FAIRLIGHT for that occasion.

The MILLENNIUM PLANNING GROUP meet at the end of this month to continue the planning of 1999 and 2000. The outline programme will soon be in the churches, so make sure that you receive a copy and put the events of this important time in your diary. Therefore, please make sure that Nicholas knows the strength and commitment of this Benefice by making your attendance at this service a priority.

With every good wish for 1999.

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GUESTLING ROTAS FOR JANUARY 1999

- 3rd MATINS - CHRISTMAS 2 - (White)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Frank Rowson
FLOWERS - Mrs Gilbey, Mrs Gainsbury, Mrs Smith
SIDESMEN - Miss Groves, Mrs Gainsbury
READERS - Mr Greenwood - Isaiah 43:1 - 13
- Mr Tytherleigh - St Matthew 2 all
- 10th PARISH COMMUNION - EPIPHANY 1 - (White)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman
FLOWERS - Mrs Pearson, Mrs Jagger, Mrs Gill
SIDESMEN - Col Parks, Mrs Betson
ELEMENTS - Mrs Barron, Mrs Smith
READERS - Col Parks - 1 Samuel 16:1 - 13a
- Mrs Wickens - Acts 10:34 - 38a
- 17th FAMILY SERVICE - EPIPHANY 2 - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin & Mrs Eileen Balch
FLOWERS - Mrs Wicking, Mrs Hull, Miss Quaife
- 24th PARISH COMMUNION - epiphany 3 - (Green)
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
FLOWERS - Mrs Coppins, Mrs Carpenter, Mrs Rugg, Mrs J Perry
SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds
ELEMENTS - Mr Jury, Mrs Williams
READERS - Mr Barnett - Exodus 33:12 to end
- Miss Groves - 1 John 1:1 - 7
- 31st UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE - Rite B - 9th Before Easter
PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Archdeacon of Lewes and Hastings
FLOWERS - Mrs Brooks, Mr Greenwood, Mrs Greenwood

PETT & PETT LEVEL ROTAS JANUARY 1999

- 3rd 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Michael Townroe
 INTERCESSIONS - Miss M Deasy
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs P Bowman, Mrs K Jury
 SERVER - Mr J Underwood
 READER - Mrs P Bowman - Romans 8:11 - 17
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack

- 10th 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION (Pett Level)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - Acts 10:34 - 38a
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs R Moon

- 10.30 am ALL-AGE "SONGS OF PRAISE"
 LEADER - Revd Robin Balch
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs D Goodsell

- 17th 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Frank Rowson
 INTERCESSIONS - Mrs C Hollman
 SIDESPERSONS - Cdr T Clarkson, Mrs A Hawksley
 SERVER - Mr J Taylor
 READER - Mr K Gill - Acts 26:1, 9 - 20
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs A Hawksley

- 24th 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION - (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - 1 John 1:1 - 7
 Pett Level flowers - Mrs M Parsons, cleaning - Miss M Deasy

- 9.30 am MATINS (Pett)
 LEADER - Canon Michael Townroe
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs D Goodsell, Mrs A Scott
 READER - Mrs A Scott - Isaiah 26:1 - 9
 - Miss M Turner - John 4:43 - 54

- 31st 11.00 am BENEFICE SERVICE at GUESTLING

THE FOUR YEAR PLAN (THIRD YEAR - 1999)

REMINDER - The Benefice agreed in 1996 that we would have a FOUR YEAR PLAN of growing together.

We decided that this formula is no longer viable, that is

CHURCH = BUILDING + PRIEST + STIPEND

but now we must think

CHURCH = COMMUNITY + FAITH + ACTION

1997 became our "Community" year, when we listened to each other and the community. We realised what a challenge it was going to be. However, an APPRAISAL GROUP was formed to monitor the progress of the Benefice, and we had CANON JOHN FORD'S help to plan the future. The group of PASTORAL VISITORS was formed which meets regularly to try to cover the visits in the Benefice.

1998 has been our "Faith" year. We had a visit from JOHN MANTLE (Training Officer) as we launched our FIFTH SUNDAY in the month BENEFICE SERVICES. Then MARK FORSTER came to joint PCCs meeting. From that FAIRLIGHT have had a TRIO (Planned Giving) CAMPAIGN and PETT are approaching the community about the formation of a FRIENDS of PETT CHURCH organisation.

1999 will be our "Action" Year, looking for ways of going to the community with our FAITH and BELIEFS. After our successful "THANKSGIVING FOR LIFE" service last September we are planning a MARRIAGE RENEWAL service and a service for all the BAPTISED in our BENEFICE to renew their Baptismal vows. We hope also to do some "parish visiting". If any are interested in joining VIP (Visitors in the Parish) please let Eileen Balch know.

The key feature of this year is to prepare for the NEW MILLENNIUM. A group in the Benefice is making extensive plans for "Millennium Approach" and also for a YEAR OF CELEBRATION in 2000. Please consult the Parish Magazines and the Benefice News for more details.

We hope that we can demonstrate that the CHRISTIAN FAITH is alive and well in these villages by the year 2000.

"AFTER ALPHA"

We give thanks for a happy and successful ALPHA COURSE in the Benefice, held for ten weeks before Christmas, as a part of the NATIONAL ALPHA initiative. More than 6000 churches took part, with more than 100,000 people being involved. We had some 28 different people, with a core of 20 coming regularly, from the Benefice and a few from outside our group of Churches.

We concurred that CHRISTIANITY is alive and well! The warmth, love and commitment engendered by this course seems sometimes to be lacking in our Sunday by Sunday Church Services. We identified that the CHURCH is PEOPLE not buildings or clergy. The important thing is to find ways of being together that encourages life and vitality. We were taught that the CHURCH should be meeting in three "size" groupings. CELL is when a small group meet regularly with each other, perhaps 6-10 in a home. Then there is a CONGREGATION, a group of between 30-100, for worship and learning (representing the three congregations in the Benefice) and then we need from time to time to have a CELEBRATION that reminds us how strong the Church really is and brings enthusiasm and vision to us all.

The BENEFICE SERVICES are so enjoyed that it was felt that we should have them as many times as we were able. We recognised that not everybody attended these, only supporting their own building and congregation, but for new life and change the way was to be together. As some of the more traditional services are less supported, there is a need to bring people together to discover the life of the Holy Spirit.

Following earlier ALPHA COURSES at Fairlight, small cell groups have continued with the warmth, learning and friendship of the Course. It was decided to try a similar ALPHA FOLLOW UP GROUP at the Rectory on WEDNESDAYS every fortnight starting on WEDNESDAY 13 JANUARY at 7.30 pm. It may be that you have attended an earlier Alpha and would like to get back into the "Fellowship" or you have missed joining a group but have some time to give now. ALL ARE WELCOME to discover the ALPHA SPIRIT. Do come and join us. More details from Robin and Eileen.

PEOPLE in our THOUGHTS

We know that quite a number have been unwell during this winter. We continue to remember them in our thoughts and prayers, especially:

Christine Harris who suffered a broken arm while on holiday in Italy. This was after a previous motor accident, when she sustained a broken wrist. We do trust that 1999 will be much more fortunate than 1998!

John Greenfield is still receiving treatment following a recent operation and stay in Benenden Hospital. We remember both he and Elizabeth at this testing time.

Norman Coby continues with health problems, but remains very cheerful and is always a joy to visit. Again we wish a better year for him in 1999.

Pat Moyser has now been in the Laurels Nursing Home for some time. We miss her cheerful presence around Pett and send our best wishes.

Christine Rugg sustained a bad injury to her leg and has remained in hospital recovering. We hope she may be home again soon. She is always greatly missed when away from the Guestling congregation.

Sir Denny Ashburnham is being cared for at home and occasionally, if the weather is fine, can be pushed along the road to Church by Mary. Again both are very much missed at St Laurence.

In a happier vein we convey our slightly belated congratulations to **Catharine Hollman** on winning a Royal Horticultural Society gold medal for her beautiful illustrations of seaside plants. Well done indeed - a very rare achievement!

Welcome back to **John Jury** who has recently enjoyed a once in a lifetime trip to New Zealand. We are glad he is back to ring the bells for Scott Warren and Sara Townsend's wedding at St Laurence on 23 January.

We send **Tricia Bowman** our best wishes as she moves to Bexhill. She has been a valued member of the PASTORAL VISITORS TEAM and with little grandson, Charlie, has been a regular supporter of the Pett Family Service. After the loss of Nigel she has been such an example of courage and faith to us all. We wish the whole family well in the future. Please keep in touch.

We were very sad to hear of the death of **Jenny Payne** of the "Two Sawyers". We express our sincere sympathies to Sharon and Julie and the rest of the family, and also to the very many friends who knew her, especially those who frequent the "Two Sawyers". Her funeral was conducted at St Mary & St Peter followed by a service at Hastings Crematorium on Wednesday 16 December.

THREE OAKS WI - owing to the usually inclement weather in January, it has been decided to forego a speaker. We will be meeting at 2.15 pm on 14 January. Visitors will be more than welcome as will new members.

GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL - meets on 11 January at 7.30 pm at Three Oaks Village Hall.

THREE OAKS GARDENING CLUB - will be holding their AGM at 7.30 pm on 13 January.

QUIZ NIGHT - on 20 January at 7.30 pm.

PETT WI - the first meeting of 1999 takes place in the Village Hall at 2.30 pm on Friday 15 January. Mr Michael Hoad is our visiting speaker with his talk with slides on Roaming the Cuckmere. Prospective new members will be made welcome.

THURSDAY LUNCHEON CLUB - it is with regret that we have to announce the closure of this club. Our sincere thanks are due to the helpers and drivers from Pett and Fairlight who, over the last 25 years, have given so many people a friendly and enjoyable day.

PETT LEVEL NATURALISTS SOCIETY - next meets on 15 January at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. This month's speaker is Amanda Burrows and her subject Hastings Country Park.

PARISH MAGAZINE - I would be grateful if all those who distribute the Parish Magazine could let me know the number of magazines that they deliver. It would appear that we need to make an adjustment to our printing order, an increase in those wanting The Mag. This can only be good news.

The annual subscription is now due. Please pay your distributor. Thank you.

Meriel Deasy

THE NEW VILLAGE HALL IN PETT - I was interested to read Mr Tim Jury's admirable article in the December issue of the Parish News. It is, however, necessary to know the extent of our resources before any useful comment can be made.

Trevor Barnes

JANUARY '99 IN THE BENEFICE

- 6th Robin and Eileen return from New Year break.
- 10th 10.30 am ALL-AGE SERVICE at PETT CHURCH introducing plans for 1999. Please support this.
- 13th 7.30 pm AFTER ALPHA GROUP (see page 5) held at the Rectory. All from the Benefice welcome.
- 17th 6.30 pm PRAISE and WORSHIP at St Peter's, Fairlight Cove. For all who enjoy informal worship. Come and see!
- 18th 7.30 pm THE PASTORAL VISITORS meeting is held in the Rectory. Apologies appreciated.
- 21st 7.30 pm MEETING for the MILLENNIUM and APPRAISAL GROUPS at the Rectory to plan 1999/2000.
- 23rd 2.30 pm the wedding of Scott Warren and Sara Townsend at St Laurence Church.
- 28th 7.30 pm GUESTLING PCC meeting at the Rectory.
- 31st **THE VISIT OF THE VEN. NICHOLAS READE to the BENEFICE of FAIRLIGHT, GUESTLING & PETT. 11.00 am SERVICE at St Laurence, Guestling.**
- 6.30 pm DEANERY CANDLEMAS SERVICE at St Mary's Church, Rye.

DATE CHANGES

The Rector and Mrs Balch have changed their DAY OFF from FRIDAY to TUESDAY for 1999.

Please note that the next PETT PCC meeting is changed from Tuesday 23 February to Monday 22 February. With apologies for any inconvenience.

PARISH PUMP

At its November meeting the Council discussed the problems caused by cars parked outside the Village Hall. There have been one or two occasions recently when it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for an emergency vehicle to get through. PC John Marshall was at the meeting and gave the Council much useful information and advice.

It was decided that in future all Village Hall users will be asked to park only on the opposite (Church) side of the road. User groups have been asked to advise their members of this. When the Hall is hired for a major event, such as a jumble sale, it will be the responsibility of the organisers to cone off the Hall side of the road to prevent parking. Cones will be provided by the Council. Although these cones are not legally enforceable, the Police would view people parking other than in compliance with them as unnecessary obstruction and causing inconvenience to other road users.

If this method of controlling parking does not work, the next step would be to ask the Highways Department to make a Traffic Order - which would involve having yellow lines through the village. I'm sure nobody wants that, so do please comply with this request to park only on the Church side of the road.

The mystery of the notice board found on the towpath has been solved by Chris Harris. It was a roadside board from near the beach Club, and may belong to the Environment Agency. Chris herself had used it for advertising Church events, and had noted its disappearance. Jim has kindly agreed to put it back in its rightful position.

There have been complaints about dogs fouling the green outside Glebe Cottages. There are plenty of places locally where dogs can be taken without causing a nuisance. One's own common sense should tell one that a green immediately in front of houses is likely to be used as a play area by children. As a dog lover myself, I have to say that there are NO bad dogs, only bad owners. Please make a New Year resolution to 'pick up' after your dog.

Avril Thurley (Clerk to Pett Parish Council)

BENEFICE "ALPHA" 1998, ST PETER'S, FAIRLIGHT

It took several years for me to finally attend an "Alpha" course and now it is nearly finished - "What has Alpha meant to me?"

- A Alternative perceptions to my beliefs in the Christian faith with new meanings and horizons.
- L There was much "learning and laughter" throughout the course with its more serious moments. A large part of the learning came by discussion and listening to others. The course was well structured and the leaders were excellent. There was a true sense of purpose and everyone was "caught up" in wanting to learn more and be part of it all. The highlight was "the Holy Spirit" day spent at Ashburnham Place. It was a beautiful day, in magnificent surroundings, very close to nature and one could sense the stillness, peace and presence of the Holy Spirit. It was a most memorable occasion. It was also a time for me to reflect upon the strengths and weaknesses of my faith.
- P Pasta and Pudding. At every meeting we were met at the door by Robin, Eileen, John, Eve, Geof and Sheila with a warm and heartfelt greeting. Supper was a great time of fellowship and start to the evening. Eve and Sheila, with a little assistance, provided wonderful dishes and I'm sure it was to entice us back again the following week. They succeeded!
- H Helping each other ... there was no need to ask. Everyone was so friendly, understanding and supportive. We were encouraged to speak openly about our own thoughts, feelings and all manner of different things concerning the evening's topic. For those who wish to continue when the course ends, there will be further support with house groups and other meetings.
- A Ask anything ... and right from the beginning we all knew that nothing was considered to be too simple or too hostile. Everyone was helpful and no one judgmental. After all these years, it was an experience for me to be able to discuss religion and listen to others so openly without being put down and considered different.

I am pleased that I attended the course. It has been an "awakening" for me and I hope that I shall continue to grow and learn more about my God and my faith. A big thank you to all our leaders for their sincerity and guidance, to Eve and Sheila for the superb food and to all my many new friends for making the course such a wonderful experience for me. I would recommend it to everyone. God bless.

Ken Gill

NATURE NOTES

Winter is the best time to look for nests. With the foliage off the bushes and hedges it is much easier to spot them - in fact some of them are so visible that I wonder how I failed to see them in summer. Some are rough, utilitarian structures, others are most beautifully formed and lined with feathers and moss. It seems to me quite wondrous that birds can construct these works of art entirely with their beaks. How many humans could do so using both hands? I certainly couldn't.

Trees must be amongst the loveliest things in creation, and they touch our lives in so many ways. I am not thinking now of the many practical uses we find for them, but of the way they speak to us throughout the seasons. In Spring we look eagerly for the first new buds, signalling the start of that great burgeoning of life which we mundanely call the growing season. In Summer they turn sunlight into growth with such efficiency that some trees are the biggest and longest-lived things on earth. In Autumn we admire their spectacular colours and in some cases gather their fruits. And now, in Winter, we see the real beauty of their leafless branches against the sky. A silver birch with the setting sun behind it is movingly beautiful. On a crisp, frosty morning, every twig and branch is outlined in silver, so that even the most ordinary trees and shrubs look like visitors from fairyland.

The stars, too, are extraordinarily bright on a clear winter's night. When I had Anna, we used to go for starlit walks when we didn't even need a torch. In the silence there is an air of breathless expectancy, as though all Nature were waiting for something wonderful to happen. It is, of course, Spring - and we look forward to it as well, but let's not miss winter's joys in the meantime.

Avril Thurley

Copy for the February magazine should be sent to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes, Pett Road, telephone 813437 by 20 January 1999 please.

WHEN GOD SAID "NO" AND "YES"

I asked God to take away my pride - and God said "No".
He said it was not for Him to take away, but for me to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole - and God said "No".
He said "her spirit is whole, her body is only temporary".

I asked God to grant me patience - and God said "No".
He said my patience is the by-product of tribulation, it isn't granted, it's earned.

I asked God to give me happiness - and God said "No".
He said, "I give you blessings, happiness is up to you".

I asked God too spare me pain - and God said "No".
He said, "Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares, and brings you closer to me".

I asked God to make my spirit grow - and God said "No".
He said I must grow on my own, but He will prune me and make me fruitful.

I asked God if he loves me - and God said "Yes".
I will be with Him one day in Heaven because I believe.

I asked God to help me love others as much as He loves me.
And God said, "Finally you have the idea".

Claudia Minden Weisz

"FLEETING THOUGHTS"

Every Sunday, wet or fine	Again I summon them to me,
I trot along to the half-past-nine	And scold them for their truancy.
I go because I think I should -	And when the lesson's clearly read,
To praise the Lord, for He is good.	They settle down inside my head.

The service starts then goodness knows	Five minutes later, all in vain -
Where all my concentration goes!	The blighters have escaped again!
For though I speak and sing the words	The Lord must think I'm very weak
My thoughts fly off like little birds!	To let them play this hide and seek.

I call them back on to their perch	At least I get them to confess
And tell them they must stay in church;	To all their sins and waywardness.
But soon, when I'm supposed to pray	I tell the Lord I'm filled with shame -
I find they've fluttered miles away!	But - anyway, at least I came!

Lynette Nicholson

(Printed with permission of "FOCUS", the parish magazine of John Keble Church, Mill Hill).

CHURCHES TOGETHER - CHERNOBYL CHILDREN - RYE

Summer '98 was the fourth year that children have travelled to the Rye area from Belarus, the country north of the Ukraine, whose land was contaminated by the Chernobyl disaster in 1986.

Ten children aged 7 - 12, with their interpreter, came from areas with high risk of loss of their immune systems and disease. They stayed with host families for a month and enjoyed a varied programme made possible by the generosity of many people in the area.

In September a group of mothers and children was invited for three weeks. Nikita and Nicolai, aged 3, had had major cancer operations and Christina, also 3, has cerebral palsy. Irena, aged 4, has a rare blood disorder. The Conquest Hospital arranged blood tests which are unavailable to her at home. Eugene, aged 6, had a major eye operation sponsored by Nuffield Hospital, Brighton.

The Diocese allowed the group to spend their first week Knowles Toothe Children's Centre getting to know each other before joining their host families, for two weeks. On the last day there was a special healing service for them at St Mary's, Rye. All the visiting children were given a Russian bible to take home.

Eugene's mother wrote that he now starts every sentence with "In England"

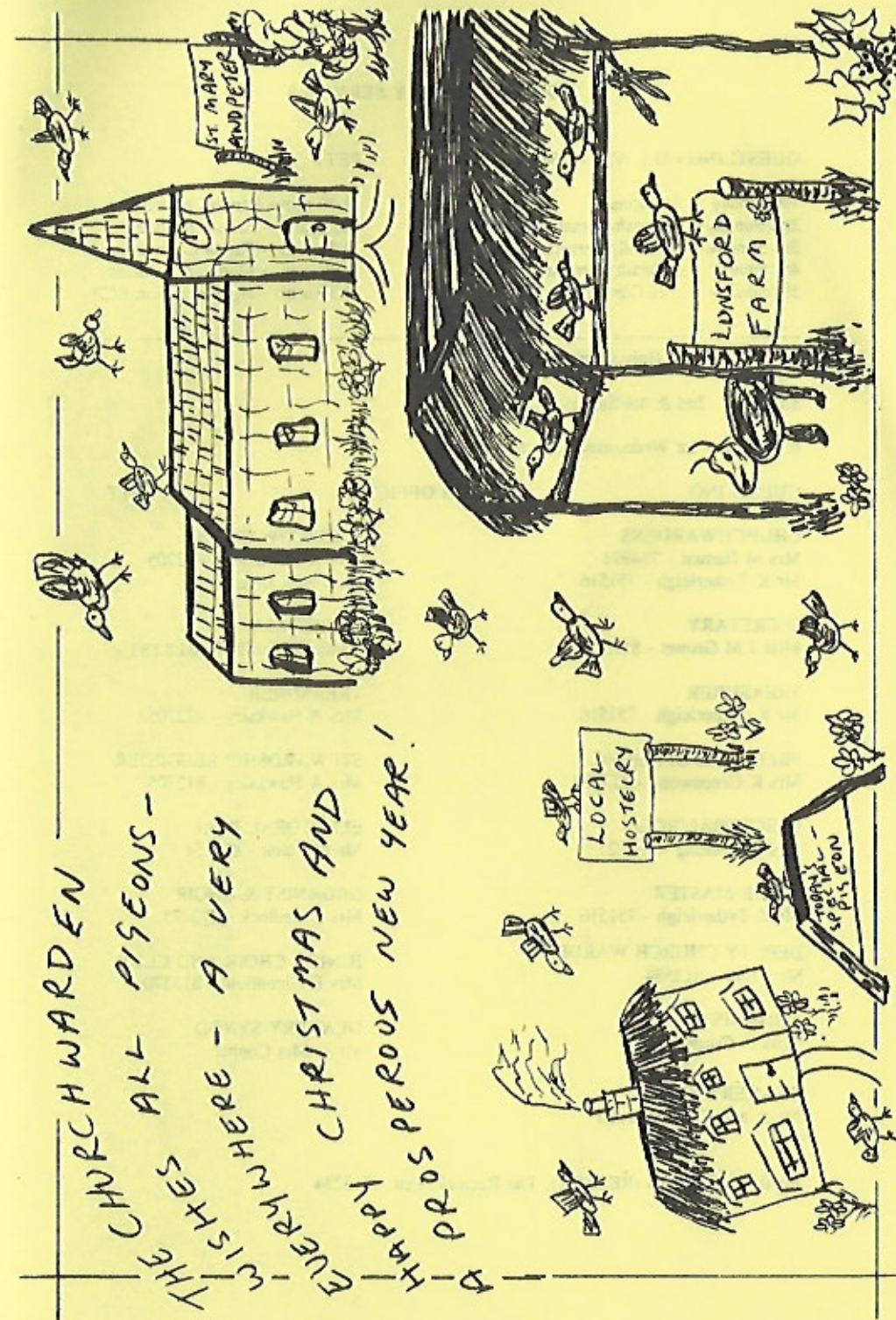
If you would be interested in helping in any way please contact Janet Waddams, telephone 01797 223188.

"A LIFE AT THE ROYAL MARSDEN HOSPITAL ... AND AFTER!"

An illustrated, reminiscent talk by ALAN McKINNA FRCS (Retired Consultant Surgeon) supplemented by season drinks and refreshments.

IN AID OF THE MEMORIAL CARE CENTRE, RYE on FRIDAY 22 JANUARY 1999 at 7.00 pm in THE NEW HALL, RECTORY LANE, WINCHELSEA (A259)

Tickets £4.00 available from the Memorial Care Centre, Rye Heritage Centre and, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs D Bourne, from Winchelsea Post Office.



NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

GUESTLING (ALL AT 11 AM)

1st Sunday - Matins
 2nd Sunday - Parish Communion
 3rd Sunday - Family Service
 4th Sunday - Parish Communion
 5th Sunday - H. Communion BCP

PETT

9.30 a.m. - Parish Communion
 10.30 a.m. - Family Service
 9.30 a.m. - Parish Communion
 9.30 a.m. - Matins & Address
 9.30 a.m. - H. Communion BCP

PETT LEVEL - Holy Communion

8.00 a.m. - 2nd & 4th Sunday

6.00 p.m. - 1st Wednesday in each month

GUESTLING

CHURCH OFFICERS

PETT

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs M Barnett - 754974
 Mr K Tytherleigh - 751516

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs A Hawksley - 812705
 Miss P M Deasy

SECRETARY

Miss J M Groves - 813341

SECRETARY

Canon M Townroe 813381

TREASURER

Mr K Tytherleigh - 751516

TREASURER

Mrs A Hawksley - 812705

FREE WILL OFFERING

Mrs K Greenwood - 812790

STEWARDSHIP RECORDER

Mrs A Hawksley - 812705

ELECTORAL ROLL

Mrs B Wicking - 438027

ELECTORAL ROLL

Mr M Plank - 812154

CHOIR MASTER

Mr K Tytherleigh - 751516

ORGANIST & CHOIR

Mrs J Medlock - 812173

DEPUTY CHURCH WARDEN

Mr J Jury - 812584

JUNIOR CHOIR AND CLUB

Mrs E Greenfield - 813370

ORGANIST

Miss N Cordery

DEANERY SYNOD

Mr & Mrs Cooper

DEANERY SYNOD

Mr & Mrs D Greenwood

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