

May, 1999

PARISH NEWS

ROBIN WRITES:

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S

Sunday 9 May is an important day in the life of our Benefice. We want to demonstrate our concern for the world in which we live.

Christian Aid - in this Benefice we have always been concerned for those in need throughout the world. CHRISTIAN AID WEEK is of prime importance to us and we do what we can to raise money for those worse off than ourselves. This year the situation comes into sharp focus with the conflict in Kosovo and the fearful plight of the refugees. I was very pleased to see the immediate response in both Fairlight and Pett to give spontaneously at Easter to the Christian Aid Kosovo Appeal. Pett did exceptionally well and we are grateful to John and Ray Taylor for taking the initiative. THIS WAS JUST A BEGINNING. On 9 May at 10.30am there will be commissioning services at both Pett and Fairlight. (Guestling will also be given a chance to give on that Sunday). On 8 May a coffee morning will be held at Paxstead from 10.00 am until noon. During the week we hope that collectors this year will find residents with warm and generous hearts. We know that every pound will make a difference. THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S AND EVERYTHING IN IT, THE WORLD, AND ALL WHO LIVE IN IT. (Psalm 24) If we are heart-broken with all the pain and suffering that we have seen on television, how much more must the heart of our Lord be breaking. WE IDENTIFY WITH THE PAIN, and pledge that we will do our best this Christian Aid Week.

Rogation Sunday - 9 May is also Rogation Sunday. It is the time traditionally, the Church OWNS ITS PARISH. The land and the seeds were blessed ready for planting. The old rhythms of life have changed and so have the areas of the Vicar's concern! The old rogationtide services are things of the past. As we come to the end of the SECOND MILLENNIUM of Christianity the BENEFICE MILLENNIUM GROUP felt it would be a good thing to leave the confines of our church buildings and go out into the highways of our parishes. We are going to gather in the forecourt of FIELDS BARN in Peter James Lane at 4.00pm on 9 May for a simple service. (This venue is equidistant from the THREE PARISH CHURCHES). Our thanks to Mr & Mrs Jury for allowing us to meet there.

We are asking those who can walk, to meet at their parish churches from 2.45 pm and then make their way (if possible) through the fields to the venue. On the way prayers will be said and hymns sung. We hope that each Church will have a banner to carry. Others will travel by car and arrangements will be made for them. We want to OWN THE LAND for our Lord and our Faith! We have strong beliefs about God's concern for His creation. We are passionately concerned for our environment, for the countryside and all that is in it. PLEASE COME AND JOIN US, either on one of the walks or else at the venue. We are pleased to hear that Kay is arranging for a cup of tea after our service. This will be a memorable occasion for the churches of the Benefice and cement our mutual concern for the land and God's creation. Please pray for fine weather.

GUESTLING ROTAS FOR MAY 1999

- 2nd MATINS - EASTER 4 - (White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Frank Rowson
 FLOWERS - Mr Greenwood, Mrs Greenwood, Mrs Brooks
 SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds
 READERS - Mr Barnett - Numbers 22:36 - 23:12
 - Mr Tytherleigh - St Luke 16:19 to end
- 9th PARISH COMMUNION - EASTER 5 - (White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Humphrey Newman
 FLOWERS - Mrs Jennings, Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Jill Perry
 SIDESMEN - Mrs Betson, Col Parks
 ELEMENTS - Mrs Barron, Miss Groves
 READERS - Col Parks - 1 Corinthians 15:21 - 28
 - Miss Groves - St John 16:25 to end
- 16th FAMILY COMMUNION - RITE A - Sunday after Ascension - (White)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 FLOWERS - Mrs Gilbey, Mrs Smith, Mrs Gainsbury
- 23rd PARISH COMMUNION - RITE B - PENTECOST - (Red)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 FLOWERS - Mrs Pearson, Mrs Gill, Mrs Jagger
 SIDESMEN - Mrs Smith, Mrs Williams
 ELEMENTS - Mr Jury, Mrs Gainsbury
 READERS - Mrs Smith - Genesis 11:1 - 9
 - Mr Griffiths - Acts 2:1 - 11
- 30th UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE - TRINITY SUNDAY - (White)
 FLOWERS - Mrs Wicking, Mrs Hull, Mrs Quaife
- June 6th MATINS - PENTECOST 2, TRINITY 1 - (Green)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER -
 FLOWERS - Mrs Coppins, Mrs Carpenter, Mrs Jean Perry, Mrs Rugg
 SIDESMEN - Mr Barnett, Mrs Breeds
 ELEMENTS - Miss Groves, Mrs Williams
 READERS - Mrs Barnett - Deuteronomy 30:1 - 10
 - Mr Tytherleigh - St Matthew 18:10 - 22

PETT & PETT LEVEL ROTAS MAY 1999

- 2nd 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
 INTERCESSIONS - Mrs A Hawksley
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs K Jury, Mr J Underwood
 SERVER - Miss M Deasy
 READER - Miss M Turner - Revelation 3:14 to end
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs J Slack
- 9th 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION - (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Miss M Deasy - 1 Corinthians 15:21 - 28
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Mrs R Moon
- 10.30am CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE (Pett)
 LEADER/PREACHER - Mr John Taylor, Revd Frank Rowson
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs D Goodsell, Mrs A Hawksley
- 16th 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION (Pett)
 PRESIDENT/PREACHER - Canon Michael Townroe
 INTERCESSIONS - Miss M Deasy
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs J Coby, Mr W Slack
 SERVER - Mr T Coby
 READER - Mrs J Coby - Ephesians 1:15 to end
 Pett Level flowers and cleaning - Miss M Deasy
- 25th 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION - (Pett Level)
 CELEBRANT - Revd Robin Balch
 READER/SIDESPERSON - Mrs A Hawksley - Acts 2:1 - 21
 Pett Level flowers - Mrs M Parsons, cleaning - Mrs A Hawksley
- 9.30 am SHORTENED MATINS & COMMUNION (Whitsunday) (Pett)
 PREACHER - Revd Robin Balch
 SIDESPERSONS - Mrs D Goodsell, Miss M Deasy
 READERS - Mrs R Taylor - Joel 2:21 to end
 - Mr J Taylor - Romans 1: 1 - 17
- 30th 10.30am UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

MAY DAY BY DAY

- 2nd 6.00pm the Rector takes the service at Three Oaks Methodist Church
 (He invites members of St Laurence to accompany him!)
- 7th 7.00pm CONFIRMATION CLASSES at the Rectory (and fortnightly)
- 8th 10.00am - 12.00 noon CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING at
 Paxstead, Pett Road (for all in Pett and Guestling)
- 9th 10.30am CHRISTIAN AID COMMISSIONING SERVICE (Pett Church)
2.45pm Assemble at Churches for WALK to FIELDS BARN
4.00pm ROGATIONTIDE SERVICE for all the benefice
 (In Peter James Lane, see the notice in each Church)
- 12th 7.30pm ALPHA FOLLOW-UP GROUP (and fortnightly) at the Rectory
- 13th ASCENSION DAY
 6.45pm COMMUNION SERVICE at **PAXSTEAD**
 7.30pm GUESTLING PCC commencing with COMMUNION at the
 Rectory
- 15th 2.00-4.00pm GUESTLING CHURCH SPRING FAIR (Guestling Village
 Hall)
- 16 6.30pm PRAISE AND WORSHIP (informal worship) for all at St Peter's
 Church, Fairlight Cove
- 18 Clergy away on Diocesan Training Day
- 21st ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION - all day in the Benefice
- 22nd 4.00pm TRIANGLE (Children's three villages work)
 RAMBLE leaving St Andrew's Church, Fairlight
- 23rd WHITSUNDAY - services as announced
- 24th 7.30pm PASTORAL VISITORS meet at the Rectory
- 30th TRINITY SUNDAY
 10.30am UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE at ST ANDREW'S CHURCH,
 FAIRLIGHT celebrating the 200th Anniversary of CMS with a focus
 on Kenya. Interviews and news from FRIENDS OF NAKURU and
 CROSSLINKS (retiring offering for these missions)

SPRING HARVEST 1999

A group of 30 from the Benefice, including Robin and Eileen Balch, their daughter Jenny and her husband James, experienced Spring Harvest at Skegness this year. My family and I were privileged to be part of a group of 8 from Guestling who set off on Tuesday 6 April for this famous Lincolnshire coast holiday resort.

Spring Harvest is an annual event in the UK at Easter when Christians from many denominations gather at different locations for celebration, prayer, teaching and good fellowship. Catering for all ages, Spring Harvest is also family orientated and includes a variety of sporting and social activities.

After a long journey, it was a relief to settle into comfortable and welcoming accommodation and to anticipate enjoyment of the range of programmed events. The first evening's Big Top worship and praise set the scene for a lively musical week in a "high tech" Environment which also provided food for thought.

We quickly settled into a routine. In the mornings we participated in a study of the Bible - this year it was St Mark's account of the events leading to Jesus ultimate sacrifice and his Resurrection; in the afternoons there were specialist seminars on a variety of topics; and in the evenings we returned to the Big Top for lively musical celebrations and to listen to compelling speakers with strong messages on subjects such as love, truth and devotion. We also found time for exercise and a table tennis match. Do you want to even the score next year Robin? The children in our part were well catered for and they had their own programme of events but with a theme consistent with the adults'. They obviously enjoyed their competitive activities, making new friends and gaining a thrill from the "Gunge Tank".

Throughout the week, our thoughts were focused on the plight of the refugees from Kosovo and we said prayers for all involved in the conflict in the Balkans. There was also a practical manifestation in a collection. This raised a large sum which will be entirely devoted to relief work. On the final day we experienced a link up by telephone to a Tear Fund representative dealing with the immediate needs of refugees in Albania.

Spring Harvest is a renewing experience. There is something for everyone. Many gained enormous benefit from the shared praise and good fellowship; for others, the Bible teaching will sustain their faith. My family enjoyed everything and I found particular fulfilment in the references to the Second Coming. It emphasised the central role of the Bible in understanding God's purpose.

We look forward to returning again. I am sure many others share this thought and we all thank Ken and Beryl Holmes for coordinating the booking arrangements.

Neil Perry

RECORDED IN THE REGISTERS

We extend our deep sympathies to the relatives and friends of:

Funeral at Hastings Crematorium

5 March Jean Constance Johns, "Gayles", Pett Road, Pett (70 years)
(Conducted by Canon Michael Townroe)
18 March William Jessie Mewett, 8 Higham Gardens, Guestling
8 April Bernard Parsons of Bough Beech, Pett Road, Pett
(Conducted by Canon Keith Pound)

Funeral at Guestling Parish Church (St Laurence) followed by burial in the Churchyard

15 April Margaret Ann Jury, 12 South Terrace, Westfield (50 years)

MARGARET (MAGGIE) JURY

Margaret was born and bred in the Guestling area, met her husband Phillip at the Village Hall 30 years ago at a badminton group. They were married at Guestling Church in 1973. After several years of marriage they moved to Westfield but remained well-known by the Guestling Green community. They had one Son, Christopher, and we extend our deep sympathies to both Phillip and Chris as well as the wider family and many friends.

Maggie worked at the Harbourers Nursery for many years and was seen about on her moped. Latterly she worked at Whitegates Nursing Home in Westfield as a care assistant. She was particularly fond of animals and had two dogs (who she called "her boys") as well as budgies, chicken and geese. Taking her dogs for walks meant that she met many people and enjoyed talking with them.

Her death was very sudden and a great shock to family and friends. Her funeral service was taken by the Rector at St Laurence Church followed by burial in the Churchyard.

BERNARD PARSONS

The community of Pett were so distressed to hear of the death of Bernard Parsons of Bough Beech. He had been ill for a very long time, he was born with defective kidneys and in latter years had been on constant dialysis, which was very painful. Recently his wife had a successful hip operation and was making a good recovery at home when this happened. The Rector was sad that he was away after Easter and not available to take the funeral service, but was able to take the service of interment of ashes at the Cemetery later in the month. Robin enjoyed talking with Bernard and Eileen as they spent most of their lives in Carshalton where he grew up and shared memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with Eileen, son Ken and daughter-in-law Sue. Canon Keith, who attends Ken's Church was available to take the service at the Crematorium.

The following was taken from East Sussex Country Churches written by James Antony Syms.

"Guestling Green is nowhere to be seen but nevertheless the churchyard is looked after, paths mown and the lych gate in a proper state of repair and, considering the relative isolation, to my very great surprise the heavy double skinned oak door inside the porch gave way gracefully. It was more than I felt I could reasonably have hoped for and there is a detailed guide too. Supplement Revsner "Alleluia" seemed an appropriate comment at the time."

ROGATION DAY SERVICE - SUNDAY 9 MAY - a Rogation Day Service has been arranged for Sunday 9 May at Fields Barn, Peter James Lane, Fairlight at 4.00pm. Involving all parishes, the service will be preceded by walks to the venue from the churches of St Andrew's, St Laurence, St Mary & St Peter. Church banners will be carried and there will be events en route.

Walkers from Guestling should assemble at Guestling Church car park at 2.45pm. Departure will be at 3.00pm and we shall follow a route southwards along Church Lane to the junction with Pett Road and then continue via Peter James Lane to Fields Barn. The distance is about 1.5 miles and it is quite hilly. We shall allow 45 minutes, including stops for prayers and other events. A back up car has been arranged for safety reasons. Facilities are available at Fields Barn on arrival.

Come along and support if you can. Remember that you must be prepared for the return walk unless you arrange a lift. Non-walkers are most welcome to participate in the service and should make their own way to the venue. There is car parking space available. If you intend to come by car and are willing to offer a lift, or need transport, please call Neil Perry (814578) or Margaret Barnett (754974) and we shall try to coordinate lifts. We look forward to seeing you.

Neil Perry

GUESTLING & DISTRICT WELFARE ASSOCIATION - the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in the Methodist Chapel, Pett on Wednesday 12 May 1999 at 2.30pm. The speaker will be from Rother District Council, Care for the Carers. There will be a Bring & Buy Stall, a Raffle and a FREE TEA. Please come and join us.

GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL - there will be a Parish Council meeting on Monday 10 May at 7.30pm in Three Oaks Village Hall.

THREE OAKS WI - the next meeting will be held on 13 May at 2.15pm in the Village Hall. This will be the 'Resolution meeting' and should be very interesting. Visitors and would be members are very welcome at the meetings.

ETT PLAYGROUP - Table Sale on Sunday 2 May at the Winchelsea Beach Community Hall, 2.00 - 4.00pm. Cake stall, raffle, lucky dip and lots of bargains. Bookings and enquiries, Ali Hudson 814175.

Foot sale and plant sale on Sunday 6 June in the field next to the Two Sawyers from 10.00am. Start clearing your attics and cellars now!

ETT GARDEN CLUB - Ray and Wendy Bates have moved to Three Oaks from their nursery at Bodiam and will be joining us on Tuesday 11 May to again give advice and information on Alpine plants.

ETT WI - holds its annual Resolution meeting in the Village Hall on 21 May. The subjects under discussion this year include Women and Human Rights; the decline in the agricultural industry; nationwide screening for ovarian cancer and genetically modified food.

PAXSTEAD HOUSE GROUP - next meeting on Thursday 13 May with a House Communion to celebrate Ascension Day followed by refreshments and the screening of a video of Songs of Praise from the New Forest.

ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION - the organisers (Evelyn Darnell, Terry Cox and Avril Thurley) would like to thank all the exhibitors for their time and effort, showing their splendid craft and art. Also the helpers, at the door collecting admission money, selling raffle tickets and making tea and coffee, and the people who supported the event by just coming along. The Village Hall agreed to take the proceeds instead of charging to hire the Hall, and we are pleased to report that the net takings covered the normal hire fee with a bit to spare.

ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN MAY

- 1st - Spring Fayre 10.00-1.30pm at the Arthur Easton Centre
- 4th - Prospective Volunteers Information Day 10.30-12.00 noon at the AEC
- 7th - Painting Demonstration by Bob Erends 7.30pm at the AEC

THIS AND THAT AROUND THE BENEFICE

Rogationtide Service

Neil Perry is the coordinator for the walk from Guestling Church to Fields Barn on 9 May, meeting at 2.45pm (details can be found elsewhere in the magazine). Eileen Balch will lead the walking group from Pett Church, again please meet at 2.45pm. There will be notices in each church to arrange lifts to the venue. Please read the Rector's letter this month.

Ascension Day Services

Canon Michael will be leading a service for Ascension Day in the Parish Church on THURSDAY 13 MAY at 6.00pm. The Guestling PCC is meeting on that day commencing at 7.30pm in the Rectory and the Rector will conduct a short communion for those who come.

200th Anniversary of CMS

1999 is a significant date in the history of the WORLD MISSION MOVEMENT. Please find an article about the Anniversary in this edition. We shall major on this when we meet on **Sunday 30 May at our United Service at Fairlight**. Canon Michael and the Rector will be sharing in this service. We shall be learning about the work of the FRIENDS OF NAKURU and CROSSLINKS working in Kenya. The Rector will bring a challenge for WORLD MISSION in the new MILLENNIUM. Please come to this important service.

Marriage Celebration Service

The MILLENNIUM PLANNING GROUP have arranged two special services for this ACTION YEAR (1999). On **6 June at 4.00pm** there is to be a WEDDING CELEBRATION SERVICE. Although we will invite couples who have been married in the churches of the benefice over past years, we want EVERYBODY WHO SUPPORTS CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE to come if they can. There will be a chance for married couples to renew their marriage vows but also a chance for all to affirm their belief in marriage. The service will be followed by a picnic tea. On ADVENT SUNDAY, 28 NOVEMBER at 3.00pm there will be a similar service, this time to renew our BAPTISMAL VOWS. This will be at St Andrew's Church, Fairlight (if the building has been reordered by then!)

Triangle (Children's work in the Three Villages)

The group has decided not to hold a Holiday Club this year, but PRIME TIME at GUESTLING/BRADSHAW SCHOOL continues and three events have been planned over the summer months:

22 May Summer Ramble and Picnic - meet at St Andrew's at 4.00pm

3 August 10.00am - 4.00pm FUNTASTIC DAY at the School

4 September at 6.30pm there will be a BARBECUE & GAMES at the Rectory, Pett Road, Pett (more details later)

Study Groups

Paxstead Group and the Alpha Group at the Rectory continue to meet in the summer. For details contact John Taylor or the Rector. Newcomers are welcome at both groups.

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death



LIVING WITH UNCERTAINTY

For Friada Nordez of Mozambique life is full of uncertainty. She doesn't know how old she is, though she's probably about 60. She doesn't know how long she was married, though her eldest child is over 30. Nor does she know where she's going to live now her husband is dead. And until recently, she didn't know how she was going to make a living for herself and her family.

Friada and her younger daughter are rice-growers, working a 1½-acre field 15 miles from her home. During the week they stay in a makeshift shelter or in the grain warehouse, and only make the long walk home at the weekend.

Harvesting rice is a long and laborious task without conventional cutting tools. Friada uses just the sharpened edge of one of the snail shells that litter the fields. The spiral shells are about three times the size of the average garden snail and they fit snugly in her hand. When one breaks she simply finds another and carries on.

In one way, though, Friada's life is less uncertain than it was. She has joined the Association of Women Farmers (AMCELA) which buys rice from its members at a fair price and sells it for them. So she no longer has to make the 15-mile walk into town, not knowing how successfully her rice will sell. AMCELA stores it until the market is favourable, and also provides a tractor which makes the farmers' work easier. In return AMCELA receives financial support from another association which for the past five years has been funded by Christian Aid.

We will launch CHRISTIAN AID WEEK with a Coffee Morning at Paxstead, Pett Road, on Saturday May 8 from 10-12. Raffle, bring & buy, cakes, plants - and a sale of Traidcraft (Christian Aid) goods. A short video about Friada (above) will be shown. Please come and bring your friends!

The service at 10.30am in Pett Church on May 9 will be a special one for Christian Aid.

Then from May 9-15 there will be a house-to-house envelope collection in Pett and Pett Level. Last year, people's generosity resulted in the highest total yet; please help us this year to break even that record!

Ray Taylor (Tel. 814674)

NATURE NOTES

I am told that there was an American Scoter on Pett Pools towards the end of March. It had (inevitably) attracted a large crowd of twitchers from all points of the compass.

The following is from a newspaper clipping thought to be about a hundred years old. I think the sentiments expressed are as true now as they were then.

"There is something much more to a garden than mowing the lawn, double digging, or weeding the paths. These are the inevitable tasks which go towards making a garden a fit place to exercise your senses in. With your eyes, you see all the beauties of nature - the trees, the lovely flowers, the rolling skies, the butterflies in their dancing flight. With your nose, you smell the lingering fragrance of the rose, the scent of the newly cut grass, the spicy perfume of the lavender and bergamot; with your touch you feel the caress of the breeze, the warmth of the sun, the clean splash of rain on your face; with your ears you listen to the songs of the birds, the hum of the ever-busy bees, the sighing of the wind in the pines. Your taste is regaled with the fresh fruit and vegetables picked with the pristine bloom of health upon them. With your mental processes relaxed, you contemplate in happy frame of mind upon your labours and realise how insignificant they would be without the help and guidance of that mysterious force, Mother Nature. Such are the glories of the garden; all yours for so little - if you have the wit to find them."

Keep an eye open for the Spotted Orchids on the bank opposite the Methodist Church, and on the verge at the Pett end of Rosemary Lane. Also look out for the Green-winged Orchids in the Churchyard near the war memorial.

Avril Thurley

Copy for the June magazine should be sent to Frances Taylor, Summer Hayes, Pett Road, telephone 813437 by Wednesday 19 May 1999 please.

PARISH PUMP

At the Annual Assembly the Chairman, Andrew Dunlop, thanked a long list of people for their services during the past year. Obviously he couldn't thank himself, so I will do that now. Andrew has been Chairman throughout the four year term of this Council, and has Chaired the Meetings and Annual Assemblies with fairness and good humour, sometimes in the face of deliberate provocation. He has also put in a lot of hard work behind the scenes, including making time to meet officers from other authorities about the various problems which have arisen in the Parish. Thank you Andrew.

Julie Meredith of Care for the Carers gave an interesting talk about the facilities available to carers. There are some leaflets in the Post Office if you would like further information or you can phone Julie on 200617.

To date only two people have thought the Council should do something to celebrate the Millennium. The subject will be on the Agenda for the June Meeting, so if you have any strong feelings please come along. The Council doesn't want to spend your Council Tax just for the sake of it, if hardly anyone is interested.

The Election for Parish Councillors on 6 May will not be contested, as no new candidates have put their names forward. Presumably this means that everybody thinks the present Council could not be bettered! You can still exercise your right to vote for the new District Councillor.

Avril Thurley (Clerk to Pett Parish Council)

The following was contributed by a friend, following a sermon on St George

When a Knight won his spurs in the stories of old
He was gentle and brave, he was gallant and bold.
With a shield on his arm and a lance in his hand,
For God and for valour he rode through the land.

No charger have I, and no sword by my side,
Yet still to adventure and battle I ride.
Though back into Storyland giants have fled,
And the Knights are no more, and the dragons are dead.

Let Faith be my shield, and let Joy be my steed
'Gainst the Dragons of Anger, the Ogres of Greed;
And let me set free with the sword of my youth
From the Castle of Darkness, the Power of Truth.

CMS celebrates 200 years



The year: 1799. The date: 12 April. The place: the Castle and Falcon Inn in Aldersgate Street in the City of London. A group of clergy and laymen launch a 'Society for Missions to Africa and the East'. Today we call it the Church Mission Society.

The eighteenth century was hardly an age of piety or moral restraint. One historian has said that the British "were then perhaps as deeply degraded and debauched as any in Christendom."

But the founders of CMS represented a new mood. Their activities were just part of a massive outpouring of spiritual energy that changed the face of Christianity in Britain, Western Europe and North America.

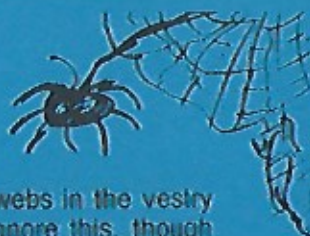
This surge of energy not only stimulated foreign missions. At home it put Christians at the forefront of the fight against slavery. It paved the way for an era of social reform of prisons, factories and mines. It brought the benefits of education to the poor through Sunday Schools and made the Scriptures available at an affordable price through Bible societies.

CMS' first 'field' was Sierra Leone, a West African haven for freed slaves. Over two centuries CMS has sent out more than 9,000 men and women to share the gospel. Their destinations have included Africa, Canada, Ceylon, the Indian subcontinent, Iran, Malta, the Middle East, New Zealand and the West Indies. Today CMS supports 157 mission partners, including 10 working in Britain and works alongside Christian Churches and agencies in about 40 countries.

In 1799 Christianity was primarily a European faith. Now it is a global faith. Moreover former 'mission fields' have become self-governing Churches. Many of them do missionary work, including sending people to Britain which has become a mission field.

But CMS is needed as much as ever. Its agenda is to listen to its partner Churches and agencies and support their priorities with personnel, funds and knowhow. Like its founders in 1799 CMS' vision is nothing less than seeing the world transformed by the love of God.

This article is supplied by Paul Owen, CMS Area Co-ordinator
for the Dioceses of Chichester and Guildford
If it is too long, feel free to shorten it, but please include a logo if possible.



Sunday 14 March - Canon Michael comments that the cobwebs in the vestry have been around for longer than he has. I manage to ignore this, though retrospect now tells me that this was not a wise response.

Monday 22 March - It's the APCM!! A very good supper is provided and the mood of the meeting is cheerful and positive. I am able to report, purposefully, about clocks, pigeons and the impending visit of the Archdeacon. Must make sure that I am wearing acceptable socks! No one wanted to be a CW - can't think why - so I've been asked to be one again.

29 March - 2 April - Holy Week - must remember to put on Church central heating.

Saturday 3 April - put new candles into candlestick holders; flower ladies are leaping into action. Get accosted by Barbara and Avril who have decided that the vestry needs a spring clean. Where have I heard this before?

Sunday 4 April - Easter Day and the church is looking beautiful. Lots of people come, feel pleased to be a CW.

Friday 9 April - meet Avril at the vestry. Spring clean time has arrived. Throw out years of accumulated junk - well, it might have just come in useful. The environmentalists may be worried about homeless spiders - I am glad that we have not found homeless rodents!

Adjourn to local hostelry for lunch - WOT, no pigeon! However, the rest of the party are glad that Lent is over and tuck into the Chocolate Profiteroles with enthusiasm.

Sunday 11 April - It's Family Service time. We have been told that there won't be a priest in sight as it's the post-Easter break. John says we will put a service together. This is exactly what he does. All "God's Children" are galvanised into action and a very happy, successful service takes place! Two of the supposedly absent priests arrive and a good time is had by all. Need to decide if priests should be banned from the vestry - they do tend to untidy the place!

Monday 12 April - Lunsford Aviary - not only do they provide a home for our pigeons, but Pam reports that there are jackdaws in the chimney! Well, it makes a change from pigeons!



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 - 818341

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 Modlock - 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

Revd. Robin Balch (RECTOR), The Rectory, Pett - 813234