newslettel

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

A special date for your diary is WEDNESDAY, 18th MARCH.

Because at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall your Parish Council reports to you on its activities over the past twelve months and the occasion gives you the opportunity to ask any questions on its work and raise any matter that concerns you.

This chance should not be missed because only parishioners still have the right to be heard in this way, it is not enjoyed by residents in Tunbridge Wells.

See you on the 18th.

contents

EDITORIAL 2
BY-PASS REPORT 3
CLERK'S REPORT 4/5
PEMBURY CHEST 6
THOUGHTS ON COUNCILS 9
MOTOR CYCLES 10/11
BRITISH LEGION 12
VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS 15
TREE PLANTING 16/17
DIARY 19

Derek Hawes Richards

VIEWPOINT

Parting thoughts

RATES

One of the regular dates in the calendar of any Local Authority year is the meeting to set the new rate for the coming twelve months from April 1st.

Pembury Parish Council is no exception to this rule and last month after a full discussion on the financial situation of the Council it was agreed unanimously that no items of capital expenditure would be incurred in the next twelve months.

It followed from this decision therefore that the Council was faced with a possibility of being able to maintain the Parish Rates at their 1980 figure.

You will see from the Clerk's Report elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter that in fact the rate has been maintained.

It is not unusual in Local Authority debates on this subject for there to be violently opposing views on the level of the coming year's rate demand and these views often divide along Party Political lines.

It is worth placing on record therefore that this current decision of the Pembury Parish Council to keep the rate at its 1980 level was made unanimously by all members of the Council whatever their Party Political affiliation may or may not be.

RETIREMENT

After nearly eight years in the Editorial Chair of this Newsletter, I have, with some regret, informed the Parish Council of my wish to hand over the reins to a new Editor.

Over this long period I have received great support not only from the Village as a whole in all the contributions that Parishioners have made but also from the Parish Council in taking policy decisions to finance the expansion of the Newsletter.

It was a very far reaching decision taken by the Parish Council elected in 1973 that first enabled a Newsletter to see the light of day. When I took it over it was a duplicated single sheet and the Parish Council was trying to find some way of improving both the content and the presentation.

I hope that I have been able to contribute in a small way to this improvement and I would thank you once again for all your support.

My successor in the Editorial Chair will be Councillor Robert Allen who, as many of you will know, has spent a lifetime in journalism before his retirement last year.

our campaign

The attendance at the By-Pass Report Meeting just before Christmas was not as good as on earlier occasions but that was balanced by the fact that the news given was much more encouraging.

Our Member of Parliament, Patrick Mayhew, was accompanied by Pembury County Councillor Peter Heath and two road engineers from the Highways Department of the Kent County Council.

Mr. Mayhew reported on the programme with the construction of the A21 By-Pass and the first key date in 1981 was due to be the receipt of a letter by the County Council confirming that the Minister had put this By-Pass into the Firm Programme.

On the basis that the letter when it was received was such confirmation then Mr. Mayhew went on to say that construction was planned to start in 1984 with the possibility that it could be brought forward to 1983.

In response to a question from the floor he confirmed that the closure of the Minister's Road Construction Units which had previously dealt with the design work for by-passes such as that around Pembury, did not mean that the drawings for the A21 would be delayed.

The drawing work and everything up to the physical construction of the By-Pass was now being handled by the Kent County Council.

Mr. Mayhew concluded his remarks by asking the Parish Council to keep him fully informed as to when the letter from the Minister was received. If there was a long delay he would be taking the matter up again with Mr. Clarke at the Department of Transport.

The Chairman for the evening, Councillor Mrs. Sarah Clarke, speaking on behalf of the Pembury Parish Council, then asked Councillor Mr. Heath if he would give a similar appraisal of progress with the B2015 By-Pass.

This appraisal was carried out in conjunction with the road engineers. The meeting was told that construction of the B2015 By-Pass was in the County Council's programme for 1982/1983 and that assuming finance was available the By-Pass would definitely start construction in two years' time.

A letter was also awaited by the County Council on this By-Pass to confirm that the money would definitely be available for that year and the Pembury Parish Council asked again to be kept fully informed of any possible delay with receipt of the letter.

Summarising the meeting, Mrs. Clarke said that the village should keep these two dates now very firmly in their minds for the respective by-passes and by constant pressure by letter and in other directions should ensure that there is no further slipping on work starting.

YOUR CLERK REPORTS.....

Rate Demands — this is the time of the year when we all wonder what is in store for us when those dreaded pieces of paper drop through our letter boxes. Over recent years the Pembury Parish's element has risen each year and has so helped to increase the burden on its Parishioners — with the best intentions, of course, as shown by the Council's building of a sports pavilion at Woodside Playing Fields, the entrance drive and play equipment improvements at the Recreation Ground and last, but by no means the least, the major improvements undertaken to the interior and exterior of our Village Hall. This year, however, by good housekeeping methods and a realistic review of its income plus the fact that no improvement projects are envisaged, my Council are pleased to be able to announce that this year they will NOT be asking for any additional monies from Parishioners despite inflation running at its present high rate.

This is also the time of the year when you as a Parishioner have the chance to question your Parish Councillors on the actions they have taken on your behalf during the past year by attending the Annual Parish Meeting of the Pembury Parish Council which this year is to take place on WEDNESDAY the 18TH MARCH 1981 in the Village Hall — so don't miss this annual opportunity!

One of my statutory duties at such a Meeting is to give a resume of the Parish Council Finances for the last complete Financial Year which ended on the 31st March 1980 and although the information given is past history I do include in my financial report a statement of my Council intentions and requirements for the financial year which will commence on the 1st April 1981. At the request of Parishioners at last year's meeting, I am including in this report a copy of my formal Financial Statement so that you may have the opportunity to study the same before coming to the Meeting — the Statement will read:

"It is my duty to submit the following particulars in respect of the Parish Finances for the year ended the 31st March 1980. For this period, Precepts amounting to £31,307.00 were demanded from the Rating Authority by your

Parish Council. Receipts from Burials, Interest on Capital and Misc. Income amounted to £8,336.64 together with Loan monies of £12,000 made a sum available of £51,643.64 which, combined with the total of £14,120.78 brought forward from the Financial Year ended the 31st March 1979 totalled £65,764.42.

Expenditure for the same year amounted to £56,124.70 which left a surplus of £9,639.72 carried forward to the commencement of this current financial year 1980/81 as a credit of £790.20 for the Burial Boards Account, £352.95 as a credit for the Allotments Account, £315.94 as a credit for the Public Lighting Account and £1,864.98 as a credit for the General Account together with £6,315.65 as a credit balance on the Village Hall Loan Account.

Outstanding Loans as at the 31st March 1980 due to the Bank of England totalled £32,202.21 comprising £295.51 for the Burial Grounds, £235.81 for the Allotment Land, £15,638.92 in respect of the Woodside Playing Fields, £11,310.17 in respect of the Recreation Ground Improvements and £4,721.80 in respect of the Village Hall Improvements. The major items of expenditure during 1979/80 were incurred by wages, graduated pensions, public lighting, repairs and renewals to machinery and Parish property, the completion of the Arthur Penn Pavilion and the entrance to the Pembury Recreation Ground.

The accounts of the Pembury Parish Council were audited and approved by the District Auditors on the 3rd July 1980.

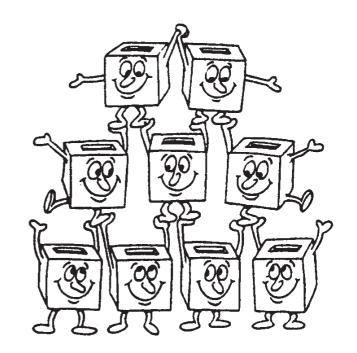
The Parish Rate for the financial year 1981 – 1982 is 8.4p in the £ which will produce the sum of £43,875.00 which is the same as last year, when with a surplus from the Parish Account with the Borough Council, it produced the sum of £44,744.00.

I would with respect request that the Chairman of your Council submits this Financial Report for the year ended 31st March 1980 for adoption."

See you on the 18th March!!!

News from PEMBURY Chest

Preparations for the Village Fet on July 11th are already well forward. The pub sports, a feature of earlier fetes, are being revived and it has been decided to invite Andrews Fair to open on the Recreation Ground. This will probably be on the Thursday and Friday evenings, subject to Parish Council approval, as well as on the afternoon of the Fete.



This year the Committee has decided to hold only one competition — a fancy dress for children up to the age of 12.

Last year there were complaints that many parents did not know about the fancy dress competition until it was too late to make arrangements. We hope that this year mums will have plenty of time to prepare attractive costumes. The theme is to be any character created by Walt Disney. Competitors will be asked to assemble on the Village Green in time to march in procession down to the Fete in time for the 2 p.m. opening.

It has also been decided to have a programme lucky number competition with three prizes — £15, £10, and £5.

Within the next few weeks local organisations will be approached for their assistance in manning stalls and sideshows and by the time the June issue of the Newsletter is published we hope to be able to give you a full list of the attractions. Programmes will also be on sale at that time.

The Quiz has been postponed until the Autumn.

Robert Allen



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The value of a really LOCAL council

Do we realise how lucky we are to have a Parish Council, and are we inclined to abuse that privilege?

Before reorganisation of Local Government, towns such as Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks had councillors who were elected for, and only had to represent, the town. Outside the towns, Parish Councils had certain duties to perform and the Rural District Councils took on the tasks that could only be afforded by larger councils, such as Refuse Collection.

With the reorganisation of Local Government, the towns have lost out as they have no local council to look after their interests. Pembury has a Parish Council and three District Councillors.

The Parish Council's local duties, such as the maintenance of the Village Hall, graveyards, etc. are well defined as local, but when it comes to wider issues we can have two bites at the cherry.

As well as the Parish Council, our District Councillors should be looking after our interests over roads, housing development and gypsies. Parish Councils also have the privilege (not enjoyed by towns) of being able to comment on local planning applications. If looked at in the cold light of day, it would probably be much cheaper for us (less rates) if many of the Parish duties were taken over by the larger Council, I am thinking especially of lighting, sports fields, allotments and graveyards. In fact from the financial point of view, everything should be handed over except the Village Hall which could be run by a voluntary committee raising maintenance money by social events and hire charges.

In this day and age, we could say that Parish Councils are an expensive luxury we cannot afford.

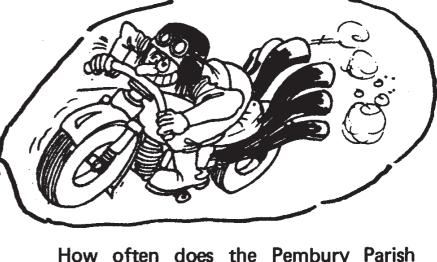
Of course money is not everything, so coming back to my original theme, as a Parish Council and individual villagers, we should be working with the District Council not against them.

All of us must use our District Councillors far more to let them know what we want, at the same time the Parish Council must remember that Tunbridge Wells Council is *our* Council not some outside body who wants to interfere. Also the Tunbridge Wells Council, especially the officers with whom we have to liaise, should realise that Parish Councils are entitled to their views and are not just being obstructive.

Councillor Douglas Edwards

There's nothing to do in our village'



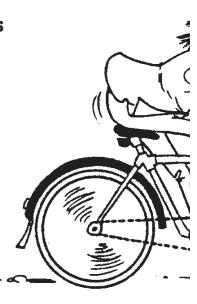


How often does the Pembury Parish Council hear this complaint. It was therefore in the hope of being able to give some constructive help that the Council last year encouraged the formation of a small local group of motor cyclists in their early teens who wished to have somewhere to ride away from the public roads.

Unfortunately the Council now have to place on record the fact that they have been unable to do anything to help because of the apparent lack of co-operation from some of the parents of the interested youths. The idea was first put to the Chairman of the Parish Council after complaints had been received regarding the riding of motor cycles on public footpaths and woodland within the village. The Council in turn discussed the problem with two local residents, who were willing to give their time to schooling the youths in machine safety and riding, with a view to securing a portion of land in the village where the activity could be encouraged. It was not easy to secure the use of land, mainly due to the objection and understandable apprehension of those in the immediate vicinity of the proposed site.

Despite these setbacks permission was given to use two pieces of land at the southern end of the village.

Considerable time was spent in ensuring that insurance cover would be provided for all taking part in this activity. Also a number of conditions had to be met such as the use of crash helmets. It was also essential for parents to assist and participate in running the site and giving supervision when required. There was also the question of responsibility of ensuring the motor



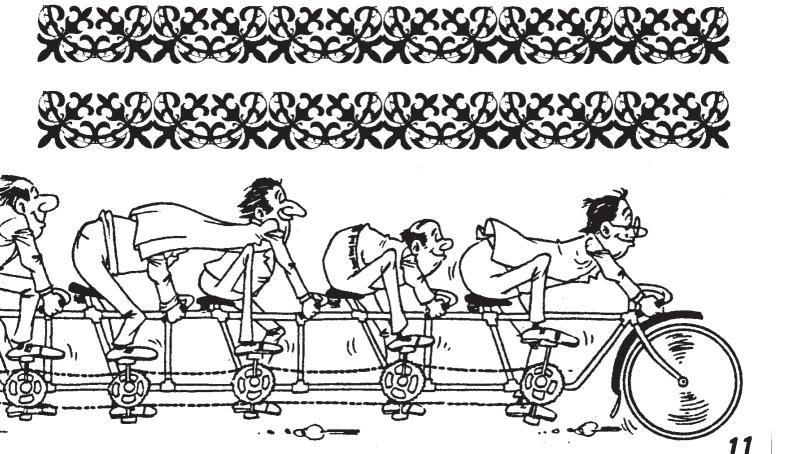
cyclists reached and returned from the site safely without contravening any road traffic regulations.

A letter was prepared giving details of the organisation, setting out the conditions and requesting confirmation from the parents that the scheme had their approval and active support in order that a meeting could be called to discuss final arrangements for starting the venture. Fourteen letters were hand delivered requesting a reply within seven days. Two parents complied and gave their support and after verbal reminders to some of the lads a further three replies were received in the following six weeks.

Further consultation took place between Pembury Parish Council and the two residents and it was agreed that the support offered was insufficient for the setting up of a safely run motor cycle organisation and it is with regret that assistance requested by the Youth of the Village has had to be turned down through inadequate support.

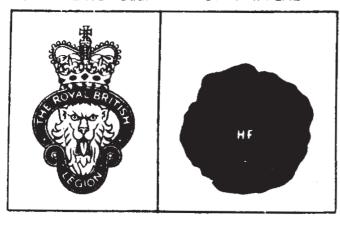
Pembury Parish Council will help whenever possible new and existing organisations but Council cannot proceed without the support of all those concerned.

B. D. Sands Vice Chairman, Pembury Parish Council



SERVICE NOT SELF

POPPY APPEAL





ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

- Pembury Branch

The Rev. D. Wiswell presided over the Annual General Meeting of the 51st year on Wednesday, December 3rd.

It was held in the village hall by a helpful invitation from the local Ancient Order of Foresters who shared their booked meeting room with us. Our earlier booking had been cancelled owing to floor repairs at that time. No other suitable evening booking was available until the Spring. Our grateful thanks to them.

Mr. John Young, who conducted the meeting, was re-elected Chairman, Mr. Bill Singleton, Treasurer, and Mr. Alan Mitchell, Secretary.

Membership increased by 2 to 43.

The Eric Cosham Memorial Fund of about £50 — in lieu of flowers at his funeral — is to be offered to the "Maurice House" Royal British Legion Residential Home at Westgate-on-Sea, for some durable amenity in his memory.

It was announced that the Pembury Parish Poppy Collection has so far reached £538, an increase of £51 (10%) over the same time last year.

With other known amounts to come in the poppy total, when our year ends in May, is expected to be at least 18 or 20% up on last year.

Thanks were expressed to the generous public, the many collectors, and the Branch Committee Members for making it possible.

The remembrance service at the Upper Church was again well attended on November 11th, the Parish Council Chairman and the Legion Representative each laid wreaths on the War Memorial, to join the crosses that individuals had placed there. The Rev Christopher Hodgson conducted the blessing and the rededication service.

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LIBERAL PARTY — R. A. Blundell — 15 Gimble Way — 2952 MUMS & TINY TOTS CLUB — Mrs. P. Franks — 44 Ridgeway — 2386 MUSIC GROUP — J. Hill — 14 Fermor Way — Crowborough 63419 NATIONAL LIFEBOAT ASSOCIATION c/o A. K. S. Franks - Becketts, Matfield - Brenchley 2175 PEMBURY BADMINTON CLUB — Mrs. Michie - Bracken, Mascalls Park, Paddock Wood — 2787 PEMBURY COUNCIL HOUSE TENANTS ASSOC. — J. Goodsell — 63 Belfield Road PEMBURY FOOTBALL CLUB Mrs. M. I. Coppard — 25 Sandhurst Avenue PEMBURY FREE CHURCH — Rev. Johnson — 58 Lower Green Road PEMBURY FRIENDS OF SEVEN SPRINGS J. S. Debonnaire — 51 Church Road — 2909 PEMBURY OLD TYME AND MODERN DANCE CLUB - Mrs. Hasted - The Glade, Cryals Road, Matfield - Brenchley 3531 PEMBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL -Headmaster - R. Nisbett Lower Green Road — 2259 PEMBURY SOCIETY — R. Saunders — Mays Farm House, Romford Road — 3254 PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION — Mrs. A. Everett — 6 Stanham Road - 3280 ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS — T. J. Verrall — 265 Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells -37268SCOUTS — P. Brooks — 15 Bulls Place — 2813 ST. PETERS CHURCH - Rev. C. Hodgson, The Vicarage, 4 Hastings Road — 2204 ST. PETERS WOMENS FELLOWSHIP -Mrs. Robins – 46 Dynevor Rd – T.W. 32269 TABLE TENNIS CLUB — M. Nash - 8 The Coppice - 3225 WOMENS INSTITUTE — Afternoon — Mrs. Edmonson — 56 Henwood Green Road - 2873 Evening — Mrs. Strudwick — 10 Belfield Road - 2631 W.R.V.S. — Mrs. K. E. Jury — 3 Canterbury Road — 2678

ANY CHANGES TO THE ABOVE DETAILS SHOULD BE NOTIFIED TO THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

The tree of life



Last month saw another tree planting ceremony by Pembury Parish Council.

The Parish Council had already agreed to commemorate the Queen Mother's 80th birthday but agreement on a suitable position for a new tree to be planted took rather longer than expected.

A site was eventually picked in front of Camden Court adjacent to the War Memorial and the Chairman of the Pembury Parish Council, Mrs. Sarah Clarke performed the ceremony helped by Borough Councillor Barbara Sandford who as Chairman of the Housing Committee has overall responsibility for Camden Court. The ceremony was organised by Parish Councillor Adrian Stuart-Robson.

In the picture above are left to right: Mr. Sandford, Mr. and Mrs. Plant (Parish Council Clerks), Parish Councillors Bromwich, Miles, Stuart Robson, Mr. McGuffog (Borough Council's Recreation Officer), Borough Councillors Mrs. Sandford and Mrs. Hawes Richard's and Parish Councillors Edwards, Hawes Richards and Allen.

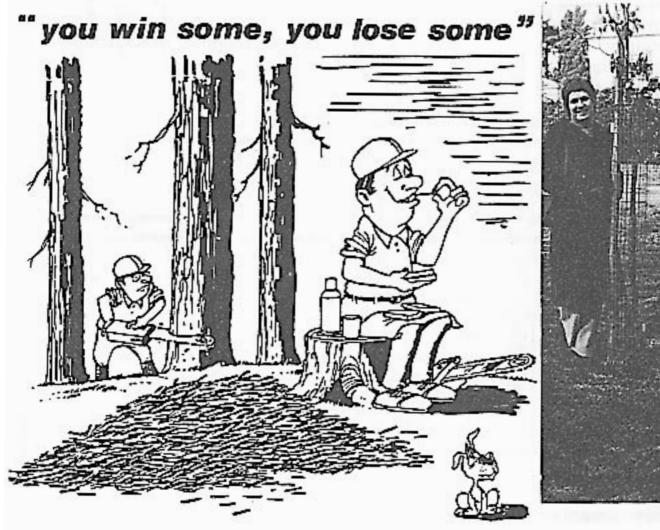
After the ceremony Mrs. Clarke took the opportunity to have a look at the two earlier trees planted on the Village Green.

The top picture is of the oak tree planted to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 and the bottom picture shows the copper beech donated by the Pembury By-Pass Campaign Committee to mark National Tree Week in 1978.

Neither of these two trees, or the Queen Mother's tree is marked in any way to explain to following generations their special significance.

It would help if small plaques could be made for the three trees and perhaps someone in the village would like to make a small donation to cover the cost in each case.





PEMBURY

is published four times a year by the Pembury Parish Council.

The Editor would welcome any contributions for inclusion in the Newsletter.

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The views expressed in the Newsletter do not necessarily represent official Parish Council opinion or policy.

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Derek Hawes Richards 54 Hastings Road



Pembury 2779



editorial secretary:

Mrs. Mavis Board c/o 4 St. Johns Rd., Tunbridge Wells



T/Wells 38777



Clerk to the Council

Henry S. J. Plant 16 The Coppice



Pembury 3459



W.V.S.

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FOR YOUR DIARY

Liberal Party Disco — V. Hall 7.30 p.m. Afternoon W.I. — Birthday Party, V. Hall 2.30 p.m. Evening W.I. — "Eggstravaganza" by Kathleen Page, V. Hall 7.45 p.m. MARCH APRIL Darby & Joan Club — R.C. Hall 2-5 p.m. Parish Council Meeting — V. Hall 8 p.m.

Darby & Joan Club — Coffee Morning 10 - 12 midday, R.C. Hall

Outgrown Children's Wear Sale — V. Hall 10.30 - 12 midday 13 Hort. Soc. — Floral Art Group — V. Hall 8 p.m.
Ladies Social Group — "Value at Sainsburys" Mrs. B. Beevis at 31 The Coppice 13 14 Darby & Joan Club — R.C. Hall 2-5 p.m.

Pembury Society Spring Meeting — V. Hall 8 p.m.

Afternoon W.I. — Jumble Sale — V. Hall 2 p.m. 21 23 25 Parish Council — Amenities Planning & Finance — V. Hall Ladies Social Group — A.G.M. and Cheese & Wine, 6 The Coppice, 8 p.m. 27 28 30 Hort. Soc. — Illustrated Talk by Mr. Stewart Ogg on Roses, V. Hall, 8 p.m. Evening W.I. - V. Hall 7.45 p.m. MAY Darby & Joan Club — Spring Outing — Aylesford Priory 11 Hort. Soc. — Floral Art Group — V. Hall 8 p.m. Parish Council — Highways, Planning and Public Relations, V. Hall
 Ladies Social Group — "Rushes — History and Uses" plus Demonstration, 48 Woodhill Park, 8 p.m. Afternoon W. I. — Resolutions Mrs. Holder, V. Hall 2.30 p.m. Darby & Joan Club — R.C. Hall 2-5 p.m. 19 Hort. Soc. — Talk by Mr. Laurie Manser on Care & Growing of Pot Plants, 28 Parish Council Meeting — V. Hall, 8 p.m. Darby & Joan Club — R.C. Hall 2-5 p.m. JUNE V. Hall 8 p.m. Afternoon W.I. — "Switzerland all the Year Round" by Mrs. Moss, V. Hall, 2.30 p.m. Evening W.I. — "Hospice at Home" by Mrs. J. Hartley Hort. Soc. — Floral Art Group — V. Hall 8 p.m. Ladies Social Group — Tour of Vineyard at Lamberhurst plus Wine Tasting 15 Parish Council Meeting — Amenities, Planning & Finance — V. Hall 16 Darby & Joan Club — Summer Outing Eastbourne 25 Hort. Soc. — Trip by Car (to be arranged), Meet Camden Car Park 7 p.m. 29 Parish Council — Highways, Planning and Public Relations — V. Hall 30 Darby & Joan Club - R.C. Hall 2-5 p.m. ST. PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES Upper Church 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion 9.45 a.m. Parish Communion with Sermon 10.00 a.m. Family Communion (last Sunday) 11.30 a.m. Junior Church 4.00 p.m. Evensong and Sermon 5.00 p.m. Shortened Holy Communion (3rd Sunday) Parish Church 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Second Sunday) 11.15 a.m. Matins and Sermon 11.15 a.m. Sung Communion with Sermon (4th Sunday) Every Friday - W.I. Market - V.Hall 10.15 - 11.15 a.m. (35p)

Every Monday — Pembury Old Tyme and Modern Dance Club — R.C. Hall — 7.45-10.15 p.m.

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