Re-read this description of Pagus Parvus:

Pagus Parvus was indeed very different from the City. It was a small village clinging for its life to the side of a steep mountain in a country that has changed its name over and over and in a time that is a distant memory for most. It comprised one cobbled high street lined on either side with a mixture of houses and shops built in the style that was popular around the time of the great fire in the famous city of London. The first and second floors (and in the case of the home of wealthy Jeremiah Ratchet, the third and fourth floors) overhung the pavement. In fact, sometimes the upper levels stuck so far out that they restricted the sunlight. The windows themselves were small with leaded panes, and dark timbers ran in parallel lines on the outside walls. The buildings were all at strange and rather worrying angles, each having slid slightly down the hill over the years and sunk a little into the earth. There was no doubt that if just one collapsed it would take all the others with it.

The village was overlooked by the church, an ancient building mostly frequented these days when someone was born or died. Entry into this life and exit from it were deemed noteworthy occasions, but for most villagers the intervening existence did not require regular church attendance. On the whole this suited the Reverend Stirling Oliphant very well. He didn’t seek out his flock; he preferred them to make their own way to him.

Besides, the hill really was unusually steep.

Note five facts that we learn about Pagus Parvus from this description:

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2. ....................................................................................................
3. ....................................................................................................
4. ....................................................................................................
5. ....................................................................................................
What do the following phrases suggest about Pagus Parvus? You should write a PEE paragraph about each:

a) ‘a small village clinging for its life’

This suggests that the village is in danger of falling down the hill at any time. The word .................................................................
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b) ‘the buildings were all at strange and rather worrying angles’

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c) ‘for most villagers the intervening existence did not require regular church visits’

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Think carefully about somewhere that you know that is as eccentric as Pagus Parvus. It could be a street in your home town, or it could be a park, or it could be somewhere you have visited on holiday. Anywhere that is different from the norm is perfect for this task!

You should now imagine that you are writing a description of this place which is similar to the description above. While reading the description of Pagus Parvus you will have noticed that the author uses the buildings to suggest the atmosphere of the town. You should make this a priority in your own work.

Your task is to create a piece of descriptive writing of a similar length to the description of Pagus Parvus which entertains the reader through its use of interesting and colourful language. Good luck!