

"Some sort of periodical is an essential life-line in a village such as ours"

No 11 February 1976

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday February 4th: Deanery Missionary Fellowship meeting in Teston Village Hall 8.0pm. West Farleigh parishioners are invited. Miss Hilda Leng, Action Group Liaison Officer of the British and Foreign Bible Society, will be giving a talk on 'The Word in Action'.
- Monday February 23rd: Meeting of the PCC at The Old Parsonage 8.0pm
- Monday March 1st: Annual Parish Meeting at the School 7.30
- Wednesday March 3rd: Beetle Drive at the School 7.30. Admission 15p to include refreshments. There will be prizes and a raffle. Your last chance to go beetle driving before the school closes!
- Saturday April 10th: The finalised date for the Spring Fayre in the school. 2.30 - 5.0pm. Something for everyone is the aim, with these inviting stalls: Produce, Cake and Sweet, White Elephant and Toys, Soap (run by the schoolchildren), Bottle, Handicrafts and Household. Mrs Morgan at Hillcroft leads an organising committee of twelve. "Please help us", she pleads, "to make £200 for our church at what may be the last big village function in our school before it closes".
- Sunday April 11th: (Palm Sunday): Proposed Ecumenical Service in our church. The Vicar writes: "I have not received any direct comment as to the desirability or otherwise of having a united service, but I gather that quite a number have indicated that they would be interested. Supposing that it is to take place on Palm Sunday, the next question is, what time, - morning or evening? I should be most grateful if those who are definitely interested would communicate with one of the church members who would pass on any views expressed to me"

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

When, in Fleet Street, a newspaper misses a 'good story', its editor will invariably and angrily declare "We fell down badly on that one", and then proceed to find out why. Last month it was the turn of Life-Line to fall down badly. It contained nothing about the then forthcoming dedication of the church tablet in memory of the late Major-General Norman. To parishioners who were in ignorance until after the event, and then were puzzled because there had been no advance news of it in January Life-Line, it can only be said that Life-Line knew nothing about it either, until a chance phone call exposed the facts during the evening of that important day. The tablet is inscribed thus: "In memory of Major-General Charles Wake Norman CB DL MA of West Farleigh Hall: 1891-1974: Commanding Officer and Colonel of the 9th Lancers, High Sheriff of Kent, and Chairman of the Rochester Diocesan Board of Finance. This tablet is placed here by the Old Comrades of the 9th/12th Lancers (Prince of Wales).

Perhaps in anticipation of spring cleaning, Mr 'Reg' Stagg spent an evening in his Tutsham home last month turning out an accumulation of old documents. One of them, its continuing existence long forgotten, was a reply to an application he had made for a job near Eastbourne. It made amusing reading, he thought, in a month when farm workers' weekly pay took an upward leap of £6. Dated 1936, and written in a farmer's copperplate style of the day, it read: "We keep about 32 cows in milk and three milkers. The hours are 5.0am to 5.0pm, with an hour each for breakfast and dinner, and a day off after breakfast every three weeks, with eight days' holiday at the end of a year with pay. Wages 4/- a week less 1/2⁺ health and unemployment insurance. Good lodgings with head cowman close to work". Mr Stagg's comment to Life-Line: "And I was glad to get it, too! Right bob above the minimum!"

His appointment as Chairman for 1976 of Tonbridge and Malling Petty Sessions Division, a happy event already known to many, will make considerable demands on the remaining "spare" time of Mr E P Day JP. Some forty magistrates will be looking to him for leadership, and with six Court sittings at Malling and two at Tonbridge most weeks his quota of added responsibility will be appreciable. In passing, West Farleigh and Teston, for magisterial purposes, are now in Maidstone PSD.

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE (contd)

Mr Stephen Botten, who suffered a serious eye injury when the car in which he was travelling as a passenger crashed on Bow Hill, is having to decide if he will undergo an operation on the eye in which the surgeons regard the chances of success as 75-25 against.

Mr L J Walter has received more than £30 in donations from people anxious to have had a hand in providing a lasting memorial in the churchyard to the late 'Bob' Mannerings, our organist for 30 years.

Miss Trudy Smith, Miss Marie Underdown and Miss Jane Underdown won respectively the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes presented annually by Mr E P Day for the best choir attendances for 1975.

Immediately following Family Service on February 1st, a new grandchild for Mr and Mrs Devenish will be christened Victoria. Recently the baby daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Baggott was baptised Sarah Joanne.

MOBILE LIBRARY: NEW TIMES

Every Thursday: At The Chequers 3.10-3.25; The Green 3.30-3.45; Oliver North House 3.50-4.05

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS CLUB

Not so much a football match as a reunion of veterans could well have been the comment following the New Year's Day challenge by the cricketers to play the footballers. There was a similar clash two seasons ago on the cricket ground, when the football section rallied to a call by the then captain, Mick Honey, to play two inter-club matches to settle some inter-sectional rivalry. After a crushing defeat on the cricket field, the football section this time threw down the gauntlet, and fielded an excellent team including secretary Jack Martin, Godfrey Reed-Marr (now living in Barming and playing regularly for us) and Jim Tapp, skipper of the Reserve XI. Their undoubted fitness and supremacy in the game were sternly put to the test by the cricketers, who really turned back the history books and unearthed such stalwart football stars as John Underdown, Trevor and Donald Fernor, Micky and Trevor Back and Peter Day from Hunton. With such depth of experience (it was rumoured that Trevor Fernor first donned a Farleigh shirt in 1949, and John Underdown in 1952!) and extremely fair and unbiased whistle-blowing by Reg Oldfield (himself the club senior professional) the result was a win for the footballers by three goals to two and aching muscles for the cricketers. Altogether a most worthy exercise in club sociability, and one where the result was the least important factor. What a difference from the mad scramble for a point and position during the rest of the season! - J.P.D.

FIVE YEARS AGO - FANCY THAT!

"Decisions have already been made. Nothing we recommend, decide or advise will make the slightest difference. This is a pure waste of time. I think we had better accept. It is a steamroller we cannot stop". - The late Major-General Norman speaking towards the end of a two-hour meeting in the school about the proposed pastoral union of West Farleigh with Teaton. From the Parish Magazine of February 1971

LIFE-LINE'S THOUGHT-LINE FOR THE MONTH

Any work of art that at once attracts and satisfies our present age is sure - in fact, it is obliged - to be brutal or frustrated and entirely lacking simplicity and modesty. - Sir Thomas Beecham

IN CHURCH THIS MONTH

February 1st	8.00 Holy Communion	10.30 Family Service
8th	11.00 Matins	6.30 Evensong
15th	8.00 Holy Communion	11.00 Matins
22nd	11.00 Matins	6.30 Sung Communion
29th	8.00 Holy Communion	11.00 Matins

Church flowers: Saturday 7th, Mrs Willson; 14th Mrs Willson; 21st Mrs Morgan; 28th Mrs E P Day.

Church cleaning: Weeks of Monday 2nd and 9th, Mrs Willson; 16th Mrs Morgan; 23rd Mrs E P Day

Contributions for the March issue should reach 4 Warnhams Cottages not later than February 19th. It's cheaper to phone after six! 812730