

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

No. 207 June 1992

LIFE-LINE LETTER

from Hugh Grainger

As Reader at All Saints church, I have been asked to try and fill a few of the many gaps left by our Vicar, Donald Bish, who retired at the end of May. One of these gaps is the monthly message for Life-Line from the Rectory.

Now that all of us are facing an "interregnum" - a period with no Vicar appointed to our church - we should give some thought to its implications. It will mean an increase in responsibility for members of the Parochial Church Council; the Churchwardens will have to ensure that there is someone available to take every scheduled service each Sunday; and arranging a baptism, wedding or funeral may now be a little less straightforward.

Do we normally take our Vicar too much for granted? Do we think these matters are important? Would we mind if there were no longer a church in West Farleigh? WHY?

The fact is that we have a beautiful church in our village because, for hundreds of years, a sufficient number of individuals have thought it worth working for. Those who continue to look after the church, to arrange flowers, to contribute to its services, to care for its members, are carrying on tasks of loyalty and love which have been passed on down the generations.

The testing time which lies ahead means that it is up to those of us now in West Farleigh to ensure that there is a living, vibrant church at All Saints worth passing on to future generations. The baton of responsibility has now been passed to us. Are we prepared to run worthily with it into the future? However daunting a challenge this may be, we know that, through faith, all things are possible.

Hugh

For your INFORMATION

To keep pace with the tide of human affairs in West Farleigh, readers of Life-Line may like to have a record of those who now represent us in the different aspects of our lives. They are as follows:-

Borough Councillor - Peter Craven.

Parish Councillors - Peter Day, John Day, Don Goodwin, Geoff Martin, Jill Morgan, Philip Morlock, Linda Packham.

Churchwardens - Stuart Dyer
David Swan.

Lay Reader - Hugh Grainger.

Parochial Church Council - Philip Morlock, Sue Morlock, Roy Plommer, Margaret Frazer, Valerie Grainger, Belinda Devenish, Lady Keyes, Joyce Morgan, Vera Smith, Tony Walsh, Sue O'Donnell, John Day, Jim Patch.

Parish Council meetings are normally held on the first Monday in the month, every three months: next meeting 8pm 1st June at the Tickled Trout.

Parochial Church Council meetings are normally held on the third Monday in the month every two months, though the routine is upset at the moment by the Vicar's retirement.

Rev. Donald and Mrs G M (Truda) Bish have a new address, Donald having retired. They now live at:-

Cartref, No.5 Eynsford Road
Allington, Maidstone,
Kent, ME16 0TD

Phone 0622 661847

HEARING DOGS FOR THE DEAF

COFFEE MORNING

at Green Acre, Lower Road, West Farleigh, on Wednesday, 17 June
10.30 to 12.30

Plants for sale. Bring & Buy
Cakes

All welcome Coffee 50p

June Cricket Fixtures

6th v Hawkhurst	Home	2.30
13th v Underriver	Home	2.30
20th v Linton Park (IL)	Home	2.00
27th v Horton Kirby (IL)	Away	2.00

EVERGREENS

Tuesday
9th June
Court Lodge

Mr Taylor of 7 St Helen's Lane, has made the generous offer that he will get back into working order for £22.50 any old sewing machine you care to take him. Of this he will donate £12.50 to All

GARDENS OPEN

On Sundays 21 and 28 June the garden at Elmscroft, Charlton Lane, will be open from 2pm to 6pm by kind permission of Lord and Lady Keyes. This will be part of the National Gardens Scheme; various charities will benefit and there will be something for West Parleigh church. Entrance will be £1 (children 50p) payable at the gate.

On Sunday 28 June and again on Wednesday, 1st July, the garden of West Parleigh Hall will be open by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Stephen Norman. The opening on 28 June will be under the National Gardens Scheme. On 1st July the proceeds go to the Kent Handicapped Caring Association and the opening time will be from 11.30am to 4pm. Entrance is £1.50, children free. There will be lunches, teas and plant and other stalls.

One hopes for good weather, not only for these events but also for the coffee morning on 17 June at Green Acre, Lower Road, in aid of those worthy hearing dogs for the deaf. One hopes also that the drought, which we have begun to accept as normal in S.E. England, will not have started to undo the careful preparation work done by these good people in their gardens.

A FOND PARLWELL WAS SAID TO DONALD AND TRUDA BISH at Wateringbury School on Friday evening, 22 May. There was a very large gathering of people from all three parishes, filling the school hall to just about capacity.

The glass of wine provided on arrival soon took care of any shyness and the inhabitants of each of the three villages found to their surprise that the residents in the other two were quite human after all.

The three Churchwardens made sincere speeches of tribute to Donald and Truda for their 13½ years of service to the community and nobody took seriously the little rhyme quoted by Stuart Dyer about a parson working only one day a week. Donald replied gracefully and Truda had us falling about laughing at her wry remarks concerning some of his comments.

Well deserved tributes were paid to the organisers, the providers of food and the school Headmaster. Altogether a most successful launch into the world of retirement.

AND NOW TO THE FUTURE

Hugh Grainger (see overleaf), on the departure of the latest in a long line of Vicars, has stressed how vital it is to continue to look after our lovely church, created 900 years ago by rustic, loving craftsmen who had a profound faith in the continuity of human kind. We have to justify that faith and a sound start has been made in our vibrant new Choir Club.

Referred to irreverently as the Jiving Jesus Jubilee, the Choir Club is an informal, friendly group of (at present) five to eight-year-olds who meet most Sundays in the church at 9.30am. Music is provided by Alison and Richard and their songs are their very own songs composed by Alison. There are always projects going on. At present they are designing stained glass windows and they are going to do a play at the July family service. They do colouring and drawing (and they are pretty good) and make models. They play games and are told stories. If the weather is fine they go out on the grass under the trees. The object is to have fun and this is what they have. They are all keen and want to take part and this is the spirit which keeps it all going.

What better way could there be to prepare for the future, to foster the togetherness which is such a vital part of our life and is in danger of being torn apart by the stress and speed of modern living.

If you know of any children who would like to take part, get in touch with Tony or Susan Walsh on 728252.

THE PLANT SALE AT TUTSHAM. The day started off a bit doubtful with a lot of cloud and a cold wind. Maybe this put people off a bit because not quite so many as usual came through the gate. However, the trade takes some to within a smidgen of last

SERVICES FOR JUNE AT ALL SAINTS, WEST PARLEIGH

June	7	0800 PBHC Rev M B Perkins
	14	1100 Fam/Renewing Hugh Grainger
	21	0930 Parish Commn Rev G Elmore
	28	1100 PB Matins Hugh Grainger

SERVICES FOR JUNE IN TESTON

June	7	0945 Family 45 1830 Parish Commn
	14	0800 PBHC 0945 Children's Ch. 1830 Evensong
	21	0945 Children's Ch. 1830 Parish Commn
	28	0800 PBHC 0945 Children's Ch. 1830 Evensong

SERVICES FOR JUNE IN WATERINGBURY

June	7	0930 PB Matins
	14	0930 Parish Commn 1100 Sunday School
	21	0800 PBHC 1100 Family 45
	28	0930 Parish Commn 1100 Sunday School