

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

No. 208 July 1992

LIFE-LINE LETTER

"..... and so she married her prince and they lived happily ever after." This is how a traditional fairy story always seems to end; but however much we wish it could be like this, we know that real life is very, very different. Why?

If we have learnt anything from the recent voluminous press coverage, it is surely that marriage is a situation where the gap between expectations and reality can bring devastating disappointment.

A partnership between two people for life is a very demanding and difficult commitment: probably the biggest challenge which people have to face. So it is hardly surprising that things go wrong so often.

And yet ... the rewards from a happy and fulfilling partnership can be enormous. So, what can be done to give this vulnerable relationship a better chance? Can we really expect to handle something so difficult on our own? Do we not need that extra help and strength which can only come from inviting God into our lives? He is always there; He is always loving; but He cannot enter where the door is bolted against Him.

In marriage, as in so many other parts of our life, God is waiting to be asked. We tend to forget, don't we, that when all human endeavour has failed there can always be room for a miracle?

Hugh

This is a letter from our good friend the Rector

To all our friends -
in Watringbury, Teston and West Farleigh

This letter comes from the heart of wildest Allington!

I wish to express the gratitude of Truda as well as myself for the manner in which you saw us out of the parish and to say a very sincere 'Thank You' for your generosity. Each congregation found its own way of bidding us farewell. We were particularly moved that so many came to the final presentation in Watringbury School, especially so many children, and our only regret was that it simply wasn't possible to speak to everyone there and to shake every hand. I am most grateful to those who organised these various events, which will be well remembered and greatly treasured.

Your generosity has been very touching: the garden hammock provided by Teston stands proudly in our small plot, whilst I am beginning to get to grips with the word processor which West Farleigh helped me to buy. When, later in the summer, we go to Cyprus, we shall remember that Watringbury has contributed a large proportion of the cost. Besides all that, we have received a number of personal gifts and over 70 cards and letters - and Truda has had seven floral arrangements. For such generosity and kindness, a simple 'Thank You' seems inadequate, yet I don't know of any other word which really fits the moment. Simply but sincerely, Thank You all very much.

We are happy to be remaining in the vicinity and we shall meet many of you from time to time. Meanwhile I urge you all to work for the survival of these lovely parishes and support the Churchwardens, particularly so over the next few months before your Priest-in-Charge arrives. I hope you will be as supportive of him as you were of me over 13 years.

May God's grace and the love of Jesus be with you all.

Sincerely

Donald.

HARVEST SUPPER 1992

Nettlestead Village Hall has been booked for our Harvest Supper in September - but one snag remains:-

THERE IS NOBODY
TO ORGANISE IT

The usual faithful band of workers is standing by, each one anxious to make his or her contribution to the general effort but, without a co-ordinator, these folk will not be able to come together and produce the delightful evening we have come to expect.

If we don't get a volunteer before the end of July, the booking will have to be cancelled and we won't have a harvest supper this year.

On 12 July at the Fam/Renew Service, the Choir Club will give us a play by Alison Swan about how Jesus walked on the water. Come and see.

5 Eynsford Road
Allington.

Peter Day, Chairman of the Parish Council for many years, has retired from that post and his place has been taken by Don Goodwin. The new Vice Chairman is John Day. A suitable presentation has been made to Peter Day who remains on the Council, an influential back bench member.

At the Parish Council meeting on 1 June it was remarked that in 1994 the Parish Council will have been in existence for 100 years. To mark the occasion it was considered that a village sign would be appropriate and, to help this suggestion to come alive, readers of Life-Line are invited to comment and make suggestions about the design, location and the idea itself. David Swan (phone 814445) will be very pleased to hear from anyone with anything to say.

Another innovation is that the village has entered the Men of the Trees competition. With this in mind, Don Goodwin has replaced the two trees on the cricket ground which were recently felled because they had become dangerous. The new trees are a beech and an ash. Peter day has tidied up the trees at the top of Teston Lane to improve visibility and discussions are being held about the poplars in Lower Road. Judging in the competition is expected to take place in July.

HEARING DOGS FOR THE DEAF

We are grateful to all who attended our coffee morning, to all who sent donations, the cake makers and those who brought and bought and to all our helpers. £340 was raised. A sum of £2,500 for the third hearing dog from Kent will be presented to the Director at Lewknor in July at the open day celebrating ten years of H D for D. Thank you all for your kind support.

SERV

July	5	0800	PBHC	Rev. C J Caley
	12	1030	Coffee in h	
		1100	Family/Renew.	Hugh Grainger
	19	0930	Parish Commn	Rev M B Perkins
	26	1100	Matins	Hugh Grainger

SERVICES FOR JULY IN TESTON

July	5	0945	Family 45	
		1830	Parish Commn	
	12	0800	PBHC	
		0945	Children's Ch	
		1830	Evensong	
	19	0945	Children's Ch	
		1830	Parish Commn	
	26	0800	PBHC	
		0945	Children's Ch	
		1830	Evensong	

SERVICES FOR JULY IN WATERINGBURY

July	5	0930	PB Matins	
	12	0930	Parish Commn	
		1100	Sunday School	
	19	0800	PBHC	
		1100	Family 45	
	26	0930	Parish Commn	
		1100	Sunday School	

July Cricket Fixtures

4th	v	Headcorn (IL)	Away	2.00	11th	v	Hollingbourne (IL)	Away	2.00
18th	v	Rumwood (IL)	Home	2.00	25th	v	Meopham (IL)	Home	2.00
		1st Aug	v	Sheldwich (IL)	Home	2.00			

Ton Up June 1992

£10 Mark Ford. £5 Colin Watson. £3 Liz Day.

SAVING MONEY - AND THE CHURCH

Quinquennial is one of those rare English words used only by Bishops and the like. It means 'Five yearly' and is always applied to the five yearly structural examination of a church. There must be a reason for this but it has never been explained to your editor who is probably too thick to understand anyway. Be that as it may, the latest examination revealed a bulge in the outside wall of our church near the entrance, also several less important faults. The bulge will have to be dealt with by a competent builder but most of the minor things are being tackled by the do-it-yourselfers on the PCC. So if you see men unsteadily climbing ladders or gazing speculatively at the windows, they are probably not trying to break in but trying to avoid the church having to pay good money to honest tradesmen who know what they are doing.

THE SOCIAL CALENDAR

The Summer Lunch has always been one of the most pleasant of our annual village social gatherings and one which, it is thought, we would be most unwise to allow to lapse. The date, however, is proving to be a problem. Diaries, Old Moore's Almanack, holiday bookings, phases of the moon and the long range weather forecast were all examined and the best date which could be found was Sunday, 13th September.

That is not summer! I hear you cry. But it's the best the PCC can come up with so pencil it in your diary until it is confirmed or altered by notice in this news sheet.

EVERGREENS
Court Lodge
7 July. BUT
note that
this is the
FIRST
Tuesday in
July, NOT
the second!

You, dear reader, probably don't want to know but the bat colony has left Mill Cottage. Perhaps it was something we said. Fortunately, the insect population, which they effectively controlled, is being kept well down by a pair of spotted fly catchers who have raised a family within a few feet of the back door. The food