

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

No. 213 December 1992

THE DECISION

On the 11th November a decision of historical importance was made by the leadership of the Anglican Church (the General Synod). For the first time ever women will be ordained as vicars in our church.

A change as enormous as this has inevitably met with a wide variety of response: from enthusiastic jubilation to downright despair. Some indeed, such as our Maidstone MP, have decided to leave the Church of England; others have said they will take subversive action against those who implement the new policy. Is this right? What do you think?

Surely the really important issue here is not what you or I want but what God wants for his Church. Before the vote was taken, prayer took place across the whole country and the guidance of the Holy Spirit was sought so that those voting should make the choice that coincided with God's will.

Therefore, we can safely assume that the ordination of women is God's wish. It must then surely be wrong to oppose this decision, no matter what our personal feelings may be. How can God create a better world if the followers of Jesus turn away from a decision taken by the leaders of his Church, after seeking his advice?

Advent is a time of hope and preparation; a time when our thoughts should turn to God becoming Man at Christmas time nearly 2,000 years ago. He came into the world to teach it; to save it; and to provide a perfect example of obedience and compassion. How are we doing in following this example?

Hugh

FESTIVE FAIR '92

The efforts of all the people of good will in the village were on display at the Good Intent on Saturday, 21 Nov, for the Festive Fair. The restaurant was full of stalls displaying plants, cakes and gifts and some overflowed into the bar. It was a good party with plenty of chat and good company with the added spice of competitions and a raffle. The weather didn't help and may have kept some customers away but quite a lot of money was spent (in spite of the recession) and the church finished up £253.57 better off. A fine effort by all those who helped and thanks to Pat and Di for letting us invade their pub out of opening hours.

THE EVERGREENS Christmas Lunch will be at the Watringbury Hotel on Tuesday, 8 December, 12.30 for 1.0. There will be transport for everyone, so don't worry. You will be picked up.

TON-UP CLUB November

£10	Mary Oldfield
£5	Sandra Walton
£5	Trevor Back

GIFT SERVICE

Those who brought toys, shoes and clothes to the Gift Service on 22 November showed great generosity and compassion towards the children of Romania. Everything has now been sorted and packed into boxes to await the next returning Romanian lorry.

A sincere "thank you" to all the kind and thoughtful givers.

Hugh

N.B. Hugh Grainger left again for Romania on 30 November to continue his work there.

The bookmark with this Life-Line gives all the Christmas services and a very special new one is described overleaf but bear the following in mind:-

13 December, 10.30 for 11.
Coffee and mince pies
before the Nativity
Service

Come and help decorate
the Christmas Tree in
church from 10am on
Saturday, 19 December.

20 December, 3.30pm.
Service of 9 Lessons &
Carols with blessing of the
Crib. Come early.

AND A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL LIFE-LINE READERS

CHRISTMAS STARTS HERE FOR FAMILIES

Getting the children quietly settled into bed on Christmas Eve can be a problem but Hugh Grainger has now devised a scheme to help ease the situation. There is always that time before bed time when the children have had their tea and are getting more and more excited about Father Christmas coming. A bedtime story usually helps, so Hugh suggests that a Christmas story told in the setting of church would be just the thing to set the mood. With this in mind, he has arranged a short family service of about half an hour for half past five with some Christmas carols and THE STORY. The church will be decorated for Christmas with the tree lit up and that magic atmosphere very much alive and full of expectation. A parents and children gathering in church should be a lovely prelude to Christmas and set the scene.

5.30 Christmas Eve, the Family Christmas Story Service.

FOOTBALL

As always, soon good news and some not so good. The 1st XI slipped out of another cup, this time losing to MPE in the Kent Junior Cup 2 - 1, but stayed in the Challenge Cup, beating East Malling 3 - 1 after being 1 - 0 down in the first minute (while I was putting my gloves on!). The League fixtures so far have been going much better than we could have hoped for, this month beating Lenham 4 - 2 and our best victory so far, 6 - 1 winners over Barming. The most encouraging aspect at the moment is that we're scoring goals, Julian Nutley in particular having ten to his credit. There is a good team spirit and it all looks encouraging for the rest of the season - I hope! (unquote).

The 2nd XI seem to be concentrating on the cup this season, though dropping some valuable League points - but so have a lot of other clubs and there's still a lot of football to be played. First, we played Smarden from Div 4 in the Kent Junior Cup and a terrific 1 - 0 win. Fox's Athletic came next in the League but we failed to put our many chances away, finishing with a one all draw. Paddock Wood came next and more points dropped, losing 4 - 1. In our best performance and playing our best football this season we beat a good Staplehurst side 4 - 0. Let's hope this time next month there'll be plenty of Christmas cheer from the football section

Many thanks to all who supported our Race Night and Barn Dance (my only regret is that Neil and Joan Crichton were once again "busy" and unable to come to the barn dance. Better luck next year). No say 21 Dec our Christmas raffle. Many prizes including 2 cup final tickets.

LIFE-LINE SAVED

Last month's plea in Life-Line for a duplicator was promptly answered by Arthur Morris of the White House who produced a fine electric machine. Your editor hadn't a clue how to use it but then Mollie Richford, one time editor of the East Farleigh and Coxheath Parish News, came up with a complete user's manual. Installation on a stout table in the editorial office can now be arranged and all will be ready for Life-Line's January 1993 edition. Very many thanks to Arthur Morris and Mollie Richford for this timely and generous assistance.

AND NOW for something completely different. Your editor has a perfectly good concrete coal bunker to dispose of. It will take about ½ ton of coal and anyone can have it who is willing to take it away. Phone 813461.

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER AT ALL SAINTS, WEST FARLEIGH

Dec	6	0800	PBHC Rev C J Caley
	13	1030	Coffee & pies 1100 Nativity See Hugh Grainger
	20	1530	Blessing of the Crib with 9 lessons & carls
	24	1730	Fam. Christmas Story Service Hugh Grainger
		2130	Christmas Comm Rev Hugh Bird
	25	0800	PBHC Rev M B Perkins
	27	1100	PB Matins Hugh Grainger

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER IN TESTON

Dec	6	0945	Family 45 1830 Parish Commn
	13	0800	PBHC 1830 Nativity
	20	1830	9 lessons & orls
	24	1500	Blessing of Crib
	25	0930	Parish Commn
	27	1000	PB Matins

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER IN WATERINGBURY

Dec	6	0930	PB Matins
	13	0930	Parish Commn 1100 Sunday School
	14	1900	School Carols
	17	2000	9 Lessons & Crls
	20	1100	Nativity
	24	1600	Blessing Crib 2330 Christmas Commn
	25	1100	Fam Commn with Bishop of Tonbridge
	27	1000	Matins at Teston

COME to the next informal discussion group at the Good Intent on 14 December, 8pm.

COME also to the next Parish Council meeting at the Tickled Trout, Mon, 7 Dec, 7.30pm.

ADDENDUM TO LIFE-LINE

Your editor has been so carried away by all the other momentous events in this month's Life-Line that he forgot to mention that there will be

CAROLS IN THE GOOD INTENT

MONDAY, 14 DECEMBER, 7.30pm

Light refreshments available. Bring your voices
and plenty of money

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,
WATERINGBURY

Monday 14th December
7.00 p.m. School Carols in Church

Thursday 17th December
8.00 p.m. 9 Lessons and Carols

Sunday 20th December
11.00 a.m. Sunday School Nativity

Thursday 24th December
4.00 p.m. Blessing of the Crib
11.30 p.m. Christmas Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY
11.00 a.m. Family Communion
Celebrated by the Bishop of
Tonbridge

Sunday 27th December
10.00 a.m. Mattins at Teston

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL - TESTON

Sunday 13th December
8.00 a.m. Prayer Book Communion
6.30 p.m. Nativity by Children's
Church

Sunday 20th December
6.30 p.m. 9 Lessons and Carols

Thursday 24th December
3.00 p.m. Blessing of the Crib

CHRISTMAS DAY
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion

Sunday 27th December
10.00 a.m. Mattins

ALL SAINTS - WEST FARLEIGH

Sunday 13th December
11.00 a.m. Nativity Service

Sunday 20th December
3.30 p.m. Blessing of the Crib
AND 9 Lessons and Carols

Thursday 24th December
9.30 p.m. Christmas Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY
8.00 a.m. Prayer Book Communion