

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW SPIRITUAL LEADER

The churchwardens and the lay readers of all three parishes (Teston, Wateringbury and West Farleigh) have agreed to the appointment of the Reverend Denys Gower as Priest in Charge. Mr Gower has accepted and it is expected that he will take up his appointment in a few months' time.

Mr Gower is aged 59 and worked in the printing industry before being ordained. He was a lay reader for ten years, then a non-stipendiary priest for four years before becoming curate at All Saints Church, Perry Street, Northfleet, in April 1992. He is married to Eileen who is an assistant teacher at a school for mentally handicapped children in Strood. They have two grown up children, a son (married) and a daughter.

Before they move in, there is some work to be done in the Rectory which will be Mr and Mrs Gower's home, but it is hoped that as soon as the work is finished we shall be able to welcome them to the Parish.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

from Hugh Grainger

New year, new opportunities, new vicar. Most of us will be expecting something new from 1993; but in what frame of mind are we as we anticipate what the future will bring to us? Do we feel resignation or apathy? Or do we feel a sense of eagerness and enthusiasm? Are we optimistic or pessimistic? If we are Christians, our hearts and minds should be full of hope, the kind of positive hope about which Saint Paul wrote, hope reinforced by faith as described in the 11th chapter of Hebrews, "Faith gives substance to our hopes and makes us certain of realities we do not see."

The arrival of a new vicar will mean new ideas and fresh ways of doing things. There will be changes. As we go forward, let us have faith, not relying solely on our own judgement but placing our problems before God and asking Him for his help and guidance. Perhaps we could make 1993 a year when we allow God into our lives just a little more than we did in 1992

Hugh

THE POPPY APPEAL

The grand total collected was £174.24. Vera Smith thanks all her helpers:-

- Mrs S Day
- Mr P Donoghue
- Mrs P Honeysett
- Mrs M Ludford
- Miss A Wakefield
- The Tickled Trout

Ton-Up Club - December

- £10 Mrs Botten
- £5 Mrs Reed
- £5 Roy Wells

Christmas Jackpot

- £50 N Botten
- £30 Mrs Diane Baines
- £20 Mrs Atkins

NOTE:- 24 Feb. Sports AGM.
10 Mar. Cricket meetg.
8pm Both at E Farleigh Bull

The Festive Season

Christmas 1992 began in the church on 13 December with coffee and mince pies then the Choir Club presented their nativity play. Written by Alison Swan, the play was beautifully performed by the children and was a lively concept in which the nativity story was told from the point of view of a spider in the stable who couldn't understand what all the excitement was about. Towards the end of the service the excitement spread to Tosca, a well known Alaatian dog, who found herself outside the church and let it be known she wanted to join in the final hymn. When the doors were opened she dashed in and gave warm Christmas greetings to the departing congregation.

The next day there were carols in the Good Intent, lustily sung and accompanied by Alison on guitar and Richard Grainger on keyboard. Margaret Frazer did a great job organising this and got everyone singing, even those who only came for the beer. A collection was made for the charity, the Blackthorn Trust.

On Sunday, 20th, there were 86 in the congregation for the service of nine lessons and carols. Margaret conducted the choir which included welcome singers from Teston and Wateringbury. Children carried figures of the Holy Family, kings and shepherds to the altar where the crib was set out.

On Christmas Eve Hugh Grainger conducted a Family Christmas Story Service which was very popular. Once more the the gentle Christmas message of good will has been delivered. Life-Line hopes you had a good Christmas and wishes all readers

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

"If only" is the well known saying that could be said for last month's 1st XI football fixtures. Everything was just going fine when, on the 28th of last month, we were 3 - 1 up at half time against Maidstone Rangers and looking good. But then it all changed. We ended up drawing 3 - 3 and a bit lucky at that! That draw, even so, put us 2nd in the Premier Division and a win the following week v bottom-placed Snodland would have seen us top for the first time in our history. Needless to say, we lost 4 - 0. And just to prove it was no fluke the next week we played Loose Rangers and again lost 4 - 0. Ah well, "If only." And with all this Christmas pudding inside of me, who knows what will happen in the New Year.

The 2nd XI have had mixed fortunes once again. On the 28th we played Maidstone Hospital and, after some good football and excellent finishing, Farleigh romped home, winning 7 - 0 and leaving the opposition wishing they were really in hospital. Next came a difficult Kent Junior Cup tie v high-flying Ditton from Div 3 and, after a terrific team performance we, unluokily, went down 3 - 2. Marden came next, a real six pointer before Christmas, but again just losing at 2 - 1.

Club News. Many thanks to those people who supported our Christmas Draw and commiserations if you were the ones who didn't win - like me!

See you next month.

Tel

DO YOU REMEMBER the Sponsored Bike Ride? It happened on the 2nd Saturday in September, as it does every year, on behalf of the Friends of Kent Churches. It raised £72,000 county-wide, this year towards preserving the beautiful churches in our county, an important part of our heritage. The Friends of Kent Churches express their thanks.

Next discussion group Tuesday 9 Feb at the White House

THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

At the Parish Council meeting in the Tickled Trout on 7 December, Police Constable Mark Wells gave a good account of how the Police are guarding our interests. He now shares his constabulary duties with another, PC Nick Sparks, with whom he works a shift system covering East and West Farleigh and Coxheath. Between them they maintain a full programme of crime prevention and detection which has proved productive but leaves very little time for walking round and meeting the people.

For instance, they operate road checks which involve stopping vehicles. Over a period they have effected one arrest per check session. General arrests have been at the rate of one every three days. Crimes are varied but, as an example, there have been 12 burglaries and 14 thefts from cars recorded in West Farleigh in the last year.

Garden sheds are still a favourite target for criminals with their valuable contents of lawn mowers and expensive tools which sell well at boot sales. A popular spot among car thieves to abandon their stolen vehicles is Kettle Lane. Prompt reporting is always helpful to Police, so ring them on 690055 or 608129 or, of course, if it's urgent, that well known panic station 999.

Finally, would any budding Inspector Morse or Miss Marple like to take over as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator from Jill Morgan, who has been soldiering on now for far too long and is anxious to hand over to someone else?

THE EVERGREENS

Got Christmas off to an early start when they went to the Wateringbury Hotel on 8 December for their annual lunch. There were crackers, sherry, wine, party poppers and all the usual festive grub as well as a lot of happy talk to the delight of the participants who, when it was all over, departed a little dazed but satisfactorily replete.

The next tea party will be at the Davies residence, Hilltop, Shinglebarn Lane

West Farleigh

Jan	3	0800	PBHC
			Rev C J Caley
	10	1030	Coffee in ch.
		1100	Fam Service
			Hugh Grainger
	17	0930	Parish Commn
			Archdeacon P Mallett
	24	1100	Matins
			Hugh Grainger
	31	0800	PBHC
			Rev C J Caley

Teston

Jan	3	0945	Family 45
		1830	Parish Commn
	10	0800	PBHC
		0945	Children's ch
		1830	Ev nsong
	17	0945	Children's ch
		1830	Parish Commn
	24	0800	PBHC
		0945	Children's ch
		1830	Evensong
	31	0945	Children's ch
		1800	Evensong

Wateringbury

Jan	3	0930	PB Matins
	10	0930	Parish Commn
		1100	Sunday School
	17	0800	PBHC
		1100	Family 45
	24	0930	Parish Commn
		1100	Sunday School
	31	0930	PBHC
		1100	Sunday School