

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

No. 216 March 1993

FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS

"We would do well to remember that the true glories of our own civilisation were built on the proposition that real freedom comes from denying self, not constantly seeking to gratify it."

These were the concluding words of a series of articles recently in a popular daily newspaper. They are well worth some consideration, especially at the time of year known to Christians as LENT.

May it not be true that the dismay we must surely feel at the wanton violence and sheer viciousness which we see around us is due, more than anything, to the unrestrained gratification of selfish desires? Might it not also be true that, if we could only practise the self denial which Jesus taught and demonstrated, our world would be a healthier, happier place? It is because of the example given to us by Jesus that we need LENT as a time when we can discipline ourselves a little. Why bother? Because true freedom and peace of mind comes from self control. Self indulgence leads only to the slavery of sin and the agonies of a guilty conscience, as well as an unsafe and unhappy world.

HUGH

THE REVD DENYS GOWER

Our new Vicar, the Revd Denys Gower, is due to be "inducted" into his new parishes at Wateringbury church on Sunday, 9 May, at 3pm. More details will be given when available.

Mr Gower's official title is "Priest in Charge". This cumbersome and unfriendly term is being used because of a technicality, the idea being that it will leave the Diocese free to make decisions affecting Wateringbury, Teston and West Farleigh without reference to Mr Gower. Life-Line thinks that this is a half baked and wishy washy way of appointing a person to a new post and, so long as your present editor is in post, Mr Gower will be referred to in this news sheet by the proper and respectful title of "Vicar".

FOOTBALL REPORT

Good news dominates this month's issue concerning both Farleigh teams. The 1st XI, after having a dreadful January, have finally shed the Christmas pudding and have picked up valuable League points. Lenham were our first opponents and, playing some of our best football this season, we deservedly won 4 - 0. Next came bottom-placed Barming but we failed to carry on from the previous week and were eventually a bit lucky to come away with a 1 - 1 draw. Old rivals Blue Eagles came next and just after half time we found ourselves 2 - 0 down. But "When the going gets tough, the tough gets going" and we did and we won 3 - 2. Aylesford were the only team that stopped us picking up any points and in a very close encounter we just went down 2 - 1. Next month's issue will have news of our two legged semi-final and if you don't believe everything you read about the games, why not come along and watch and see for yourself.

The 2nd XI can equally boast another successful month, having just one defeat themselves. It happened in their first game v Barming (Challenge Cup). Having been 1 - 0 up at half time, the visitors took control and went out 3 - 1 winners.

Better news came next, a trip to Addington and a very useful 4 - 2 away victory. And so it continued the following week with a 2 - 1 win over The Rose. Finally came Roselawn from the Tur/Walls League in the cup. Having drawn earlier this season, we thought this replay would be another tight affair but, happily, we had our goal scoring boots on and stormed into the semi finals with a 6 - 2 victory.

Next month's fixtures are crucial for our league and cup exploits. Let's hope that this time next month I will have some more good news.

Cheers Tel

Don't forget the Lent discussion group starting on Thursday, 4th March, 7.45pm at 1 Lodge Close, Wateringbury. No discussion group in West Farleigh during Lent.

EVERGREENS back home in Court Lodge Tuesday, 9th March.

WATCHING THE FLOWERS GROW

When the junction between St. Helen's Lane and Lower Road was improved some while ago, the job was finished off nicely and a number of refinements added. One of the embellishments was to level off and plant grass seed on the verge along Lower Road on the West Farleigh side of Kettle Lane. Our Parish Council, wishing to enhance the appearance still further, had daffodil bulbs, about 400 of them, planted in the grass and these are just coming into bloom for the first time.

Unfortunately, there are persons for whom the attraction of an area of grass is only that it is a potential car parking space and vehicles have started appearing among the flowers. Anyone who could be so thoughtless as to use a bed of daffodils as a car park is clearly not a reader of Life-Line. Our readers are far too refined to do such a thing. But if any reader knows who is doing it, will they please tell him (or her) to stop behaving like a vandal.

PLANT SALE "A bit premature!" I hear you cry. "Not so" answers John Day who, with his handsome wife Sue, will be hosting another plant sale at Tutsham Farm this year. The date to mark in your diaries is 16 May, a Sunday. If you plant seeds now, the chances are you will have some sturdy young bedding plants to offer for sale by 16 May. Also, if you plan to divide your perennials, you may well have some to add to the large stock which, hopefully, there will be to choose from on the day. Cakes, pies and preserves, too, will be required by the barrow-load, thus enabling our village cooks to show off. And if all those willing helpers who assisted last year, again volunteer their services, a good day will be assured.

AND - While we're on the subject of forthcoming village events - see above - let it be known that, come hell or high water (or both) there is going to be a Harvest Supper this year. The Village Hall at Nettlestead is booked for Saturday, 25 September. But

AN ORGANISER IS REQUIRED!

All the expertise is available for individual tasks - the buying, the cooking, the drinks, the flowers, the table laying, the tickets. All that is required is a co-ordinator to chair the planning meetings and get it all together.

Please, someone, come forward and lead the village in this worthy event.

Everyone must be famous at some time. Now is your chance. New ideas are needed for running our village events. Don't leave it all to the same people every year.

SERVICES FOR MARCH IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

March 7 0800 PBHC
Rev C J Caley
0930 Choir Club
14 1030 Coffee in ch.
1100 Family Soc
Hugh Grainger
21 Mothering Sunday
0930 Parish Commn
Archdeacon P Mallett
28 1100 Matins
Hugh Grainger

Teston

March 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

Wateringbury

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

BIRD WATCHING CORNER

Do you remember that nest of kestrels last year in one of the arrow slit windows of the church tower? Young church-goers climbed up into the bell chamber to watch the four young birds as they thrived under the loving care of their parents. They provided a lesson, not only in parent/child relationship, but also in the stark reality of nature in the raw. Many small birds, mice and voles died so that those kestrels could live and many were the pathetic little discarded remnants of their bodies on the ground beneath the nest. It was hard to balance the appeal of the attractive young chicks in the nest with the deaths of all those little animals which provided their food.

Well, Spring is here again and the kestrels are again looking for a convenient ledge on which to raise a family. George Reffall reports seeing a kestrel round the church tower, perhaps prospecting for a nest site, though this bird was being mobbed by rooks. Such mobbing is not unusual and kestrels can deal with that sort of thing. So I wouldn't be surprised if, once again, young attenders at church will be able to follow the adventures of yet another family of these beautiful but fierce wild things as they accept the hospitality of our lovely old church.

I wonder how many other nests those old walls can remember from their 900 years of existence.