

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

No. 217 April 1993

### CHOICE

"Why does God let it happen?" This is a question which people ask when tragedy strikes. It could be what the parents of James Bulger, Jonathan Ball or Tim Parry might ask. In fact, of course, God grieves over this wanton violence, killing and evil. He grieved, too, over the needless torture and killing of his Son Jesus.

It does not have to be like this; they didn't have to crucify the Son of God; we don't have to keep on killing innocent children or anyone else for that matter. God gave mankind the freedom of choice; we can choose to follow God or self-gratification; we can choose compassion or we can choose evil; we can choose to follow our conscience or to ignore it. Our choice is infinite because that is how God wanted it to be.

Until we choose to follow God's laws and obey the teaching and example of Jesus, tragedy and suffering will continue. The choice is stark but it is our choice; the way of God and his Son Jesus Christ or not. What God wants is for us to choose to follow him but, of course, we don't have to.

Hugh

### JUMBLE SALE

Are you spring cleaning? Then here is a golden opportunity to get rid of any unwanted jumble and help your church too.

On Saturday, 24th April there will be a jumble sale at East Farleigh Church Hall from 10am to noon in aid of West Farleigh church funds. There will be lots of bargains for everyone as well as coffee and light refreshments (admission 20p).

If you have any items of clean jumble, toys, books, bric-a-brac (sorry, no electrical goods) then please phone one of the three Maidstone numbers below and we will be happy to collect from your door.

East Farleigh church hall is by the church and has a car park.

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Sue O'Donnell    | 727852 |
| Tony Walsh       | 728252 |
| Belinda Devenish | 820348 |

### COMPUTER VOUCHERS

Tesco are running a scheme to help schools acquire computers. East Farleigh school would like a nice new computer and you can help them. Tesco give their customers, on request, a voucher for every £25 spent on goods and these vouchers, when gathered together in sufficient numbers, can purchase a computer. It is not the normal policy of Life-Line to permit commercial ads but this seems a good cause. Give your vouchers to Susan Walsh (phone 728252) or to the parent of any child lucky enough to attend East Farleigh School. The scheme will continue until May.

### MAIDSTONE KENT KARRIER

The Kent County Council and the Maidstone Borough Council are worried that disabled people don't seem to be making much use of the transport facilities they offer.

If you are wheelchair bound, can't see very well or if you can't manage the steps on ordinary buses, there are new transport facilities on offer to help you become more mobile.

There is a chap called Dick Lancaster who can tell you all you may like to know. Give him a ring on Maidstone 696943.

### GOOD MONDAY

(Every day is Good Friday for someone - and for God)

by Janet Lees

I knelt beside one being crucified:

fists balled in agony,  
teeth clenched against the pain.

"I just want her back like she was ...

... such a perfect child";  
words squeezed out between sobs.

I walked past one being crucified:

huddled in a dirty blanket,  
shoulders shaking with cold.

"I just want a warm place to go ...

... any kind of home";  
words spattered on the damp pavement.

I read about one being crucified:

nightmares rushed across the page,  
writing knotted in confusion.

"I close my eyes and see him again ...

... threatening me, attacking";  
words staccato with anger.

I remember one being crucified:

abandoned by friends to torture,  
bleeding on a bare hill.

"I am forsaken even by God ...

... it is finished";  
words of finality newly begun.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the Church at 8pm on Tuesday, 27 April. Our new Vicar has been invited and you can come and give him the once over. You can also raise any church-related question you like such as bell ringing, Sunday School, services, fund raising, churchyard maintenance, church cleaning, flower arranging, the PCC, churchwardens, birds' nests or a page 3 for Life-Line. All are welcome and this is an important meeting in which all the church's affairs are aired.

The new Vicar, the Revd Denys Gower, will be "inducted" (horrible word: sounds as if he is going to be dragged in, protesting, in chains) in Wateringbury Church at 3pm on Sunday, 9th May. The Bishop of Rochester will be there. Afterwards there will be an informal gathering at Wateringbury School - not exactly a knees-up but at least there should be tea and biscuits.

CALLING PAST PUPILS/FRIENDS OF HUNTON SCHOOL

30th birthday celebrations are planned for Saturday, 22nd May 1993.

One feature of the celebrations will be an exhibition and your help is urgently needed if you were a pupil at Hunton (either at some time in the last 30 years in West Street or, before that, at the old school in East Street). Photos, names, stories etc are all grist to the mill. please dig out long lost memorabilia or dredge up old recollections and contact Val Barnwell on 820602. The afternoon will include Air Display (weather permitting) and many other attractions, stalls, activities, barbecue etc. Plus, of course, the opportunity for a terrific reunion! Full details in the May edition of Life-Line.

West Farleigh

April 4 0800 FBHC Rev M  
Palm Sunday Perkins  
9 At the foot of the  
2000 cross  
Good Friday  
11 0800 FBHC Rev C J  
0930 Choir Club Caley  
18 0930 Parish Commn  
Archdeacon  
P Mallett  
25 1100 Matins  
Hugh Grainger  
0930 Choir Club

Taston

April 4 0945 Family 45  
1830 Parish Commn  
11 1100 PB Commn  
with hymns  
18 0800 FBHC  
0945 Children's ch  
1830 Evensong  
25 0945 Children's ch  
1830 Parish Commn

Wateringbury

April 4 0930 PB Matins  
1100 Sunday School  
9 1200 3 hr Devotions  
for Good Friday  
11 1100 Family Commn  
18 1030 Parish Commn  
25 0930 Parish Commn

FOOTBALL REPORT

**GREAT NEWS!** Our 2nd XI have reached the final of the Tun/Wells Charity Cup! The final, v APS Res, will be played at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 21 April at the Tun/Wells Stadium (under floodlights). It should be a tremendous night, win or lose, and it would be even better if a band of local supporters went along to enjoy the evening. It all came about after travelling to Goudhurst in the semi-final. Farleigh were 2 - 0 up at half time but in the 2nd half Goudhurst scored with 15 mins to go. So Farleigh now look forward to a long overdue final and possible stardom!

In the league, Farleigh had convincing victories over Fox's Athletic 5 - 1 and Larkfield 3 - 1. Is it too soon to talk about the double?

The 1st XI, although not in contention for the League, are also going for cup glory. At the start of the month we played MPE in the 1st leg of the semi-final and lost by a single penalty half way through the 2nd half, which was the only score. Our only other fixture was again v MPE in the League and we were again very unlucky to lose 4 - 3 including two own goals. Next week they're playing up front.

Our work on our new changing rooms is progressing steadily and our 1st XI should be together with our 2nd XI where they belong, back at Farleigh, for next season. Our German friends are again coming over at the end of June so look up your daughters, bring out the beer and expect to be woken up at two in the morning to the singing of 1 - 0, 1 - 0, 1 - 0.

Sadly, early in March, we discovered that both goals (posts & cross bars) had been vandalised. We were not very pleased and would appreciate any information to prevent it happening again.

Cheers

Tel

**LATE PRESS - GREAT NEWS.** Farleigh 1st XI beat MPE 3 - 1 in the 2nd leg of the Group A Semi-final. Final at Ecoles 5pm 17th April. A fine Martin Bromley hat trick helped us to our first final in 14 years and first ever a pearance in Group A.

TON-UP February  
£10 Micky Walters  
£5 Mike Baines

The LIFE BOAT collection  
brought in a total of  
£156.43. Very many

**REMINDER** Don't forget the Plant Sale  
at Tutsham on Sunday, 16 May. All  
proceeds go to the church and it is