

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

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Thoughts from the Rectory

### PAYING AND PRAYING

At a wedding in one of my former churches the fee had not been paid. I asked the Best Man if he would see to it. Not having the sum on his person, he went around the guests collecting the required fee. His comment to me was, "You people are always after money!" Since that time I have always collected the fee at the wedding rehearsal, which saves a great deal of time and trouble.

Saint Paul, writing to Timothy (1 Timothy 6:10), says, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." This, of course, is a timeless truth but, life being what it is, even the church (not just the building) needs a cash-flow to survive. The Church of England is face to face with a huge financial problem. The Church Commissioners, having burnt their fingers in several financial undertakings, they are steadily withdrawing their monetary support from the parishes. This means individual churches having to raise more funds on their own patch to retain a minister and the on-going up-keep of the building. One good way to lose friends and influence people is to write or preach about a lack of money. My own theory is that if the Spiritual and Pastoral situation expands and improves - the financial situation improves with it.

Is that too simple for words?

Denys

Rev'd Denys Gower  
Maidstone 812494

### GRATEFUL THANKS

An anonymous donor has given the church £2,000 (increased to £500 under the Gift Aid Scheme) for the purchase of Alternative Service Books and Mission Praise hymn books. These will be extensively used in future services and the Vicar joins the PCC to express deep appreciation of this very generous gift.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Family Service on 10th Oct (coffee at 10.45, service at 11.15) will be the Harvest Festival. Children are invited to bring offerings and, in the course of the service, take them up to the altar where they will be received by the Vicar. The church will be decorated for the occasion.

On the following day, all the produce used to decorate the church will be distributed to old people and others in the village.

If anyone knows of a deserving case for receiving these gifts, will they please discreetly pass on names and addresses to any PCC Member

RUBBISH SKIP Charlton Lane  
9th NOVEMBER (NOT October)

### THE HARVEST SUPPER

There were about 90 people at Nettlestead Village Hall on Saturday, 25 September for the Harvest Supper - the first for two years.

The hall looked most festive with three long tables carefully and colourfully laid by the artistic and enthusiastic helpers. Right up-to-date with modern trends, guests were offered buck's fiz (or is it bux phiz) on arrival. Where do these fancy names come from? Nobody knows; but it was a nice drink for all that - one's enjoyment of it marred only by having to hand over one's ticket before getting the drink. Anybody would think we don't trust one another in West Farleigh any more!

Seating arrangements were sorted out between friends and the supper proceeded - cold meats and salad with potato salad followed by apple pie and cream, cheese and biscuits and coffee, apples on the table and red or white wine. The entertainment started with Kay Crime energetically thumping the piano and Hugh Grainger trying to keep up with her on the drums. There followed some delightful recorder and flute playing and recitals by our younger neighbours. Alison and Richard played and sang (they don't like being referred to as "local talent") then John Day with his colourful dissertation on village life. The East Farleigh WI got all dressed up and performed songs from American Western shows. There was also super clog dancing.

The evening finished up with a sing-song and everyone went home happy. Grateful thanks are due to Hugh Grainger and his hard working team of helpers.



FOOTBALL REPORT

West Farleigh's first few games are often unpredictable and so to this season there is no change.

Farleigh 1st XI, playing a much weaker MPE side, should have done better. But for a Matt Smith penalty, there was not a lot more you could say about the game - only that we lost 3 - 1. However, the following week we were straight back into cup action playing Ulcombe from Div. 1. A "Vinnie Jones" tackle from one of our opponents in the first seconds set the scene for a tough encounter. Farleigh had their chances early on but it was not until 15 minutes before half time that Farleigh broke the deadlock. A beautifully flighted free kick from "new boy" Lee Holmes found Martin Bromley who headed it home. Farleigh's total match fitness is still not here and in the second half we found the going tougher and unfortunately one of Ulcombe's rare real goal-scoring opportunities paid off 20 mins from time. Even 30 mins extra time couldn't separate the sides and now we have to do it all over again.

Farleigh 2nd XI started their first ever Division IV game in great style. Their opponents, Div 5 champions Staplehurst Monarchs, were no mugs but a Mark Roberts goal mid-way through the first half let them know we meant business. However, after the break Staplehurst threw everything at us but a tremendous defensive display kept the visitors out & a terrific 1 - 0 victory.

The following week came Take-off Sports in the Challenge Cup but unfortunately there will be no cleaning with "Silvo" this year. A game of many chances for both teams. A goal from Chris Reed was not enough because they scored five! There's always next year.

If there are any young players willing to play in the village for Coxheath and Farleigh under 16 side, please get in touch with Brian Austin on 746607 who would be pleased to hear from you (as we is short on players).

Tel

Lady Grizelda Keyes died on Sunday, 19 September after an unequal struggle with cancer. She died at her daughter's house near Huddersfield and the funeral took place there. A memorial service will be held in our own church on a date to be arranged. This dear lady will be missed as much by her friends in West Farleigh as by her family.

THE BERNHARDT FAMILY WISH TO THANK EVERYONE WHO SENT CARDS, MESSAGES AND FLOWERS, OFFERED SYMPATHY AND KINDNESS AND WHO ATTENDED BESS'S FUNERAL. Special thanks go to Hugh Grainger for taking the service, David Swan for making the arrangements and Joyce Morgan for the church flowers.

John Bernhardt is still in hospital after his stroke. He is making good progress. Some mobility is returning to his right side but he's got to stay in hospital for the present.

THE SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE for the Friends of Kent Churches happened on 11 Sept. No news yet of the total amount raised but 80 cyclists turned up at our church during the day. A cycle ride by Richard Mulhall of Charlton Lane and John Little, formerly of Boughton Monohelsea from Lands End to John o'Groats in 15 days raised over £3,000 for the Heart of Kent Hospice and the Imperial Cancer Research. Sponsorship came mostly from Good Intent customers who were freely canvassed in the pub with Pat and Di's blessing. Well done!

MANY THANKS to all the thoughtful folk who gave Tesco vouchers towards East Farleigh School's purchase of a computer. The school

A BAPTISM with a difference took place on Sunday 26 Sept at Hugh and Val Grainger's house. Alison Swan was the subject and the

West Farleigh

- Oct 3 0800 BCP HC
- 0930 JJJ
- 10 Harvest Festival
- 1045 Coffee in church
- 1115 Family See Baptisms
- 17 0930 ASB HC
- 18 2000 HC. ST Luke the Evangelist
- 24 0930 JJJ
- 1115 Matins
- 31 0930 JJJ
- 1830 ASB EP

Teston

- Oct 3 Harvest Thanksgiving
- 0945 Family See
- 1830 ASB HC
- 10 0800 BCP HC
- 0945 Children's Ch
- 1830 BCP EP
- 17 0945 Children's Ch
- 1830 ASB HC
- 24 0800 BCP HC
- 0945 Children's Ch
- 31 0945 Children's Ch
- 1100 Benefice HC

Wateringbury

- Oct 3 0930 BCP MP
- Sunday Club
- 1400 Baptism
- 10 0930 ASB HC
- Sunday Club
- 17 0800 BCP HC
- 1115 Family See
- Parish Lunch
- 24 0930 ASB HC
- Sunday Club
- 1830 Evensong BCP
- 31 0930 Sunday Club

Key: BCP = Book of Cmn Prayer  
ASB = Alternative See Bk  
HC = Holy Communion  
MP = Morning Prayer  
EP = Evening Prayer

Morning Prayer 0800

- Oct 4 - 7 Wateringbury
- 11 - 14 Teston
- 18 - 21 West Farleigh
- 25 - 28 Wateringbury

EVERGREENS. At Appledore, David & Helen Swan's house Tuesday, 12th October.