

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

Editor: Jim Patch, Mill Cottage. 0822 813461

No 225. December 1993

CHRISTMAS AS USUAL?

from The Rectory

This is our first Christmas in the benefice and we are both looking forward to sharing in the celebrations of our three churches. If the Gowers had a family motto it might read, "Three of everything"! It may be a little stretching performing the same service in three different places, but I always find it interesting observing the different reactions to the service offered to three different groups of people. As your Parish Priest I am also grateful to those who welcome me at the church door as I flit from one side of the river to the other on a Sunday morning.

Did you ever pause to think that those who welcome people at the church door have one of the most important jobs in the Church? No doubt our three churches will have many visitors over the Christmas Season; the welcome they receive may make all the difference to them calling again in the New Year. If you don't come to church much and are thinking of sharing in our Christmas worship, may I welcome you to the most important Birthday Party of all time?

If your Christmas usually misses out the Christ-child then it's not really Christmas at all, is it?

Denys

The Rectory, Teston, ME18 5AJ. 0622 812494.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Children (of all ages) are especially welcome at the following services:

FAMILY COMMUNION on Sunday, 12th December, when the Charlton Recorder Ensemble will be playing for part of the service and the Crib will be blessed. (This Recorder Ensemble entertained us at the Harvest Supper).

CAROL SERVICE on the afternoon of Sunday 19th December during which the Nativity Play will be put on by the Three Js.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY SERVICE on Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve) which is short and specially for smallish children.

If you have children in the family - or even if you don't - do try and come to at least one of these services where you will be sincerely welcomed.

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
TO ONE AND ALL
BUT ESPECIALLY
TO READERS OF LIFE-LINE

FOOTBALL REPORT

West Farleigh had their first league win this month but unfortunately there were three defeats before it came.

Headcorn came first in the Kent Junior cup but after being 1 - 0 and 2 - 1 up we eventually lost 3 - 2. Rangers came next but when your luck's out, your luck's out. Two deflected shots saw us lose unluokily 2 - 1. Top of the table APS came a week later but, although giving a creditable performance with a changed team, losing 5 - 1. Finally our first win. A marvelous 3 - 1 over 2nd placed Loose Rangers.

Strangely enough, the 2nd XI had exactly the same run of results and possibly in even more frustrating circumstances. Unbeaten Marden, with just minutes left, were 3 - 2 down snatched two goals so we lost 4 - 3. Next came Sutton Valence and again we were up but lost 3 - 2. Hollingbourne followed and a nine goal thriller but again we lost by the odd goal 5 - 4. Finally good news, beating Thurnham 3 - 2. Special credit should go to Mark Hatcher who scored all seven goals in the last two weeks.

Last chance to wish all my readers (or reader) a very merry Christmas.

Tel

P.S. Please support your local sports club Christmas raffle - 20th December, East Farleigh Bull. Tickets on request (phone 745744.) Cheers.

Ton-Up Club

November

£10 Mrs P Brown
£5 Mrs Smitherman
£5 Mrs J Hyde

EVERGREENS

The Evergreens Christmas lunch will be at the Wateringbury Hotel on Tuesday, 14 Dec. 12.30 for 1.0

Wear your centrally heated garters and your drinking boots and bring your fur lined

Correction Your editor apologises for having led you to believe that the Mayor of Maidstone will attend a Parish Council meeting at the Good Intent on Monday, 6 December. He will not. The meeting will, indeed, be on 6 December and the Mayor will, indeed, be there. But the meeting will take place at the TICKLED TROUT, NOT at the Good Intent.

Very sorry about that. But come to the meeting just the same - 7.30pm. The Mayor will be pleased to see you. It is quite an occasion. This is only the second mayoral visit to West Farleigh in living memory.

CAROLS

Carols will be brought to the village on the evening of Wednesday, 15 December, by Margaret Frazer and her choir. They start off at the Tickled Trout about 7.30, continue to the White House and finish up at the Good Intent about 9 o'clock where there should be a right old sing-song for the rest of the evening. The singing should improve quite a lot as the evening progresses and everybody will be welcome to take part in this pub crawl - almost a blending of the sacred and the profane - no matter what your singing standard or your religious leaning. Light refreshments will be offered at the Good Intent. You buy your own beer at all three pubs. There will be a collection for a local charity.

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

The church was packed on Saturday, 27 November, to give thanks for the life of Grizelda, Lady Keyes. It was a service which she, in the full knowledge of her impending death, had planned. Her bereaved husband and family must have drawn great comfort from the tremendous gathering of well-wishers who came together for this service to pay tribute to a deservedly popular lady. She was taken from us at the modest age of 68 but she will live on in the memories of all of us who know her. Life-Line offers sympathy to all who were close to her.

IT'S DECEMBER

Another year has just about passed and still we haven't got a volunteer to take over from Jill Morgan as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. This is a useful job and, in this day and age, an increasingly necessary one. Not that it involves the holder in any arduous tasks but anything which helps our friendly local coppers to liaise more closely with the public who rely on them is worth while. Any takers, please?

But, although we know that burglaries and thefts are taking place all the time, and forgetting for a moment the wars and murders still taking place in the world, we should be thankful for our own peaceful village. Events follow their own tranquil course. In the year now drawing to its close we were sorry to see the departure of two prominent families, the Morlocks and the Davieses. But we have a new Vicar, our football team reached the cup final and they have a nice new changing room: Clive Stevens has been co-opted on to the Parish Council: the kestrels nested again in the church tower: Life-Line paid tribute to Alan, a super milkman, on his retirement and a boy making a name for himself for being consistently cheerful and hard working in all weathers is David, the paper boy. On the whole, not a bad place to live in.

Incidentally, has anyone found a large red & white umbrella with EA inscribed round it?

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

| | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Dec | 5 | 0800 BCP HC |
| | 12 | 1045 Coffee in ch 1115 Family HC Blessing of Crib |
| | 19 | 1500 Lessons, Carols Nativity Play |
| | 24 | 1730 Christmas Story Service 2130 ASB HC |
| | 25 | 0800 BCP HC with carols |

Teston

| | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Dec | 2 | 1930 Carol See |
| | 5 | 0945 Family See 1830 ASB HC |
| | 12 | 0800 BCP HC 0945 Children's ch 1830 Nativity |
| | 19 | 0945 Children's ch 1830 Lessons, Carols Candlelight |
| | 24 | 1500 Blessing Crib |
| | 25 | 0930 BCP HC |
| | 26 | 1000 St Stephens United Benefice see |

Wateringbury

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Dec | 5 | 0930 BCP HC |
| | 12 | 0930 ASB HC |
| | 19 | 0800 BCP HC 1115 Nativity Play |
| | 20 | 1800 Carol Service |
| | 22 | 2000 Lessons, Carols |
| | 24 | 1615 Blessing Crib 2330 Family See Blessing new toys |

Key: BCP=Book of Common Prayer
ASB=Alternative See Book
HC=Holy Communion
Morning Prayer ASB 0800
Mon 5th - Thur 9 W'bury
Mon 13 - Thur 16 Teston
Mon 20 - Thur 23 W Farleigh

Blessing of home Cribs At this time of year some folk like to have their home nativity scene blessed. I will be glad to offer you this ministry. Please contact me.

Home Communion If you are unable to get to church I will be glad to bring the Holy Communion to your home. Please phone or give names & addresses in writing.

Denys Gower

STILL NO NEWS about the planning application for a doctors' surgery in Wateringbury. Life-Line will