

THOUGHTS FROM THE RECTORY

HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU?

February, still in the depths of winter, but even a non-gardener like me can see the signs of new life springing up through the dark soil. Sometimes the news from around the world and from our own country is like a continuing winter of discontent. Wars, political upheaval, people starving to death, children made suddenly orphans, natural calamities ... Yes, there is a great deal of anguish and pain in our world and we, in this corner of it, are so often caught up in our own problems and pleasures that we often pass by on the other side with our eyes shut.

Yet I have to agree with the newscaster who asks, "Why do I have to keep reporting ONLY the bad news - what about letting the good news get through?" That's why some of us go off to our Parish Church on Sundays to hear some Good News for a change - the good news of the Gospel celebrated through the Eucharist (Holy Communion).

Good News should make us smile - look at the faces of those coming out of church; has the Good News got through to them? Better still, come, hear if there is any Good News for you - we are open on Sundays

Yours in faith,

Denys

Revd Denys Gower, 0622 812494

THE OTHER LIFELINE

Maidstone Borough Council operate an alarm system called Lifeline. It enables old, frail and disabled people to obtain immediate help in an emergency. You have a tiny radio transmitter clipped to your clothing, also a special phone. Both have a red button which you press when in trouble. The button puts you in touch with a control centre which automatically identifies you and shows the operator who to notify when there is a need. The phone has a loudspeaker on it and can also be used as an ordinary phone.

If you are a Maidstone Council tenant and are considered in need of the equipment, you can have it for nothing. If you own your property or rent it from a private landlord, you can either rent or buy the equipment. It costs £31.75 a quarter to rent or £290 (+VAT) to buy + 25p a week monitoring charge.

There is a Mrs Julie Shuter on Maidstone 602152 who will tell you all you want to know about the system.

A SEAT FOR THE MORLOCKS

The Parish Council have decided to commemorate the outstanding contribution made to West Farleigh by Philip and Sue Morlock during their long residence here by installing a seat, suitably inscribed, in some prominent spot. The grassy area by the gate to Court Lodge opposite the end of Charlton Lane has been suggested. If any parishoner has other ideas, will they please let David Swan know on 814445.

And, talking of the Parish Council, the annual parish meeting will be held this year at the Good Intent on 7th March at 7.30pm.

LAST MONTH Life-Line reported the nice things said by the Men of the Trees about the trees in West Farleigh in the course of judging the "Trees in your Village" competition. They have now awarded us a young silver birch tree simply for entering the competition and we have to find a suitable place to plant it. Has any reader any suggestions? Phone 814445 if you have. Meantime the tree is safely healed in awaiting its permanent home, wherever that might be.

THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

More Parish matters - the Parish Council would like to enter the Best Kept Village competition 1994 but are looking for somebody to co-ordinate the effort - a master-mind in other words. Entering the competition will be a community effort in which we must all take part but without a co-ordinator to receive ideas and organise their implementation the whole concept could fall apart. The amount of work the co-ordinator does would seem to depend on the initiative of the individual who takes the job on. Tidiness figures high on the judges' agenda - tidiness of public places such as the Village Green and the churchyard. But also the tidiness of our dwellings will count for a lot, demonstrating, as it must, the community spirit and good will which exists in plenty in this village of ours.

Entries must be in by 28 March. David Swan has all the documents and forms. All we want is a co-ordinator. Give David a ring on 814445.

LES SMITHERMAN and family wish to thank all relations, neighbours and friends for their kind support, floral tributes and donations to the Peggy Wood Fund after the sad loss of Cecilia.

TED SEARS died on Christmas Eve aged 85. He had lived all his life in West Farleigh and was everybody's friend. Having left school at the age of 12, he had a varied career from farmer to milkman. In his retirement years he loved to help people. He would walk your dog, fetch things from the shop or look after your house when you were away.

His family thank all those kind people who have sent their condolences.

MANY READERS will be saddened to hear of the death on 11 January of Jenny Malarkey. She left the village some years ago to live in Devon where she was born. She died of a heart attack at the comparatively tender age of 47.

STEPPING STONES HOUSE GROUP

Come and join us while we explore our growing faith together. Friendly, informal atmosphere with music and open discussion on a wide range of subjects.

Tue 8 Feb. - Beginner's guide to Lent and Easter. Taken by Rev. Denys Gower.

Tues 22 Feb - The role of the Lay Reader
Guest speaker Alastair Byron

Meetings at Appledore, Charlton Lane (opp Good Intent) at 8pm. For details ring Helen Swan 814445 or Jan Faggetter 812842.

ALSO at APPLIEDORE the West Farleigh Fellowship Group Thursday, 3 Feb, 8pm to discuss the previous Sunday's readings in church, namely,

- 1st Corinthians
- Chapter 2, Verses 1 - 10
- St Luke's Gospel
- Chapter 8, Verses 1 - 15.

THERE WILL BE A SIXTIES DISCO at East Farleigh School on Saturday, 5 March at 7.30pm. The DJ in charge will be Terry Cave. It will cost £4 which includes supper and you will be expected to Bop till you Drop and Rave to the Grave. How can you resist? Tickets from Susan Walsh on 728252.

EVERGREENS at Appledore Charlton Lane Tuesday 8th February.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

- Feb 6 0800 BCP HC
- 0930 JJJ
- 8 0930 Eucharist
- 13 1045 Coffee in ch.
- 1115 Family Soc.
- 16 Ash Wednesday
- 1000 ASB MP
- 20 0930 ASB HC
- 27 0930 JJJ
- 1115 BCP MP
- Mar 1 0930 Eucharist

Teston

- Feb 6 0945 Family Soc.
- 1830 ASB HC
- 13 0800 BCP HC
- 1830 BCP EP
- 20 1830 ASB HC
- 27 0800 BCP HC
- 1830 BCP EP

Wateringbury

- Feb 6 0930 BCP MP
- 13 0930 ASB HC
- 16 Ash Wednesday
- 2000 ASB HC
- 20 0800 BCP HC
- 1115 Family Soc.
- 27 0930 ASB HC

Key: BCP = Book of Common Pr
ASB = Alternative Book
MP = Morning Prayer
EP = Evening Prayer

MP . 0830 Mon - Thur
31 Jan - 3 Feb Teston
7 - 10 Feb W Farleigh
14 - 17 Feb Water'bury
21 - 24 Feb Teston
28 Feb - 3 Mar W Farleigh

Starting Tues 1 Feb, weekly Eucharist at the MP church.

CONGRATULATIONS to Hannah and Abigail Walsh who have both passed exams of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art from East Farleigh School.

FOOTBALL REPORT

Farleigh's footballers have had little football this month but once again we've had variable results. The 2nd XI played on the 15th against Peshurst and now are in the semi-final of the Tun/Wells Cup, winning 1 - 0. Next a fine 3 - 0 League win over Leeds only to finish on a disappointing 4 - 0 defeat away to Barming.

The 1st XI's only two outings didn't create the right results, losing 3 - 1 to Barming and 2 - 0 to A.P.S., but a much better display.

There will be a rubbish skip on the Green on Monday, 14 February, and another one on Tuesday, 29th March.