

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

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## FORWARD IN FAITH (?)

That is the name taken by a group of Clergy who have been organising an opposition movement against the ordination of women. The question mark is mine, not theirs. I question the chosen title. Should it not be "Backwards in Faith"? The decision has been made and the Church of England has affirmed that decision by ordaining our first women priests in Bristol Cathedral.

The Bishop of Rochester will ordain 31 women in May. For some people there will be a considerable time of adjustment as we observe women expanding their ministries into an area which up till now has been reserved for men only. Women have been preaching from pulpits as Readers, Deaconesses and Deacons for several years now; the culture shock comes when a woman stands at the altar in your church for the first time and offers you the symbols of Christ's body and blood.

If you are a regular communicant, will you receive with a generous and open heart the first ordained woman to preside at our altars? Or will you opt to join the "Backwards in Faith" movement and attempt to do what the church once did to John Wesley and close the doors on this new and lively ministry?

Yours in faith,  
Denys

Rev'd Denys Gower 0622 812494.

## CELEBRATE EASTER

Bring all the family to church on Easter Sunday at 9.30am (a short Family Communion Service)

## COME TO A BIRTHDAY PARTY.

All young people (including those young at heart) are invited to a birthday party in West Farleigh church on Sunday, 22 May at 6pm.

Watch this space  
for more details

## STEPPING STONES HOUSE GROUP

Come & join us while we explore our growing faith together. Friendly, informal meetings with music and discussion on a wide range of topics. We meet once a fortnight and new faces are made most welcome.

Dates for April are:-

Tuesday 5th. A new Service of Healing. A very peaceful and uplifting experience. No dramatics! Meet at Teston Church for 8 o'clock.

Tuesday 19th. "Pennies from Heaven" - the workings of church finances. Come and ask those burning questions. speaker Mr David Swan. At Appledore, Charlton Lane, opposite Good Intent.

Further information from Helen Swan on 814445 or Jan Faggetter on 812842.

## CRICKET NEWS

For many years cricket at West Farleigh has been a rather serious affair with our team playing in the Hubble & Freeman Invicta League.

Now a 2nd XI has been formed to play the traditional style of village cricket. "It could be like a breath of fresh air for Farleigh cricket," says newly appointed 2nd XI Captain Paul Baines, "with friendly games, a nice tea and a social gathering in the pub afterwards."

If anyone would like to participate - whatever your age or ability - Paul would be very pleased to hear from you on 720810.

For someone wishing to take a less active role but who can figure out the game, a scorer is required. West Farleigh cricket ground is surely one of the most picturesque in the country, so come along, soak up the atmosphere and take part.

Contact Peter Baggott on 0580 892010 or John Day on 0622 812650.

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE PLANT SALE.

A sure sign that summer is coming is the advent of the Plant Sale. On a Sunday afternoon, 15th May, at Tutsham as usual, there will be the usual staggering array of plants, produce, cakes and good company. There will be teas, a raffle, games and fun for the children and the high standard of well loaded stalls we have come to expect. Come and meet your neighbours and, in the meantime, get all those surplus plants ready for sale. Also required are cakes for the cake stall and gifts of prizes for the raffle. It all starts at 2pm. Under cover if wet.

LIFE-LINE extends congratulations to Diane and Paul Baines on the birth of a daughter, Helena Eileen, a sister for George, on Wednesday, 23rd March. Mother and baby doing fine.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** this important date in the Church's calendar - the Annual Parochial Church Meeting - on 12 April, a Tuesday, 8pm in the church, for the election of Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council, also to air your views on any church matter you have a mind to.

**CONGRATULATIONS** on 11+ successes:-  
 Jessica Parry  
 Abbie Walsh  
 Hannah Walsh !!

**EVERGREENS**  
 12 April at Hillcroft  
 by kind permission of  
 Joyce Morgan

**PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS** At the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Good Intent on 7 March, the Chairman, Don Goodwin, reported a great boost to the prestige of West Farleigh, namely, that for the second year running, the Mayor of Maidstone had attended one of our Parish Council meetings. Before that, almost 100 years had passed without a visit from a Mayor.

Mr Goodwin paid tribute to the members of the Council who had all attended all the quarterly meetings. A great record, that, but still we have no co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch. Please won't someone come forward to take on this vital but not too demanding task? Also wanted is an organiser for our entry in the Best Kept Village competition. With this in view the Council have had even more bulbs planted to brighten the place up.

It is hoped soon to open up the pedestrian route between Kettle and Charlton Lanes. Also the Village Hall Fund is about to reach its permanent home on being transferred to the Trusteeship of the Parish Council. The seat dedicated to Philip and Sue Morlock has been sited outside the gate to Court Lodge opposite Charlton Lane. It is confidently hoped to have the new village sign in place to mark the Council's centenary in July. The silver birch given to us by Men of the Trees has been planted in Barretts Field and an oak to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs Fernor, President of the Sports Club, is to be planted on the edge of the cricket ground.

**FOOTBALL REPORT** Probably our best month's results this season. Of the six games played, five were won. The 1st XI were un-defeated and, having pulled away from the relegation zone, could now, with two games to go, finish as high as fourth. We defeated Barming twice, 2 - 0 and 4 - 2, and M.P.E. 3 - 1

The 2nd XI, having lost early on to Thurnham 4 - 0, have now hit form, hopefully in time to face Mardon (away) in the Tun/Wells Cup semi final on Good Friday. Special mention to new signing Darren Mileham who scored four goals on his Farleigh debut. Tel

**POSTAL DELIVERIES.** Does your mail arrive three hours later than it used to? If so, you are not alone. Our postal delivery service has descended to a depth never before experienced. Moreover, there are similar complaints from all over the Maidstone area. The Kent Messenger published an article on 11 March in which the unfortunate Postmen and women at the sharp end of postal deliveries were said to feel ashamed of the service they were obliged to give. Unofficial enquiries revealed that a computer and accountant-led cost cutting exercise was behind all this, probably as a lead-in to privatisation. A protest letter has already been sent to the Post Office on behalf of the Parish Council but the more protests the better and, if you feel as strongly as most about this, please write to Sue Blatchford, Customer Service Centre, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1AA. Whatever happened to public service?

**SERVICES FOR APRIL  
 IN ALL THREE CHURCHES**

West Farleigh

- Apr 1 Good Friday  
2000 At Foot of Cross
- 3 0930 Family Commn
- 10 1045 Coffee in ch  
1115 Family Sce with Baptisms
- 12 0930 Eucharist
- 17 0930 Sung Commn
- 24 0930 JJJ  
1115 Matins
- 25 2000 St Mark the Evangelist. Commn

Teston

- Apr 3 0945 Family Sce  
1100 Parish Commn  
1830 Evensong
- 5 0930 Eucharist  
2000 Service of Prayer for Healing
- 10 0800 PBHC  
0945 Children's ch  
1830 Evensong
- 17 0945 Children's ch  
1830 Parish Commn
- 24 0800 PBHC  
0945 Children's ch  
1830 Evensong

Wateringbury

- Apr 1 Noon - 1500 Three hour devotion
- 3 0800 PBHC  
0930 Parish Commn Baptism
- 10 0930 Parish Commn
- 17 0800 PBHC  
1115 Family Sce
- 24 0930 Parish Commn

Morning Prayer 0800 as follows:-  
 Mon 11th - Thur 14. W. Farleigh  
 Mon 18th - Thur 21 Water'bury  
 Mon 25th - Thur 28 Teston.

On Sunday, 10 April, we have invited the Mayor of Maidstone, Paul Oldham, to share in our service of Evensong at Teston. Meet the Mayor over coffee after the service.

FOR SALE to help Lee Storme: Boy's 3 speed bike for 8 - 12 yrs - £35. Full size guitar £30. Small colour telly & video £50 each. Phone Sue Day on 812650.