

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

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A RATHER DIFFERENT MICHAEL - SAME HAT!

I learned about the appointment of our new Bishop in the same way as I heard about the appointment of Bishop Michael Turnbull to the Diocese of Durham - through the news on the radio. Only the privileged few get to know of these moves first hand. The majority of the clergy hear the news like everyone else, through the media. Much has been made of the fact that the new Bishop Michael (having the same Christian name should save a forest or two) happens to be the first coloured Diocesan Bishop appointed in the UK. My reaction is why has it taken so long; the Anglican Church is hardly a tiny sect with no branches and roots beyond this group of islands.

How will Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali be received as he takes on his new responsibilities in Rochester Diocese? It seems to me that when anyone is appointed to a new position of authority, people tend to react in three ways. There are those who make it their business to criticise and nit-pick at the earliest opportunity. There are those who take it all in their stride and show no interest either way. And, thank God, there are those who go out of their way to make a person feel welcome and at home and who offer support and friendship to the newcomer. My hope and prayer is that the vast majority of the folk living in the Diocese of Rochester will be members of the last group.

These thoughts, of course, do not just involve the coming of a new Bishop, but reflect my deep concern and hope that anyone taking up a new office deserves the friendship and support of those they are called to serve. Wouldn't you agree?

Yours in faith

Denys

Rev'd Denys Gower 0622 812494

DON'T FORGET the sponsored cycle ride on Saturday, 10 Sept. Visit as many churches as you can and get sponsorship for doing so - the proceeds to be shared between the Friends of Kent Churches and (in our case) All Saints, West Farleigh. Get your sponsorship forms from Margaret Frazer on 743055.

THE OCCUPANTS of three of the bungalows in Charlton Lane by the Green, namely, Terry and Anne Ayears, David and Helen Swan and Graham and Anne McNaughton, have something to sell. All find they have, by a set of curious chances, a surplus of household and garden equipment which they would like to dispose of. Accordingly, on Sunday, 11 Sept, at 1030 in the morning, the garages at all three properties - Windy Ridge, Appledore and Sundowner - will be open and all these treasures will be available at bargain prices. Roll up!

THE WOODEN BRIDGE AT BARMING

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday evening, 5 Sept, at 7.30 in the church. An important matter which will be on the agenda will be a proposal by Kent Highways to CLOSE PERMANENTLY THE WOODEN BRIDGE at Barming to all motor traffic, leaving it open to pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians only. The Parish Council are anxious to hear the views of parishioners about this because they have been asked by the Kent Highway Manager, Geoff Russell, to say whether they are in agreement. If you cannot get to the meeting, please send any comments (in writing, please) to David Swan, Appledore, Charlton Lane, by 15 September.

The reason for the proposed closure is that the increasingly frequent repairs now necessary are costing too much. Believe it or not, 1,100 daily vehicle movements are recorded on the bridge so remember, when making your comments, that, if it is closed, this lot will have to cross the river at Teston, E. Farleigh, Wateringbury or Maidstone.

Does anyone out there remember "Strife Line" published on 1st April 1988? Under the heading "A Bridge Too Far Gone" it was suggested that the old bridge be done away with and replaced by the "Barming Pier and Amusement Arcade" with coffee shop, bingo and dance hall. Did someone have a vision?

THE TEA PARTY

As forecast in last month's Life-Line, a tea party will take place on Sunday, 4 Sept, on the cricket field from 2.30 to 6.0. There will be a produce stall run by Joyce Morgan - all contributions to this gratefully received - cakes, jams, fruit and veg. There will be a raffle - prizes contributed to this also gratefully received - face painting with, it is hoped, some startling and perhaps frightening results and, of course, plenty to eat and drink at bargain prices. The marquee will be available in the unlikely event of rain. Also, the church will be open. The organ will play and somebody will be there to show you round and talk about the church.

EVERGREENS

At Tutsham Hall
Tuesday, 13 September.

THE MARQUEE The marquee (advertised for sale in July's Life-Line) has been bought by Peter King of No 1 The Green who is going to make it available for all parish events and to villagers for private hire at very reasonable cost. All enquiries to Peter on 812225. Life-Line is relieved to know that the marquee is at last released from rules and resolutions and congratulates Peter on his public spirited action in purchasing it for the good of all. He says it may even be available for the 60th anniversary of D Day!

STEPPING STONES HOUSE GROUP If you don't know what a "House Group" is and you are not sure if it is for you, come along and meet us. You will be given a warm welcome at Glenside, 288 Old Rd, Wateringbury.

Meetings for September, both at 8pm
Tuesday 13th. An open evening to prepare for our theme of The Family.
Tuesday 27th. Discussion topic, "Marriage".

For further information or a lift, ring Jan Faggetter on 812842 or Helen Swan on 814445.

CRICKET NEWS West Farleigh 2nd XI's first appearance since the war this season has been an unqualified success even though out of the four games played three have been lost.

The 2nd XI was set up to encourage more villagers and youngsters to participate and enjoy the game in West Farleigh. Seven locals played against Hollingbourne in July and we won! No villagers play for the 1st team!

There are murmurings that next year we may play in the 2nd XI League which will mean playing at least 12 games. If they are as much fun as these have been we will be fortunate indeed. If anyone else has the spirit to play next year please phone Paul Baines on 720810. Paul

Cricket Fixtures September	Obituary
3 Tonbridge Away 2.00	Mildred Arden
10 Leeds & B Home 1.30	died recently at
17 Linton Park Away 1.30	the age of 80.
24 Farleigh Bull Home 2.00	Sadly missed.

MARIA GIBB thanks all her kind neighbours and friends who rallied round so loyally after her nasty fall. She's doing fine now, thank you.

West Farleigh

Sept 1	2000	Service of prayer for healing
4	0800	BCP HC
	0930	JJJ
11	1045	Coffee in church
	1115	Family Service
18	0930	ASB HC
25	0930	JJJ
	1115	BCP MP

Teston

Sept 4	0945	Family Service
	1830	ASB HC
6	0930	ASB HC
11	0800	BCP HC
	0945	Children's church
	1830	BCP EP
13	0930	ASB HC
18	0945	Children's church
	1830	ASB HC
20	0930	ASB HC
25	0800	BCP HC
	0945	Children's church
	1830	BCP EP
27	0930	ASB HC

Wateringbury

Sept 4	0930	BCP MP
11	0930	ASB HC
	1830	Cathedral. Sue Blade
		Commissioned as Evangelist
18	0800	BCP HC
	1115	Family Service
25	0930	ASB HC

Key: BCP = Book of Common Prayer
ASB = Alternative Service Bk
HC = Holy Communion
MP = Morning Prayer
EP = Evening Prayer
JJJ = Children's Sunday Club

From Sept onwards the Tuesday HC will be at Teston church at 9.30am

MP in the week	Tues to Fri 8am
30 Aug - 2 Sept	Teston
6 - 9 Sept	West Farleigh
13 - 15 Sept	(Thurs) Wateringbury
20 - 23 Sept	Teston
27 - 30 Sept	West Farleigh

RECORDED HISTORY

An attractive feature of our church is the framed list of Vicars of West Farleigh on the west wall. It is a fine document, beautifully illuminated and decorated. The first recorded name is Thomas who started his Ministry in 1315. There are 65 entries on the list but only 64 names. This is because John Eston has two entries, the first dated 1548. He was then expelled for a time to make way for a Papist during the reign of Queen Mary but he returned in 1560. There were two Oliver Norths, "Sen" and "Jun". The "Jun" Oliver North started his Ministry in 1675 and continued for the next 51 years. In his will he gave almshouses in Charlton Lane. The retirement flats which replaced them still bear his name.

The last entry is Donald Bish. Now there is room on the sheet for one more name only. Is there a calligrapher known to anyone reading this who would be willing to undertake the delicate task of adding the name Denys Gower to this distinguished list and thus completing this historic document?