

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

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BE PREPARED

At the time of writing these words (mid November) thoughts have not yet fully turned towards Christmas, though the massed choirs of Teston, Wateringbury and West Farleigh, under the able direction of Dawn Page, are limbering up for the coming celebrations. Every Tuesday our combined choirs meet to practice together in Teston Parish Church so that they will be able to give of their best. Having sat in (and even warbled a few lines) at rehearsals, I know we can be assured once again that our Christmas music will play a lovely and inspiring part in our worship.

Come Christmas the choir will be prepared. How prepared shall I be? How prepared will you be to meet that "most disturbing child of all"? On Advent Sunday (27 November) the vestments and hangings in our churches are changed to violet or blue. This is to signal that we are entering a time of preparation. We are preparing for the coming of Christ as the helpless babe of Bethlehem and also for his return at the end of time. Advent means coming or arrival. The arrival of Jesus, either as Prince of Peace or as our Judge, should give us all something to think about whether we sing His Christmas praises or not.

Denys

Rev'd Denys Gower Maidstone 812494

THAT OLD BRIDGE

The old wooden bridge across the Medway which connects West Farleigh with Barming is still the subject of meetings and discussions. On 10 November, representatives of the people from West Farleigh, Teston, East Farleigh and Barming met with technical and admin bosses from KCC Highways to exchange views and information. It was revealed that the bridge really is in poor shape, even for future pedestrian use and there has got to be some hard thinking and some close work with a calculator before it can be decided what to do about it. A new road with a river crossing at another site is a financial non-starter. Closing the bridge would heavily increase the traffic flow at East Farleigh and Teston, probably making traffic lights necessary. But traffic lights at East Farleigh will not be possible until the railway line is fully re-signalled - and what a hope of this happening with privatisation in the offing! It may come to a full public consultation exercise if the Highways Department can't make a decision on their own.

CAROLS

There will be a Christmas Carol pub crawl on Wednesday, 14 December, starting at the Tickled Trout at 7.30. Everyone is invited to come and join in. If we have as good a time as we had last year it will be no more than is to be expected. From the Tickled Trout we go on to the White House by which time it is expected that all voices will be well tuned up. A bit later, having delved deep into the repertoire, the happy carollers will proceed to the Good Intent to finish off the evening. There, the singing will be accompanied by Richard Grainger on his keyboard which should enhance the quality of the sound. Light refreshments will be available at various points. A collection will be made for the Kent Air Ambulance and the Spirit of Christmas will be off to a flying start.

The Evergreens Xmas lunch will be at the Good Intent on Tuesday, 13 Dec, 12.30 for 1.0. It will be a jolly affair and well funded from a whist drive run by Helen Swan and a team of helpers, raising £63. Many Thanks.

MIS-INFORMATION DEPT.

Your editor is sorry to confess that the notice in last month's Life-Line about skips on the Green was a load of rubbish. After publication it was revealed that the Maidstone Borough Council had had to stop providing skips at very short notice as the KCC had told them that they were being misused. There will be a replacement service which will be in the form of a manned and supervised freighter for limited periods on certain days. The next West Farleigh service will be at the Green on Thursday, 12 January from 0945 to 1145.

MBC very much regrets the change.

PARISH CLEANER

We welcome Geoff Underdown as our new parish cleaner. The Parish Council know that there is something of a backlog to be tackled but if there are any particular problems, please contact a parish Councillor or the Clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be at the Tickled Trout at 7.30pm on Monday, 5th December.

The Church Christmas Fair was on Saturday, 19 Nov at the Good Intent. Master minded by Margaret Frazer, it went with a swing and there were people waiting to get in at the opening time of 10 o'clock. Business was brisk and the church finished up about £400 better off. Grateful thanks to all those who took part and to all who came and bought.

FOOTBALL REPORT

Rumours that Farleigh's keepers have rigged games by letting in goals are totally unfounded, despite our recent results. This is normal!

Farleigh's 1st XI have lost all their month's fixtures, losing to MPR 4 - 1 in the League and three cup games v Maidstone Rangers 3 - 2 after extra time, East Malling 4 - 3 and Borough Green 6 - 3.

Farleigh 2nd XI have fared slightly better, getting a victory over Maidstone Athletic 5 - 1 and a 3 - 3 draw with Thurnham, but two defeats v Payless Cabs 3 - 0 and South Celtic 2 - 1. Now we play three games each before Christmas, hoping that our usual change of form and luck will come about in the New Year.

Our Christmas raffle draw 19 December. If you would like a book or two, please get in touch. A happy Christmas to all members and supporters.

Cheers, Tel

Poor JESSICA HENRY is making progress in Maidstone Hospital after being run over. Life-Line joins her many friends in sending love and good wishes for a speedy recovery.

JOSIE BRITCHER is full of life and cheerful as ever after her recent spell in hospital. Nothing can keep Josie down & we hope to see her again soon, good as new.

THE POST BOX AT THE GOOD INTENT To improve access for users and security for the Postmen, this box is to be moved adjacent to the village notice board by Goulston Villas. The original George VI box will be retained.

Ton-Up Club November
 £10 Don Goodwin £5 Joyce Beaney
 £5 Shirley M Day

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO. In days of yore, Parish matters were all dealt with by the Church, but in 1894 - a hundred years ago - an Act of Parliament set up the Local Government Board which directed that local affairs must be governed by elected representatives of the people. Accordingly, on 4 December 1894 the very first Parish Meeting in West Farleigh was held in the school room to elect Parish Councillors. The original Minute Book is still in existence and it can be seen that five were to be elected from the six nominated candidates, namely, Revd W Eycott Martin and Messrs Costen, Crayford, Latter, Pankhurst and Screes. Mr Crayford received fewer votes than anyone else and was asked to withdraw. He must have been a fiery character because he refused to do so and demanded a poll. It seems that the poll went in his favour because at the first council meeting on 21 December, Mr Crayford was there but Mr Pankhurst was not.

IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

Dec 4 0800 BCP HC
 0930 JJJ
 11 1115 Blessing of the Crib & Nativity Play
 18 0930 ASB HC
 1530 Nine lessons & Carols
 24 1730 Children's Christmas story
 2130 ASB HC
 25 1115 Family Service
 Jan 1 0800 BCP HC

Teston

Dec 4 0945 Family Service
 1830 ASB HC
 6 0930 ASB HC
 11 0800 BCP HC
 1830 Nativity Play
 13 0930 ASB HC
 18 0945 Children's Church
 1830 Nine Lssns & Crls
 20 0930 BCP HC
 24 1500 Blessing of Crib
 25 0930 ASB HC
 Jan 1 0945 Family Service
 1830 ASB HC

Wateringbury

Dec 4 0930 BCP MP
 11 0930 ASB HC
 18 0800 BCP HC
 1115 Nativity Play
 19 1800 School Carol See
 22 2000 Nine Lssns & Crls
 24 1630 Blessing of Crib
 2330 ASB HC
 25 1115 Family Service
 Jan 1 0930 BCP HC

Key: BCP = Book of Common Prayer
 ASB = Alternative 3ce Book
 HC = Holy Communion
 JJJ = Children's Sund. v 91b

Morning Prayer 0830 Tues to Fri.
 All welcome. Also a chance for anyone wanting a quiet word.
 5th - 9th Dec West Farleigh
 13th - 16th Dec Wateringbury
 20th - 23rd Dec Teston
 (None during Christmas Week)

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home I will be pleased to bring it to you.

In anticipation. To those friends who have sent cards and good wishes to Eileen & myself, our sincere thanks. We wish you a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

LIFE-LINE WISHES ALL READERS
 A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
 HAPPY NEW YEAR