

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

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PLAYING THE FOOL

We all do stupid things in life and I guess my own catalogue of own goals and rushing in where angels fear to tread is every bit as weighty as yours. Indeed, your record of misdeeds may be paper thin and I may be doing you a dis-service, dear reader.

I well remember a first class act of recklessness in my early youth. Another lad and I raced each other on our bikes to school. It was a long, steady incline down to the school with an island just before the school gate. I had the lead and swung around the island towards the open gate. I had quite forgotten that one of my cable brakes had snapped the day before. As I applied the brakes, the other cable snapped as well and I think I did a remarkable crash landing in a tangle of bike wheels and flying gravel as I bounced off one of the brick pillars beside the gate. The price of such an act of folly was the loss of two teeth and a face even less attractive than it had been before the incident.

It is often through foolishness that we learn the lessons and the facts of life. St. Paul reminds those who would call themselves Christian "that we are fools for Christ" (1 Corinthians 4:10). No one really likes to be called a fool and I guess many people thought Jesus was a fool for falling into an open trap and letting himself be crucified. But, as usual, Paul has something to say about that. Look up 1 Corinthians 1, verses 20 to 25.

Yours in faith

Denys

Rev'd Denys Gower 01622 812494.

SPRING CONCERT AND DINNER

Something new and very special in the way of entertainment will be on offer on Saturday, 29 April. This is a concert by the Royal Tunbridge Wells Orpheus Male Voice Choir in the church followed by dinner provided by any one of seven hostesses round the village in their own homes.

The choir will present a varied and entertaining programme starting at 7pm. After the singing the audience will disperse to their pre-arranged destinations for their meals about 9pm.

Tickets are £15 each. Get them from any one of the hostesses, who are:-

Helen Swan	814445
Leslie Cushing	812341
Anne Ayears	813820
Belinda Devenish	820348
Sue Day	812650
Val Grainger	820305
Binkie Field	812706

If you don't know where these ladies live, I am sure they will tell you when you phone for your tickets. They will also answer any questions you might have about details.

Ample parking in the cricket field by the church and at all the houses. Lifts available if required. Please come, it should be fun. All proceeds to the church.

TWO MEETINGS

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held in the church at 7.30pm on Monday, 20th March. This is your chance to meet your Parish Councillors and air your views on village affairs - anything from personal grudges to Barming Bridge. There will be plenty of room in the church so turn up and let your voice be heard.

A couple of weeks later - on Tuesday, 4th April at 8pm - the ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING will be held, also in the church. This will be all about electing Churchwardens and members of the Parish Church Council, services and umpteen other subjects including the

Sunday School, now re-constituted as the Living Jesus Jubilee. If you think this is revolutionary, what about the fact that, subject to planning permission, the church may be on its way to getting its very own loo! We've managed for 900 years without one but this is 1995. It is, perhaps, a little premature to start planning an opening ceremony, but if you have any ideas about this - or anything else - the congregation would be pleased to hear them.

Both meetings are all very homely and simple and you will be among friends so come along and take part. It's your village.

We will be following a course "A Faith that touches the world". It is based upon a cassette tape in which Bishops Jim Thompson and David Hope (among others) offer thoughts for discussion and reflection.

The course will be held at Wateringbury School on Tuesdays 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th March & 4th April at 7.30 for 8.00.

Do come and join us. If you would like a lift or more information, phone Helen Swan on 814445.

FOOTBALL REPORT

Only five games between us this month due to the wet weather. It started off with three defeats but then we rallied round to win our last two.

Farleigh 1st XI have had two league games, first of which was Blue Eagles and in a tight game we unfortunately lost by the odd goal 1 - 0. Next came Snodland, a game we had to win. Thankfully we came away 4 - 2 winners.

Farleigh's last remaining cup fixture came when our 2nd XI travelled to Margate in the Kent Cup and lost 1 - 0. Next came Hollingbourne and in weather more suited for ducks living in the Falkland Islands. Farleigh played with the wind and were 2 - 0 up at half time but it wasn't enough. We lost 4 - 2. Better news to finish off. Last Saturday Leeds were our visitors and a much improved all round performance after a shaky start, eventually running out comfortable winners 3 - 1.

To sum up - some much needed points from both teams during the month but a few more are still needed for both teams to avoid relegation. The players can do their bit but some more local support would be much appreciated.

Cheers Tel.

BULKY WASTE - ONCE AGAIN

Life-Line seems to have a morbid pre-occupation with rubbish these days. The problem is that the Borough Council have been obliged to change their minds twice about bulky refuse collections. The skips, which were so useful for dumping worn-out mattresses, broken-down chairs and the mortal remains of clapped-out domestic appliances, also attracted substances like asbestos. They were therefore superseded by freighters which collected such large items at pre-arranged times and places. Now you can order a special collection of bulky rubbish whenever you like. For West Farleigh you can phone a lady called Anne Pearson on 602162 and she will arrange collection on the following Tuesday. Leave the item(s) to be collected in the front garden. If you are disabled and can't manage heavy things, they will be picked up from indoors but mention this when phoning.

HOME VISITS If you know of anyone who is sick and would like a visit from the Vicar, please let him know on 812494. Or your editor on 813461 will always pass on a message. The same goes for anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion at home.

West Farleigh

Mar	1	2000	Ash Wednesday
			Ashing with HC
	5	0800	BCP HC
		0930	JJJ
	12	1045	Coffee in church
		1115	Family Service
	19	0930	ASB HC
	26	0930	JJJ
		1115	Mothering Sunday
			Family Service

Teston

Mar	5	0945	Family Service
		1830	ASB HC
	7	0930	ASB HC
	12	0800	BCP HC
		0945	Children's church
		1830	BCP EP
	14	0930	ASB HC
	19	0945	Children's church
		1830	ASB HC
	21	0930	ASB HC
	26	0800	BCP HC
		1500	Family Service
		1830	BCP EP
	28	0930	ASB HC

Wateringbury

Mar	1	1100	Ashing with HC
	2	2000	Service of
			Prayer for Healing
	5	0930	BCP MP
	12	0930	ASB HC
	19	0800	BCP HC
	26	0930	...
		1830	BCP EP

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

Morning Prayer 0830 Tues to Fri
A time of quiet prayer.

28 Feb - 3 March Teston
7 - 10 March West Farleigh
14 - 17 March Wateringbury
21 - 24 March Teston
28 - 31 March West Farleigh

Children's worship contacts

W. Farleigh Alison Swan 814445
Teston Dawn & Joan Page 812691
Wateringbury Gillian Sessions
813076

In Wateringbury the Children's Sunday Club meets at the same time as the 0930 Service.
In Teston the Pioneer Youth Group meets on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.