

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

Editor: Jim Patch, Mill Cottage, 01622 813451

No. 241 April 1995

## THE VIEW FROM CALVARY

At the time of Holy Week and Easter, I always hold in my prayers a priest I know who bears a heavy burden on his heart. And, as Good Friday draws ever nearer, that burden becomes intolerable. Under orders in time of war men do terrible things to each other in the name of freedom, conquest or national pride. As a young officer in the 2nd World War, my friend was ordered to form a firing squad and execute a German prisoner.

For him, Calvary is not a story from the dim and distant past but an ever present reality. No doubt the German prisoner was far from innocent but, like Jesus, he went to his place of execution without struggle or protest. When it was over, the doctor unpinned from the man's shirt the white disc with its eight neat holes. "Something to show your father", he said to my friend.

The men who executed Jesus were no better and no worse than the men who shot the German prisoner. In both instances they represented an authority beyond themselves. And they represent us! But if Calvary is an ever present reality in the world (and it is), then so is Resurrection. The Easter story is re-played in our world every day and we are the players. Beyond the pain, frustration and injustice of our many Calvaries, there is always the Risen Lord. A risen Lord who sees us wounding one another as we wounded him and still He speaks for us saying, "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

Danys Gower

## CROSSING OVER

At the annual parish meeting in the church on 20 March the problems we have to get out of the village on the north side were again discussed. It is looking increasingly likely that the wooden Barming Bridge will have to go as it is no longer able to deal with modern traffic. County Councillor Wilf Shilling told the meeting that a replacement, single track substitute was being planned and costed. It seems a shame but, against the arguments of those who want to retain the bridge for its historic and aesthetic value, it could be said that it is like the old broom which Granny has kept all her life - it has had six new handles and ten new heads and there is no way you can say the original structure is still there. To ease the problem with speeding cars which St. Helen's Lane residents have to put up with, some kind of traffic calming was thought to be needed.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

One of the worthy charities supported by door to door collection for many years in the village is Barnardos, who are well known for providing help and care for deprived children in this prosperous land of ours.

Another, equally worthy, charity, similarly supported in the village, is for the Lifeboats, who do such great work for those in peril on the sea.

Sadly, time, like an ever rolling stream, has aged many willing-horse collectors and the two ladies who have, in the past, organised these two collections, have come to the reluctant decision that they have to give up. Thus, two vacancies appear for good works in the village - opportunities to help good causes and at the same time to get to know people in their homes.

If you would like to volunteer for Barnardos, ring the local representative Diane Byrne on 01732 844230: for the Lifeboats, ring Joyce Morgan on 726251.

Spring Concert & Dinner Tickets for the performance in the church on 29 April by the Tunbridge Wells Choir are going well. If you haven't got your ticket yet, ring Val Grainger on 820305 or Lesley Cushing on 812341.

The other problem was the level crossing leading up to Teston and the unconscionable time one was sometimes kept waiting at the automatic barriers. The co-operation of residents was requested to note the duration, dates and times of being held up. This is a serious request because delays are sometimes lengthy and appear to be un-necessary. Please pass your findings to David Swan, Parish Clerk, who will use them in a protest to Railtrack.

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL are still using the civic amenity freighters and the next one will be on the Green on Thursday, 25 May, from 9.45 to 11.45. This is for bulky items of rubbish.

Evergreens at MILL COTTAGE, Tuesday 11th April.

The new Community Policing System is getting under way. We have two regular Police Officers, Pat Miles and Steve Scott, one Special Constable, Chris Hall and one other Special going through the system of recruitment. Between them they will cover Barming and East and West Farleigh and get to know the area by going about, as far as possible, on foot and getting to know people. Already they have made two arrests, one for drug offences and the other being a wanted person. Sergeant Richard Cherry, who is the Support Sergeant at the Community Policing Unit, Maidstone Police Station, may be contacted on 608067

#### FOOTBALL REPORT

Farleigh's results this month have been good and not so good, which means we still can't rest easy until we start winning a few more.

Our 1st XI began the month v a weak Snodland side at home and dropped two valuable points, only drawing 2 - 2. Next came a difficult away fixture against Maidstone Rangers and this time a very creditable 2 - 2 draw. Loose Rangers came next and one of our best performances for a long time, winning 2 - 1 in a terrific game. Finally away to MPB and no points, losing 2 - 0 in a game we never got started

Our 2nd XI, after starting well, finished off with two defeats. Malgo, away, came first and, after a cracking start, being 4 - 0 up after 30 minutes, we won 6 - 3. Hollingbourne came a week later but, after being 1 - 0 up early on we went down 3 - 1. Finally, after missing one week, Malgo returned and this time it was their turn to take the points - we lost 2 - 1.

Let's hope we can pick up points on a regular basis next month. All Support is appreciated.

Cheers Tel

#### MOVING ON

We would like to bid a fond, albeit belated, Farewell to Norman and Ilonka David who, just before Christmas slipped away to Folkestone, where we hear they have settled happily. They are much missed and their house looks cold and damp where before it was warm, welcoming and sustaining. Norman was kindness itself and, though often bemused by eccentric English business methods, was always quick to support new enterprises. Ilonka was full of secret good deeds, such as the party she gave for Eileen Baines in her terminal illness. They have left a hole in West Farleigh but at least Life-Line will be delivered quicker at their end of the village: one would deliver an issue, be invited in, and emerge many hours later replete with endless cups of coffee, laughter and mad ideas about the state of the universe

#### Ten-Up Club

January	February
£10 Zoe Martin	£10 Mickey Back
£5 Alan Newman	£5 Neil King
£5 Mary Horrigan	£5 Derek Horton

Winter Jackpot - £20 Mrs R Hadley

With the cricket season starting at the end of April & the Club's commitment to field 2 Invicta League teams each Saturday our playing members look thin on

#### IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

#### West Farleigh

Apr	2	0800 BCP HC
		0930 JJJ
	9	1100 Process from Oliver North House to church. Family Service and Baptism
	13	2000 Washing of feet and Vigil
	14	2000 At the foot of the Cross. Hugh Grainger
	16	0930 ASB HC
	23	1115 BCP MP
	30	0800 BCP HC
		0930 JJJ

#### Teston

Apr	2	0945 Family Service
		1830 ASB HC
	6	2000 See Prayer Healing
	9	0800 BCP HC
		1830 Evensong
	10	2000 See of Preparation
	11	0930 ASB HC
	12	2000 Compline Candlelit
	16	0945 Children's Ch
		1830 ASB HC
	23	0800 BCP HC
		0945 Children's Ch
		1830 BCP EP
	25	0930 ASB HC St. Mark
	30	0945 Children's Ch
		1115 ASB HC
		1830 Songs of Praise

#### Watlingtonbury

Apr	2	0930 BCP MP
	9	0915 Process from car park to ch ASB HC
	11	2000 Stations of Cross
	14	1200 Three hour See of Devotion
	16	0800 BCP HC
		1115 ASB Fam Comm
	23	0930 ASB HC
		1830 BCP EP
	30	0930 BCP HC

Morning Prayer Tuesday to Friday  
4th - 7th Watlingtonbury  
11th - 14th Teston  
25th - 28th West Farleigh

Through Holy Week, 10 to 14 April there will be an act of worship in one of our three churches. These services are offered as stepping stones towards Easter Day. Please share in some, if not all as preparation for Easter. Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards making Lent, Holy Week and Easter a positive time of blessing and spiritual refreshment.

Rev. Denys Gower, the Rectory, Teston. 01622 812494