

No. 245 September 1995

### FAREWELL TO A BRAVE ARCHDEACON

On Monday evening, 17 July, Tonbridge Parish Church was crowded with people attending the service of Archdeacon Richard Mason. His last years as Archdeacon of Tonbridge have been burdened with ill health and extensive medical treatment has left its mark upon him. Yet Richard has maintained a fighting spirit and a sense of humour throughout the stresses of the last months. No less than four Bishops shared in the service and Dr. David Jay, a former Bishop of Rochester, preached the sermon.

After paying tribute to Richard Mason as a man of strength and humour, who had never lost his journalist's touch, Bishop Jay had some words about the new archdeacon. Canon Judith Rose chalks up another first for the Diocese of Rochester as the first archdeacon (elect) who is also a woman. She was at one time Rural Dean of Cillingham (another first). The Bishop went on to say, "I hope to live long enough to see the first woman Bishop in the Church of England."

America and New Zealand are well ahead of the UK in appointing female bishops to the Anglican Communion. Will such an election in this country send another shoal of disturbed clergy swimming towards Roman waters? What are your thoughts and feelings on this sensitive matter?

Denys

Rev'd. Denys Gower 01622 812494.

### THE VILLAGE TEA PARTY

Come to the tea party on Sunday, 10 September (NOT August) on the cricket field (by kind permission of the Sports Club and Don Goodwin). Tea and an array of cakes will be on sale as will all sorts of goodies on the cake and produce stall. For those who fancy something more active, there will be a game of rounders on the adjacent Court Lodge field (by kind permission of Huw Evans), while the church will be open and the organ playing for those in contemplative or historical mood with somebody on hand to explain the church's numerous points of interest. There will be a raffle, for which gifts of prizes would be gratefully received, and, of course, the chance to gossip with all your neighbours. In the unlikely event of rain, we'll pop into the pavilion. It all starts at 2 o'clock. All proceeds to the church.

Bertha Atkins has broken her hip and is languishing in John Day ward of Maidstone Hospital. She would love to hear from all her many friends.

EVERGREENS. At Maria Gibb's bungalow, Che Sara, Charlton Lane, but at Mill Cottage if wet.

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

There are plans to create a place for children in the room at the bottom of the church tower. Although the room is small, there is potential here to make a comfortable place where children could be looked after during services. Plans include the removal of a cupboard where the choir robes are kept and that will mean finding somewhere else to put them and a game of musical chairs to find places for things displaced from other places. The Vestry and the old box pew (built originally for the Brewer family, residents at the Hall for 300 years) will all be exploited for storage space. Hazards like a ladder and a pair of steps will have to be removed or made safe, a carpet found for the floor and that enormously heavy old door will have to be draught proofed. The present corner where the JJJs hold their meetings will, at the same time, be improved and re-arranged.

All this is being done by volunteers to make it plain to parishioners (if it wasn't plain already) that the church is a friendly and welcoming place to come with the family. By the way, Life-Line owes an apology to the children of the village. In the July edition it was stated that Alison Swan dreamed up the name Jiving Jesus Jubilee for the Sunday School. Alison says this is not so. It was the children themselves who thought of it. Alison's service on 9 July, which she planned and conducted herself, was a great success and was just another example of the fun things which happen in our village church.

REMEMBER the concert given in the church on 29 April by the Tunbridge Wells Men's choir followed by dinner at people's houses? It raised £923 for the church. Sorry it wasn't reported before.

THE BARBECUE at Fox Pitt on 2 July was another landmark in the village's social calendar. Grateful thanks are due to Belinda and Michael Devenish and all helpers for a great afternoon. £251 was raised.

## RETURN OF THE HARVEST SUPPER

There will be another Harvest Supper this year. It will be on Saturday, 23 September at Nettlestead Village Hall, 6.45 for 7.15. All the usual ingredients will be there - a good meal, drinks, entertainment and good company. There will be a raffle for which, surprise, surprise, gifts are NOT requested. The cos. is being pegged to the same as 1991 and 1993, that is, £3.50, with under 12s @£2.50. There will be sherry or buck's fizz on arrival with wine or a soft drink with the meal and the bar will offer beer, lager, wine, orange and coke. Entertainment will be by the East Farleigh W.I. concert party followed by a sing-song. Where else could you get a night out at the price?

Get your tickets from Hugh Grainger, David or Helen Swan, Sheena O'Kill, Jim Patch or someone (waiting for a volunteer) at the bottom end of Charlton Lane.

## SPORTS REPORT

The long awaited arrival of our friends from Ringstedt was from 21 to 23 July. This was the 8th exchange visit and it was enjoyed by all. We are going from strength to strength. Even the weather played its part. Our football game was played and refereed again in the right spirit and ended up 2 - 2 which was fair. Our new world lawn mower champion is Farleigh's Matt Smith who saw off stiff opposition from English and Germans alike. However, I think the Ringstedt team were better adapted at the pillow sparring. Many thanks to the Bull, Good Intent and White House for their help and to all the Club members, wives and girl friends for making the week-end so enjoyable. Looking forward to our visit next year in Ringstedt.

Briefly on our cricket matches: Horton Kirby at home, lost by three wickets; next an excellent game v Headcorn away and only our second win of the season so far, winning by six wickets; finally another good game but losing by three wickets to Hollingbourne.

Cheers

Tel

Pat Devenish has died. He lived with his wife Betty at Fox Pitt for many years, now succeeded by their son and daughter in law, Michael and Belinda. Sadly missed by family and friends.

## A COMPETITION

Teston are having a competition to celebrate their flower festival from 1st to 3rd September. Prizes will be awarded and all entries will be on view at the village hall during the festival. Categories range from a poem to origami but must be on the theme of a flower festival. Get full particulars from Teston Post Office and be prepared to hand in your entry there by 30 August. The prize giving will be at the 6.30pm service at Teston church on 3 Sept. This notice is inserted at the special request of John Zygmant, Sub Postmaster, Teston.

## SERVICES FOR AUGUST IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

### West Farleigh

Aug	6	0800 BCP HC
	13	10.45 Coffee in church 1115 Family Service
	20	0930 ASB HC
	27	1115 BCP MP

### Teston

Aug	6	09.45 Family Service 1830 ASB HC
	13	0800 BCP HC 1830 BCP EP
	20	1830 ASB HC
	27	0800 BCP HC 1830 BCP EP

### Wateringbury

Aug	6	0930 BCP MP
	13	0930 ASB HC
	20	0800 BCP HC 1115 Family Service
	27	0930 ASB HC 1830 BCP EP

Key: BCP = Book of Common Prayer  
ASB = Alternative Service Book  
HC = Holy Communion  
MP = Morning Prayer  
EP = Evening Prayer

REF the new provision for children in the church (see o'leaf) and in order to make as much room as possible, it would help if anyone with items such as vases in the church could take them away, please, in the next two weeks. Church keys are available from the Churchwardens.

MEN'S CHOIR practice 17 August 8 pm in the church. New recruits always welcome.

DON'T FORGET the sponsored cycle ride on Saturday, 9 Sept. See the July Life-Line.

## NEWS, NEWS, NEWS

Your editor has, rather rashly, volunteered to take on the job of Kent Messenger correspondent for West Farleigh. But fear not, I will not adopt the tactics of the tabloid journalists so notoriously in the news lately. You will not find me parked by your front gate with a long lens camera, nor will I seek out scandalous details of your private lives (I'm sure there aren't any anyway). Don't expect a sudden exposure to the glare of publicity but in the unlikely event of anything actually happening in West Farleigh, I would like to know about it so that the news can be passed on.