

# Life-Line

The given-away Monthly News Sheet for West Farleigh

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

Editor: Jim Patch, Mill Cottage. 01622 813461

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## PEACE IS NOT A THING TO POSSESS

I write these words shortly after the news of the murder of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The shock wave of this evil deed has passed, leaving many questions in its wake. One of the questions is, "Why do some of those who work and speak for peace on earth and goodwill towards all people find themselves as targets for extremists?" Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King were also felled by the assassin's bullet. Peace making is a risky business.

One of the titles given to the Christ-Child is Prince of Peace and He too paid the price of being the peace-maker supreme. But what is this peace we hear so much about at Christmas and pray we will experience through the New Year?

This verse by Richard Skinner may throw some light on this precious word.

Peace is not a thing to possess but a way of possessing:  
Peace is not a gift to be given but a way of giving:  
Peace is not a topic to teach but a way of teaching:  
Peace is not an opinion to hold but a way of holding:  
Peace is not a resolution of strife but a way of striving:  
Peace is not a creed to preach but a way of preaching:  
Peace is not a God to serve but a way of serving:  
Peace is not a question to ask but a way of asking:  
Peace is not an answer to seek but a way of seeking:  
Peace is not a journey's end but a way of journeying.

Have a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.  
Denys Gower.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The service of nine lessons and carols in the church at 3.30 on Sunday 17 December will give us all an opportunity to let off steam with traditional Christmas songs. Other Xmas services (see details overleaf) will provide even more scope. But, in addition to all that, Margaret Frazer has organised a carol singing pub crawl like the last couple of years. The date will be Monday, 11 December, and the start will be at the Tickled Trout at 7.30pm. A few carols later and, finely tuned with Xmas cheer, the party will re-assemble at the White House where the singing will continue until 9.15. Finally we rendezvous at the Good Intent for the final session with sandwiches. There will be a special collection for the Kent Hospice running throughout. It will all be good clean fun but

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.

The collections at all services in church over Christmas will be given to Demelda House, the children's hospice.

THE EVERGREENS Christmas lunch will be at the Good Intent on Tuesday, 12th December, 12.30 for 1.00. A good meal and happy company are guaranteed, just like last year, and Di and her staff will make sure we feel at home.

PARISH COUNCIL meeting at the Tickled Trout 7.30pm Monday, 4 December.

## MAIDSTONE CHRISTIAN CARE

Volunteers are sought to work one night a month or every other month, 7.30pm to 7.30am, at the Pitfield Nightstop in Marsham Street, Maidstone, where beds are provided for men and, on occasions, women, who would otherwise sleep rough.

Phone Pat McCabe on 01622 753481  
or Mary Harvey on 01622 762565  
for further information.

## KENT TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

Are looking for volunteers for a wide variety of tasks all connected with helping wildlife. Whatever your skills, experience or age, you will be able to help. You need only do what you want, for as long as you want.

Phone Claire Rintoul, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Tyland Barn, Sandling, 01622 622012 for further information.

## BARMING BRIDGE

The debate about what to do with the old wooden bridge wrangles on. A group of people called the Barming Bridge Action Group have got together with the object of saving the bridge. They commissioned a diver to examine the supporting structure and he found that one of the uprights had been worn away below the water line so that it was only three to four inches thick. Nevertheless, the Borough Engineer is prepared to certify the safety of the bridge for traffic and, until the situation alters, it will remain open. Kent Highways have no money for a new bridge and so have postponed any decision about the future. The BBAG have applied to English Heritage and National Heritage to have the bridge listed and, thus, protected. Now, looming over all this, are recently announced plans by Maidstone Borough for the enhancement of the river-side to celebrate the millenium, which could include new bridges. The plans could introduce new amenities and open up the river bank for the enjoyment of us all. The National Lottery is in the frame for possible financial assistance in this and, so far as the bridge is concerned, it is hoped we may finish up with the same old world feature we have now but with a modern - and safe - supporting framework.

## SPORTS REPORT

No Challenge Cup this year for Farleigh's 1st XI. Playing away v 1st Division Smarden, after taking an early lead, we relaxed and eventually lost 5 - 3. The next week we didn't improve, losing 5 - 0 to Knockbridge in the league. Snodland followed and our first point, although should have been more, drawing 2 - 2. Finally success and in a big way, demolishing Ulcombe 6 - 1 away.

Farleigh 2nd XI had a good month, winning three games out of four. We had wins v Larkfield 5 - 3, Take-off Sport 6 - 2 and Lenham 4 - 0. Our only defeat was The Rose 2 - 1 when we should have done better. A few more victories and we could be talking about promotion. (I had to look up how to spell promotion as I don't use it very often!)

Club news. Many thanks to those who help and to those who supported our race night which went well. Our Christmas raffle will be on the 18th December at the Bull. Please support the draw if you can and please make sure all the tickets and money are returned.

Wishing my readers a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year,

Cheers,

Tel

## HAVE YOU NOTICED?

The churchyard has been smartened up by the removal of the unsightly yew tree to the right of the gate. This has left a space which provides a good site for a church notice board which, when it is made and set up, will fulfil a long felt want.

IF YOU HAVE your 1996 diary handy, make a note that the next municipal freighter for bulky rubbish will be at the Green from 10.45 to Noon on Wednesday, 3 January. After that you will have to wait until 10 Feb or 23 March.

POPPY COLLECTION. Vera Smith thanks collectors Pam Bissenden, Sue Day, Pat Donoghue, Pat Hunnisett, Pippa Wakefield and the Tickled Trout. Total collection £212.07.

AND A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL LIFE-LINE READERS

## SERVICES FOR DECEMBER IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

### West Farleigh

Dec	3	0800 BCP HC
		0930 JJJ
	10	10.45 Coffee & mince pies in church
		1115 Fam service
		Nativity & blessing of the crib
	17	0930 ASB HC
		1530 Nine lessons and carols
	24	1730 Children's Xmas story service
		2330 Midnight Mass ASB HC
	31	0800 BCP HC

### Teston

Dec	3	0945 Family service
		1830 ASB HC
	7	0930 ASB HC
	10	0800 BCP HC
		1830 Nativity
	14	0930 ASB HC
	17	0945 Children's ch
		1830 9 Lesns & Crls
	21	0930 ASB HC
	24	1500 Blessg Crib
	25	0930 ASB HC
	31	0945 Children's ch
		1830 Songs Praise

### Wateringbury

Dec	3	0930 BCP MP
	10	0930 ASB HC
	17	0800 BCP HC
		1115 Nativity
	18	1800 School Carols
	21	2000 9 Lesns & Crls
	23	1730 Blessg Crib
	24	2130 BCP HC
	25	1115 Family Soc
	31	0930 BCP HC

If you know anyone who would like the Parish Priest to call or to receive Holy Communion at home, please let me know or one of the Churchwardens. I will be pleased to call. Denys Gower 812494.

### Finding God in the fast lane to Christmas.

A series of short reflections, led by our Lay Ministers, in Teston Village Hall, Thursdays, 7 & 14 Dec. at 8pm. Come and share in a peaceful preparation for Christmas.