

# 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"

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## EASTER LIGHT AND LIFE

We are so fortunate to live in a country where Spring and Easter happen at the same time. Nature, certainly in this part of England, provides us with a multitude of visual aids to remind us that, even within the apparent death of the landscape, new life is being created and will soon thrust itself forth. The sights, sounds and smells of Spring cannot be contained within the dark earth. Winter must retreat.

For some, of course, this Lent has become a long Good Friday. I write these words only days after the tragedy at Dunblane and there is no way that the stricken parents can rejoice on Easter Day. They will need a much longer time-scale to come to terms with the crucifixion that has shattered their lives.

Recently someone asked me, "Why do people come to church on Easter Sunday yet avoid sharing in the services of Holy Week?" For me, I can only say that the services of Holy Week allow us to experience just a tiny fraction of the pain and suffering of Jesus. At the very least, Christians need to share the tensions and traumas of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday before the joyful celebration of Easter Day. Can light mean anything to those who have not passed through the darkness?

A peaceful Easter to you.

Denys Gower

**DIARY NOTE** Plant Sale, Tutsham, Sunday, 12 May, 2pm. More details later but you can expect the usual array of bedding plants, vegetables, produce and cakes. There should be pony rides, a children's corner, two raffles and, of course, teas. This is very much a bring and buy so divide up your perennials, bring all your spare shrubs and anything else saleable in the garden line.

**2nd DIARY NOTE** On 8 June an evening performance in the church by the Detling Singers with Philip Moore, Organist. Watch this space for more details.

**3rd DIARY NOTE** Village Barbecue, Sunday, 7 July, at Fox Pitt, lunch time.

## THE ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING

On 26 March. It was sadly announced that Joyce Morgan was retiring from the flower arranging team after more years than anyone can remember. To mark the

village's deep appreciation of all these years of beautifying the church she was presented with - a bouquet of flowers.

Can anyone replace Joyce? If you fancy joining the flower team, please get in touch.

## THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Several points of interest arose out of the meeting on 4 March. Mr Weddell of Maidstone Borough Council gave an outline of the proposed Riverside park. The somewhat antiquated play equipment for children on the Green is to be replaced at Borough Council expense. Also for the benefit of children, £300 has been donated to the church towards the cost of converting the room at the bottom of the church tower for children's activities. Contributions of £100 towards the production of Lifeline and £100 for the Evergreens were gratefully received. Congratulations were offered to the County Council Highways Department for their care in keeping roads, especially Charlton Lane, gritted during recent snow and frost. In two environmentally conscious gestures, the Council decided to take out corporate membership of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and The Men of the Trees.

**A QUIZ NIGHT** Something new in the way of village events will take place on Saturday Evening, 27 April at 7.30. This is the Quiz Night. A new venue too for a West Farleigh event, namely, the Parleights WI Hall, Forge Lane, East Farleigh. £4 (children £2) will cover entry, wine and refreshments. For tickets phone 814445, 812650 or 813461. It should be a good evening. If you can make up a team, maximum size will be 8 but do come, alone, in pairs or with a party.

TWO NOTES on services in West Farleigh.

1) The Easter Sunday, 7 April, Family Service will be at 0930 and NOT 1115 as previously advertised.

2) On 5 May there will be an Evening Alternative Service with a difference co-ordinated by Alison Swan with a band, music, games, drama and, after the service, drinks and biscuits. Ring 01732 847005 or 01622 814445.

SPORTS REPORT

The 1st XI are struggling to hit form and failed to achieve a single point last month in 3 League fixtures. First, old rivals Stapleford. We hadn't a recognised goal keeper (even I was mentioned but we were not that desperate). We lost 4 - 0. Next week came Knox-bridge and again another heavy defeat, 5 - 2. After a postponed fixture v MPE we played Loose Rangers and a much improved performance but when you're down the luck goes against you and so we lost 2 - 0.

The 2nd XI played four and lost only one, three of these cup games. Southborough began the month in the semi-final of the Tun/Wells cup. A terrific game but after extra time the end result was 2 - 2. Next our only League fixture v bottom club Lenham. We played extremely well and impressively won 9 - 1. A difficult away match followed v Take-Off Sports in the Benevolent Cup. Somehow being 1 - 0 up at H/T after they missed a hatful of chances and we didn't play well at all, we improved in the 2nd period and finished 2 - 0 up. Marden followed a week later in the next round of the cup and we should have won but this was not our day and we lost 2 - 1.

Final call for our wine and wisdom evening 19 April, Hunton Village Hall. Ring 745744 for details.

Cheers  
Tel

Ton-Up March

£10 Paul Beck £5 Mrs Russell £5 J Eastwood.

EVERGREENS Tuesday, 9 April. Mill Cottage.

A PARTY of 34 from the French town of Wimeraux will descend upon the White House on Sunday, 21 April to play the ancient French game of petanque. It starts about 1030 and goes on all day. Come along and join the fun.

AN ELECTION for Borough and Parish Councillors will be held on 2nd May, a Thursday. Get your voting boots on and march to the cricket pavilion to place your crosses where you like and where you fancy.

THE JJJ CHILDREN'S SUNDAY CLUB is growing rapidly. It now has 13 regular attenders and Alison Swan, to whom all credit is due for this success, is anxious to find someone to share running it with her. This is an important job and anyone taking it on would find it both stimulating and rewarding.

A HEN SPARROWHAWK hurt its wing and sought refuge in the area of Mill Cottages. She was not too hostile towards humans and accepted some food. She finally allowed herself to be caught and was handed over to the gentle care of Ernie and Mavis Davies of Paddock Wood who take on such cases usually at the request of the RSPCA. They nurse injured birds back to health and return them to the wild. If ever you need them their phone number is 01892 837227.

SERVICES FOR MAY  
IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

Apr 4 2000 Eucharist. Washing  
Maundy Thu. of feet. The Watch  
7 0800 BCP HC. Easter Day  
0930 Family Service  
Hugh Grainger  
14 1115 Family Communion  
21 0930 ASB HC  
28 0930 JJJ  
1115 BCP MP

Teston

Apr 1 2000 See of Preparation  
2 0930 ASB HC  
3 2000 Compline, Candlelt  
7 0945 Family Communion  
11 0930 ASB HC  
14 0800 BCP HC  
0945 Children's Church  
1830 BCP EP  
18 0930 ASB HC  
21 0945 Children's Church  
1830 ASB HC  
25 0930 ASB HC  
28 0800 BCP HC  
0945 Children's Church  
1830 BCP EP

Wateringbury

Apr 2 2000 Stations of Cross  
5 1200 - 1500 Three  
Hours Devotion  
1700 Children's Stations  
of the Cross  
6 2000 The Vigil. Service  
of Light. Renewal of  
Baptism Vows  
7 1115 ASB HC Rev B Blade  
14 0930 ASB HC  
21 0800 BCP HC  
1115 Teddy Bear Service  
and Picnic  
28 0930 ASB HC

Sat. 20 April. Benefice Quiet Day  
Stacklands 1000 - 1600.

Morning Prayer Tues to Fri 0830  
2 to 5 April Wateringbury  
9 to 12 April Teston  
16 to 19 April West Farleigh  
23 to 26 April Wateringbury