

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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No. 254 May 1996

DO YOU WELCOME A WELCOMER?

This text appeared on a church notice board:
"When you were born, your mother brought you here. When you were married, your partner brought you here. When you die, your friends will bring you here. Why not try coming on your own sometimes?"

That's all very well, but it often takes some courage to walk through a church doorway for the first time on your own. "How will I be greeted? Will some enthusiastic hand shaker wrench my arm out of its socket? Will they just ignore me because I'm not a club member? Will I understand the service or find the page numbers? Will anyone help me if I can't?"

Lord Coggan once said, "The art of hospitality is making people feel at home - when you wish that they were!" Those of us who consider that we are regular attenders at worship have the privilege of really making new-comers and visitors feel at home in our churches. Some people do greet visitors with a smile and a gentle but warm welcome. The Benedictine monks always aim, I am told, to receive a stranger and guest as if he or she were Christ. Sadly some of us fall far short of this example. Making people welcome at worship is worth at least ten good sermons.

Have you tested the welcome at our three churches lately? I would be interested in your comments.

Yours in faith

Denys

THE PLANT SALE

The garden at Tutsham Hall will again be the venue for the annual Plant Sale. The date is 12 May, a Sunday, the time 2pm and the entrance fee £1 (50p OAPs & children) All proceeds to the church.

Remember this is very much a bring and buy sale and there will be plenty of bargains about. Bring whatever you might have to donate preferably during the morning but you would be welcome any time. Raffle prizes will also be gratefully received. The stalls will offer bedding plants, herbaceous plants, shrubs, climbers. There will be a cake stall with all good home-made products including jams. There will be pony rides and a children's corner and two raffles - the general one and one for a cake. And, of course, we mustn't forget the teas. Come and meet your neighbours for a chat and a get-together. The Vicar has arranged for good weather but, in the unlikely event of a failure in this respect, a barn will be available.

Prior to the plant sale an open air Family Service taken by Hugh Grainger will be held in the Tutsham Hall garden in the morning at 11.15. This will be a friendly, informal affair and a fitting preliminary to the plant sale.

EVENING ALTERNATIVE

5th May 6.30pm Sunday
All Saints, West Farleigh

A service with a difference for those with an open, youthful mind. Everyone welcome, not just the young
DON'T JUST STAND THERE - come along.

Co-ordinated by Alison Swan, there will be a band, games, music, drama AND drinks and biscuits after the service.

Ring 01732 847005 or
01622 814445
for more details

REMEMBRANCE Vera Smith has been dealing with the British Legion poppy collection in the village for very many years but is now giving up. She deserves our grateful thanks for doing this charitable and public spirited job for so long. But now, who is going to take it on? If you would like to see that the good work continues in the village, please ring David Swan on 814445 or your editor on 813461.

EVERGREENS Good Intent. Tues 14th May.

A PILGRIMAGE

The Benefice Pilgrimage meets at 10am at Teston Bridge on Monday, 6 May, Bank Holiday. We follow the River Medway to Yalding, pause for refreshment at the Anchor Inn and finish with a service in Yalding Parish Church. If you are not able to walk the distance then meet us at the Anchor or at the church.

TRIUMPHANT SPORTS REPORT

Wednesday, 24th April, history in the making, West Farleigh 2nd XI first ever trophy and the club's first cup since 1963. Our Tun/Wells cup final was v Mastercolour Road. After only ten minutes, Stuart Hatcher was put through by Ritchie Isaacs who finished well, netting the ball into the far corner. Second half and floodlights now firmly on, Farleigh played the much brighter football and with time running out, nerve ends tingling and a few more grey hairs, Farleigh's gallant team saw us through to a famous victory.

Our s/final was v Southborough Road with a resounding 5 - 1 win. Then, near perfect form. League wins v South Celtic and Aylesford and a draw v Malgo. Finally a "double header" v Knoxbridge, drawing 2 - 2 and losing 5 - 1. (Still suffering from Wednesday night).

Plenty of goals in Farleigh 1st XI games but most in our own net. Against The Rose in the q/final of the Benevolent Cup after extra time 5 - 5 and very unlucky to lose on penalties 4 - 3. An 11 goal thriller v MPE losing 9 - 2. Finally lost 3 - 2 at home v Ulcombe.

We need a scorer for our cricket team. Many thanks to all who supported our successful Quiz Night. Cheers
Tel

THE EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE taken by Hugh Grainger included Stainer's Crucifixion sung by the choir led by Margaret Frazer. A sincere thank you for a lovely service and a lovely performance.

THE KESTRELS have nested again in the church tower. There is one lusty infant in the nest getting ready to fly. You have to climb right up among the bells to catch a glimpse of the nest and family.

CRIME WATCH

David and Kirstie Meredith of Thistle Cottage, Lower Road, suffered a nasty burglary on Monday, 22 April, during the afternoon or early evening while they were out. The villains forced open the side door which can't be seen from the road and took everything they could carry. The police say there has been nothing else like it locally. Nevertheless, thieves are about. Report any sinister sighting to Barney on 820602.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL have introduced a FREE bulky refuse collection service. If you have something large in the way of domestic items you want to get rid of, phone 602162 and a date will be arranged for it to be collected. The freighter collection scheme is still on at weekends but they will no longer be visiting West Farleigh. This doesn't matter much because the new collection service is so good. Your editor has tested it!

SERVICES FOR MAY IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

May	2	2000	Service of prayer for healing
	5	0800	BCP HC
		0930	JJJ
		1830	Evening Alternative
	12	1115	Family Service at Tutsham Farm. Hugh Grainger
	19	0930	ASB HC
	26	0930	JJJ
		10.45	Coffee in church
		1115	Family Service

Teston

May	2	0930	ASB HC
	5	0945	Family Service
		1830	ASB HC
	9	0930	ASB HC
	12	0800	BCP HC
		0945	Children's Church
		1830	BCP EP
	16	0930	ASB HC Ascension
	19	0945	Children's Church
		1830	ASB HC
	23	0930	ASB HC
	26	0800	BCP HC
		0945	Children's Church
		1830	BCP EP
June	2	0945	Pet Service On the Green

Wateringbury

May	5	0930	BCP MP
		1115	Family Communion
	12	0930	ASB HC at Manor Farm, Old Road
	19	0800	BCP HC
		1115	Family Service
	26	0930	ASB HC

Morning Prayer Tues to Fri 0830
30 Apr to 3 May Teston
7 to 10 May West Farleigh
14 to 17 May Wateringbury
21 to 24 May Teston

MID KENT WATER REMIND US that it hasn't rained much lately - 45% below average in some places. So, to safeguard resources, they have introduced a licence scheme for those of us who use a sprinkler, unattended hosepipe or irrigation system. If you have a meter the licence costs nothing. If you haven't, the cost will be £150 to dig a hole to instal it.