

# Life-Line

The given-away Monthly News Sheet for West Parleigh

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

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## THIS MOST TREMENDOUS TALE OF ALL

The poems of John Betjeman have little appeal for me; then perhaps I haven't taken the trouble to really get to know them. Having said that, there is one poem by Betjeman that does touch me and its title is appropriate to this time of the year - Christmas. Part of it goes thus:-

And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained glass window's hue,  
A baby in an ox's stall?  
The maker of the stars and sea  
Become a child on earth for me?

No love that in a family dwells,  
No caroling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare -  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

Christmas is a time when many families gather together and give each other presents. A time for friends to renew their friendship by giving and receiving gifts and cards. I am aware, as I am sure you are, that, as we perhaps pass the peace at Christmas Eve Eucharist, or tear away the fancy gift wrappings on Christmas morning, the Nativity is being re-played in many lowly places in the world. As we celebrate the arrival of the Christ-Child, may we also spare a prayer for those families who are still finding that there is no room at the inn

Denys Gower

## THE CHOIR

Lesley Cushing is taking over the running of the choir with Abbie Walsh as her deputy. This is absolutely wonderful news and will fill the yawning gap left when Margaret Frazer departed. We are very grateful to these two. The news comes at a significant time when the choir is being supplemented by men's voices.

## THE FAIR

The Christmas fair at the Good Intent was the usual jolly get-together. It was master-minded by Jane Stewart who co-ordinated the efforts of all the stall holders. Linda and Derek, our hosts at the pub, were very patient and didn't seem to mind all the fair customers tripping over one another to get at the goods on offer. The balance sheet finally showed about £300 in the church's favour and it's thanks all round to all those who helped.

At the time of going to press Jane's baby still hasn't put in an appearance so the sweepstake on the time he/she is born can not be settled and the bottle of whisky remains un-won. Jane deserves the highest praise for calmly running the fair with the birth of her baby imminent. One bit of un-expected excitement was that a couple of cars met head on at the top of Charlton Lane. No-one was hurt.

## OUR ROADS

Visits were made at the morning rush hour to the 3 traffic problem spots in the village on 27 November to see what could be done. The locations were (1) the junction of Lower Road and Ewell Lane, (2) the junction of Lower Road and Teston Lane and (3) junction of Charlton Lane and Ewell Lane. Mr Wilf Shilling, our County Councillor, was there with members of the Parish Council and they watched as vehicles raced round these blind corners at the density of 750 an hour. After watching the phenomenon aghast for a while, those present came up with some sensible suggestions; mini roundabouts at locations (1) and (2); "Slow" notices on the roads at location (3) and a notice "Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles" at the start of Heath Road. The roundabouts are clearly the most urgent need but, as Mr Shilling pointed out, the question of shortage of money raises its ugly head. It is to be hoped that we don't have to wait for a fatal accident before there is any action.

## EVERGREENS

Christmas lunch at the Tickled Trout on Tuesday, 10 December 12.30 for 1.00

## TRANSPORT TO CHURCH

Are you someone who would like to go to church but can't manage it because you have no transport? If you would like someone to give you a lift to church, please contact Joyce Morgan at Hillcroft, 01622 726251

**CHRISTMAS FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

The Evening Alternative led by Alison Swan will be at 6.30 on Sunday, 8 Dec. in the church. Come & have some fun. Then on Sun, 15th at 3.30 the 9 Lessons & Carols Service. On 22nd we have the Family Blessing of the Crib with coffee & mince pies from 10.45, the Children's Christmas Story Service on Christmas Eve at 5.30 & finally the Family Service with carols on Christmas Day in the morning at 10.00

All are welcome to the village carol singing which will start off in the Tickled Trout at 7.30 on Thursday 19 Dec. The party will then proceed to the Good Intent and finally to the White House for more carols and refreshments at 9.00.

**SPORTS REPORT**

Farleigh's footballers have struggled this month to hit form. Our 1st team started well, beating Blue Eagles at home 2 - 1, but defeat by Snodland 4 - 0, Blue Eagles (this time in the Cup) 3 - 1 and 4 - 1 away to Cherry Tree, also in the Cup, saw a disappointing month come to an end.

The 2nd XI games have shown that on our day we can beat any team but also have the ability to lose to any team as well. Take Off Sports came first and a 7 - 2 victory, thanks to a marvelous double hat-trick by Martin Bromley. Local Derby v Hunton followed. We were unlucky to be 1 - 0 down at half time then fell away and went down 3 - 0. The next week a tough encounter v Knoxbridge of the 3rd Div in the Cup. We played some of the best football so far and beat them 4 - 1. Brought down to earth the following week v lowly Div 5 strugglers Fant Arms, also in the Cup. 2 - 0 down within 10 minutes, we never really recovered and went out losing 6 - 2. Here's hoping that Christmas will come early for both our teams and bring some much needed good results.

Our annual Christmas raffle will be at The Bull on Monday, 16 Dec. Anyone without tickets, don't hesitate to call! Hope you have a very happy and peaceful Christmas.  
Cheers  
Tel

**TON UP CLUB**

November draw  
£10 Frank Underdown £5 Emma & Rachel Wells  
£5 John Gladwin

**THE BRITISH LEGION POPPY COLLECTION** from boxes in the church, the Tickled Trout and the Good Intent (the White House had their own collection) amounted to £77.47.

**DEREK HOPKINS** says that the Imperial Cancer Research Fund taken in the W. Farleigh Lower Road area during 11 - 23 November totalled £34.70. He thanks all who contributed.

**TESTON PARISH COUNCIL** kindly invited members of West Farleigh Parish Council to a meeting on 26 November when issues were discussed concerning the care of our bit of the Medway Valley. There was a friendly discussion about the changing face of the countryside ranging from the un-economic nature of certain crops to EEC funding for the removal of orchards and care of the environment.

LIFE-LINE WISHES ALL READERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

**SERVICES FOR DECEMBER  
IN ALL THREE CHURCHES**

West Farleigh

Dec	1	0800	BCP HC
		0915	JJJ
	8	1115	BCP MP
		1830	Christmas Evening Alternative
	15	0930	ASB HC
		1530	Nine lessons & Carols
	22	1045	Coffee & mince pies in church
		1115	Family service & Blessing of the Crib
	24	1730	Children's Christmas Story
		2130	ASB HC
	25	1000	Christmas Pam See
	29	0800	BCP HC

Teston

Dec	1	0945	Family Service
		1830	ASB HC
	5	0930	ASB HC
	8	0800	BCP HC
		0945	Children's Church
		1830	BCP EP
	12	0930	ASB HC
	15	1830	Nativity Play
	19	0930	ASB HC
	22	0800	BCP HC
		1830	Nine Lessons & Carols
	24	1500	Blessing of the Crib
		2330	ASB HC
	25	0830	BCP HC
	29	1830	Songs of Praise & Compline

Wateringbury

Dec	1	0930	BCP MP
	8	0930	ASB HC
	15	0800	BCP HC
		1115	Family Service & Nativity Play
		1330	Children's Music Gp
	16	1800	School Carol See
	18	2000	Nine Lessons & Carols
	22	0930	ASB HC
	24	1700	Blessing of the Crib
	25	1000	Family Eucharist ASB
	29	0930	BCP HC

Morning Prayer Tues to Fri 0830  
3 - 6 Dec Wateringbury  
10 - 13 Dec Teston  
17 - 20 Dec West Farleigh  
24 Dec Wateringbury

If you are unable to attend public worship and would like to receive Communion at home I will be glad to visit. If you have a Crib at home & would like me to say a prayer over it I will be happy to call.