

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

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THE PREPARATION PATH

Where will you be on Easter Day 1997? I guess the majority of people in this country and in this Benefice won't be in church. Apart from perhaps having Monday off, what difference would it make to you if Easter was taken off the calendar? For Christians it would mean a huge hole appearing in their lives! Easter; the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ is the greatest and oldest feast of the Christian Church. Our vestments change from the sombre mauve or violet of Lent to the celebratory white and gold of Easter Day

I hope you will find time to be at one of the Easter Day services in our three churches. Yet Easter without Holy Week is rather like being presented with a prize after NOT running in a race. Lent, and Holy Week in particular, is the path of preparation that leads up to Easter. A time for reflection, not just on the journey to Jerusalem and the historical events that happened in the life of Jesus, but upon this world of Calvarys and Crucifixions in which we live. You may not be able to share in all the services of preparation during Holy Week but you will be most welcome to come to one of our churches during the days before Easter and prepare in heart and mind for a new beginning on Easter Day 1997

The peace of the Risen Christ to you and to those who you love.

Denys

Denys Gower, Rector, 01622 812494.

A MEETING

The annual meeting of the West Farleigh Parish will be on Monday, 3 March, at 7.30 in the evening. This is a non-church meeting but it will be held in the church because the church is the only building we have which is big enough to take all the people who, it is hoped, might turn up. The Parish Councillors will be there, also our Borough Councillor, John Williams, and our County Councillor, Wilf Shilling. We will be brought up to date on village affairs by Don Goodwin, the Chairman of the Parish Council, and, hopefully, a representative of the Kent Twinning Association will be there to explain what is involved in the proposed twinning of West Farleigh with Ringstedt in Germany. The twinning proposal came about via the Sports Club because of the interchange of visits by our football teams which has been going on for some years. In addition to all that there's an open forum where you can say anything so long as it's not too rude.

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

The latest outbreak of Alison Swan's Evening Alternative burst upon an astonished world in church on Sunday, 23rd Feb. The theme was a serious one but in a light hearted way showed that here on earth we have merely pitched our tents as temporary dwellings before moving on to our spiritual home. So there was a tent in the aisle and a game of volley ball played with balloons across a piece of string. Prayers were concealed in other balloons which were themselves concealed under the cushions in the pews and those participants who found themselves sitting on them had to read them out. No less than three persons were in the church at some stage, namely, Messrs Castle and Elmore from East Farleigh and our own Denys Gower. The space in the church was fully occupied by the 55 people who came in spite of one of the nastiest nights of the year weather-wise. There was food provided and it was all consumed, leaving only crumbs for the poor church mice who, so far as anyone knows, had taken no part in the service.

Alison plans another do in May but no details yet.

It may well be that the saga of Barming Bridge will be given an airing. The bridge remains closed, of course, and, subject to anything that Wilf Shilling has to tell us at the meeting, the County Council still say they haven't the money to do anything about it. However, the Kent Messenger report a glimmer of light in that the National Lottery are said to have - provisionally - a £3.1M grant towards the Maidstone River Park which would go half way towards funding this attractive idea to enhance the river environs between Teston and Maidstone. If those in charge can be persuaded to include Barming Bridge in the plan, that would solve a lot of problems.

YOUR EDITOR apologises roundly for having, last month, inadvertantly, married off the wife of the landlord at the Tickled Trout to the landlord at the Good Intent. It won't happen again. It was all the fault of that lorry driver who didn't know his way!

FOOTBALL REPORT

Farleigh's 1st XI have struggled this month and, although we have scored a few, our main problem is conceding goals. MPE 2 - 0, Cherry Tree 4 - 1, Staplehurst 7 - 2 and Knoxbridge 6 - 2 all tell a sad story but let's hope next month's issue will report a happier change of fortune.

Farleigh 2nd XI, however, have had good fortune and have not lost since Christmas. Victories this month against Malgo 4 - 1, top-of-the-table Snodland 3 - 1 and, again Snodland, 5 - 2 in the Cup and finally a 2 - 2 draw v Thurnham. Let's hope next month's issue will be more of the same.

We are holding our annual Wine and Wisdom evening on Saturday, 12 April at Hunton Village Hall. Anyone interested in booking a table, please give me a phone 01622 745744.

Cheers

Tel

OUR LATEST new arrival in the village, Katie Stewart, will be welcomed into the church on Easter Day with Baptism as part of the Family Service at 11.15. If you want to make Katie's acquaintance before the service, come and meet her over a cup of coffee at 10.45.

HEART OF KENT HOSPICE
If you are a member of a group or organisation and are looking for a speaker, we would be happy to come and talk to you about the work of your local hospice. Please contact Karen Day at the hospice on 01622 790195.

Ton-Up

January	February
£10 Miss J Britcher	£10 Roy Beaney
£5 T Walsh	£5 T Goke
£5 Paul Martin	£5 Joyce Morgan

Winter Bonus £20 E P Day

ON A TICKET sold to her by Chris Stockwell for a draw run by the Oakwood Park School PTA, Betty Underdown has won £500! The draw was to help towards the refurbishment of the school swimming pool. Good for you, Betty.

EVERGREENS. At Mill House, home of Stuart and Irene Dyer, on 11th March, a Tuesday. Pippa Wakefield will be playing the piano for us. She will be among friends and very welcome.

KEEPING THE PEACE

On 19th February the sheep, safely grazing in the fields of Tutsham, were startled by the harsh sound of a police car siren getting closer by the second and then the car itself, tearing along at incredible speed across the Warren towards the farm where it disappeared. Later, a young, plain clothed policeman, looking a bit lost, asked your editor whether he had seen two men lurking about. He gave a good description of the men and added that there had been a burglary in Lower Road. John Day wasn't disturbed. He said he just didn't know what was going on.

The next West Farleigh broadcast on Radio Kent will be on Wednesday, 26 March, about 11.05am. Listen out!

SERVICES FOR MARCH IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

Mar	2	0800 BCP HC
		0915 JJJ
	9	1045 Coffee in church
		1115 Mothering Sunday
		Family See. Hugh Grainger
	16	0930 ASB HC
	23	1115 BCP MP Palm Sunday
		Hugh Grainger
	26	2000 Compline candlelit
	30	0800 BCP HC
		1045 Coffee in church
		1115 Easter Day Family See
		with baptism. Revd J Caley
		and Hugh Grainger

Teston

Mar	2	0945 Family Service
	9	0800 BCP HC
		1500 Family Service
		1830 BCP EP
	16	0945 Children's Church
		1830 ASB HC
	23	0800 BCP HC
		1830 ASB HC
	24	2000 Compline
	26	2000 Simple HC Choir-led
		meditation vigil
	30	0945 Family Eucharist

Wateringbury

Mar	2	0930 BCP MP
	9	0930 ASB Family Eucharist
	16	0800 BCP HC
		1115 Family Service
	23	0915 Assemble in car park
		for procession
		0930 ASB HC
	25	2000 Stations of the Cross
	28	1000 Children's Service
		Noon to 1500 3 hour
		Devotion and Stations
	29	2000 Service of Light
	30	1115 Family Eucharist
		with baptism

Key: BCP = Book of Common Prayer
ASB = Alternative Service Book
HC = Holy Communion
MP = Morning Prayer
EP = Evening Prayer
JJJ = Young People's Club

Morning Prayer Tues to Fri 0830
4 - 7 March Teston
11 - 14 March West Farleigh
18 - 21 Wateringbury
25 - 28 Teston

Confirmation course. All enquiries to the Rector, Evangelist, Readers or Churchwardens.