

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

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ONLY A PRAYER AWAY

The great 19th Century Baptist minister, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, was once asked, "When should I pray? Should I pray when I don't feel like it?" He replied, "Pray when you feel like it because God will bless you; pray when you don't feel like it because that is when you need it most."

The old saying, "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees" has a great deal of truth in it. For whether we admit it or not, most of us engage in prayer in one form or another. I once slightly shocked a clergy colleague by saying, "Prayer and swear have a lot in common." I well remember from my years in the printing world when a job was going wrong and time was getting short that many a colourful expression would be uttered in frustration as we struggled to put things right. Such exclamations are a cry to God for help, though the one who voices the crude words may not be thinking in theological terms!

So prayer is not just the occupation of those who spend an hour a week in church. It is the heart cry of the young mother with a sick child, the soldier patrolling the back streets of Belfast, the man whose business is running into trouble, the farmer who has produced a good harvest. Some people have a prayer that has brought them through tough times. Perhaps you could pass it on to me. And remember, be careful what you pray for - you may very well get it!

Denys

Rev'd Denys Gower. 01622 812494.

THE BARBECUE

We look forward with excited interest to Sunday, 6 July, when the village barbecue comes round again. It is going to be in the garden of Court Lodge, Lower Road, near the church, by kind permission of Huw Evans. There are two gates to Court Lodge, one opposite the end of Charlton Lane and the other at the junction of Church Lane and Lower Road. The name is on the gate posts at each entrance. In case it rains there will be a large marquee, kindly lent by Arthur Morris of the White House.

Gates open at 12 noon and the barbecued fare will be served from 12.30 cooked by a variety of amateur but highly competent cooks. There will be salads and all the barbecue trimmings followed by strawberries and cream, all for £6 a ticket or £4 if you're under 12 including a glass of wine or a soft drink. More wine and soft drinks on sale if required. There will be a cake stall and a raffle and contributions to these features will be gratefully received.

Get your tickets from Tony Walsh, Huw Evans, Belinda Devenish, Val Barnwell, or Penny Saunders. They're all in the phone book. Come & join the party. It will be a good one. All prophets to the church.

WE HAVE a new member of the Parish Council, Mrs Beverley Connolly of 17 Charlton Lane.

THE GAMES OF CHILDREN ON THE GREEN

The proposed service on the Green to ask a blessing on the new play equipment was rained off so we all went down to the church and held a family service. The music was provided by an orchestra with Richard Grainger on keyboard, Samantha Walsh and Sophie Barnwell on recorders and Natalie Ward on violin. It was all good stuff.

There has been a high powered meeting about where to put the goal posts on the Green. The decision - no doubt inspired by all those prayers - is to put them in the middle where the most vigorous kicks are unlikely to damage property.

MARIA GIBB died in hospital on Monday morning, 23 June. Her funeral will be on Wednesday, 2 July, at 2pm at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath, followed by cremation at Vinters Crematorium.

It was Maria who, back in 1981, suggested that the senior citizens of the village should get together for a tea party as a side show to a Gala which was being held on the Green to celebrate the wedding of Charles and Diana on 29 July. From this grew the Evergreens, the old people's club, who have been meeting every month since then, a club exclusively for West Farleigh people and a memorial to Maria, a lady who was born in Holland but whose heart was in West Farleigh.

SPORTS REPORT

Our cricketers have shown steady progress overall this month and I'm pleased to report our first victory at home v Marden. We reached 176 while our visitors finished about 40 runs behind.

Our long awaited visit from Ringstedt (Germany) will take place on 1st to 4th August, starting off with the Club dance at Tutsham Farm on the Friday, 1st August 8pm to 1am. Tickets £7 including food. Dancing to our live group Tonic Blue who play 60s, 70s and all popular music. The evening also includes a surprise guest cabaret act (would like to tell you who it is but then it wouldn't be a surprise). Our football match will kick off at 12 noon on Saturday 2nd at Charlton Lane. Supporters would be very welcome. Then comes the World Lawn Mowing Championship on the Green mid-afternoon but for safety reasons, please wear steel toe-capped shoes should any mower go astray!

Come and help our week-end go with a bang.

Cheers Tel 745744

The HEARING DOGS for the DEAF afternoon tea at Green Acre on 18 June raised £394 for the cause. It was a gentle gathering of friends in a pleasant location. Sylvia and Pippa thank all their helpers and those who attended for their support.

Last month the EVERGREENS enjoyed a trip on the Kent & East Sussex Railway with tea, scones and cream as the ancient carriages creaked along pulled by an equally ancient steam engine.

This month we will gather at Mill House, the home of Stuart and Irene Dyer, on Tuesday, the 8th, to be entertained on the piano by Bun Balston and Pippa Wakefield.

A CAR came along Lower Road towards the Tickled Trout in a hurry, failed to get round the bend, mounted the bank, demolished the road sign and finished the wrong way up in the middle of the road. The only injury was to the driver's pride. The consequent traffic hold-up was serious enough to be reported on Radio Kent.

CRICKET FIXTURES July

5th	Headcorn	(L)	Away	2.00	19th	Rumwood(L)	Home	2.00
12th	Hollingbourne	(L)	Away	2.00	26th	Meopham(L)	Home	2.00

OUR NEW COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL OLDHAM has sent your editor a full account of the work which has gone into the planning of the new Barming bridge. A temporary footbridge is now in place but residents will be glad to know that the recommendation is that a one way vehicular bridge should be provided and negotiations are going on as to how to pay for it.

READERS may be amused to know that on Wednesday evening, 25 June, while struggling to get this edition of Life-Line to an expectant population in time to spread the good news about the barbecue on 6 July, your editor was overtaken by a prolonged power failure and was obliged to go on thumping his old manual typewriter by candle-light.

What price your computers under these trying circumstances?

SERVICES FOR JULY
IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

July	6	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
		0915	JJJ Children's Club
	13	1045	Coffee in church
		1115	Family See Alison Swan
	20	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	27	0915	JJJ Children's Club
		1115	Matins Bk Common Prayer

Teston

July	3	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	6	0945	Family Service
		1830	HC Alt Service Book
	10	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	13	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
		0945	Children's Church
		1830	Evensong Bk Cmmn Prayer
	17	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	20	0945	Children's Church
		1830	HC Alt Service Book
	24	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	27	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
		0945	Children's Church
		1830	Evensong Bk Cmmn Prayer
	31	No HC	

Wateringbury

July	6	0930	Matins Bk Common Prayer
	13	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	20	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
		1115	Family Service
	27	0930	HC Alt Service Book

HC = Holy Communion

Morning Prayer Tues to Fri 0830

1 - 4 July Wateringbury

8 - 11 July Teston

15 - 18 July West Farleigh

Then no Morning Prayer until

19 August, at Wateringbury.

Please let me know if you would like a visit. You don't have to be ill! I am always happy to take Holy Communion to anyone unable to share in public worship. Thank you to all our lay ministers, church officers and helpers who keep the work of our 3 churches moving. If you are able to take a holiday, have a refreshing time
Denys Gower