

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"

Editor: Jim Patch, Mill Cottage. 01622 813461

No. 271 October 1997

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

By the time I arrive at your local church to say my morning prayer, some of you will be on your way to work and others may still be in the land of dreams or feeling your way towards the tea bags.

About 8.25 I pull on a bell rope and you may hear the church bell clang out for 33 strikes. This is the number of years that Jesus lived upon the earth - or so it is estimated. Anglican clergy are required to make the parish aware that prayer is about to be offered on their behalf. You may not want to be prayed for and see this action as a waste of time and the sound of the bell as a disturbance of your early morning peace. My hope is that, in following this ancient directive, I am gathering together the hopes and fears of a community and offering them to God, the Father of us all.

Like many clergy I am often on my own at this hour but that does not matter at all. In the peaceful setting of our village churches I am able for a brief time to pray for all sorts and conditions of people. Sometimes I am joined by a friend or two and this gives a wider dimension to the act of quiet worship. If you have some situation you would like me to offer up in prayer, please put the request in writing. I will be glad to include this in my prayer time.

Perhaps, if you hear the church bell in your home in the morning, you could also offer up a prayer for someone. Now you KNOW for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Denys

Rev'd Denys Gower. 01622 812494.

HELEN SWAN is being authorised as Pastoral Assistant for this parish on Wednesday, 8th October at 8pm at St. Philip's, Cage Green, and would very much appreciate your support at this service.

You will find St. Philip's on the outskirts of Tonbridge. Follow the A26 through Hadlow and, as you enter Tonbridge, turn right into The Ridgeway. Take the fourth turning on the right. The church is a short distance along this road on a junction. Helen has copies of a map if this would be helpful.

IMPORTANT MEETING

Where the Money Goes

Like all human institutions, the work and pastoral care in our church is influenced by the financial front. We have to stand on our own feet and face an uncertain future but the remedy lies within our own grasp. Come along and hear the how and why of this situation in Teston Village Hall at 8pm on Tuesday, 7th October.

Canon Brian Simmons, who has his finger on the financial pulse and knows our situation, will spell out what needs to be done and how we can all help to safeguard and develop the ministry of our three churches.

There will be wine, cheese and other good things to eat, so do come along and meet other people who share our hopes and expectations for the future.

Denys

DAVID SWAN is still in hospital, though now transported to the genteel surroundings of the Somerfield where Helen works and can pamper him a little. Helen says he is making progress slowly.

David wishes to thank all of you who have sent cards and good wishes. They have helped greatly in keeping his spirits up. He will be home as soon as possible, though that happy homecoming will depend on his continuing to improve and he will not, in any case, be firing on all cylinders for some time.

DAVID & RITA at the Tickled Trout have won first prize for hanging baskets in the local Whitbread Pubs in Bloom competition and are finalists in the Maidstone area competition. In fact, all three of our pubs have put out most beautiful displays of flowers throughout the summer.

Peter and Pam Bissenden are going to be at it again this autumn planting crocuses and aconites on the Charlton Lane side of the Green. What a lovely village this is!

A PARTY of petanque players went from the White House to Wimereux on Sunday, 28 Sept. It's too early to report any results.

EVERGREENS. Meeting at Mill Cottage, Tuesday 14 October.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Sunday, 12 October, our church will be decked out with flowers, fruit and vegetables for our Harvest Festival. Dedicated workers will be there on the Saturday morning to make the venerable old building come to life for this annual celebration. Bring gifts of any kind of food, including the tinned and packet kind to add to the festive decorations and on the Monday it will all be distributed to the homeless in Maidstone, the women's refuge and our local residential home, Greenstead, in Teston. The service is at 11.15.

In church, straight after the service, we are having a get-together in the form of a ploughman's lunch. This will cost £2.50 including a glass of wine. Dessert optional. If you don't want to eat in church you can take your lunch away, plated up. This will be the first time we have tried this idea and hope it will be a success.

SPORTS REPORT

West Farleigh footballers have kicked off another season and already the goals are flying in. On the first Saturday our 1st XI lost to newly promoted Eccles 4 - 0 while our 2nd XI started life in Div 3 with a 3 - 2 victory over local rivals Yalding. The following week brought our 1st team's first point with a 3 - 3 home draw v Larkfield but a disappointing performance against Dog & Gun saw the 2nd team losing 3 - 2. Finally this month another two 3 - 3 draws, the 1st XI v Shepway and the 2nd v Safeway.

Cricket has now finished but I'm pleased to report a win when we played Milstead. This was only our 2nd win all season and the very last game.

Anyone interested in our annual Race Night on Sept 24th (Hunton Village Hall) please give me a buzz. (745744)

Cheers Tel

THAT BRIDGE AGAIN

County Councillor Paul Oldham reports that designs for a new bridge to take vehicles across the river in place of the old wooden bridge have been discussed between the representatives of the Parish Councils of Barming, East and West Farleigh and Teston and County Highway officials. Three were discussed and the comments of the Parish Councils are awaited.

A THREAT AND A PROMISE

One of the oak posts round the Green has been removed and it's left a gap like a missing tooth. Will whoever removed it please put it back and the Parish Council will pretend they hadn't noticed.

MORE HOT AIR TIME

The next eminently forgettable broadcast on Radio Kent by your editor will go out live about 11.10 on Wednesday morning, 8th October. If you know of anything which needs saying about West Farleigh on the radio, please let me know on 01622 813461.

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

Oct	5	0800 HC Bk Common Prayer
		0915 JJJ Children's Club
	12	1115 Harvest Festival Fam Soc
		Ploughman's Lunch after
	19	0930 HC Alt Service Book
	26	0915 JJJ Children's Club
		1115 Family HC. Alt Soc Book

Teston

Oct	2	0930 HC Alt Service Book
	5	Harvest Festival
		0945 Family Service
		1830 HC Alt Service Book
	9	0930 HC Alt Service Book
	12	0800 HC Book Common Prayer
		0945 Children's Church
		1830 Evening Prayer Bk Cmmn P
	16	0930 HC Alt Service Book
	19	0945 Children's Church
		1830 HC Alt Service Book
	23	0930 HC Alt Service Book
	26	0800 HC Book Common Prayer
		0945 Children's Church
		1830 Evening Prayer Bk Cmmn P
	30	0930 HC Alt Service Book

Wateringbury

Oct	5	0930 Morn Prayer Bk Cmmn Pr
	12	0930 HC Alt Service Book
	19	0800 HC Book Common Prayer
		1115 Family Service
	26	0930 HC Alt Service Book

Morning Prayer Tues to Fri 0830

30 Sep to 3 Oct Wateringbury

7 to 10 Oct Teston

14 to 17 Oct West Farleigh

21 to 24 Oct Wateringbury

28 to 31 Oct Teston

ON SATURDAY, 4th October at 4pm in Rochester Cathedral DAWN PAGE will be licensed as Reader in the parish of St. Peter & St. Paul, Teston. Please support Dawn and Helen (see over) with your prayers and give them a phone call to congratulate.

HOME VISITS Please contact me direct or through any of the pastoral team if you would like me to call for a chat or bring you communion.