

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

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## APATHY OR PEACE?

As I write in November 1997 the battle of words between America and Iraq is under way. I have no idea whether this heated situation will boil over into yet another awful and destructive confrontation. "Peace on earth and goodwill to all people" cry the angels of Luke's gospel. Is anyone listening? For many years choirs and congregations have echoed this phrase. It has become part of the Christmas ritual, but what does peace really mean to us?

The Oxford Dictionary offers several definitions; "freedom from or cessation of war" being one of them. But, even though all of us must surely agree that war is a horrific and evil thing, how do we find peace within ourselves? Is it possible to be completely at peace in body, mind and spirit?

Is it not all too easy to confuse peace with apathy? Indifference and a lack of interest or concern for the world may achieve a kind of peace for some. But it is not the kind of peace that Jesus wished upon his friends. The word he used was SHALOM which means, not just being blessed with a quiet mind, but being concerned for the well-being of those about us. It is a very wide word and embraces us all when spoken by our Lord.

So shalom to you and yours this Christmastide and may the Prince of Peace walk with you.

Denys

Rev'd Denys Gower 01622 812494

## THE CHURCH APPEALS FOR YOUR MONEY

This year's Carol Service at West Farleigh church is on Sunday, 21 December at 3.30pm. How many more will there be there? This year the church's income might not match its outgoings and if this situation continues the church may be in danger. Can you imagine the village without the church? Imagine that solid old building reduced to a derelict shell. For Heaven's sake, keep it going. Could you spare 1% of your income just to make sure it is there when you want it? Get in touch with Val Grainger for details.

THE STORY of the Nativity is to be told in opera form in Rochester Cathedral on Friday, 5 December at 7.30pm. Entitled Joe Carpenter & Son, the words are by Graham Clarke (the artist), music by Ken Roberts, directed by Benjamin Luxon and produced by John von Nuding, who lives at the Thatched House, West Farleigh. There will be other performances round Kent including one in Maidstone on 19 Dec. Phone 01227 722033 for details. The story of Jesus's birth is told through the experiences of the inhabitants of an English village.

DAVID SWAN is making steady progress towards a full recovery from his blood clot condition but has to stick to some curious rules to keep up the progress. He gets about on crutches but has to keep moving and if you meet him and stop for a chat he can't stand still and you have to do your chatting on the move. Also, if he sits down, his leg has to be up on something so that at meal times the best place for his foot is on the table. But he's really getting better and sends greetings and thanks to all his friends who have kept in touch and sent him get well cards and messages during this prolonged and tiresome illness.

## HELPING HANDS

There has been a good response to the appeal in last month's Life-Line for domestic and personal assistants and the following good people have promised to help out:

Molly Underdown, 813000. Ivor Maskell, 727264.  
Gabby King, 812225. Stephen King, 812225  
Josephine Turner, 728160

They will keep you company, cook you a meal, do your shopping, escort you into town or to the doctor's. They will wash your car, help in the garden, meet your children from school and do many other things. You only have to ask. Josephine will do housework. Any queries to Helen Swan on 814445.

Life-Line wishes all readers

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

CAROLS

The service of lessons and carols will be in the church at 3.30 on Sunday, 21 December, when the church will be decked with flowers, the Crib will be on display (to be blessed on the previous Sunday) and the Christmas tree will be there in all its finery.

But the annual carol singing pub crawl is on Friday 19 December, starting in the Tickled Trout at 7.30, then on to the Good Intent and finishing at the White House. There will be a running collection for Demelza House (hospice for children) and the church organ fund (see below for more about this). Song sheets will be provided so that you won't be lost for words.

SPORTS REPORT

Only four fixtures were played this month, three of which were 1st XI games and all were cup games.

On the first Saturday our 1st XI travelled to Hollingbourne in the Benevolent Cup from Div 2, winning fairly comfortably 4 - 1, while the 2nd XI were due to play Hawkenbury in the Tun/Wells Cup but the referee failed to appear so no game took place. The next week a win and a defeat, the 1st XI going down 5 - 2 to Tonbridge Baptist Church in the Kent Junior Cup while in the same cup the 2nd XI were narrowly beating a strong Risers team from Div 5 3 - 2. Next came a "free" Saturday as our 1st team hadn't a game arranged and the 2nd XI went through to the next round of the Tun/Wells Cup as Hawkenbury had withdrawn! Finally, on a wet afternoon the 1st played Larkfield at home in the Challenge Cup; 2 - 1 up half way through the 2nd half and looking good but then went pear shaped, losing 4 - 2. The 2nds again didn't play due to a water-logged pitch.

Finally, last call for our Barn Dance on Sat, 6th December at 8pm, East Farleigh WI hall (Forge Lane), £4 a ticket including food. Please support your Sports Club and give us a doosie -doe.

Phone Tel on 745744

Cheers Tel.

OUR CHURCH ORGAN

The asbestos contained in the organ (see September's Life-Line) is going to be very expensive to deal with. A consultant has been appointed and, for a start, his fee is likely to be £600. He has obtained tenders from three contractors to deal with the blower & blower box, which are known to be contaminated, and investigate the rest. The cost of this could be £2,780 and if more spots are found it may cost a further £1,000 or more. The removal of the organ complete might be necessary and this would cost the earth, plus a new organ.

More doom and gloom as it becomes available but see the appeal for your money overleaf.

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR at Smith's Hall was superb. Many thanks to Sandra and Stephen Norman for hosting it and to Jane Stewart and all her team for the organisation. The church gained over £400.

EVERGREENS. Tickled Trout Tuesday, 9 Dec, 12.30 for 1.0. If you are an OAP & would like to join us, ring 813461.

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER  
IN ALL THREE PARISHES

West Farleigh

Dec	7	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
		0915	JJJ Children's Club
	14	1045	Coffee & mince pies
		1115	Family Service, Blessing of the Crib & Baptism
	21	0930	HC Alt Service Book
		1530	Service of Lessons and Carols
	24	1730	The Christmas Story
		2130	Sung HC Alt See Book
	25	0930	Family HC Geoff Elmore
	28	1045	Coffee in church
		1115	Family See Helen Swan

Teston

Dec	4	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	7	0945	Family Service
		1830	HC Alt Service Book
	11	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	14	0800	HC Book Common Prayer
		1830	Nativity Play
	18	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	21	0945	Children's Church
		1830	Lessons and Carols
	24	1530	Blessing of the Crib
	25	0945	Family HC Alt See Bk
	28	0800	HC Book Common Prayer
		1830	Evening Prayer

Wateringbury

Dec	7	0930	Morning Prayer
	14	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	15	1800	School Carols Service
	18	2000	Lessons and Carols
	21	0800	HC Book Common Prayer
		1115	Nativity Play
	24	1100	Blessing of Crib
		2330	Midnight HC
	25	0830	HC Book Common Prayer
	28	0930	HC Alt Service Book

Advent Course

"The Herald, John the Baptist"  
Teston Village Hall, 4 Dec, 8pm  
"Preparing for the Christmas Event"  
Teston Village Hall, 11 Dec, 8pm

SHERRY PARTY at Teston

As has been the custom for some years, the Rector & Churchwardens invite you to a New Year Sherry Party in Teston Village Hall on Thursday, 1st January 1998, 11am to 1pm. We look forward to seeing friends from Teston and to welcoming friends from Wateringbury & West Farleigh.