

# 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. 01822 813461

No. 275 February 1998

## EGGS AND ASHES

Well before the tinsel and the Christmas lights had been removed our local shop, like many others, was selling chocolate eggs, a reminder, if we needed one, that Lent and Easter are not so far away. This is not a groan about commercialisation of the Christian seasons but an observation of how time seems to be dashing along at an ever greater rate of knots.

Ash Wednesday falls on 25 February this year; it marks the first day of Lent. The day derives its name from the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of worshippers in the liturgy of the day. It has its origins in the 10th century but it is a simple ceremony that has meaning for those of us who live in the last years of the 20th century. The sign of the cross in ash, made from the palm crosses of the previous year, reminds us of our mortality and that each one of us is capable of unkind thoughts, words and deeds.

Ash Wednesday begins the penitential season of Lent leading into Holy Week. For many Christians this is a hard time of the year because we find ourselves moving with Jesus towards Jerusalem and attempting through word and sacrament to share in His suffering and passion. If you have yet to experience taking part in the Ash Wednesday Service of Ashing, there will be two opportunities, 11am at West Farleigh and 8pm at Watringbury.

"Lent" is Old English for "Spring" so, although it is a penitential season, it also reminds us that winter is beginning to retreat. New life is stirring in the earth and before we know it the proper time for Easter Eggs will be upon us.

Denys

Rev'd Denys Gower, The Rectory, Teston. 812494.

## THE BISHOPS

The Bishop of Rochester, Michael Nazir-Ali, will be paying his first official visit to us on Sunday, 8 February, when he will be leading us through a Family Service with Holy Communion. After the service there will be a simple lunch in the church with plenty of chance to meet the Bishop and have a chat. There will be no charge for the lunch but please place a contribution in the bowl which will be placed at your convenience, if you see what I mean. Service is at 11.15

On Sunday, 15 February at 6.30pm, the Bishop of Tonbridge, Brian Smith, will be at Teston Church to dedicate the Book of Remembrance and the book stand in memory of Malcolm Black, former PCC Secretary, and Donald Reader of the Reader Cricket Ball factory.

THERE ARE TWO OTHER RATHER SPECIAL SERVICES in February. Candlemas at Teston on the 1st at 6.30pm (presentation of Christ in the Temple), marking the end of the Christmas period - a service of light. And a service of re-dedication at West Farleigh on the 15th at 9.30am to which all couples are invited who were married at All Saints to renew their marriage vows.

## EVERGREENS

It hasn't been decided yet where we're going this month. We'll have to let you know.

## ROY HONEYSEPT

Pat and all her family would like to thank their friends in West Farleigh for their cards and messages of sympathy on the sad loss of Roy.

We spent 46 years of our married life in West Farleigh so there are many happy memories.

ONE of the all too frequent arguments on Teston Bridge recently prompted a lady driver to lock up her car in the middle of the bridge and walk off so that no vehicles could get past either way. There was very soon a big build-up of traffic and an agitated crowd gathered. Fortunately, before they could take any drastic action like tipping the car in the river, someone managed to open the door and it was pushed, none too carefully, down to the picnic site.

The very next day there was a spectacular accident at the junction of Charlton Lane and Heath Road in which a car managed to demolish a road sign, mount a vertical four foot bank and knock down a damson tree. Amazingly, no-one was hurt. Roy Gilbert, who lives at Castle Acre nearby, has been agitating for ages for "Slow" signs to be painted on the road.

## FOOTBALL REPORT

New 1st XI Skipper, Malcolm Robinson, has got his work cut out to maintain premier division status this season, but after this month's encouraging performances, albeit with little success, believes he can do it. After having our first game postponed due to a waterlogged pitch, we travelled to Ulcombe in the Benevolent Cup but in a ding-dong game went down 4 - 3. Next came Knoxbridge and this time 4 - 3 winners and much needed 3 league points. Finally Eccles and, after playing some good football, we unluckily lost 4 - 2. Here's hoping next month results will improve.

Our 2nd XI have continued to do well in the cup but need to concentrate on our league position. We started this month with a marvelous Challenge Cup win 3 - 2 away to high flying Wheatsheaf Celtic. Next came local rivals Hanton in the league but, with only 24 seconds left on the clock, we conceded a goal to lose 2 - 1. Better luck the following week when we travelled to Tonbridge side Bardon in the Tun/Wells Cup Q/Final; after soaking up early pressure we won impressively 4 - 0. Lastly, due to a shortage of a referee, we had to play Yalding in a friendly which we won 2 - 1.

Be in touch. Cheers, Tel

## CAMPAIGNERS, THE NEW CHILDREN'S CLUB IN THE CHURCH

The new club for 5 to 11 year olds is doing very well indeed. In fact it is proving popular beyond all expectations. The organisers, Helen Swan, Nick Saunders and Tony and Susan Walsh, are having to work flat out to keep up with the numbers. There were 19 at the last meeting. Meetings are at 6.45 on Thursdays and never was the church such a happy place.

The church has stood there for 900 years and the children have taught us that it still has its uses apart from simply a place where you go for baptisms, weddings and funerals. It belongs to us, the people and we have to pay for it. The last electricity bill alone was £390 and insurance costs a bomb. Please donate a little money each week, say about the cost of a bottle of wine, to keep it going. Ring Val Grainger on 820305 and she will tell you how.

## TREES

In the last Trees in Your Village competition the Men of the Trees didn't give us a prize but encouraged us to carry on trying. They liked our many fine old trees and praised the way we take care of them but they didn't like the derelict orchard which is so visible from the Green. They suggested it should be cleared and native trees planted to link up with the tree planting further down Ewell Lane which they described as "interesting". They thought that this might make a worth-while Millenium project.

WE ARE STILL short of a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and we're still waiting for volunteers to be Special Constables. Meantime, the mountain bikes which were bought 3 years ago for the Specials continue to languish under lock and key and reports continue to be made about suspicious characters lurking around the village. To volunteer for Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator or Special Constable, ring 608173.

## SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

### West Farleigh

- |     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| Feb | 1  | 0800 HC Bk Common Prayer   |
|     | 8  | 1115 Family Eucharist with Bishop Michael followed by lunch in church. |
|     | 15 | 0930 HC Alt Service Book Renewal of Marriage Vows.                     |
|     | 22 | 10.45 Coffee in church<br>1115 Family Communion                        |
|     | 25 | 1100 Ashing with HC  |

### Teston

- |     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| Feb | 1  | 09.45 Family Service<br>1830 Candlemas with HC                                       |
|     | 5  | 0930 HC Alt Service Book   |
|     | 8  | 0800 HC Book Common Prayer<br>09.45 Children's Church<br>1830 Evensong Bk Cmn Prayer |
|     | 15 | 09.45 Children's Church<br>1830 Dedication Service<br>Bishop Brian                   |
|     | 19 | 0930 HC Alt Service Book   |
|     | 22 | 0800 HC Book Common Prayer<br>09.45 Children's Church<br>1830 Evensong Bk Cmn Prayer |

### Wateringbury

- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| Feb | 1  | 0930 Matins                                       |
|     | 8  | 0930 HC Alt Service Book                          |
|     | 15 | 0800 HC Book Common Prayer<br>1115 Family Service |
|     | 22 | 0930 HC Alt Service Book                          |
|     | 25 | 2000 Ashing with HC                               |

- Morning Prayer Tues to Fri 0830  
3 to 6 Feb Teston  
10 to 13 Feb West Farleigh  
17 to 20 Feb Wateringbury  
24 to 27 Feb Teston

## PREPARING FOR VISITORS

The Parish Council have approved the siting of several maps of the village at strategic spots where they could be of use to visitors. Clive Stevens has done the art work and designed a suitable and very appropriate display case. The maps will show our footpaths in all their complicated detail and help the many visiting walkers to find their way about and enjoy our attractive countryside. Some locals might find them useful too!