

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. 277 April 1998

THE DAY GOD GAVE THE WORLD

Someone with a better memory than mine will be able to tell me the year it snowed on Easter Day. We woke up to an unexpected whiteness on the threshold of summer. It was not an unpleasant surprise, far from it, for it emphasised the uniqueness of the day. For it is THE most special day in the Christian calendar. Without Easter Day there would be no reason to call ourselves Christians.

I doubt that snow will fall this Easter - but who can fathom the English weather?. Yet how apt a sprinkling of white dust would be. It would match the hangings and vestments in our churches, the purple of Lent transformed into the white and gold of Easter. White and gold, the colours of celebration and new life. On Easter Day the Holy Communion begins with the greeting, "Alleluia! Christ is risen". And the congregation responds, "He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" It is a day of new beginnings, the day God gave the world.

Not everyone will find it easy to make a new beginning at Easter, for pain and sorrow do not acknowledge the Church's calendar. For some of us Good Friday casts a long shadow. Yet the light of Christ is contained within the shadow of his cross. For those whose Easter will be touched with sadness, may this ancient blessing for Good Friday give you hope and peace.

May the cross of our Lord
Protect those who belong to Jesus
And strengthen your hearts in faith to Christ
In hardship and ease
In life and in death
Now and for ever. Amen

Denys

Revd Denys Gower, 01622 812494

THE PLANT SALE

Spring is here, tra la, and Spring brings the Plant Sale. This will be as usual at Tutsham on Sunday, 10 May at 2pm. If you have anything horticultural to offer, now is the time to get it ready. You have a little more time to prepare cakes, preserves or other goodies. But this is just an early warning. Next month's Life-Line will contain more details.

MESSAGE from the new NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR IVOR MASKELL

You are cordially invited to attend a first meeting with your new co-ordinator on TUESDAY, 7 APRIL at 7.30pm in the church. The object of this meeting is to introduce myself and hopefully gain your support to make NHW more than just a sign on the roadside.

PC Mick Wright, the Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, will be in attendance, will explain what it's all about and will be issuing stickers.

I am currently looking for deputy co-ordinators, at least two, to cover the whole village.

Looking forward to meeting you. Meantime give me a ring on any matter of concern on 01622 727264.

EVERGREENS

A week early this month -
Tuesday, 7th April, at Mill Cottage

LENT VISITING

A team of seven are endeavouring to visit every household in West Farleigh before Easter. Although we do need to increase the church's income, this is not the main reason for visiting: we want everyone to see a face from our village church. The great majority of people do not want to see our church close down but the task of sustaining it needs to be a collective responsibility. A small covenant, equal to a few drinks or regular cinema visit, is of course the most valuable and effective way of ensuring that All Saints keeps going. We are grateful for the offers of help of all kinds that have been made and hope that the promised covenant forms and donations will be returned to either the Treasurer, Mrs Valeria Grainger, The Barn, Hilltop, Hunton, ME15 0QP, or Mr Huw Evans, Court Lodge, Lower Road, West Farleigh, ME15 0PD.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

The APCM will be in the church at 8 o'clock on Wednesday, 1st April. Sorry for the short notice. Please come along if you care about how your church is run. Churchwardens will be appointed and all members of the Parish Church Council. You will also be free to raise any matter concerning the church you would like discussed.

ON HOLY SATURDAY, Easter Eve, we are invited to join with St Peter & St Paul's congregation from Aylesford at The Friars, Aylesford, to share with our Roman Catholic friends in the liturgy of the day. We will have our own Eucharist in one of the chapels then re-join the RCs for refreshments. The service begins at 9pm. Be prepared for a late night but do please consider joining in this time of shared worship and Christian fellowship.

THE ORGAN

To be prepared in case our elderly pipe organ has to be replaced, a small group has been looking at the range of alternatives. If you would like to hear what an electronic church organ (not at all the same thing as our temporary one) would sound like, there will be a short concert in church at 3.00pm on Wednesday, 8th April 1998. It would be valuable if as many people as possible could be involved as this is something which concerns all West Farleigh residents who care about All Saints Church, so please come along.

SPORTS REPORT

Relegation continues to loom over us. Having played five games last month, Farleigh's 1st XI have picked up just one point from a possible 15. Defeats by Ditton 1 - 0, MPE 3 - 1, Snodland 4 - 0, Loose Rangers 2 - 0, but a single point again against Loose Rangers 2 - 2, all tell of a desperate fight to survive and we can only hope that in our last three fixtures we will secure the vital points we need to maintain Premier football at Farleigh next season. Still, it's only a game, I've heard people say.

Farleigh 2nd XI have had a mixed bag of results, winning three and losing three. Our successes came in a 3 - 0 Q/Final cup game v Duke of Edinburgh and league games v Knoxbridge 3 - 0 and Dog & Gun 4 - 3. Defeats were Tonbridge in the S/Final (T/Wells Cup) 6 - 1 and league Yalding 4 - 1 & again Knoxbridge 2 - 1.

There are still one or two tables left at our Wine & Wisdom night on 18 April at Hunton V/H. Anyone interested in forming a team of 6, please get in touch.

THE KNICKERS MYSTERY. I've been marking the pitch now for a number of years and have got used to the litter left behind but I'm amazed at finding in the past months 4 pairs of knickers around the pitch area. Could it be that the girls get so excited watching their heroes play that they lose control (no female toilet) or could it be a Tom Jones type reaction and they throw their underwear on to the pitch for their heroes to pick up later - or something else? If you can resolve the mystery, please get in touch or, if the girls get in touch they can have their property back. More earth shattering news next month!

Cheers Tel

AT THE PARISH MEETING in the church on 16 March the accident spots we have on our roads were discussed but all to no purpose as the County Council haven't any money to spare to put things right. Something might be done if public opinion is strong enough. Write to David Swan at Appledore, Charlton Lane.

SERVICES FOR APRIL
IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

April	5	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
	9	0830	HC Alt Service Book Maundy Thursday
	10	1000	Service of Dedication Good Friday
	12	1045	Coffee in Church
		1115	HC Family Service
	19	0930	HC Alt Service Book Rev Joe Caley
	26	1115	Matins

Teston

April	2	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	5	0945	Family Service
		1830	HC Alt Service Book
	6	2000	Compline
	9	2000	HC Alt Service Book Silent watch 'til midnight
	12	0945	HC Family Service
		1830	HC Alt Service Book Rev Joe Caley
	23	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	26	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
		0945	Children's Church
		1830	Evening Prayer
	30	0930	HC Alt Service Book

Wateringbury

April	5	0915	Procession from car Park then HC Alt Service Book
	7	2000	Stations of the Cross
	10	1000	Children's Stations of the cross
		1200	to 1500 3 hr Devotion
	12	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
		0930	Family HC Bishop Brian
	19	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer Rev Ellmore
		1115	Family Service
	26	0930	HC Alt Service Book

Morning Prayer	Tues to Fri	0830
	31 Mar to 3 Apr	Wateringbury
	7 to 10 April	Teston
	14 to 17 April	No Morning Prayer
	21 to 24 April	West Farleigh
	28 Apr to 1 May	Wateringbury

Please telephone me or a Pastoral Assistant if you would like me to call for a home visit or Communion. Monday is my day for myself and family but emergencies at any time.
P.As. - Wateringbury & Teston, Edna Craig, 812922; West Farleigh, Helen Swan, 814445. Denys 812494.