

# 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"

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## NEW LINES FOR OLD?

Parish boundaries are peculiar things. They are lines drawn on the map of history. They have their origins in the days before churches were built and endowed. The clergy resided with their Bishop where his cathedral or 'seat' was and he sent them out to preach and administer the sacraments in any district to which he might assign them. By the end of the 13th Century practically the whole realm had been formed into parishes. But nowadays many of the old parish boundaries have been rendered, if not obsolete, then certainly very unclear where they define a community and since the last war the financial situation in the Church of England has meant that many parishes have to share a parish priest; the days of one church, one incumbent are gone for ever.

We often find too that the ecclesiastical parish line does not necessarily fit neatly over the line drawn by the civil authority. This is clearly seen in this Benefice of Wateringbury, Toston and West Farleigh. Toston and West Farleigh come under Maidstone, and Wateringbury is part of the Tonbridge and Malling administration. We are fortunate indeed that each village has a dedicated group of people who do their utmost to keep the flame of faith burning brightly and the church's worship alive. But, what does the future hold for the parish system? Possible new developments will cause further blurring of the lines. The 13th Century is far behind us and the year 2000 looms like the rising sun. The Christian faith will live on; can the parish system adapt to the changing social scene in the years to come?

Derys

Rev. Derys Gower 01622 81219

## CHARTERS

Congratulations to the young members of the Maxi Js for raising such a good sum for Christian Aid. It is a timely reminder that, although All Saints seems to be concerned largely with raising money for its own survival, it does make substantial contributions to charity. Each year 5% of its income is distributed to local, national and international charities. Doretha House Children's Hospice, Heart of Kent Hospice, RAF Benevolent Fund, Royal Ag. Ben. Inst, British Legion, Friends of Kent Churches, Church Urban Fund Mission to Harare all benefitted last year.

## HEARING DOGS COFFEE MORNING

Sylvia and Pippa are having another coffee morning in aid of the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf charity on Wednesday, 24th June from 10.30 to 12.30 at their home, Green Acre, on Lower Road near the old school. You pay 50p at the door and for that you can not only go in but you can have a cup of coffee and a biscuit as well. You will find plants for sale, a cakes and produce stall and you are invited to bring and buy. The resident Hearing Dog, Digby, will show you round and introduce you to the Hearing Dog Shop where a wide variety of goods will be on sale. All your friends will be there waiting to have a chat.

## BARBECUE TIME

A week and a half after the Hearing Dogs, on Sunday, 5th July, Belinda and Michael Devenish will be ready to welcome you to their garden at Fox Pitt, Shinglebarn Lane, for the village Barbecue Lunch from 12.30. For £6 you get a good lunch with a glass of wine or soft drink (CAPs and Children £4) and plenty of good company. A marquee will give shelter if wet. Cakes and produce will be on sale and there will be a raffle. Tickets from Belinda on 820348 or Tony on 728252 and if you would like a lift, just mention it when ordering tickets. Gifts of cakes and raffle prizes will be very welcome. Oh, and bring a garden chair. You'll be sure of a lovely time. For church funds.

## WEST FARLEIGH v WATERINGBURY

If you like the idea of sitting back relaxing with a glass in your hand in the company of friends while the sound of willow striking leather and the cries of "Owzat" can be heard in the background, come along to West Farleigh cricket ground on Friday, 19 June from 6.30. The match will be between teams from the two churches and is the first of the events planned to raise money for the Organ and Church Improvements Fund. There will be hotdogs, snacks, wine and soft drinks on sale, a cake stall and a raffle. Come and enjoy a summer's evening all in a good cause. Cost for spectators is £1. CAPs and children 50p.

## SPORTS REPORT

Cup Winners! Since being formed in

1965 Farleigh's 2nd XI have secured their first silverware in the Maidstone League, beating Lenham Res in a thrilling penalty shoot-out. After a goal-less 1st half Lenham scored midway through the 2nd half but Ian Payne equalised five minutes later from the penalty spot. In a nerve tingling shoot-out we finally won 4 - 2 and much merriment was had by all. Many thanks to all who supported us on the day.

We played our remaining 4 League games and the final, 5 matches in 7 days and came away with 2 draws and two defeats, losing to Hunton 2 - 0 and E. Malling 4 - 3 and drawing to Snodland 2 - 2 and a dramatic 4 - 4 v Celtic. We kept our first season in Div 3 status and together with our cup success made it a more than satisfying season for the lads.

Farleigh's 1st XI played their crucial relegation battle against Larkfield only to lose 2 - 1 after being 1 - 0 up at H/T. So we finished bottom of the Premier Div and will probably be playing Div I next season. Let's hope we can do a Middlesbrough and bounce back the following year.

Farleigh's cricketers' first league game v Southborough brought our first victory. We made 180. Southborough could only manage about 110. We then travelled to Sheldwich, a very enjoyable game we just lost by 2 wickets to the second to last ball.

Our summer dance starring Tonic Blue (by popular demand) 25th July, Tutsham Farm.

Cheers

Tel

## PARISH VISITING and THE ORGAN

Tests for asbestos

contamination in the church organ have now been completed and although it was found to be not so great as had at first been feared, the organ needs so much general restoration work that renovation is not recommended by the experts.

Our house visiting during Lent showed encouraging support and the PCC has decided to proceed with the purchase of a new organ. The preferred choice of Philip Moore, our organist, was the "Cathedral" organ which was demonstrated in church before Easter.

This sounded like a pipe organ and had many other benefits.

Vying with the organ for funds is the sound system in the church. At present there is no way to enable our young people to be heard or to assist the hard of hearing. The PCC has therefore decided to instal a new sound and loop system.

These decisions are an act of faith as the money is not there at the moment. The total cost will be £25,000. A donation of £10,000 has given the Organ and Church Improvement Fund a magnificent start. Other donations and the church's resources raise our funds to £15,000 but we're still £10,000 short. Let us make raising this money a community, millennium effort and celebrate with a new organ and sound system fully paid for.

YOUR EDITOR has resigned as PCC secretary after 12 years but his place has been generously taken by Helen Barton of the newly converted Little Hoot East (phone 817079) round by the church.

THE PLANT SALE this year brought in the record sum of £763, thanks to the work put in by willing workers and perfect weather. Special thanks to John and Sue Day.

SERVICES FOR JUNE  
IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

## West Farleigh

June	7	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
	14	10.45	Coffee in church
		1115	Family Service
	21	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	28	1115	Matins

## Teston

June	4	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	7	0945	Family Service
		1830	HC Alt Service Book
	11	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	14	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
		0945	Children's Church
	18	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	21	0945	Children's Church
		1830	HC Alt Service Book
	25	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	28	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
		0945	Children's Church
		1830	Evening Prayer

## Wateringbury

June	7	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	14	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	21	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
		1115	Family Service
	28	0930	HC Alt Service Book
			Civic & Community Service for Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling

June	14	Deanery Songs of Praise at East Malling, St. James 1830
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Morning Prayer	Tues to Fri	0830
	2 to 5 June	West Farleigh
	9 to 12 June	Wateringbury
	16 to 19 June	Teston
	30 June to 3 July	Wateringbury

FRANCES, your editor's wife, is very ill in hospital after a series of strokes. She is paralysed on her right side, a cruel parody of her real self, unable to speak and being fed through a tube in her stomach. In view of this and out of respect it has been thought best to cancel Evergreens for this month.

Whoever, Grove Lane, Hunton, Open Day, 20 June 11am.  
Festival W/E St Mary's Nettlestead, 27 to 28 June.