

No. 287 February 1999

THREE THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR IN '98

As we enter more deeply into 1999, the congregations of our three churches can offer thanks that in each place of worship something new appeared in the year that is passed.

At Wateringbury on Easter Sunday, Bishop Brian of Tonbridge dedicated a most lovely wooden carving, the Christus Victor. It depicts Jesus's victory over death, his figure moving away from the cruel cross and his hands and feet unfettered by man-made nails. It grows more lovely every time I sit below it and reflect upon its meaning - Christ loose in the world!

Teston now has a beautiful interior window in the tower. The ugly board that once filled the large hole is no more. The little St. Peter's window set in the external wall now is revealed and the alteration gives the church a light and spacious feel. The window is in memory of Lord Barham and James Ramsey, a former Rector of Teston and fighter against the slave trade. Bishop Michael has been invited to dedicate the window on Sunday, 21st February at 6.30pm.

After much discussion and heart searching the old organ at West Farleigh was deemed to be past its play-by date. We now have a magnificent digital instrument, the pride and joy of our resident organist Philip Moore. This organ looks very traditional but has within its timbers a wide variety of musical variations and alternatives. It should be a great asset to our worship. I had pleasure in dedicating the new organ to God's glory and service.

Both Wateringbury and West Farleigh have new sound systems which also assist the hard of hearing to share in the services. We all have much to give thanks for in the year that has passed.

David Swan, Rector.

THE NEW VILLAGE GREEN BYELAWS

An edict has gone out which reads like a cross between a declaration of human rights and the ten commandments. It is the new set of rules governing the Village Green agreed between the Borough Council and the Parish Council.

The main theme is that behaviour on the Green should be civilised and, while the Green is there for the enjoyment of all, we shouldn't get up to anything which is going to spoil things for others.

Among the thou shalt nots is a ban on horses either ridden or put out to grass. Another is an exhortation to clear up after your dog. There is a bin for dropping in droppings and it would be to everyone's good if it was used. Also, keep your dog out of the fenced off part where the play equipment is.

Other prohibitions embrace camping (including caravans), fires, fireworks, shouting, singing and loud music.

In other words, don't be a nuisance, look after the Green like your own garden and the world will love you.

The rules will be displayed on the village notice boards but if you would like your very own copy, ask David Swan on 814445.

EVERGREENS Apologies for the last minute change of venue last month. We contacted as many as possible but sadly we did let someone down. This month we are at Mill House, Tutsham Farm, the home of Stuart and Irene Dyer, on Tuesday, 9 Feb, at 2.30pm. If you are free on Tuesdays, join us for a cup of tea and a natter. If you require a lift, ring Helen Swan on 814445.

RECIPES The West Farleigh Recipe Book is coming together nicely but there is still time to send in your favourite recipes for inclusion in it. There is room for the very simplest meals as well as the more sophisticated ones. For instance, ex girl guides and boy scouts must have memories of things cooked over a camp fire and, these days, with barbecues opening up an entirely new concept of meals, there must be many variations on the theme of open air cooking. Bonfire night favourites could fill an entire chapter. And there must be a dozen ways of doing toasted sandwiches, beans and jacket potatoes.

No deadline has been fixed for publication so there is time to let your imagination soar and get working to immortalise yourself in print. Get in touch with Val Grainger on 820305 or write to her at The Barn, Shinglebarn Lane, Hunton, ME15 0QP.

SPORTS REPORT

I don't know what we did over Christmas but whatever it was we ought to do it more often as Farleigh 1st XI have started with our first league win, two more draws and a narrow defeat. We began away to Ditton, drawing 1 - 1; next came MPE and a fine 4 - 2 victory after being 1 - 0 down at h/t. Second placed Loose Rangers followed the next week and another worthy 1 - 1 draw. Finally this month we entertained high-flying The Rose at home in the Challenge Cup. After a gritty performance we were defeated 1 - 0.

While all this was going on, Farleigh 2nd XI, due to non arranged fixtures and postponed matches, have only actually completed one match this month which was away to East Malling; after a disappointing first half when we found ourselves 4 - 1 down, we rallied and were unfortunate to lose 4 - 3.

Many thanks to all who supported our recent Barn Dance. Our next social event will be our Wine & Wisdom evening on Saturday, 10 April.

Finally, Farleigh 1st XI are in need of new shirts for next season. We were wondering if there's anyone in the village willing to sponsor the team. Please get in touch if you're interested (745744)

Cheers

Tel

LENT GROUPS AT WATERINGBURY

As a preparation for Holy Week and Easter, there will be meetings for reading, prayer and reflection on Wednesdays at Wateringbury church in the Vestry at 8pm starting on 24 February to 24 March. You will not be asked to pray aloud or to do anything you do not want to do. If you have a tape or CD or an instrument to play, bring them along. You will be very welcome.

BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Thank you to all those who filled in questionnaires. As a result the Baby & Toddler Group will now meet every TUESDAY at WYNGARTH, Lower Road, the home of Adrian and Sue Payne. We are grateful to Adrian for allowing us to use his house. It will be warmer, child friendly and much more suitable than the church. Anyone at home looking after a young child is very welcome. Any queries to Helen Swan on 814445 or Adrian Payne on 812616.

FUTURE PATTERN OF PARISHES

West Farleigh PCC, with their eyes on the future, are expecting to link up with the parishes of East Farleigh, Coxheath, Hunton and Linton. Discussions about this move have been conducted over recent years. There is as yet no date set for the change but the PCC wish parishioners to be aware of the negotiations.

THE RECTOR'S DAY OFF

My sincere thanks to all who have been kind enough to respect my day off (Mondays) through the past year. If you are able to keep non-urgent business for Tuesdays and the rest of the week we would be most grateful.

Denys

ORGAN CONCERT 16 January

To a full church, Philip Moore presented a musical journey to demonstrate the versatility of the instrument. The Organ Fund profitted by £285.

JAN MORRIS

at the White House is troubled by the sudden presence of a very nice looking grey cat (with a few white bits) in their hay barn. She is feeding him but he is beating up Jan's own cats. Do you know anyone who is grieving over a lost cat? Or are you prepared to take on a stray?

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY
IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

Feb	7	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
	14	1045	Coffee in church
		1115	Family Service
	21	0930	HC Alt. Service Book
	28	1045	Coffee in church
		1115	Family Communion

Teston

Feb	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
		1830	Evensong
	18	0930	HC Alt. Service Book
	21	0945	Children's Church
		1830	HC Alt. Service Book
			Dedication of Barham/Ramsey Window. Bishop Michael
	25	0930	HC Alt. Service Book
	28	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
		0945	Children's Church
		1830	Evensong

Wateringbury

Feb	7	0930	Morning Prayer
	14	0930	HC Alt. Service Book
	17	2000	HC Alt. Service Book
			Ash Wednesday. See of Ashing
	21	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
		1115	Family Service
	28	0930	HC Alt. Service Book

Morning Prayer Tues to Friday 0830

2 to 5 Feb West Farleigh

9 to 12 Feb Wateringbury

16 to 19 Feb Teston

23 to 25 Feb (Thursday) West Farleigh

Thank you to all who sent us cards for Christmas and those kind people who gave us gifts our sincere appreciation.

Bileen and Denys Gower