

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

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LIVING WITH UNCERTAINTY

Last month I joined with a group of fellow Chaplains from the Kent Industrial Mission (KIM) and Bishop Michael on a visit to the Magnox Littlebrook power station at Dartford, a place full of metal girders, endless open mesh stairways and gantries. We were taken on a high-rise tour of the plant and I soon began to feel like an ant crawling around a giant Meccano set. It was rather like the set of a James Bond film.

The expert guide who conducted us around said that, though only a few years ago nuclear power appeared to be the source of energy, light and power for the foreseeable future, its days might well be numbered in this country. Gas was the up and coming, or rather the returning source of power that was now challenging the nuclear industry. Many people working in this field were wondering about their livelihoods in the not too distant future.

Living with uncertainty, wondering if the job is safe is not a modern problem but it now reaches well beyond the shop floor and touches people at all levels of employment. Not everyone gets a golden handshake! After some 30 years in the printing and sign industry it came as a shock to me and my colleagues when the axe fell on our busy and productive business in Rochester.

If you are in a "secure" job or have a comfortable pension after a successful career, spare a prayer for those "whose services are no longer required".

Denis [Signature]
Keston.

HOMELESSNESS SUNDAY

This was on 31 January and a spot of character acting by Adrian Payne added poignancy, colour and drama to the occasion. People arriving at the church that morning found this vagrant begging in the porch. He was a convincing begger but Life-Line has no information as to how much he charmed out of people's pockets before his identity was revealed. One hopes he did well and that the reputation of West Farleigh parishoners for generosity and tolerance was upheld. Fortunately there just happened to be coffee and biscuits available in the church prior to the service and the homeless one was invited to assuage his hunger and thirst, an invitation he gratefully accepted, begging being a stressful business.

The service was sympathetically and confidently conducted by Hannah Walsh with massive backing from the Delta Group and their band. (These are the young people of the church). Homelessness was, of course, the theme and the causes and effects of homelessness were dwelt upon, also the reactions of settled folk thereto.

In recognition of the problem and in a noble attempt to do something about it there is a day centre for homeless people at Lenworth House, King Street, Maidstone run by Christian Care and they are always in need of blankets, sleeping bags, towels and warm jackets. They also have a furniture store. If you think you can help them the number to ring is 753481.

In our prosperous society, homelessness is no joke.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sorry for the short notice but the Annual Parish Meeting is to be held in the church on Monday, 1st March at 7pm. This is your chance to stand up and give your views on any matter of local concern.

There is a full agenda and under their separate headings the village charities (including the Village Hall Fund), the Millennium and the new byelaws for the Village Green will be discussed. The final item will be an open forum when you can raise anything which takes your fancy. Our Parish Councillors will be there ready to answer questions and it is hoped that County Councillor Paul Oldham and Borough Councillor John Williams will be in attendance. Police have been invited, also Mr Ivor Maskell, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

It should all be entertaining and informative and it concerns all of us.

SPORTS REPORT

Farleigh's 1st XI, after having a string of encouraging results in January, have gone into reverse and have been defeated in all their games since. First came The Rose (Benevolent Cup), 5 - 2, then Loose Rangers, 5 - 0, Cherry Tree 3 - 1 and finally Staplehurst 1 - 0. It all tells a sorry tale but let's hope March will spring us back to better form.

The 2nd XI have continued NOT to play this month for various reasons, only playing the one league game, but we didn't take advantage of the opportunity, losing to fellow relegation strugglers Snodland. Let's hope it's not too late to change both our teams' fortunes around.

With the cricket season fast approaching and without sounding sexist, we are looking to see if there might be a lady willing to help produce our cricket teas for the coming season. If you think you might be able to help and would like to know more details, please get in touch - 745744.

Dates for your diary. 8 March, Cricket A.G.M. in the Bull. 10 April, Wine & Wisdom, Hunton V/H.

Be in touch

Cheers

Tel

EVERGREENS

Tuesday, 9 Mar
at Sundowner, Charlton La,
the home of Ann and Graeme
McNaughton. If you need a
lift, ring Helen on 814445.
Come and join us if you're
a pensioner.

Mothering Sunday.

The Campaigners will be
leading the Family See
on 14 March to give
thanks for mothers.
Coffee at 1045. Service
starts at 1115.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

West Farleigh has been described as sleepy but it has never been called dozey. Maybe that's why the criminals tend to leave us alone and why we enjoy a pretty low crime rate. Nevertheless, Ivor Maskell, our Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator, has set out a list of police inspired tips designed to help to keep offences at their present low level. Cars figure high in any list of crimes so the warning goes out to keep yours locked and disabled if possible and to keep valuables out of sight. And if you see one abandoned, note its number and the tax disc particulars before reporting it then give the authorities ten days to move it before giving them a reminder.

Phoney gas, electricity and water officials are always about and they're getting more cunning. If you get a notice about disconnection, check it by ringing the utility number in the directory, not the number on the form and check the identity of any visitors and, if in doubt, keep them out. On an even higher level of sophistication, persons pretending to be Internet providers are anxious to learn your credit card number, so don't tell them. And keep your garden sheds locked. Finally, Ivor Maskell still wants more helpers so if you would like to take part ring him on 727264.

SPONSORED WALK

The Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent organise a walk each year for various charities but mainly for the Cancer Research Campaign. This year it is on Sunday 27 June. For an information pack phone 01622 738596.

SERVICES FOR MARCH
IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

Mar	7	0800	HC Bk Common Prayer
	14		Mothering Sunday
		1045	Coffee in church
		1115	Family Service
	21	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	28		Palm Sunday
		1115	Matins
April	1	2000	Vigil with Communion
	2		Good Friday
		1000	Service of Contemplation
	4	0930	Family Communion

Teston

Mar	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
		1500	Family Service
	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 Book Common Prayer
		0945	Children's Church
		1830	Choir sings Stainer's Crucifixion
April	2	1300	Contemplation of Cross
	4	0945	Family Communion

Wateringbury

Mar	7	0930	Matins
	14	0930	Family Communion
	21	0800	HC Book Common Prayer
		1115	Family Service
	28	0915	Meet in carpark. Process to church.
		0930	HC Alt Service Book
April	1	1600	Children's Stations of the Cross
	2	Noon	Stations of the Cross
	4	0800	HC Book Common Prayer
		1115	Family Communion

Morning Prayer Tuesday to Friday 0830

2 to 5 March Wateringbury

9 to 12 Teston

16 to 19 West Farleigh

23 to 26 Wateringbury

Home Communion. If you are unable to attend church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact me or, for West Farleigh, Helen Swan on 814445. If you would like a home visit for any reason, please contact Helen or me.

Denys Gower 812494