

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. 293 August 1999

LOOKING FOR DIRECTIONS

Dr Billy Graham tells the story of the time when he arrived in a small town for a preaching appointment. He needed to post a letter so, seeing a small boy, he asked him where he could find the Post Office. The boy gave him directions and Billy Graham thanked him and said, "I'm preaching this evening. If you care to come to church you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven." "I won't bother, thanks very much," said the boy, "You don't even know your way to the Post Office."

I'm sure you have heard it said that some people are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good. I don't know many Christians like that. Most of us are street-wise enough to find our way to the Post Office and at the same time have heaven on our minds.

For Christians the New Testament provides a Highway Code to heaven and Jesus gave his disciples (and us) the travelling directions when he said to Thomas, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me." That statement is not as simple as it sounds, of course, as in much that he said Jesus leaves us to work it out for ourselves

Denys Gower, Rector

SPONSORED BIKES

The annual bike ride round local churches will happen on Saturday, 11th August. You visit as many churches as you can, getting yourself sponsored per church, and you give half the proceeds to the Friends of Kent Churches (who are organising it) and half to your own church. You don't have to ride your bike. You can walk if you wish. But motorised transport is not allowed. You could also be sponsored for sitting at the church checking off visiting cyclists and walkers. Penny Saunders (phone 813597) is organising a rota of volunteers to man the church on that day. She has sponsor forms for riders, walkers and sitters and would love to hear from you. Roll up, roll up.

EVERGREENS Next meeting Tuesday, 10th August at Applecote, Charlton Lane, home of Helen and David Swan.

CHRIS AND SUE SHELTON of Charlton Lane proudly announce the birth of their son Harry on 25 July. Mother & son both fine.

IT WAS ALMOST A FINE DAY on 4th July for the annual village barbecue which was the usual relaxed and friendly occasion. Court Lodge provided an attractive setting, the cooks kept everyone supplied with delicacies straight off the hot coals and other willing helpers provided a tempting array of salads. The produce stall did brisk business in cakes and jams and things and the sale of raffle tickets kept Val Barnwell busy. The event raised £475 for church funds. Thanks go to hosts Huw and Sarah and all who helped and attended this happy gathering.

THE REVUE

This innovative event, the first of its kind in living memory, took place on 16 July and chalked up a great success for the organisers and justified their faith that such a thing could be done. A lot of talent was revealed among our neighbours including the WI Dancers, the Campaigners, two fairies of uncertain age, Frank Underdown in good voice and a well received rendition of "If I were a rich man" from Bryan.

The evening raised £270 for the Church Improvements Fund.

THE PLAQUE commemorating donors of £500 or more to the organ fund and a new Book of Gospels with a page recording all those who donated to the fund will be dedicated at the Family Service on Sunday, 12th September.

It is a remarkable achievement to have raised £25,000 in a year and our services are now enhanced by the organ sounds. It has been a community effort with many people involved in the fund raising events and everyone will be welcome at the church on 12th September. Gather for a cup of coffee at 10.45 followed by the service at 11.15.

HEARING DOGS FOR THE DEAF would like to say how much they appreciate the generous gift of £145 from family and friends in loving memory of May Baggott.

The Hearing Dogs coffee morning on 30 June raised £283. Many thanks to all who helped and supported this friendly occasion.

SPORTS REPORT

Hallo, wie geht's. Don't panic, I've not lost my marbles or Jim's tripe wrighter on the blink, I'm trying out my extensive German vocabulary in line for our Ringstedt visit this week-end.

Our month's cricket fixtures, although playing es geht so, our results have been furchtbar. Although most of the games have been close, we are still looking for our first league win of the season. Let's hope our last four league games will produce better fortunes.

July 31 Horsemonden, home 2pm. Aug 7 Rumwood, away 2pm
Aug 14 Leeds & Broomfield, home 1.30pm
Aug 21 Southborough, away 1.30pm
Friendly: Aug 28 Willesborough, home 2.30pm

Our long awaited Ringstedt visit this week end kicks off with our popular dance at Tutsham (tickets still available but not many). Saturday will come and our football match will hopefully kick off at 11am. Sunday morning night not come to some of us but we will all be attending the church service on the Green (11am) followed by our official village twinning ceremony. Then at some time in the afternoon the World Lawnmower Championship will take place. We hope many village people will be there, meet our friends from Ringstedt and have a really enjoyable day.

Many thanks to Mr Roland Day who very kindly bought our 1st XI much needed football kit. I only hope the team will play as good as they will look! Thanks again.

Ton-up Winners

June £10	Helena Baines	July £10	P Bissenden
£5	Mick Back	£5	Les Watkin
£5	J Pollard	£5	Mrs G Martin

Summer Jackpot £20 Mrs I Dyer

If you would like any more details about this week-end's events, please give me a call on 745744.

Cheers

Tel

SERVICES FOR AUGUST IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

Aug	1	0800	HC Book Common Prayer
		1115	Twinning Service on the Green
	8	10.5	Coffee in church
		1115	Family Service
	15	0930	HC Alt. Service Book
	22	10.5	Coffee in church
		1115	Family Communion
	29	10.5	Coffee in church
		1115	Family Service with Baptism

Teston

Aug	1	09.5	Family Service
		1830	HC Alt. Service Book
	5	0930	HC Alt. Service Book
	8	0800	HC Book Common Prayer
		1830	Evensong
	12	0930	HC Alt. Service Book
	15	1830	HC Alt. Service Book
	19	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	22	0800	HC Book Common Prayer
	26	0930	HC Alt. Service Book
	29	1830	Songs of Praise and Compline

Wateringbury

Aug	1	0930	Matins
	8	0930	HC Alt. Service Book
	15	0800	HC Book Common Prayer
		1115	Family Service
	22	0930	HC Alt Service Book
	29	0930	HC Book Common Prayer

Morning Prayer Tuesday to Friday 6.30
3 to 6 Aug Wateringbury
10 to 13 Aug Teston
17 to 20 Aug West Farleigh
24 to 27 Wateringbury

OUR CHURCH'S FUTURE

As given out in July's Life-Line there was a meeting in the church on the 20th for thoughts about its future and to decide whether it should stay as it is or undergo some alteration to make it suitable for both worship and for social events. The Revd. Canon Paul Wright gave the meeting the benefit of his wide experience in these matters and made several sensible suggestions. The feeling of the meeting was that, while the church did not seem to lend itself to boisterous functions such as wedding receptions, there was scope to make it more user friendly without spoiling its character. It would be possible, for example, to create open spaces for small gatherings and it was even suggested that a balcony or minstrels' gallery could be built for such a purpose. Such a gallery used to exist many years ago. The ball is now in the PCC's court.

If you are going on holiday, have a restful and refreshing time. Just spare a prayer for those who are unable to go away because of family problems, work or lack of finance.

Denys

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A table was stolen from outside Oliver North House on the night of 24 June. Thieves will steal ANYTHING not secured. And don't leave your front door open in this hot weather.