

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

No. 29, September 1999

LIGHTS IN THE WORLD

At St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Teston, you will see a Votive Candle stand near the pulpit. It is well used by those attending our services at Teston, for each lighted candle represents a prayer. It may be a prayer for someone who is unwell, a prayer in memory of someone who has died, a prayer of thanksgiving for some good news, a prayer for someone who is facing a testing time. The little flame is a symbol of our prayer offered quietly to God. It is also a symbol of His presence in our need. It is a visual prayer.

There was a time when I had no interest in lighting votive candles. I thought those who did so were wasting their time and that such things were no more than pretty lights. Over the years I came to understand and appreciate the value of symbols in ministry and worship and have now lit candles for many people and many situations and offered up a prayer as I did so. Sometimes someone says, after visiting a church, "I lit a candle for you". Such a simple statement makes us feel valued and cared for. Somewhere we were remembered and named before our Lord. In our baptism service in this Benefice we offer a lighted candle to the parents of the child and all the congregation says, "Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father."

If you enter a church that has votive candles, why not light one for a friend and pray those words for her or him?

Deerp Sower

A FREIGHTER

For bulk waste will be at the Green on Saturday, 4 September from 7.45 to 8.45am.

CELEBRATIONS

We should have had a Harvest Supper this year. It normally happens towards the end of September. But so much else is happening, what with the Revue back in July and the Harvest Song - Festival of Flowers and Music (see overleaf) - that the Supper has been upstaged. So instead, a Millennium Supper has been dreamed up for this special New Year. It will take quite a bit of organising so if you would like to get in on the act, ring Leslie Cushing on 812341.

USELESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

The bats have come back to Mill Cottage. The Bat Group counted 42. They are pipistrelles.

A FAREWELL

Having been your editor since July 1987 and with my 80th birthday creeping up on me, I thought it about time I moved over and let someone else have a go.

Jane Stewart is the noble lady who has volunteered to take up the editor's pen and it is she who will from now on be the village scribe whose task it will be to record all our village news, trivial or of wider import. Bryan Ransom will continue to report our goings on weekly in the Kent Messenger.

You will find Jane on 01622 812562 or at 2 Court Lodge Cottages, near the church. She will be Life-Line's third editor since its inception in April 1975 when dear old Harold Harbour first launched it as a revolutionary giveaway news sheet. Before that Harold edited the West Farleigh Parish Magazine which cost 3d, though this was inflated to 4p soon after decimalisation. Nobody wanted to pay this large sum so, with financial backing from an enlightened Parish Council, residents were treated to free news and even had it delivered to their doors by a dedicated team of volunteers. This is the way it is today. I have tried to continue Harold Harbour's light hearted way of presenting the news and I'm sure Jane will do the same. I wish her joy and hope her offerings will be greeted with the same tolerance and kindness which I have enjoyed these past 12 years.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Patel

CAMPAIGNERS

The Autumn term starts on Thursday, 9th September, 6.45 - 8.15pm in the church. If you are not already a Campaigner and are between 6 and 13, come and join us. For more information ring Tony or Sue Walsh on 728252, Nick Saunders on 813597 or Helen Swan on 814445.

If you would like to help to run Campaigners we would be pleased to hear from you. If you cannot commit yourself to come regularly we would still like to hear from you especially if you have any hobby or skill you would be prepared to share with the young people.

EVERGREENS Next party on Tuesday, 14 September when we visit Merriments Gardens, Hurst Green. Assemble on the Green at 2.30. As Helen Swan will be away, all questions to Stuart Dyer, 812268.

THE BOOT FAIR

SUNDAY, 26 September 9am to 1pm in the River Field by Teston Bridge
Enquiries about pitches to Huw Evans on 812222.
You can pay for your pitch at the gate but Huw would like to know how many pitches will be required so please give him a ring.
All towards church funds.

SPORTS REPORT

Cricket: Great news! Put out the flags. We won our first and only league match this season. It was v Leeds and Broomfield. We restricted them to 160 and we passed their total with six wickets remaining. Mike Piper, playing the starring role, made 100 not out. But we lost to Southborough and the fixtures v Horsemonden and Rumwood were rained off. We had a creditable draw in a friendly v Willesborough. Our final games are friendly aways v Sissinghurst, Benenden, Waterringbury and Hunton.

Football: Our friendlies are now in full swing, ready, we hope, for the start of the new season on 11 Sept. We are in need of a goalkeeper and any other players wishing to come along please get in touch on 745744.

Many thanks to all who contributed to another successful Ringstedt tour. We are now fully twinned with our friends from Germany. Fine weather helped with our programme which included a dance at Tutsham, an Elvis Presley karaoke evening, the World Lawn Mower Championship, bat & trap, barbecues, the lovely church service on the Green, the odd beer drinking game and, of course, the football which ended at 2 - 2 by which time we were all thirsty again. Looking forward to next year when we begin a new century of tours. Be in touch. Cheers, Tel.

HARVEST SONG A FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS AND MUSIC

The church will be open:- On Friday, 8th October 2.00pm to 5.00pm

On Saturday, 9th October 10.00am to 5.00pm, then at 7.30pm:-

"MUSIC FOR ALL" an organ concert by Peter Bonnert

Peter Bonnert has been the organist at East Farleigh church for 40 years. His programme will include music from the shows, Latin American, novelty numbers and classical. Proceeds will be shared between church funds and the Maidstone Hospital League of Friends.

Tickets £5 including a glass of wine. Under 16s £2.50. From Mollie Underdown on 813000.

Then on Sunday, 10 October, 10.30 for 1115, Harvest Festival Service, then church open Noon - 5pm Refreshments available, cake and plant sale. Volunteers are sought to serve teas and act as stewards in the church while it is open. Before the press gang comes round, ring Helen Swan on 814445 or Mollie Underdown on 813000 to volunteer.

COLLECTIONS

1) Val & Sophie Barnwell thank all donors in Hill Top, Shingle Barn Lane & Barn Hill who helped to raise £50.50 the Nat. Inst for the Blind.

2) Christie Morgan thanks all in Lower Road who helped to raise £65.57 for the Barnardos appeal.

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER IN ALL THREE CHURCHES

West Farleigh

Sept 5 0800 HC Book Common Prayer
12 10.45 Coffee in church
1115 Family Service
Dedication of Organ Plaque
19 0930 HC Alt Service Book
26 NO SERVICE - Boot Fair

Teston

Sept 2 0930 HC Alt. Service Book
5 1830 HC Alt. Service Book
3, 4 & 5 Sept Flower Festival
9 0930 HC Alt. Service Book
12 0800 HC Book Common Prayer
0945 Children's Church
1830 Evensong
16 0930 HC Alt. Service Book
19 0945 Children's Church
1830 HC Alt. Service Book
26 0800 HC Book Common Prayer
0945 Children's Church
1830 Evensong

Waterringbury

Sept 5 0930 Matins
12 0930 HC Alt Service Book
19 0800 HC Book Common Prayer
1115 Family Service, Harvest
26 0930 HC Alt. Service Book

Morning Prayer Tuesday to Friday 0830

31 Aug to 3 Sept Teston
7 to 10 Sept West Farleigh
14 to 17 Sept Waterringbury
21 Sept only Teston

Morning Prayer begins again on
12 October at West Farleigh.

DON'T FORGET the service of dedication for the organ plaque on 12 September.