

EVERGREENS

A traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, sherry and wine was enjoyed by the Evergreens and their guests. The meal was masterminded and prepared by Anne McNaughton, with a little help from her friends! Thanks Anne it was absolutely splendid! Thank you also to Bun Balston who played the piano for some Carols afterwards. More thanks to the Parish Council for a generous contribution to our funds. We will be planning how to spend it at our next meeting, on Tuesday January 9 at 2.30pm at Margaret Evans' house, Cae Alun, in Church Lane, just past the Church.

A LOAD OF RUBBISH?

Waiting for the binmen after the chaos of Christmas? If your usual refuse collection day is Monday, it will be removed on Tuesday January 2, with every other collection falling a day later throughout the week. Normal Friday refuse collections will take place on Saturday, January 6.

MUSIC MAESTRO PLEASE!

Can all children coming along to the Family Service on January 14 please bring along any musical instrument they might have. It doesn't have to be Mum's Grand Piano - toy drums, tambourines and rattles are all acceptable! The idea is for the children to accompany at least one item - unrehearsed!



EVENING ALTERNATIVE

These services are to be a regular feature on the first Sunday of every month at All Saints Church. The next is on January 7 at 6.00pm. You've had the traditional Christmas service for something a little different! This is a suitable for all - but don't expect Evening Refreshments afterwards.

HOUSEGROUP

This year we will get organised!!! The first meetings of the year will take place from Appledore, Charlton Lane on Wednesday 10 and Wednesday January 31. Do come a relaxed evening of discussion and worship.

FARLEIGHS WI

The Farleighs Millennium Christmas Entertainment played to full houses in the Farleighs Hall. The drama group put on a one-act comedy 'Michele Pulan and the singing/acting group 'Another Opening, Another Show' directed by Furlonger. Pianist was Jean Bartholome. The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 10, Farleighs Hall. New members and guests welcome.

VACANCIES

West Farleigh has a vacancy for a Parish Clerk. If you are interested and would like to need more information please ring the Swan, on 814445 or the Chairman, Don on 812035.

The village is also in need of a new KM correspondent, following Bryan Ransom's family moving to Otham. Volunteers 01622 695666.

CAMPAIGNERS

The Campaigners enjoyed a visit to Maplesden Noakes School, where they enjoyed a wac of the Christmas story. James Bond was the Angel Gabriel and Basil Fawltly was the Innkeeper. We also learned some new Christmas songs and sang some well-loved old carols. Ideas for next year's Nativity Play are forming already!

On our last meeting of the year, we went carol singing around the caravan site at East Farleigh. Young people enjoyed it and I'm sure the residents did also! We finished the evening with a bun in East Farleigh church Hall.

We were pleased that the Campaigners were included in the Service of Lessons and Carols. You may have heard them bell-ringing at some of the other Christmas services.

Our thanks to the Parish Council for their generous contribution to Campaigner funds. It will be put to good use for the youngsters of the parish.

Next term will start on Thursday 11th January. Junos 6.15 to 7.45 and Inters 7.45 to 9.15.

All meetings this term will be in All Saints Church.

If your youngsters would like to join, come along one Thursday or phone Sue Walsh 7282 or Helen Swan 814445.

SAINTS - A CHURCH FOR THE FUTURE?

World moves on; we move on, seemingly faster and faster. However young we may be, we look at a world which is different from the one in which we grew up. It isn't just scientific and technological changes either: attitudes are changing too, not only in this country but across the whole world. We probably think that many of these developments are not for the better; indeed some are both exciting and painful. Like so many other bodies, West Farleigh church is having to change and 2001 will see some developments in our church which could feel unpalatable, particularly to those who wish our church to remain constant in a changing society. But fundamental questions must be asked: first, can we justify a separate church building at West Farleigh when there are those fulfilling its functions at Teston, East Farleigh and Barming? Are there sufficient numbers living in our village to sustain this beautiful old building? Much will depend on what we do with All Saints' Church if we use it; but unless we improve the facilities of the church building, the chances of its ultimate survival will diminish. Our plans to create more usable space at the front and rear of the church; to extend the front of the nave; to install a toilet and sink and to improve the lighting, do not meet everyone's approval. But can we really afford to leave things just as they are? What do you think?
Trainer, Lay Reader

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

West Farleigh has won a prize in the Kent Men of the Trees competition. The award leading to the prize complimented the quality of the trees in all parts of the village, particularly in the churchyard, which it said was a credit to the Parish Council.

Very few trees are not uncommon in Kent villages, West Farleigh is unusual in having them all in first class condition, largely thanks to the skilful use of tree surgery. It also has four mature Blue Cedars and one Deodar, plus a large Yew Tree just over the wall. The Parish Council chairman Don Goodwin's garden, particularly the church, was also given credit, as was the village green, where recent investment by Huw and his team has seen more than 3000 new trees

planted on the Cricket Ground and Rookery Estate were commended on being well-maintained while the village green was praised for its fine Copper Beech, Robinia, a Robinia Frisia and a Golden

Yew Tree. At Teston Bridge, a sensible programme of tree-planting has included various Oak species, Norway Spruce and Grey Alders which now combine to make the Teston area a good feature.

CITY COLLECTIONS

Money for Kent Air Ambulance at the Memorial Service was raised over £1,000. The service of Lessons and Carols at All Saints Church raised £100 for charities supported by the church, including the Heart Foundation, Demelza House and Sight Savers. The contribution by East Peckham Silver Band was appreciated. A singing evening round the village pubs raised a further £100 for Demelza House Children's Hospice and the singers appreciated the refreshments provided by Arthur and Lyn at the White House Public House and the proffered by Derek and Lynn at the Good Intent!

A presentation by the Kent Men of Trees to the village is planned for Sunday, January 28, on the Village Green, at 11 am.

Following the meeting on December 11, Parish Councillors are to report the illegal use of Teston Bridge and other routes by large vehicles and press for further traffic restrictions in village lanes which are not suitable for use by HGVs.

Steps will also be taken to clean up slippery pavements and to have others, in need of repair, inspected.

Serious breaches of the Village Green Bylaws were again brought to the Council's attention. Once these are on display, enforcement action can be taken in liaison with the Borough Council.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday March 5, at 7.30pm, at All Saints Church, Church Lane. Copies of the full Minutes and the Kent Men of the Trees report are available from the Clerk on 814445.

WHIST DRIVE

David and Helen Swan are hosting a Whist Drive at Appledore, Charlton Lane on Saturday, February 17 at 7.00 pm. Card sharks, put it in your diaries now!

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

There are no bus services on January 1 but normal services resume on January 2. On the railways, New Year's Day sees a Sunday service with extra trains. Again, normal services (if you can call them that) resume on January 2. For train enquiries, call 08457 48 49 50

SPORTS REPORT

FOOTBALL

Our football programme last month was devastated by rain and only a handful of games were played. The 1st XI managed just one match - away against Hawkhurst, in the Kent Junior Cup. Being 2-1 down after dominating the first half, Andy Starr scored to force extra time, after which we won 4-2.

An excellent team performance! The 2nd XI played a little more, first away to Leeds when, being 2-1 down at half time, the referee abandoned the match due to a rain soaked pitch. This was followed by our first league win of the season - a terrific 3-1 victory over top-of-the-table East Malling. Finally, in a very tight and entertaining encounter v The Rose, we lost 1-0. Still, there's a long way to go yet....

SOCIAL SCENE

Many thanks to all who supported the Christmas Raffle, to Russell and Sue at The Bull, to the Carol Singers, who still came along even though they knew I was going to sing, to Peter Baggott for organising the tickets and to all who bought and sold tickets and provided us with the prizes.

The Club AGM is on *Monday February 19* at The Bull, East Farleigh. This is more important than usual, as we are in need of a secretary and treasurer. Peter and Grant are standing down after long and terrific service and we need some keen and willing replacements. If you would like to help the club, or know of someone who might fit the bill, please get in touch asap.

TON-UP WINNERS

November

£10 - E Gilbert
£5 - David Swan
£5 - Richard Pomcroy

December

£10 - John Day
£5 - Roy Wells
£5 - David Swan

Grand Christmas Draw

£50 - Danny Burchall
£30 - Frank Underdown
£20 - Mrs J Britcher

Finally, now we are in the New Year, cricket is on our minds again....

The nets have already been booked but we are still in need of some extra cricketers to see us through the coming season. Anyone interested, please get in touch! Enjoy the remainder of the festive season.

Cheers,

Tel (M/S 745744)

SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2001

WEST FARLEIGH

- 7 8.00am BCP Holy Communion -
Geoff Ellmore
6.00pm Evening Alternative
14 11.15am Family Service - Ian Williams
21 9.30am ASB Holy Communion -
Rev Malcolm Perkins
28 11.15am Matins - Ian Williams

NB: Coffee and biscuits are always served prior to the 11.15am Family Service - join us from 10.45am.

TESTON

- 7 9.45am Family Service - Dawn Page
6.30pm ASB Holy Communion
14 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.45am Childrens Church
6.30pm BCP Evensong
21 9.45am Childrens Church
6.30pm ASB Holy Communion
28 8.00am BCP HC - Rev D Bish
9.45am Childrens Church
6.30pm BCP Evensong

WATERINGBURY

- 7 9.30am Matins
14 9.30am ASB HC
21 8am BCP Holy Communion
11.15am Praise & Thanksgiving
28 9.30am ASB HC

THE INTERREGNUM

If you need assistance with arrangements for funerals, weddings, baptisms, home and hospital visits or communion during the Interregnum, please contact one of the lay ministers: Hugh Grainger 820305, Helen Swan 814445 and Ian Williams 728848.

DEADLINE

Please submit all articles for inclusion in the February 2001 issue of Life-Line to the Editor by January 28th. Thank you!

RAINING CATS.....

Joyce Morgan is trying to trace the owner of a friendly black cat, with a collar and white spot under its chin, which has moved into her house, Hillcroft, in Charlton Lane. While Joyce would happily care for the cat, she is unsteady on her feet and afraid of falling over it! Could the owner contact her asap please!