

Life-Line

The FREE
monthly
newsletter for
West Farleigh

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

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No. 338

WORK TO START ON CHANGES TO THE CHURCH

THE FIRST PHASE of re-ordering All Saints Church is set to go ahead, following a surge in support from the local community.

The Parochial Church Council voted unanimously to proceed with the project when it met on May 20, in order to make the church building more suited to the needs of the village.

The first stage, which includes rewiring, removal of several pews, moving the font and organ and re-laying the floor, plus some painting is expected to cost £43,000.

The church has received an anonymous donation of £20,000 from a local family to assist with the re-ordering and the building works are expected to attract significant grant aid. The remainder will be paid for out of church reserves.

Depending on the level of grant aid, it may be that a new outdoor store and toilets will be provided.

John Evans, chairman of the PCC, said: "The church is in a significantly more healthy state than it was a year ago and we are now in a position to proceed. The re-ordering of the church has been on the agenda now for more than four years and the sooner we make a start, the sooner we can provide a facility which is more user-friendly for existing groups in the village and for others who may wish to make use of it."

The existing heating system is in need of repair and upgrading, so the first project will be rewiring.

PLANT SALE

Despite the rather cool and chilly weather, this year's Plant Sale was its usual resounding success.

A total of £629 was raised for the church, thanks to the generosity of those who donated plants and shrubs for sale and those who came and bought them. The cake stall raised £122 and the raffle a further £75.

Thanks to everyone who donated goods for sale, those who worked hard on the day to set up and staff the various stalls and to those who came along and spent so generously.

ARCHIVIST REQUIRED

Do you have an interest in local history? If so, your church needs you! We have documents in the church and the County archives at present and the churchyard also needs mapping, as, at present, we don't know who is buried where! We need a plan that we can add to as burials take place, which would help those tracing ancestors. If you would like to help please ring a church warden John Evans (817420) to Jeremy Lawrence (820713) and ask for more information.

SLOW DOWN - YOU MOVE TOO FAST!

Who has not complained that the pace of life gets faster, work is far more stressful and there is no time for the things we would really like to be doing? Life is so complicated. For many, it would be a delightful dream to find their diaries suddenly had fallen empty!

Jesus didn't exactly lead a gentle life (although he did it without a diary!). Demands were constantly made of him; he was being asked to do this, go there, explain this, answer that. Yet he never lost his way. He had a clear picture of what he was about and he made sure that he got away for some space and quiet with God when things were particularly hectic.

How did he manage it? What was his secret? At best, we might think he might tell us how we too could succeed in keeping on top of things and know where we are going (and he does say, 'learn from me.') But it may be that he sees that we are in need of relief right away so he says 'Come, offload all your cares onto me; I can take them, no problem. (He even says his own burdens are light!) Rest.

I detect an understanding and gentleness that has me trusting him and finding a weight lifted. Yes, I have found that. What's more, his wish is that this lighter, freer life will continue to be our experience. Yet even if we unintentionally take back some of the load onto our own shoulders - and that does happen - he will take it back again, such is God's patience with us.

'Come' is an invitation and often the 'comes' of Jesus are invitations to come to him for a remedy. 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me' is such one. But the most well-known must be this: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.' (Matthew 11 v 28) Could this invitation be personally addressed to you?

Rev'd Roger Castle

LAURIE WALTER - OBITUARY

Longstanding residents of the village will be sad to learn of the death of Laurence (Laurie) Walter.

Although Laurie and his wife Marion had lived in Bearsted for several years, he was previously a stalwart supporter of the church, where he was both Choirmaster and a Lay Reader, a role which he relinquished in 1990.

Laurie assisted greatly during two Interregnums, prior to the appointment of Donald Bish, ran the church choir and even recruited our present church organist, Philip Moore - some 29 years ago!

In later years, both Laurie and his wife were members of the Evergreens and often came back to worship at All Saints.

Laurie, who was 82, was admitted to Maidstone Hospital in April, where he died on May 22. As well as his wife Marion, he leaves a son Edward, who lives in Nettlestead, and a daughter, Geraldine, married to West Farleigh Sports Club chairman Peter Baggott. He also had six grandchildren and several great grandchildren and will be greatly missed by all of them.

The funeral service will be held at Vinter's Park Crematorium at 1.30pm on Monday, June 2 and a Memorial Service, followed by the interment of ashes, will be held at All Saints Church, West Farleigh, on Sunday June 22 at 3pm. Floral tributes or donations to Crossroads, which provides carers for the elderly and infirm, should be sent to Sears Funeral Directors, 3 Fountain Lane, Barming.

Church Treasurer Valeria Grainger is organising a wreath on behalf of the church and anyone who would like to contribute should contact her as soon as possible on 820305.

IN MEMORIAM

Sympathies go out to Susan Evans, of Charlton Lane, whose husband Bill died recently - also to their sons Darren, David and Stephen. The funeral service was held at All Saints Church on May 9.

WELCOME

To Sophie Louise Shelton, of Charlton Lane, brought by her parents Chris and Sue for baptism at All Saints on May 11.

BENEFACTIVE UNITED

This month, with Trinity Sunday ahead, the topic is "Is the Trinity unbiblical, unbelievable and irrelevant?" God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit sounds a stuffy theological subject—but are we missing something pretty amazing? The meeting starts at 7.30pm at the Coxheath centre (behind Holy Trinity Church) on Tuesday June 10. Bring some food to share in our informal supper discussion.

UP AND RUNNING

A gathering with a Christian focus for babies, toddlers and their minders meets at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath from 1.30 p.m. until 3.00 p.m. on alternate Thursdays. Meetings in May are on May 1, 15 and 29. Play, singing, story and activities for the toddlers whilst adults relax over refreshments.

LOGOS

The group for those 13+ meets each Thursday evening during term time at the East Farleigh Church Hall from 7.30-9.30pm. For more details, contact Ruth on 743866 or Andrew on 745264.

100 CLUB WINNERS

All Saints 100 Club winners for May were Sany Durkin (£25) and Sue O'Donnell (£15). With the odds much better than the National Lottery, isn't it time you joined?

Contact Promoter Chas Stewart on 01622 812562 for details of how to sign up.



THANKS

Jackie Mallison says a big thank you to all who sponsored her on the recent Race for Life at Mote Park. She completed the 10K run in 35 minutes to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Please submit all articles for inclusion in the July 2003 issue of Life-Line by Thursday June 26th. Thank you!

THE FARLEIGHS W.I.

Members took part in an Osteoporosis screening day organised by Barbara Bingham recently and, among future events are greyhound racing, the Hampton Court Flower Show and a weekend in France, including a visit to Monet's Garden at Giverny.

Pauline Nind, Sheena O'Kill and Joy Wiltshire led the resolution discussions on children's diets, exercise and health, care of older people and vocational training. These will be voted on at the AGM of the National Federation of WIs at the Royal Albert Hall on June 11. Dawn Lambert will be speaking on "My Addiction - But it's Nice to Have," at the monthly meeting at 7.30pm on June 11 in the Farleighs Hall, Forge Lane.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Spring is in the air - and with it, the seasonal reminder to keep your sheds locked and alarmed. Not only do sheds tend to contain valuable tools and gardening equipment which can easily be sold on at Boot Fairs, but they provide handy house-breaking tools for would-be burglars.

Shed alarms are available from Maidstone Police Station at a nominal cost and act as a useful deterrent.

PC Bryan Hillman is also keen to hear from anyone who spots heavy or wide vehicles breaking the weight and width restrictions on Teston Bridge. He can be contacted directly on 01622 608069. Best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Ivor Maskell, West Farleigh's Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, who has been ill now for several months. Thanks for all his hard work in the past and warm wishes to get well soon.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation courses for young people and adults commence on June 29. These are for you if a) you want to explore your faith more fully, contemplating confirmation in the future; b) you are ready to publicly confirm your baptismal vows; c) you feel it is time to re-affirm your faith or d) you have come to the Church of England from another faith and want to learn more about your new family.

The confirmation service will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath at 10.30am on November 30 2002. Contact Ruth or Roger if you are interested and would like to know more.

SPORTS REPORT

Farleigh Footballers have now come to the end of another season, but are already looking ahead to the next, with training due to start at the beginning of July. As ever, anyone wishing to join us will be most welcome.

At our recent presentation evening, the winners of the Players' Player of the Season were Jason Knight (1st XI) and Danny Page (2nd XI).

CRICKET

Our cricketers are in full swing and have both pitched up one win each. The 1st XI have lost to Milsted and Staplehurst but were victorious over Leeds, while our 2nd XI lost to Headcorn but had a fine win against Meopham. Our Linton Park fixture was abandoned at tea due to rain.

It is worth mentioning our successful recent tour to Newcastle, where we came away undefeated, having won with the last ball of the game - quite amazing considering the amount of drink which was drunk! Here's hoping the rest of the season will be just as good!

On July 25, we are holding our grand summer dance at Buston Manor which will be part of our Ringstedt tour weekend. It promises to be a great evening and tickets are now available. We are limited to 200, however, so if you would like to come please give me a buzz asap.

Cheers

Tel
(M/stone 745744)

EVENING ALTERNATIVE

On Sunday June 1, the Evening Alternative will be a PET SERVICE at Coxheath, starting at 6pm. This guarantees to be an even noisier service than usual and everyone, whatever age, is invited to bring along all their creatures great and small - although horses may need to remain outside!!

PARISH PRAYERS

Churches are not just for Sunday services! Once a month, on the second Monday, there are Parish Prayers - June 9 - from 8pm, a time to remember especially our village, the community and all who live here. Why not drop in?

SERVICES - JUNE 2003 WEST FARLEIGH

- 1** 8am Holy Communion
- Rev Roger Castle
6pm Evening Alternative (Coxheath)
- Helen Swan & Ruth Bierbaum
- 8** 11.00am Morning Worship AA* followed by short service of Communion
- Rev David Jones
- 15** 9.15am Sung Eucharist
- Rev Roger Castle
- 22** 11.00am Morning Worship T*
- Rev Roger Castle
- 29** 10.30am United Benefice Service, Linton
- July 6** 8am Holy Communion
6pm Evening Alternative

AA* - All Age (formerly Family Service)

T* - Traditional (formerly Matins)

Coffee is served prior to the 11.00am AA service - time for informal chat before the service!

NB: For details of other services in the Benefice, contact Rev'd Roger Castle on Maidstone 747570.

OTHER JUNE WORSHIP

On Sunday June 8th, there is a Pentecost Celebration in Brenchley Gardens. This is at the Bandstand, starting at 3pm and is organised by Churches Together in Maidstone with music led by the band of the Salvation Army.

On Sunday June 15th, there is the Annual Service of Remembrance at Vinter's Park Crematorium, which again starts at 3pm. This will be led by the Chaplains at Maidstone Hospital and our own Rev David Jones is preacher.

LINTON GARDEN GALA

Sunday, June 15, 2003 2pm-6pm

Admission to all gardens by ticket, available in car parks £3.00

Accompanied children free

For further information, telephone:

01622 746268 or 745950