

# 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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Tel: 01622 812562

July & August 2003

No. 339

## TIME TO MOVE ON

### A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

PARISHIONERS are to meet to discuss the future of the Church and its place within the community of West Farleigh.

Following on from a highly-successful 'away day' at St Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood, the group is to reconvene this month at Court Lodge to focus on an action plan for the future.

Motivational speakers David Long and Martin Brown will lead the evening seminar in their own inimitable style to develop individuals' strengths to face the challenges of the future.

Rev'd Roger Castle said: "The aim is for us all to work together to make the church a full, vibrant and happy church."

People who attended the Paddock Wood presentation have had personal invitations, but the meeting is open to anyone who is interested in seeing All Saints Church thrive in the new millennium.

Rev'd Castle said: "As a group we share a lot in common and want to do all that we can to nurture and grow our congregation at All Saints. We have identified a number of significant challenges ahead and will need to draw on all our resources to face these difficulties. The meeting, on Monday July 21, starts at 7.30pm prompt. Contact Roger Castle (747570) or David Jones (741474) for further details.

### THE SUN SHINES ON THE RIGHTEOUS.....?

Superb sunshine shone down on the annual cricket match between West Farleigh and Wateringbury, which took place at Farleigh's prize-winning picturesque pitch in Church Lane. Wateringbury won the toss and batted first. Their batsmen performed creditably against keen bowling by Andy Baker, Richard Ward and Jamie Webb among others. Larry Johnson and Bill Emptage also kept the batsmen guessing while Huw Evans' bowling was treated with the respect it deserved. In its 20 overs, Wateringbury scored 93 for 6 - a very good total. West Farleigh's innings had a shaky start with three wickets being lost cheaply but the middle order batsmen saved the day. Dave Crouch, Richard Chapman and Andrew Robinson, in particular, contributed to a tally of 95 for 5, passing Wateringbury's score after 17 overs. The teams were encouraged by friends and family from both villages and all were well supplied with food and drink - thanks to Nick and Penny Saunders who manned the barbeque and the Lawrence family who staffed the bar. The cake stall did its usual roaring trade, thanks to Margaret Evans and all who baked cakes, and the raffle, organised by Val and Hugh Grainger was also well supported. The evening raised almost €300 for the Church - a bonus at the end of a most enjoyable evening. Thanks go to Don Goodwin for use the cricket pitch and pavilion and to Terry Baines, Dave Crouch and the Sports Club for all their help. Finally, we would like to thank Barry Fisher and the other members of the Wateringbury team for a very sporting match and look forward to playing them again next year.

## ACCESSIBILITY AND THE DISABLED

Good practice gets enshrined in law when it is recognized that it simply must be followed by all.

The Disability Discrimination Act is an example of this and has forced organisations of all kinds (including churches) to face up to their responsibilities if they haven't already done so.

Which of us hasn't some disability or other?

I have a bent back, a poor memory and am a bit deaf in one ear. But tell me that I am decrepit and should be shunted down a quiet siding and I will scream! Many disabilities we can overcome ourselves but a lot of them we can't - and we need the world to meet us halfway.

For too long we have more or less expected people to recognise that their disability will probably prevent them doing certain things - to accept that they are handicapped. They have often been left to fight their own corner when as a community we should be ensuring that there is access to as much as possible for as many as possible. Church buildings are strange places. Much treasured, but having a lot of awkwardness about them, or did have: poor lighting, odd acoustics, unexpected steps. Today, most churches have a loop system for those with hearing aids, large print hymnbooks, fewer things to trip over or bump into and lifts to church made available. The aim must be to see that no-one is put off or prevented doing what they have set their hearts on by obstacles that can be dealt with. (Do please draw attention to any difficulties you experience or have noticed at church.)

At the same time, we are also wanting the services and events that happen at church or organised by us to be 'accessible' to everyone - whether they have recently moved into the area from another place and church, simply haven't been to church on a Sunday for many years or have previously never wanted to know what the Christian faith is all about - or are just curious.

We should all try to make Jesus just as accessible today as he was when moving around Galilee.

Rev'd Roger Castle

## PRAYERS

There is a notebook at the back of church for anyone to enter a prayer request, either for themselves, for friends and loved ones or for some national or international event that may be in the news and a cause of concern. Please use the book or telephone Roger Castle or pass on your requests to someone you know who will be coming to church, so that we can do our best to help.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Church was packed for a Memorial Service to celebrate the life of former Choirmaster Laurie Walter, who died last month, aged 82.

Tributes were paid to him by his son Edward Walter and son-in-law Peter Baggott, who recalled how Laurie enjoyed living life in the fast lane, first with a motorcycle and later, developing a passion for fast cars. The service was conducted by Rev Donald Bish, assisted by Rev Roger Castle. Hugh Grainger gave the reading. Laurie will be sadly missed by all who knew him - and by the Church, whose dwindling choir could dearly benefit from the energy and expert guidance he gave over very many years.

## PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on July 21, when the clerk, David Swan, will be reporting on progress on various village improvements including the mirror at the bottom of Kettle Lane and new notice boards.

The Council will also be considering the outbreak of giant hogweed and the state of the Lower Road lay by which is increasingly being used as a dump. Funds are going to be quite tight this year and the replacement village sign and the bus shelter (which together would cost the village over £2000) are both on the back-burner for the time being.

## PRAISE AND PORK SAUSAGES!

Campaigners and Logos will be celebrating the end of term and the beginning of the holiday period in a special service on Thursday July 17 at 6.30pm. Bring your children and join in the fun. The band, who will be playing some lively choruses for the service, have kindly offered to stay on and entertain us at the Barbecue afterwards. Everyone welcome.

## BENEFICE UNITED

This monthly gathering for all the Parishes, with a topic to discuss, takes place on Tuesday July 8 in the Coxheath Centre, next to the Church, starting at 7.30pm prompt.

The subject this month -Is there a conflict between science and Christianity? Please bring something to share in our buffet supper. The meeting ends at 9.45pm.

## UP AND RUNNING

The baby, toddler and minders group with a Christian focus for the benefice meets at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath on Thursday July 10 and 24 from 1.30pm until 3 pm. We will continue to meet during the school holidays (on August 7 and 21) for anyone who wishes to come and will start the new term on Thursday September 4.

Contact Revd. David Jones 741474 for details.

## 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.

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation courses for young people and adults commence have just begun - but it's not too late to join as the Confirmation Service is not until the end of November.

## MOTHERS' UNION - Coxheath area

The Coxheath Area Branch, which takes in the Farleighs, next meets on July 16 at 2pm at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath. (a change of venue for this month only.)

This is an open meeting and visitors will be made most welcome. Light refreshments will be served. Please bring along 'the most useful or oldest object I own.' (husbands don't count!)

Members have been invited to join Canterbury Diocese Branch in a Sharing Day at the Franciscan Centre Canterbury, on July 12, when the theme for the day is 'Bridging the Generations' and 'Family Wholeness.'

At the last meeting, Rev Ruth Bierbaum gave a most interesting talk, illustrated by seven pictures of different stages in her life and faith, of how she came to join the Ministry.

Thursday July 17 is the MU Corporate Communion, at 10am, at Holy Trinity, Coxheath.

For further information about the MU contact Lesley Marsh on 01622 745702.

## THE FARLEIGHS W.I.

Dawn Lambert's talk on her addiction to charity shops was fascinating and amusing, as she showed us some of her bargains.

Members enjoyed greyhound racing -no large bets won - and a visit to France including Monet's garden at Giverny. The drama group took part in the Medway Valley district drama evening recently.

Talented Farleighs member Barbara Skinner wrote the play, which Michelle Pullan directed.

The next monthly meeting is on Wednesday, July 9 at 7.30pm in The Farleighs Hall, Forge Lane, East Farleigh, when the speaker will be Robin Walton and his subject, Hoppers, Huts and Houses.

New members will be very welcome.

## DIOCESAN CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The 2003 Diocesan Children's Festival - 2gether4god - was held at The Friars Aylesford, on June 7 and was a very successful day, attended by more than 1400 children. The weather was good and everyone had a good time, including the U5s, who had their own creche and play area.

## BENEFICE BREAKFAST!

If you like combining business, entertainment and food, book yourself a slot at the Benefice Breakfast, which takes place at Coxheath Village Hall on Saturday,

September 20, 8am for an 8.30am start.

Speaker will be Bryan Harris, an ex journalist, spin doctor and currently editor of the Rochester Link.

Continental breakfast is provided and the meeting ends at 10am.

Further details to follow in September.

## CAMPAIGNERS INTERS

Inters is open to children of all our parishes, aged from 11 upwards. It meets weekly during term time at All Saints Church, from 7.45-9.15pm.

The group is desperately in need of a female helper (not a leader) from the local area, who can provide occasional help and/or holiday cover - otherwise Helen Swan is unable to take a break!

Please contact her on 814445 for further information about what the role entails and how and when you could assist this very worthwhile youth group.



## SPORTS REPORT

### CRICKET

West Farleigh 1st XI cricketers have continued to promise more, but unfortunately, of late, have not produced the amount of victories they should have. Our recent fixtures versus Marden and Mersham are games we should have won - but we did contest a well-earned draw in our friendly fixture with Benenden. Our 2nd XI have consolidated our fine start to the season with further great victories over Shipbourne and Hollingbourne and our only defeat came at the hands of top and unbeaten team Bearsted.

### FOOTBALL

Believe it or not, but footballers training is upon us already!

Preparation for next year's season gets underway on Wednesday July 2 at Mole Park, at 7pm. Let's aim for a good turnout and some serious wins next season! Finally, our German friends from Ringstedt will be visiting us on the weekend of July 25-28.

Our grand summer dance takes place at Buston Manor on Friday July 25, to coincide with the visit.

This promises to be a really special evening and it would be great to see people from the village supporting us. Please phone me for more details and / or tickets. More fun and games will be taking place over the weekend - again, if you'd like to be involved, let me know! Till next time,

Cheers

Tel

( M/stone 745744)

## EVENING ALTERNATIVE

This takes place on Sunday July 6 at 6pm in West Farleigh Church. Do come along - everyone is made welcome. Coffee and a chat afterwards. Last month's Pet Service proved a great success and was attended by five cats, two dogs, one hamster and a tadpole, as well as our usual two-legged supporters! We learned about relationships and how our relationship with our pets can help with our other relationships, especially those with God.

## HOUSEGROUP

The last meeting this term will be on Wednesday July 2 at 8pm at 8 Charlton Lane the home of Sue and Tony Walsh, when we will continue to give our Christianity a 30,000-mile service! We reconvene in September.

## SERVICES - JULY 2003

### WEST FARLEIGH

- 6** 8am Holy Communion  
- Rev Roger Castle  
6pm Evening Alternative  
- Ruth Bierbaum
- 13** 11.00am Morning Worship AA\*  
- Rev Roger Castle
- 17** 6.30pm Celebration Praise  
- Campaigners & Logos
- 20** 9.15am Sung Eucharist  
- Rev Ruth Bierbaum
- 27** 11.00am Morning Worship T\*  
- Rev Roger Castle

### AUGUST 2003

- 3** 8am Holy Communion  
- Rev Roger Castle  
6pm Evening Alternative  
- Rev Roger Castle & Helen Swan
- 10** 11am Morning Worship AA\*  
- Rev Roger Castle
- 17** 9.15am 9.15am Sung Eucharist  
- Rev David Jones
- 24** 11.00am Morning Waship T\*  
- Rev Roger Castle
- 31** 10.30am Benefice Communion Service at  
East Farleigh  
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.

## DEANERY SONGS OF PRAISE

This is an annual event for all churches in the Malling Deanery, of which we are a part, and takes place this year on Sunday July 13 at St John's Church, Watlington, starting at 6.30pm. Everyone welcome to sing some of all-time favourite hymns!

## LIFE-LINE DEADLINE

Those of you who read the small print will have spotted that this edition of Life-Line covers both July and August. The deadline for the next issue (for September) will therefore be **Thursday August 28**. Have an enjoyable summer!

## MUSICAL MEMORIES FOR THE EVERGREENS

Graham Hodge came along to the last meeting with his collection of phonographs and gramophones.

The oldest was an 1898 wax cylinder machine, but he brought along a great selection showing the development of recorded music up to the 1960 electric record player. All the phonograms were in working condition and he brought along also a selection records and an inexhaustible number of needles! He demonstrated the origin of the phrase "put a sock in it," by throwing a rolled-up sock into the horn of a gramophone and thereby reducing the volume and played a wide variety of old musical songs (known to many of the Evergreens), such as Uncle Mac telling stories and singing nursery Rhymes (How posh they all sounded!), some Chinese recorded music and old tyme dance music. It was a most enjoyable afternoon - thanks Graham!

This month we will be meeting on Tuesday July 8 at 2.30pm at Ellie and Paul Bernhardt's, on the Green. We hope it will be a fine day as we will be in their very splendid garden, when we will amuse ourselves with a light-hearted quiz.

The Campaigners have invited the Evergreens to their meeting on Thursday 10th July, when they will entertain them and provide refreshments as part of their community project.

They have already spent an evening picking up litter in Charlton Lane and on the Green - although there was a disappointingly small amount....

We must be a very tidy village, as the best find was a hubcap!

It's a busy time for the Evergreens as, later in the month, on Friday, July 18, there is an expedition to Yalding Organic Gardens.



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## 100 CLUB WINNERS

The All Saints 100 Club winners for June were Gillian Wyatt (£25) and Hugh & Val Grainger (£10)



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.

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