

West Farleigh's own

LIFE-LINE

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Illustration of All Saints' after Harold Harbour.

PACT Survey Identifies Just Two Major Problems in West Farleigh.....

The results of the recent Police Survey, organised by PCSO Hannah Percival, are now to hand. In terms of the percentage of respondents expressing their concerns the answers were as follows:

Do you identify these as a

	BIG PROBLEM	FAIRLY BIG PROBLEM	NOT A VERY BIG PROBLEM	NOT A PROBLEM ?
a) Noisy neighbours or loud parties	3%	0%	17%	80%
b) Teenagers hanging around	0%	0%	13%	89%
c) People being drunk or rowdy in public places	0%	0%	11%	89%
d) Rubbish or litter lying around	5%	17%	35%	43%
e) Vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property	0%	0%	23%	77%
f) People using or dealing drugs	3%	0%	8%	89%
g) Dog fouling in public places	0%	14%	35%	51%
h) Parking	3%	8%	32%	57%
g) Lack of play equipment/ recreation facilities	0%	5%	29%	66%
j) Fly Tipping	17%	14%	32%	37%
k) Speeding Traffic	61%	17%	17%	5%

From the above it is evident that three issues were identified as a problem by more than half of the respondents: **Speeding Traffic, Fly Tipping and Litter**. Taken separately the last two were much less important than traffic, but taken together (and we think that litter and fly tipping are closely related) they assume a higher importance than individually, but effectively reduce our problems to just two. It is evident that, for most of us—and we have to sympathise here with the 3% who have difficult neighbours—West Farleigh remains a pretty tranquil place.

The question is, "What can be done about these problems?" Kent Highways shows a distinct lack of concern for villages like ours: maybe all we can do is increase our campaigning for speed limits and other measures.

As for litter, the laws can be enforced more rigorously, and we can all perhaps do more to help. Let us see what ideas the Parish Council (and indeed any of us) has to combat these blights on our lives. - Ed



Dear Friends,

*'....If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile;
you are still in your sins..'*

(1 Corinthians 15:17)

'What do you preach about on Easter Day?' This was the question I was asked by a Bishop some years ago when I was being interviewed for a new job.

My answer was, thankfully, what he wanted to hear. That is 'I preach Christ risen from the dead as told us by the Bible'.

Saint Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth was a letter written to address problems in the church, to offer solutions, and to teach believers how to live for Christ in a corrupt society. Both Paul's letters are worth reading, for in many ways such problems he focuses on are the same today.

Saint Paul uses six 'ifs' as he explores the consequences of the belief of some of the Corinthian Christians who held that the body is not resurrected. These six 'ifs' are building up to the crunch statement:

'If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins'. Ouch!

In a consistent and clear way St. Paul sets out in chapter 15 to give four statements: **1) Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (15:3) - 2) He was buried (15:4) - 3) He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures (15:4) - 4) He was seen by many witnesses (15:5,6).**

What then does this mean for us today? If we deny the resurrection, we deny one of the greatest of all truths of the Gospel. Preaching is in vain; faith and hope are all vain. But more than all that, no resurrection would mean no Gospel (Good News) at all, for we would be worshipping a dead Jesus. There would be no proof that God had accepted the death of Jesus on the cross as an atonement for our sins. If a sailor, on jumping overboard to rescue a drowning man were drowned himself, then we would know that he did not save the man after whom he went. If Jesus did not emerge from that grave, then he could not bring anyone else from the grave.

Do we really know the reality of this Scriptural truth: that Jesus' body died, and it was His body that was raised again!

Pray this Easter that the Risen Jesus show Himself to you afresh, or for the first time, and then the following hymn 'I serve a Risen Saviour' and its refrain will be a reality:

*'He lives, He lives,
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives,
Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives?
He lives within my heart'*

With every blessing for a Happy and Holy Easter.

PETER.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The Service is on Friday 7th March at the Congregational Church, Linton Road, Loose at 7.30pm (parking is available in the garage area in Holmesdale Close) The service is prepared by Christian women of Guyana on the theme -

God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding

Over 3 million women worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during this annual day of prayer. Meetings begin at sunrise in Tonga and finish with sunset in Western Samoa, after there have been meetings in over 170 countries.

All will be most welcome - men and women, as we join with the Congregational church on this occasion

P.W.

Detling 2008 - Together.

This is a weekend organised by the Diocese of Rochester to be held over the **21st/22nd June** at the County showground at Detling. Admission is free but tickets need to be obtained and details of who to obtain tickets from will be given very soon. In the meantime note the dates 10 am to 5 pm. on the Saturday and from 10 am on the Sunday, ending with the Petertide Ordination Service at 3.00 pm. Fuller details are in this month's Rochester Link and more details will follow in the coming months. **NOTE THE DATES NOW and perhaps we can make up a party!**

David Jones

Alpha.....

Ever wondered what it's all about?

Over 2 million people in the UK and 10 million worldwide have now attended an Alpha course, an opportunity to explore the meaning of life.

The London Express concluded that

"Alpha makes Christianity relevant to modern life."

Time Magazine wrote "Many claim Alpha has changed their lives and appear genuinely happier for the experience."

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions, with a day away.

You now have the chance to experience an Alpha Course for yourself, as the churches of Coxheath Benefice are running one from this Spring.

Starting with the question "Christianity: Boring, Irrelevant, Untrue?" on Tuesday 15th April, everyone is welcome. There will be an evening meal provided and plenty of opportunity to discuss the questions you have about faith and God.

So remember: Tuesday evenings from 15th April

at the Coxheath Centre 7.15- 9.15 pm

Cost: Free but donations always welcome.

If you intend to come please tell Revd. Ruth Bierbaum on 01622 743866. ruth@bierbaum.freesevice.co.uk

REVISION OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The annual revision of the Church Electoral Roll is taking place during March. If you are baptised, over 16 years of age and live in the Parish, or attend services at All Saints, you are eligible to be on the Roll, and to have a say in the affairs of the Parish. To enrol, get a form from the Roll Officer, Christine Hill, 01622 813019.

Here's a Fine Tree...

One of West Farleigh's best oaks. The reason I photographed it was because I love its nearly symmetrical shape—not that one side is the mirror-image of the other, but that there's a sense of balance in the intricate pattern of the branches on either side of the trunk – and because there's a **competition** to enter. Submit a photo of your favourite tree to Maidstone Borough Council and it may be exhibited in the art gallery. More importantly, **every entry will lead to a tree being planted locally by Maidstone Council.** Go to www.maidstonearts.com for details. You—and we—can't lose!



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David Jones



Seekers

All children between 6 and 11 are invited to join us
in West Farleigh Church

Thursday evenings in term time 5.45 until 7.15 pm

Using games, stories, music and craft, we seek friendship
and an understanding of the Christian faith.

More information from Sue 01622 728252

Formerly the Thursday Club.

Note the New Name!

Date for your Diary: The Seekers are having a **Coffee Morning & Carwash** which will be held on **Saturday 26th April 10-12** to raise money for the **Starfish Project in Malawi**. Come along and join us or even offer to help with car-washing - children are too short for car roofs! All offers gratefully received by Helen on 814445.

A Kind Action

On the afternoon of Sunday February 10th two young ladies knocked on our door to say that they had found a £20 note behind the church. They had been tidying up their grandmother's grave and had come across the note near the water tap.

"We thought that it should be added to the church funds", they said.

They had clearly made the effort to find out our address, and to bring the money to the house, and we were much impressed. (Of course we did not have the presence of mind to ask them their names).

We told many people this story, and on Tuesday evening at a meeting in West Farleigh church, one of the ladies exclaimed that she had lost it on Sunday and, as a pensioner, was delighted to see it again.

The lady in question and we ourselves want to thank those two young ladies for what they did, and for showing us all that young people, who often have their misdeeds reported, also perform generous actions with no recognition. We are very sorry not to be able to say who they were, but we hope they and their parents read this.

John and Margaret Evans

EVERGREENS

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th March at Appledore Charlton Lane. 2.30-4.30. Lena Marcer will be speaking about her Hampshire childhood.

If you would like to join us and need a lift ring Terry on 814561 who will be pleased to help.

Helen Swan

Bishops in the News

Readers will be aware that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Rochester have both been getting ample—and sometimes downright mischievous – coverage in the press lately. If you would like to read what each of them said on "Sharia law" and on no-go areas for Christians (or non-Muslims) you can visit various Church of England websites or specifically www.archbishopofcanterbury.org.uk/1575. For our own Bishop Michael try www.rochester.anglican.org. At Life-Line we do not know personally whether there are the "no-go" areas he talks about, where non-Muslims are effectively excluded and our second thought is that in any case "we are not likely to need to go there anyway". But our third thought is the rather more disturbing one which questions the validity of turning our back on these "ghettos". Perhaps we not only have a "right" to visit them, but also an obligation not to abandon the option to do so.....

T.H.

The Farleighs' History Society

The Farleighs' History Society will be meeting for the first time this year on Thursday 6th March at 7.30 pm, with a return to our original venue of the meeting room at the Bull Inn, Lower Road, East Farleigh. Graham Johnson will be speaking on the River Medway - from its source to East Farleigh - and this will be followed by a brief AGM and a programme for the year ahead.

Everyone welcome - £2.50 on the door.

Enquiries to Jenny Finch 01622 726312

The freighter, for bulky items will be by the Green on Sunday, March 11th.

West Farleigh	All Saints, Church Lane	
2nd March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
At the White House	11.00 am	Service of the Word for Mothering Sunday
9th March	11.00 am	Morning Worship
16th March	9.15 am	Holy Communion
		Palm Sunday
21st March	2-3 pm	Devotions for Good Friday
23rd March	11.00 am	Holy Communion
		Easter Day
30th March	10.30 am	Holy Communion for Benefice at Linton with Gideon Society
East Farleigh		
2nd March	9.15 am	Mothering Sunday
9th March	8.00 am	Holy Communion (bcp)
	10.30 am	Morning Prayer
16th March	11.00 am	Family Service
	6.00 p.m.	Olivet to Calvary
23rd March	8.00 am	Holy Communion (bcp)
	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Hunton		
2nd March	11.00 am	Family Service
9th March	9.15 a.m.	Holy Communion (bcp)
16th March	11.00 am	Morning Prayer (bcp)
Thursday 20th March	7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
23rd March	9.15 am	Holy Communion
Coxheath		
2nd March	11.00 am	Mothering Service
9th March	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
16th March	11.00 am	Holy Communion
23rd March	11.00 am	Family Service/HC
Linton		
2nd March	9.15 am	Holy Communion
9th March	8.00 am	Holy Communion (bcp)
	11.00 am	Family Service
16th March	9.15 am	Holy Communion
23rd March	9.15 am	Holy Communion
30th March	10.30 am	United Benefice Holy Communion

Clergy Contact Numbers:

Rev. Peter Walker	at the Vicarage	01622 747570
Rev. Ruth Bierbaum		01622 743866
Rev. David Jones		01622 741474
Contact the Rev. Peter Walker for Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Weddings and Funerals		

A **white** Blackbird turned up in the Parish last week – or at least I saw it for the first time, by Court Lodge. Perhaps those who live thereabouts have been entirely familiar with it for ages. Strictly speaking it is only partially white, for it has a white head and a patch on its wing, and the rest is the usual glossy black, but it is a very striking and unusual bird. It is a male with a strong yellow bill which adds to the quality of its appearance. This particular bird appears to be more symmetrically marked and more attractive than the one I sometimes saw last year when driving through East Farleigh, near Farleigh Forge Garage, for that one was mottled and the black and white did not make a clear pattern.

Because of the incompleteness of its white livery this one too cannot be an albino: they lack coloration on the bare parts and are noted for their pink eyes. On the other hand the present bird is not *leucistic* either; that would mean it was pale with diluted pigment, with patches that appear grey rather than black. There are a number of leucistic rooks and crows in the flock which hangs around Quarry Wood and feeds quite extensively on the pig food at the top of the hill. They tend to have grey panels in their wings, which even appear semi-transparent in bright light, but which are not very attractive.

Some authorities consider that white blackbirds are more common in suburban or at any rate garden situations than in the depths of the countryside – and I think I would agree with them. Also, there is evidence of an hereditary influence, which means that in practice a garden may have a run of related white or partly white birds over a long time span. Two causes could explain this, probably working together. First, it is possible that, through what they eat, garden birds obtain – either from deliberate feeding by us or from the rather different types of food which occur in a garden – some dietary effect which promotes whiteness, or the absence of black. Secondly, the garden environment may give protection from the natural predators of small birds – though those of us who have sparrowhawks coming through our gardens regularly may doubt this! The theory is that albino birds are more conspicuous and more likely to be selected by the predator and killed in natural environments than in sheltered ones. But if their conspicuousness makes them more vulnerable, why don't they die out altogether?

I am confident, incidentally, that the Court Lodge white blackbird is a local bird. Right now, and all winter, there have been loads of male blackbirds from Europe – Scandinavia in particular – enjoying the open feeding conditions we have. We can tell these apart from our natives, however, for these birds have grey bills, whereas ours have, at this time of the year, yellow bills, as does our elegant white specimen.

© Tim Hill

Don't forget Mothering Sunday: 11.00 am at the

Next Parish Council Meeting March 3rd. at 8

Youth Sport

Our junior teams have enjoyed the better weather and firmer surfaces during February. The u8's have played two games, unfortunately going down 2-1 away at Burwash which has dented their chances of winning the league. They got back on track the following week winning 3-0 against Witherham, putting them 2nd in the league. They have two games to play but need other results to go their way if they are going to win the title.

The under 9's have played two games this month winning 3-1 against Cranbrook and losing 2-0 to Tenterden leaving them mid table.

The u10's have gone unbeaten winning 2 league games and one cup match. They have a healthy 11 point lead at the top of the table and look on course to complete a hat-trick of titles. They have also qualified for the cup semi-finals.

March should see the outcome of the leagues and with all three teams scheduled to play their semi-finals in early April.



The Farleighs WI

Sue Hollins' "Cooking the Italian Way" at The Farleighs' WI February meeting sent the members home planning to make their own pasta and include *Tonno e Fagioli alla Pomodora* and other Italian dishes in their cooking repertoire.

President Helen Swan reported that the competition portfolio and scrapbook of The Farleighs WI 2007 coordinated by Pam Clark and Barbara Skinner had been completed and handed over to the district secretary for judging.

Following an appeal on T.V., members will be knitting clothes for the special baby care unit at Medway Hospital.

Members will be attending the Kent Police Band concert, one of several special events marking the 90th Anniversary of Kent West Kent Federation.

There will be a coffee morning on the 16th April in The Farleighs Hall -after line dancing, with soup served at lunch time, and a barn dance on the 26th April at 7.30 p.m. dancing to live music. £8.00 including a ploughman's supper.

Nordic, Institute and Federation walks will be keeping members extra fit.

Later in the year a fashion show, garden party and possibly computer classes are to be arranged.

No wonder that we have an increasing membership -but we will be delighted to welcome anyone -especially you are new in the area. We have members from other villages including Staplehurst.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12th March when there will be a Canterbury Cathedral Appeal Talk at 7.30 p.m. in The Farleighs WI Hall, Forge Lane, East Farleigh

Pam Clark

OLIVET TO CALVARY by JH Maunder

An Easter choral work with congregational hymn included will be sung on **Palm Sunday 16th March 6.00pm** at East Farleigh Church. It will be sung by East Farleigh Church Choir augmented by members of the former West Farleigh church choir and others.

Conducted by Peter Bonner

Do come along and join in.

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PATRICK TIBBITS BVSc (Massey) MRCVS

Sports Report: FOOTBALL

Another month, another month without a league win and we were wondering, coming to the end of February, whether Farleigh had ever been in this position of not having a league victory between both of the sides at this stage of the season. Hey, are we downhearted? Farleigh 2nd XI did however manage their third point of the season, and a tremendous game it was. Having found ourselves 5—1 down shortly after half time we looked down and out, but an amazing fight back resulted in a terrific 5—5 final scoreline versus Wheatsheaf Celtic. Our next results were not so encouraging, losing to Maid Athletic Cobdown 2—1 and 5—3 versus local rivals Hunton, but we ended on a high with a 4—1 win in the cup match against Ashton Prime from Tunbridge Wells, putting us in the semi finals.

Our 1st XI have continued to find life tough this season and unfortunately have been on the other end of some more heavy defeats, losing 12—0 against Shepway, 7—1 against Lenham, 7—0 versus Leeds and a 6—1 against Lenham in the latest match. With only two more game stop go for, and only pride to play for, our lads must look forward to a better season next year in Division One.

CRICKET

Our cricketers have started net practice every Wednesday 6—7 p.m. at Sutton Valence School. Anyone would be more than welcome and at this time of year we make our usual annual appeal for volunteers willing to help out at umpiring or secretary for either of our sides. You would be very welcome and get a free tea to boot.

CLUB NEWS – Dates for your Diary

Our next two social events are our Quiz Night on Saturday 19th April beginning at 7.30 p.m. in the Church and another village walk, starting from the cricket ground on Sunday 11th May. Hopefully you can come to both!

Yours in sport

Tel

01622 745744

Ton Up Club Winners February 1st prize - £25, 2nd -£15, 3rd-£10

First—103 Mel Goloup Second – 107 Jeanette Reid-Marr Third – 132 Brian Tillott

TRAFFIC NEWS

The A26 at Watlington continues to be shut: as with Yalding Bridge last year it's a scandal that the utilities can get away with their dilatory approach to works, at the expense of us all in time and fossil fuels...

Incidentally, these roadworks have achieved some fame because the yellow lines put out for them literally blew away!

On the last day of January there was quite a spectacular accident in Ewell Lane, when a hatchback careered out of control and ended up on its side. An ambulance attended but happily we think no-one was seriously hurt. It could have gone ill for any pedestrian or cyclist on this narrow stretch of road at the time.

Linking with the PACT survey, we are sure that its findings will have been passed to Kent Highways, but in case they don't reach the desk of Councillor Keith Ferrin (who's in charge), we are now mailing him a copy of Life-Line. Having read the item in the *Downs Mail* (no. 130 p.32) about the abandonment of plans to curtail or even monitor heavy lorries on our local roads, we are disappointed and dismayed by the apparent failure to take note of local opinion and tackle these difficult issues. -Ed

2008 being Leap Year, Simpleton has got to thinking. He considers that the calendar should be mildly reformed, so that in 2012, the next leap year, the extra day should be tagged onto June, instead of February, in order that we can all enjoy the much better weather that we are guaranteed in Summer!

Can't help feeling that there's a flaw in the argument somewhere, but it is certainly true that to balance the extra work we do for nothing (—those of us who work, that is) in a leap year, one in three ought to have an additional public holiday. It could be called the Olympic Holiday in 2012, I suppose. -Ed.