

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

West Farleigh's own

# LIFE-LINE

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Distributed freely in November 2008 Edition No. 393

We've run out of "Lifeline" quotations—any ideas? Contact the editors.



Illustration of All Saints  
after Harold Harbour.

## Christmas Fayre and Coffee Morning.

November 22nd 10-12 noon

All the family is cordially invited to the West Farleigh Christmas Fayre in All Saints Church. There will be tombola, raffle, stalls (including Tridcraft) where you can buy your cards, paper and some presents. The refreshments will be distinctly seasonal and festive, with mince pies and cakes which we hope will be baked by local supporters will be on sale. Expect there to be some surprises too! Contact Christine on 813019 if you are able to help in any way, or if you would like to take the opportunity to have your own fund-raising stall. £1 admission includes coffee and mince pies.



There are hopes that the road works in Lower Road will be completed earlier than projected.

(Clancy Dockwra's water main renewal project described in our last edition). It appears that the opportunity arose for the contractors to pass the new pipe down the centre of the old one. This technique would have appreciably shortened the job time, but some sharp bends in the existing cast iron pipe made it necessary only partially to adopt this method and to dig some more holes.

Nevertheless if the road can be re-opened before November 8th it will represent an improvement on the 8 weeks closure from October 6th which was the official timetable. At the end of the work it will be vitally necessary to have safety checks on the water quality; these take a few days. Our picture shows the Tickled Trout nestling in its dip behind just some of the works. The pub/restaurant – to which, along with other properties on Lower Road, access has always been maintained— has managed to keep its trade up well during the times of difficult access and is grateful for the loyalty of its many customers, but it will be relief to all when the works are complete.

Most adversely affected by diverted traffic has been Charlton Lane, where there has often been difficulty in accommodating two streams. For instance, at least one householder had an ornamental planter smashed by traffic which mounted the pavement – and beyond. Let us hope that the last days of work in Lower Road proceed as well as anticipated...

-Ed.

December Deadline: November 24th

Dear Friends,

*'God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself' (2 Cor 5:19)*

*'Without vision the people perish' (Proverbs 29:18)*

You know the saying - you wait for the bus which never seems to come, and then three come along at once.

I have just attended two conferences within the space of two weeks. The first was actually a retreat for the clergy of the Malling Deanery. It was organised by our Rural Dean, Jim Brown of East Malling. The retreat was led by Bishop Brian and the venue was a retreat house about one hour's journey from Calais. Four cars transported the twelve clergy to Dover and thence to the ferry for the 75 minute crossing. Bishop Brian gave us a number of talks on the subject of 'reconciliation'. His Lent book on this subject is being published in late November. One phrase which stuck with me was: 'when one fails to forgive another, it imprisons both the unforgiven person and you'. It reminded me of something similar I learnt a long time ago: 'to be unforgiving towards another is as if one locks that person in prison and throws away the key'. The Scriptures tell us: 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself'. Again, Jesus tells us to be reconciled one to another.

It's often a hard lesson to learn and carry out! We need to seek God's grace to be our help in all such times.

A week later another ship came along - it was the 'Black Prince' sailing from Liverpool to Dublin. It was the occasion of the Annual Conference of CVM (Christian Vision for Men). This was an opportunity for some of our '5P Men's group' in the United Benefice to attend this. Six of us hurtled up the motorway in a hired people-carrier to board the ship and enjoy two days of excellent teaching, worship and fellowship. There was also the opportunity to visit the city of Dublin. 'Band of Brothers' was the theme and it was certainly that as some 300 men came together.

The vision, which had its beginnings 15 years ago with Max Sinclair (who lives near Sevenoaks) has as its goal 'to win the men of this country for Christ'. It seems an impossible vision, but over the years many have come to know the Lord Jesus as a reality through this organisation's passion. The 5P group affiliated to CVM earlier this year and we are grateful to Mike Marsh of Coxheath for his heading up this and organising events throughout the year to bring men together.

There is a statistic which brings home to us the need for men to come to faith. That is, that if a man comes to Christ there is near a 90% probability to bring his family to Jesus than any other member of that family. The Harvest is indeed ripe!

Speak to me or Mike Marsh (tel: 745702) about outreach to the men of our parishes.

Also have a look at the website: [www.cvmen.org.uk](http://www.cvmen.org.uk)

Two mighty themes for our thoughts and prayers this month: Reconciliation and Vision.

With my prayers,

Peter

We were sorry to hear that **Rowley Day** is in hospital having fallen over and broken his leg. He is in Maidstone's Foster Clark Ward and is undergoing physiotherapy—with great cheerfulness, we are told. We are sure that Rowley will be in all our thoughts as we look forward to his return to the village.



All Saints' West Farleigh

BARN DANCE

15<sup>TH</sup> November 7.30 pm in the church

£8 to include a Ploughman's Supper

Dancing to the Hatted Hens

Bring own drink and glasses



Do come along and join in. The music is good and the dances are easy, good fun, and suitable for children as well as adults. Concessionary tickets for children £5

Tickets available from Helen 814445

### A Letter from Ruth Bierbaum:

Dear All,

In these last days before I take up my new post, I am able to find some space, at last, to express my long overdue 'thank you's' to you.

Since July 7<sup>th</sup> life has been what I like to call 'interesting'. What with learning car gymnastics and the subsequent operations on my right hand and arm, moving home and saying goodbye to many friends, my 3 months off sick have been somewhat frantic! Now, as I start as a mental health-care chaplain on 13<sup>th</sup> October, my rather ironic hope is that things might find a new 'normal'.

But back to the purpose of my writing: 'Thank you!'

Thank you for your prayers around my hand, health and home. I know they have made an absolute difference and all three are as good as they could possibly be. The doctors at East Grinstead continue to be very impressed by my progress.

Thank you for all the cards and encouraging words you have sent me (I think I need an extension to display them all)

And thank you for the gifts I received on leaving, including the cruciform arrangement of pictures of the 5 churches, and the very generous monetary gift. I have to tell you that this made, again, a very real difference, as put together with a special grant, I have now been able to purchase a car, a little, very red, 3 year old Kia Picanto. Praise God also that I am able to drive, even a manual, and have no horrible flashbacks or phobias.

This is really about Christ's power to heal, rather than any bravery on my part. God has been faithful throughout this difficult time – alongside me.

'Come near to God and He will come near to you' is the promise found in James 4:8, and one that I have found to be true. May you also know the strength and peace of the presence of Christ alongside in all the interesting episodes of your lives.

With love,

RUTH.

## 'I'M GETTING MARRIED IN THE MORNING' - BUT WHERE?

The Church of England has been considering for some time widening the

choice of places in which couples can marry. In July 2007, the General Synod passed the Church of England Marriage Measure and it received the Royal Assent on 22nd May. The Archbishops have now signed an instrument bringing all the provisions of the Measure into force from **1<sup>st</sup> October 2008**.



The Measure seeks to respond to changing social conditions and in particular to the increasing mobility of our society today. It does not affect the existing right of parishioners. A couple continue to have the right to be married in the parish church of a parish where one or more of them is resident or entered on the electoral roll. The object of the Measure is to grant couples the same right to marry in the parish church of a parish with which one or more of them can demonstrate a "qualifying connection" of a kind specified in the new legislation as a person resident in the parish would have. A person has a Qualifying Connection with a parish *if*-

**that person** was baptised in the parish or had his or her confirmation entered in a church register book of a church or chapel in the parish; or has at any time had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or has at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

*or if*-

a **Parent of that person** has at any time during **that person's** lifetime; had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or has habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

*or if*-

a **Parent or Grandparent of that person** was married in the parish.

If you are considering marriage in any of the churches in the benefice please contact the Rector – Rev Peter Walker  
01622 747570 for clarification of this new arrangement.

David Jones

**Seekers** completed their work on the life of Joseph by having a "cinema" evening, watching "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" and eating lots of popcorn. Invitations were extended to family, friends and visitors and all those who came enjoyed the evening very much - the coffee flowed and the Traidcraft stall was well visited.

After half term we shall begin our Christmas preparations - watch this space next month to find out what we shall be doing - you may well see us out on the street!

New members very welcome - if you are in year 1 to 6, come and give us a try. Lots of fun and friends. Contact Sue on 01622 728252 for more information. Sue Walsh

### *Simpleton casts a quizzical—or jaundiced—eye over the detention of Kent County Council's millions (which is to say our Council Tax) in frozen Iceland.*

**Karen Millen** may well be a known personality for some villagers, for we understand she is a Maidstone lass, famous for her design capabilities and for her retail shops in Kent, England and afterwards numerous countries. It is also pretty widely known that a few years ago she blamelessly sold out of the business substantially, the buyers being an Icelandic group, Baugur. This outfit was financed on borrowed money from Iceland's banks—the same banks which have lately been nationalised and frozen by the Icelandic Government. What we now know is that these banks were sustained (when they were sustained) by loans from outside Iceland, notably from Britain. Among these sources, to the tune of many many millions of pounds, was Kent County Council.. The Karen Millen business will now be sold off, it appears, at a low price. As the exercise has come full circle the element of tail swallowing in such "wealth creating deals" has become evident.

I see, in the latest *Kent Messenger*, that K.C.C. has now reinvested its remaining money ( sorry—our money) in safer quarters, but has put out a statement bemoaning the fact that the interest is lower. This can only be taken for a pathetic attempt to justify the catastrophic risk-taking it indulged in earlier. - Simpleton.

### **COURSE OF FOOTPATH IMPEDED**

A new barbed wire enclosure has been erected across the course of the footpath which links Ewell Lane with Smith's Hill, affecting this public right of way. The path is not greatly frequented, but it forms an important link for ramblers around West Farleigh and was recently featured by Jim Patch as part of the "My Favourite Walk" series in Life-Line. Diversions may quite easily be possible, but there is no evidence that any has been sought and no visible signage to indicate what course ramblers should take. Until recently the path was marked by sighting posts which guided walkers diagonally across the meadow.

Long term readers of Life-Line may also recall that years ago an attempt to close this footpath was made by the late Lady Cornwallis: she explained she was trying to prevent vandalism, but was obliged to issue an apology for her misguided action.

#### **TRACING ANCESTORS**

We have received an appeal for information from Mr. G.M. Ferguson regarding a Thomas JOLLIFFE who lived with his wife Rebecca and their three sons Percival, George and Charles at Oil Mill Cottages. He is shown as being Foreman at the mill in the 1871 census and the family was still residing there in 1881 but there is no trace of him in the 1891 Census.

Mr. Ferguson would also like to know more about the demise of the oil mill, Tutsham Mill, (also known as the West Farleigh Oil Mill) burnt down in 1885.

Readers can contact Mr. Ferguson via Life-Line or at 22 South View Drive, Rumney, Cardiff CF3 3LY

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: TWO CHRISTMAS EVENTS.**

**Carol Service at the White House @ 7.30 pm on December 7th.**

**Carol Service at All Saints @ 4 pm on December 14th. with the East Peckham Silver Band.**

#### **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting of West Farleigh Parish Council is on Monday 3rd November at 8.00 p.m. in All Saints Church. All are welcome.

West Farleigh	All Saints, Church Lane
2nd November	9.15 am Patronal Festival
9th November	10.45 am Remembrance Day
16th November	9.15 am Holy Communion
23rd November	11.00 am Morning Prayer

**East Farleigh**

2nd November	9.15 am Holy Communion
	3.00 pm Bereavement Service
9th November	8.00 am Holy Communion
	10.30 am Remembrance Day
16th November	11.00 am Family Service
23rd November	8.00 am Holy Communion
	10.30 am Morning Prayer
30th November	10.30am Benefice Service

**Hunton**

2nd November	11.00 am Family Service
9th November	10.50 am Remembrance Day
16th November	11.00 am Morning Prayer (bcp)
23rd November	9.15 am Holy Communion

**Coxheath**

2nd November	11.00 am Holy Communion
9th November	10.30 am Remembrance Day
16th November	11.00 am Holy Communion
23rd November	11.00 am Family Service

**Linton**

2nd November	9.15 am Holy Communion
9th November	8.00 am Holy Communion (bcp)
	10.00 am Remembrance Day
16th November	9.15 am Holy Communion
23rd November	9.15 am Holy Communion

**Clergy Contact Numbers:**

Contact Peter Walker for Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Weddings and Funerals

Rev. Peter Walker at the Rectory 01622 747570

Rev. David Jones 01622 741474

**N.B. Peter's day off is Monday; David's is Friday.**

Towards the end of October we were away in the North of England (at least if the Peak District qualifies as the North) and I noted a small flock of Fieldfares feeding on some hawthorns which were laden with berries. These were the first winter visitors I have seen so far, although the forecast for harsh weather in the last few days of October may mean that they are here in Farleigh by the time you read this but they were certainly not apparent to me on my latest walk up to Quarry Wood after our return. Fieldfares, and their smaller cousins the Redwing, are members of the thrush family and arrive in numbers of 2 million or so each autumn. They fly from Scandinavia and points eastward (but generally no further east than the Karelia district, as the Siberian birds go to more Mediterranean regions) to winter in our less frost-bound woods and fields. It is thought that the first to arrive, in the north, actually come straight across the North Sea from Norway, while in the South-east we get mainly Swedish birds. My first autumn sighting dates for the last five years going backwards have been as follows: 12th Nov. 20th Nov. 23rd Nov.

3rd Nov. and 25th October. In each case these have been birds in the trees of Quarry Wood and sometimes I have seen them in Farleigh beforehand.

We do have very good numbers here. The flocks are generally 200 or more strong. What attracts them above all are the orchards. The ungathered apples on the trees or more especially on the ground draw them like a magnet and, depending on the size of the crop (and the extent to which it is harvested!) keep them around here until February or March. They sit in the tall trees between feeding and make a mixed sound of squawks, croaks, cackles and whistles which blends to a continuous murmur when heard from any distance. The haws that are the first choice food of the northern birds are depleted most years by the time the fieldfares arrive, and in any case we do not have so many around here. The birds also eat worms and a variety of other animal matter—which of course can flourish among decaying apples.

One other thing I have observed is that when the fieldfares are around, a large female sparrowhawk is not far away. If the local population is, as I have suggested, 200 or more, then a sparrowhawk could perhaps take a third of them over the winter, which could effectively play a major role in keeping the population stable!

© Tim Hill

Two services at unusual times this month: first the **Patronal Festival** at 9.15 am on November 2nd – All Saints Day being celebrated then, and our Church being dedicated to **All Saints**. The recently bereaved will be invited to light a candle in memory of their loved ones. Secondly **Remembrance Day**, this year on November 9th, will be observed at a quarter to eleven, as usual.. Those from this village who sacrificed their lives in the two world wars are remembered by name (**Lest We Forget**) so if you have any connections with them, or with any serving in the military subsequently, why not make a point of attending this rather short but moving service? Finally, with five Sundays in the month once more, the **Benefice** will worship all together at East Farleigh on November 30th.



The league season is now under way with our u8's, u9's and u10s playing in the Weald of Kent league.

With new FA rules this season we can not give the results of the u8's matches.\* This is to encourage the development of players without the pressure of winning. The u8' boys are training hard with the emphasis on playing as a team - encouraging good passing, practising skills and tricks to baffle the opposition. We will see next season if it pays off!

The u9's have had a quiet start to the season playing just 2 matches. The first match resulted in a defeat against a strong team from Rye Bay. The second match was a victory against Tenterden.

The u10's have had a busy start to the season, resulting a mixed set of results. So far they have recorded 2 wins, 1 draw and 3 defeats in the league. They have also played one cup match, a 4-0 victory against Cranbrook.

The club are still looking for players to join, especially at u7's (class 2) to develop a team to join the league next season.

For more details please contact Ian Wratten on 01622 746138.

\* We understand that **Tottenham Hotspur** appealed recently to be subject to the same rule! -Ed.

## The Farleighs WI

Helen Swan was re-elected President at the annual meeting of The Farleighs WI.

Helen impressed upon members to support fund raising efforts for The Farleighs WI Hall, now 75 years old, needing high maintenance and is increasingly expensive to run.

She presented retiring hall chairman Lena Mercer with an orchid in appreciation of her untiring work.

Barbara Bingham is the new chairman.

Fourteen members have joined the WI choir enthusiastically led by Lyn Seeley.

Overall winner at the annual produce show was Linda Bolton.

The next meeting will be held at The Farleighs WI Hall on Wednesday, 12th November at 7.30p.m.

when Barbara Stevens will be giving a talk on Pioneering Downe Presidents. We will be pleased to welcome new members and visitors.

Pam Clark

## EVERGREENS

Our October meeting was held in the White House Pub. The members played pub games: cards, dominoes, darts etc. followed by afternoon tea supplied by Jan Morris. We are always appreciative of her hospitality and warm welcome, a log fire was burning cheerily to greet us!

Our next meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2.30 at Sundowner, Charlton Lane, the home of Anne and Graeme McNaughton, when there will be a demonstration of decorations suitable for Christmas.

Helen Swan

The Farleighs' History Society will be meeting on Thursday 4 December at the usual time of 7.30 pm at the Bull, Lower Road, East Farleigh. Kathy Spencer will talk on Christmas in Kent, followed by a Quiz and chance to socialize. Everyone welcome, £2.50 on the door, Members free. This will be the last meeting of the year, and we will be giving details of our programme for 2009 on the night.

Jenny Finch

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## Sports Report:

### FOOTBALL :

Plenty of goals last month and with some success, though most of the goals unfortunately finished up in our net! Our 1st XI started with a cup defeat versus Smarden 4-1. This was followed with a fine 4-2 victory over Saxon Chef in the league. Then two more cup matches beating Pembury 4-0 and finally going down 4-2 to Platt. Although we lost cup games we have had a 100% winning start in the league- 3 out of 3.

Our 2nd XI went down 6-1 to Larkfield, then drew with Walnut Tree 1-1, beating Staplehurst 1-0 but finally going down heavily 7-0 to an impressive Eccles .....

### CRICKET

Our final game versus Benenden was another close affair but unfortunately we lost by just a few runs, but a good time was had by all.

### CLUB NEWS

Our annual race night will be held on Saturday 15th November at Hunton Village Hall, 7.30 pm start. If you would like to come please let us know.

Yours in sport

**Tel** 01622 745744

### Ton up Club Winners October

1st prize -£25 David Crouch

2nd Prize- £15 Helena Baines

3rd prize -£10 Helen Swan

**CHRISTMAS TREES;** Tel is arranging supplies (delivered to your door) for this year as last. Reserve yours now! Further details to follow next month.

### Be an angel this year and/or a Star?

Many of you will recall that last year I sold illuminated stars for Christmas. Here was an opportunity to share a positive message about Christmas and its meaning as well as brighten up your street. Last year 150 stars were sold, mainly in Coxheath but a few in the surrounding villages. The stars are about 60cm high, can be used outdoors and are attached to a 3m cable to plug into a mains socket. They are weather proof and only get slightly warm and consume a small amount of electricity. I am selling stars again this year at £15 each but all the members of churches in Maidstone are being encouraged to display Angels which cost £35 each. These I can also supply. The angels are 70cm high and come with the same features as stars.

Contact David Jones on 741474 if you would like to support this outward sign of the Christmas Message.

**5P Men's Group** is organising a visit to 'look behind the scenes' at Glyndebourne, the world famous Opera House in East Sussex.

A coach has been booked for **Saturday November 15th, leaving Coxheath at 9am returning at approx 5pm**

**There is an open invitation if folks, Ladies included, would like to join in this visit.**

Places are limited to 51, so it's on a first come first served basis. Cost £15.25 per person.

There will also be a short visit to the village of Alfriston in the afternoon.

To book your place contact Mike Marsh on 01622 745702 or email 5pmen@talktalk.net

M.M.

**GRAND CHRISTMAS CRAFT BAZAAR ON SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER AT 11AM-3PM**

**AT CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST TONBRIDGE ROAD WATERINGBURY.**

**MANY STALLS WITH ORIGINAL, UNIQUE AND HAND CRAFTED GIFTS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

**REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE, CAKE STALL, TOMBOLA ETC FURTHER INFORMATION on 01622 814324**

**The Bulky Refuse Freighter** will next be by the Green on Saturday 1st November from 9.30-11am. Its next visit thereafter will be on December 21st, but if urgent need arises it may be of interest that it will also be in Gallants Lane East Farleigh on December 7th.