

"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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Illustration of All Saints' after Harold Harbour.

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"A firm attachment at one end is a necessity for a useful lifeline." - Anon

Winning Formula for Twinning Fair

The Ringstedt Twinning celebration was a resounding success on Saturday 1st! The event was well-attended by the public and is believed to have made a good contribution towards the funds of the bodies who had come together in organising it. (But it's too early to say definitely). You would have searched in vain for unhappy faces as everyone enjoyed the excellent variety and balance of attractions. Coconuts were shied, wood turned, sheep assessed and numerous bottles were "won" in the tombola—to name but a few of the stalls. A rumour went round that a Ming vase had been smashed on the crockery shy.

Football was the Centrepiece of the day, and West Farleigh beat twinning friends Ringstedt by the unusually wide margin of 4 –0. There was also a penalty shoot out and the Tug of War generated a lot of enthusiastic support. Ringstedt and the Sports Club teams both retired undefeated. The children also got involved just as they had in a short preamble to the football match.

Cakes and Ale: The Good Intent's beer went down well, as did the hog roast, Bev's bangers and other refreshments provided to nourish the body, while Terry Ayears provided a gently sophisticated commentary on the events.

Weathermen nearly right! In a difficult season for the forecasters, they correctly guessed that rain would fall at 1.30 pm. So it did, **but it then stopped** until coming down with a vengeance on the stroke of 5 pm—just as the Fair officially finished. Heatstroke was not a problem throughout!

Those responsible (and hoping to have raised funds) were the landowner Stephen Norman, the Sports Club, the Parish Council, All Saints Church, the Dandelion Trust and the Women's Institute. They all worked very hard!

Emergency Roof Repairs at All Saints Church

Readers may have noticed that scaffolding has recently appeared on All Saints. This is to tackle a leak in the roof. In recent rain showers water has dripped, sometimes noisily, down the back wall of the nave, which is also the front wall of the tower, and the work was commenced to tackle this. Unfortunately—and it is a serious matter—rot has been discovered in the roof beams, which is having to be tackled at the same time as the planned installation of new flashing. The cost will be considerable, and it is likely that the proceeds to the church of the Twinning Fair—good as they may be when known — will not nearly cover it. Raising money for maintenance is like the never ending labour of Sisyphus!

T.H.

Deadline for September Life-Line is August 23rd

This month's Pastoral Letter contributed by the Rev. Peter Walker

Dear Friends,

'Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ' (Philippians 1:27 and verses following)

'What is an Anglican?' was the question asked of Revd. Dr. Jim Packer, a renowned theologian and biblical scholar, at the inauguration meeting of 'The Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans' at Central Hall Westminster, on July 6th. Anglicanism, he said, is a geographical term and had its definition defined and fixed at the Reformation under the reign of Henry 8th when the English church broke away from Rome. Its ethos was established under the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, and the birth of the Prayer Book, the Articles of Religion, the Creeds, and the authority of Holy Scripture. It is for maintaining these truths that the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans has been established, to maintain the true faith in this country and support our fellow believers 'across the pond'.

The Anglican Church in North America has deposed bishops and clergy who have held to these fundamentals. So much so that a new province of the Anglican Church has been formed – ACNA – 'Anglican Church of North America' which now has those orthodox bishops and clergy and in excess of 63,000 Anglicans at its core. The Bishop of Pittsburgh was deposed for holding biblical truths and has just been elected and consecrated as the Archbishop of the new province.

Though saddened that this has had to happen, the 'Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans' –supported and championed by our own Bishop Michael – has had to 'nail its colours to the mast' to stop what has been called 'drift away' from our fundamental beliefs by those who have held views which are contrary to Scripture.

St. Paul writes to the Philippian church to 'live a life worthy of the Gospel of Jesus'.

How can we do this? This statement states that our conduct is to be in tune with our calling – there is to be no separation between what we say and what we are.

Secondly, Paul calls us to 'stand firm' in the Gospel. The Christian life needs stability. In many walks of life today we see much 'instability'. Thirdly, Paul calls for believers to 'contend for the faith of the Gospel'. That is to defend it and argue for its truth. Fourthly, Paul urges us to 'work together for the Gospel'. Mutually to work in unity for the essentials of the Gospel.

Lastly, Paul issues a call to 'suffer for the Gospel'. Not physical suffering (though some believers have suffered in other countries) – but to understand that to speak out and stand firm on Christian matters might mean distress. Our own Bishop Michael has endured this of late as he has spoken out and stood firm on fundamental Biblical truths.

In these somewhat uncertain days of the worldwide Anglican Communion we need to take heart that there are those who, as Scripture tells us in the letter of Jude, 'contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints'.

With prayers,

PETER

Swine Flu:

Bishop Michael has issued guidelines for the churches in respect of how we deal with the swine flu outbreak.

A long document summarised (as recently amended):

- If showing flu like symptoms do not attend church or meetings.
- Identify a 'flu friend' who will be able to collect medicine, food etc.
- Wine at the Holy Communion will always be administered in a chalice of precious metal
- Guidelines have been given to clergy on how best to maintain hygiene in the handling of bread and wine.
- Pastoral visits will be done only when absolutely necessary.
- Further information: by phone to NHS direct or www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
- Intincture (the practice of dipping the wafer in the wine) is being adopted to avoid sharing the chalice at Communion.

P.W.

Apologies to our readers and the Sports Club in particular as we may have given the impression in the July edition that the relationship with Ringstedt only started 10 years ago whereas the sports events have been going on for 21 years. (as we well know! Careless phrasing we're afraid)..... and talking of which, those doyens of communication, the B.B.C., recently stated on their website, apropos **swine flu**, "Every region of England is now seeing "exceptional" levels of activity with the exception of Hull." Clarity itself. (James Heather pointed this out to us) We also note (BBC flu website) that the Department of Health "has reclassified the way it counts mortality". Dead parrots please stand up..... you've been re-classified.....! -Eds

PARISH COUNCIL

* *Gary Shaw set to return as local police officer*

* *Council signs lease on land for Village Hall*

Here are extracts from the (draft) Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of July 20th, held in All Saints Church.

• POLICE MATTERS

It was noted that PC Gary Shaw would shortly be returning to cover the Parish. (No crime report was presented as no police or PCSOs were present.—Ed)

• COUNCILLOR VACANCY

At a private session at the end of the meeting Members interviewed Mr Larry Johnson who had expressed an interest in the vacancy. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Morgan, seconded by Cllr Martin **that Mr Johnson is invited to join the Council**. This was agreed and Mr Johnson is expected to commence his appointment at the November meeting of the Council.

• Meeting with Highways

Members noted that a meeting with Richard Emmett and Michael Heath of KHS has been arranged for Wednesday 19th August at 11.30 am at the Village Green.

• Kettle Lane

Members discussed an enquiry received from East Farleigh PC regarding the apparent proliferation of gateways along Kettle Lane. It was noted that the fields are being used as paddocks for horses and this has increased the number of access points. Members discussed the usage of the fields as paddocks and the Clerk was asked to follow this up with MBC Enforcement.

• Community Centre

Members noted receipt of the Counterpart Lease for the land at Charlton Lane that requires signatures as appropriate. It was proposed by Cllr Merritt, seconded by Cllr Martin **that the Council accepts and signs the lease**. This was agreed and Cllrs Morgan and Scott signed the documents.

• Village Green Land

Members noted the small parcel of land at the end of the Village Green has now been cleared and boundary markers are in place and a sign will be erected showing the Council will maintain the area.

• County and Borough Councillors' Reports

County Cllr Stockell was unable to be present.

Borough Cllr Mortimer advised that following a rearrangement of the Shadow Cabinet he is now the Shadow Member for Culture with Cllr Parr taking over as Shadow Member for Corporate Services.

• Individual Councillors Reports

Cllr Merritt gave a report that included the following items:

1. The Village Green Bye Law sign has been taken down by a third party and the posts are in need of repair before the sign can be reinstated. It was Agreed Mr Johnson will carry out the repairs.
2. The Dog Waste Bin next to the Good Intent Pub is laying at such an angle that it is unable to be used. The Clerk was asked to follow up with MBC.
3. The picnic tables and benches are in need of treatment and Cllr Merritt agreed to carry out the task.
4. The padlock has been removed from the gate to the play area and the Clerk was asked to follow up with MBC.
5. The bench opposite Smiths Hall was in need of repairing and Cllr Merritt agreed to carry out this task.
6. The Maple tree at the triangular section on Lower Road has died and the large oak tree needs cutting back.

Cllr Martin reported problems with trees overhanging the highway at the bottom of Smiths Hill and an incident on 28th June when one of the trees fell and blocked the road until the tree was removed. The Clerk was asked to write to Lambert & Foster again to request the trees are cut back. (see page 2 -Ed.)

- The Audit Commission has given us a "clean" certificate and the statutory notice saying that the Audit has been completed is displayed on the notice boards around the Parish.

• DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is on Monday 21st September 2009 at All Saints Church.

Seekers

Term ended on July 16th with an open service in All Saints followed by a barbecue. The service incorporated readings, music, movement and a puppet show—in short many of the weekly activities of the Seekers. It was enjoyed by all—as was the nourishment provided on our churchyard barbecue afterwards. Parents and visitors had the opportunity to see some of the fine work produced by the children. Seekers starts again in September.

EVERGREENS

Our July meeting was a trip to Merriments Garden. We were met in the Car Park by an ambulance, fortunately not for any of the Evergreens. However it reminded some of us that when we were young we held our collars when an ambulance went by. However many of the members had no recollection of this. Is this a Maidstone/Medway towns phenomenon?

We had a splendid afternoon for wandering about the very colourful garden and we enjoyed afternoon tea in the cafe, and celebrated Iris Bray's 80th birthday with a cake. No room for 80 candles but we had an 80 candlepower indoor firework instead!

On Tuesday 11th August, Mick Merritt will be giving a wood turning demonstration, in the garden of Ann and Terry Ayears. Do give Terry a ring on 814561 if you would like to join us.

WILLING DRIVERS WANTED

Would you be able to give the occasional lift to villagers who do not have their own transport? There is sometimes a need to give lifts to the doctors, hospital, station etc or to pick up a prescription or medication. As we are a rural community, with the only bus going either to Yalding or the town centre, it is often difficult to get to appointments etc. You will be giving a lift to a neighbour, so will not need extra insurance etc. As such you cannot make a charge, but should you be offered a little something towards the petrol after you have made the journey, please accept, so that your neighbour is free to ask again.

Please email Helen on helen.swan2@btinternet.com or ring 814445

A list will be compiled which will be published in next month's Lifeline.

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

How about cleaning All Saints church for an hour or two every other month? This is mainly "hoovering" but should be done after the Seekers (Thursday evening) and before the Sunday service. Helping in this way will preserve the facilities at All Saints for the use of all the village. Contact Val Grainger or Christine Hill on 01622 813019.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Another opportunity to contribute to the life (and the safety and security) of the village is through Neighbourhood Watch. This job can be what you make of it, but would suit anyone with a little time and some curiosity and imagination. Liaison with the Parish Council and our local police and P.C.S.O.s is also involved. Contact the Parish Clerk, Vikki Stancombe, on 01622 842782. Where Neighbourhood Watch can excel is in compiling, with the Police and P.C.S.O.s, an accurate picture of the extent of crime in our village.

Councillor clears road block.

Late on June 28th an ash tree from Cornwallis' land crashed over and blocked the lower end of Smith's Hill. It was cleared before the next morning by the private efforts of Parish Councillor Martin and his chain saw. A highways dept. employee ineffectually came to the scene but was armed only with a handsaw, and in any case clearance work would not have been undertaken until the following day. However, Councillor Martin says that the police worked hard that night in clearing the cut logs and branches. Thanks are due to him for his hard work, which saved many motorists a lengthy detour.

-Ed

Notices have gone up formally proclaiming the introduction of new speed limits of 50 and 40 m.p.h. on stretches of Lower Rd (B2010), Teston Lane (B2163), Ewell Lane and Heath Lane. There is a period of two more weeks (until August 17th) for comments. Write to Invicta House Maidstone, if you wish, quoting "The Kent County Council (Speed Limit Review Demonstration Area) (in the Borough of Maidstone) (Various Speed Limits) Order 2009", stating reasons. {Clearly the writers of this rubric were trained at the Ministry of Funny Brackets -Ed.}

We note that East Farleigh Parish Council is taking steps to persuade local commercial vehicle owners NOT to use East Farleigh Bridge and wonder whether due consideration has been given to what route they will use to go about their business. If they come through West Farleigh it will only add to our traffic problem (and use Teston Bridge?) We are already threatened with an insupportable increase in traffic through to Hunt Street, should the proposal for the leisure development at Tutsham Hall get the go ahead. There is a borough sponsored project called TRAMP which has as one of its aims a *reduction in traffic on rural roads*. Let us hope that councils can practise joined-up thinking.

- Ed.

Church Services

August 2009

Too many pigeons in the pie?

For the last two months they were shooting in Paynes' cherry orchard in a bid to protect the crop from marauding birds. Generally the target was the Woodpigeon – a bird for which it is hard to build up any great depth of sympathy. The slaughter was very limited in fact, so much so that a fortnight after shooting ceased a fat Woodpigeon is sitting on its flimsy nest in a low tree in our garden, a few yards from the position adopted by its recent enemies.

Yet in its own way the Woodpigeon is a very significant creature, having the distinction of being the biggest avian biomass in British wildlife. That is to say, although there may be fewer of them than (say) wrens or blackbirds, yet the 6 million that there are weigh over 1lb. each, so that the combined weight of all the Woodpigeons exceeds that of any other bird species. Moreover, on a recent survey, the Woodpigeon was found in more grid squares in the U.K. than any other bird and in the R.S.P.B.'s "Garden Birdwatch", held in January, it comes sixth in numbers in English gardens. It has increased eightfold since the RSPB began its "Garden Birdwatch". What accounts for the bird's success? Its bulky ungainliness ought to make it an easy target, it has no obvious defence mechanism (nothing like the sharp chisel bill of a woodpecker) and its nest is both easy to find and flimsy in structure so that it never looks as if it will succeed—and the eggs, which are white and easy to see, are indeed often spilled or predated. Additionally, it is one of the few birds classified as an agricultural pest so it can be shot. Nor is it unattractive to do so, since pigeon meat is highly palatable to man, as to a host of other creatures. Obviously the numbers of the bird indicate that it overcomes these handicaps somehow. Possible reasons are: first, that the pigeon is vegetarian, and in our climate and with our agriculture, vegetable food is available all year round. Secondly, the breeding season is extraordinarily long. Nests have been found in all months of the year, so that although only two chicks are raised at a time, the annual total of young raised might be 10 or more. Unlike the vast majority of birds, even the young are fed vegetarian food—the regurgitated product of the parents' gleaning, the so-called pigeon's milk.

So there they are, everywhere around us, indicating that the meek, or at least the obese freighters of the bird world, will inherit the earth. I will be watching out to see if the birds in our garden are successful in raising their brood, but feeling, perhaps, that if they fail there will be more food and space for other birds.

© Tim Hill

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.

All Saints, Church Lane

West Farleigh

2nd August	8.00 am.	Holy Communion
9th August	11.00 am.	Morning Prayer
16th August	9.30 am.	Holy Communion
23rd August	11.00 am.	Morning Worship

East Farleigh

2nd August	9.30 am.	Holy Communion
9th August	8.00 am.	Holy Communion
	11.00 am.	Family Service
16th August	9.30 am.	Holy Communion
23rd August	8.00 am.	Holy Communion
	9.30 am.	Matins

Hunton

2nd August	11.00 am.	Family Service
9th August	9.30 am.	Holy Communion
16th August	11.00 am.	Morning Prayer
23rd August	9.30 am.	Holy Communion

Coxheath

2nd August	11.00 am.	Holy Communion
9th August	9.30 am.	Morning Prayer
16th August	11.00 am.	Holy Communion
23rd August	11.00 am.	Family Service

UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE

30th August 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Linton

2nd August	9.30 am.	Holy Communion
9th August	9.30 am.	Holy Communion
16th August	8.00 am.	Holy Communion
	11.00 am.	Family Service
23rd August	9.30 am.	Holy Communion

Rochester Cathedral Prayers:

Our parishes are being remembered at the morning and evening services on Monday August 31st. The Dean and Chapter would be glad to welcome members of our parishes at **Evensong** which is a sung service and starts at 3.15 pm. A lesson reader is requested. Please let Peter know if you intend to be present.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MAIDSTONE

Thursday September 17th at 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm start at **Maidstone Baptist Church**, Knighttrider St.

Work in Schools with Children and Young People

– the speakers will be from Family Trust and CAST. Work in primary and secondary schools is a vital work in the Christian mission and both these Organisations play a valuable role in the Christian education of our young people.

Harvest Festival Quiz Night.

All Saints Harvest Festival is on September 27th. The night before, Saturday 26th will see the **Harvest Supper, with Fun Quiz**. All are welcome, to pit their wits (against adjacent tables) and to enjoy the supper. Regular Quiz goers note there will be a grand prize. More information next month, but reserve the date in your diary.

Christmas Market.

Early days indeed, but All Saints is organising a trip to Winchester Christmas Market on Saturday 28th November. Winchester is a great place to visit so look out for further announcements. There's ice-skating usually too!

Smoky Fires

Life-Line has been asked to draw attention to the anti-social aspects of smoky bonfires in gardens. Of late there have been a number of bonfires in the upper part of Charlton Lane, at least one of which caused a citizen to re-do the weekly wash! Do have a care and consideration and burn such garden rubbish as infrequently as possible!

The Farleighs' History Society. The Society will meet on Thursday 10th September. A speaker from Cornells of Maidstone will bring some exhibits and talk about the long history of the company in the town from 1796 to the present day. The venue is the Bull, East Farleigh, at 7.30 pm. All are welcome: members free or £2.50 on the door. We apologise for the non-arrival of our speaker in June. It was disappointing certainly, but those who remained enjoyed a drink and a chat, so it wasn't an entirely wasted evening. Any enquiries to Jenny Finch 01622 726312 or jenniferfinch@hotmail.co.uk.

The Farleighs WI

Home grown entertainment at the 90th birthday party of The Farleighs W.I.

Following a meal prepared by members of the committee, members were entertained by the line-dancing, drama and music groups and the choir, leader Lynn Seeley.

Elly Bernhardt made the beautifully iced birthday cake which was cut by president Helen Swan and by former presidents Anne Ayears, Barbara Bingham, Pam Clark, Carole Quinn and Joy Wiltshire,

Now we are looking forward to our centenary!

Pam Clark 01622 726919

At the Farleighs WI 90th Birthday Celebrations

Anne and Elaine—modern service with a smile



Left: Elly and Maureen are waiting expectantly to be served. They are dressed in the fashion of ninety years ago.

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Sports Report:

CRICKET : Some good success to report this month from our two elevens!

The 1st XI beat Staplehurst away in a dramatic match. Needing to pass 265, we got there with 4 balls left! After losing to Willesborough we beat Linton Park quite comfortably, before overcoming Lenham with one of our players knocking in excess of 150 classy runs! Against top-of-the-table Leeds we narrowly lost. The 2nd XI lost to Shipbourne, but went on to beat local rivals Teston in a friendly. We lost also to Headcorn and to Hollingbourne, and our other fixture against Eynsford was abandoned in the rain.

CLUB NEWS:

At the end of last month the Ringstedt team arrived for the 21st anniversary match but first they were entertained ("softened up") at a dance held in the marquee at Elmscroft Field. The match result on August 1st went with home advantage—not unusually—a sharp and surprisingly lively Farleigh winning 4-0. Next day there was a barbecue in honour of our visitors and with the Normans' swimming pool handy it turned out to be quite a liquid affair!

We all look forward to next year!

Meanwhile training for the domestic season is underway.

Yours in sport **Tel** 01622 745744



In a short pre-match ceremony gifts were exchanged between West Farleigh and Ringstedt. Here the skippers of the soccer teams hold the frames, which are apparently blank, but in fact contain beautifully presented and multi-autographed copies of the twinning charters.

Ton up Club Winners: July

1st prize—£25 Roland Day 2nd prize – £15 Jane Stewart 3rd prize—£10 Sarah Baggott

JUNIOR SPORT will be resuming in September. Interested boys should contact Ian Wratten 01622 746138

From The Twinning Fair

Winners wanted! The winner of the Kemps' "Balloons in Car" competition was Mr. **Mike Twyman**—will he please step forward to receive his prize? Similarly, the winning programme prize has not been claimed. The prize number was 2090. Jack Martin, phone 745491, is looking forward to hearing from these lucky winners.

THE FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES SPONSORED RIDE AND WALK.

SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Ride and Walk. Last year more than £147,000 was raised in Kent, with over 725 churches and chapels involved.

Get sponsored and visit as many churches as possible on the day by bike or walking. You plan your own route and start and finish any time between 10 am and 6 pm. Half the money you raise locally goes to West Farleigh Church and the other half to the Friends of Kent Churches.

If you would like to take part contact me for sponsorship forms or if you can help by taking a turn at **manning our church** for an hour give me a ring on 813019. Christine Hill

MAIDSTONE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH WEEK STREET

Lunch time concert August 5th

Church open from 12.30 p.m. Music begins at 1.00 p.m.

JUDITH BUCKLE

Mezzo Soprano

MATTHEW CRAVEN

Baritone

ADMISSION FREE

COFFEE AVAILABLE

RETIRING COLLECTION for THE HEART OF KENT HOSPICE

Heritage Open Day at the Church of St John the Baptist

Tonbridge Road, Watringbury on Saturday 12th September

10 am - 4.30 pm. Exhibition of documents and photographs of

"Watringbury in Bygone Days" by the Local History Society.

A circular one hour village walk will leave from the Church at 2.15 pm to explore the conservation area. Home made cakes, cream teas and refreshments available. Book and puzzle stalls.

Further information from 01622 813032

Next Freighter visit in the village is Sunday 16th August 4.00—5.15 p.m. by the Green.