

*“Some sort of periodical is an essential life-line in a village such as ours”*

Welcome to West Farleigh’s own

# LIFELINE



Distributed freely in March 2022 Edition 541    Editors: Stephen Norman, Helen Swan and Jacky Taylor  
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Deadline for the next issue is 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022



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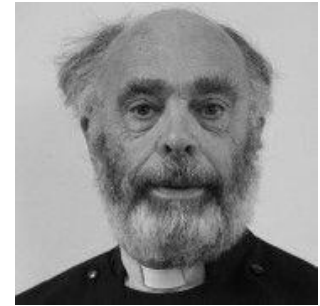


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## Pastoral Letter

March sees the start of Lent in the churches calendar. Forty days of preparation for Easter and a time when in many ways Christians are asked to consider 'charging their batteries'. It is a time as we examine our relationship to God in Christ Jesus by look firstly inwards to the things that perhaps have become a habit and a drain on our spiritual journey and then secondly to look outwards to a new journey with God. So, this year Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup> starts Lent, Shrove Tuesday the day before is pancake day or panic day if you've forgotten how to make pancake mix.



So, what are your thought now you know? Don't look on Lent with a negative approach this year. Look at what you feel might improve your spiritual life with God. Don't simply give up chocolate! Think of something that may improve your life-style, something that others may appreciate by you doing or changing or perhaps something that helps other. Above all try to remember that you are doing what you are doing because firstly God loves you and cares about you and secondly that knowledge is important to you and makes your Christian journey more fruitful.

Enjoy Lent, don't be miserable, don't run your life style down but be positive so that by Easter Day when we have come out of Lent you will be enjoying things and have a purpose in your lives. As an afterthought I'm showing you the way by giving up writing long letters in the hope that I will use the time more productively and that you won't waste so much time reading what I've written.  
Enjoy Lent

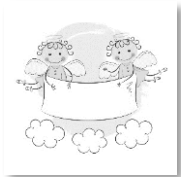
**Rev. David Jones**

### Church Services at All Saints Church during March 2022

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 9.30 am – Holy Communion**  
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 9.30 am – Morning Worship with East Farleigh**

**Everyone is welcome**

## LITTLE ANGELS



Toddlers & young children, mums, dads and grandparents all welcome to Little Angels Fridays 1pm – 2.30pm at All Saints.

## ALMSHOUSE VACANCY

We have a vacancy in one of the Sir John Franklyn almshouses in Workhouse Lane, East Farleigh. The applicant should ideally be over 60, of low income and have lived in East Farleigh or the surrounding villages for at least two years. They should also be reasonably fit as the cottages do have stairs. The cottages are single person occupancy as they are quite small.

If you would like to apply or get more information please contact either of the following before 18th March:  
**Richard Yaxley (Chairman) 01622 744915**

## Hugh Grainger

1<sup>st</sup> May 1931 – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

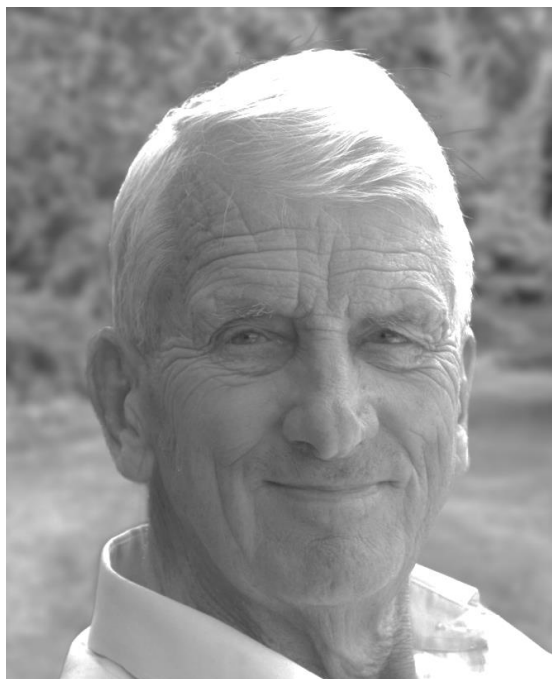
Hugh was born in Wimbledon. He was the eldest child & had three younger brothers, Stuart, Christopher and Peter.

His brothers were all talented artists musicians or dramatists and Hugh did his best to support them although he did not share their talents. He always tried to support their exhibitions and dramatic performances.

The family moved to Plymouth when his father's work took him there and at ten he was sent to Kings School Canterbury which had been evacuated to Cornwall.

Their parents divorced in the 1950s and Hugh, still a teenager, kept the brothers together as a unit. Doing many things together including, forming a family band, with Hugh on drums.

After school he did 2 years National Service in the army and then tried his hand at farming, keeping up his drumming with Billingshurst Town Band.



Increasingly he became sure he was called to the ministry. After his exclusive type of education, he felt he needed to mingle more with those less fortunate so enlisted in the army for a further 3 years.

In 1957 he went to Kings College London to study theology for 3 years. Valeria went up in the same year to study at Bedford College, University of London. Her Hall of Residence for 36 female students in a beautiful Queen Anne house in Regent's Park held an annual dance in October to which they invited male students from male Halls of Residence. Hugh went to the dance in 1958 and Valeria opened the door to him. They married 2 years later on New Year's Eve 1960.

In his final year at King's Hugh began to feel that perhaps a dog collar might be a barrier so thought of social work instead. After getting a Social Work qualification he worked as a Child Care Officer at Hammersmith, then Reading, Abingdon and then Slough, where he was Area Director of Social Services in the new unified Social Care structure, finally moving to Kent where he was Director of Social Services for the Tonbridge and Sevenoaks Area. Which is when they moved to The Barn.

The church was not forgotten and for over 50 years he was a Lay Reader taking services and assisting in the ministry of his local area. Latterly, at All Saints West Farleigh, supporting the incumbent and supporting the church through several inter regnum, when we had no vicar. With Valeria as church warden, they were a formidable pair!

He and Valeria had 3 children, Karen, Sarah and Richard who in turn gave them 10 grandchildren and to date 7.5 great grandchildren.

Hugh's great love was dancing and this was something he and Valeria enjoyed until Hugh lacked the strength to continue. He also enjoyed DIY, for which his children were grateful, when they had their own homes. He even took a plumbing course so that he and Val could improve conditions in an orphanage in Romania. He loved his gardens. Travelling was important, for many years they had a caravan and on retirement progressed to a Motor Home which they used to travel throughout the UK and Europe, Turkey being the most distant country they toured in the van. With Val he visited countries further afield, sometimes cruising. Cruising being an ideal way of combining his love of travel and dancing! Our thoughts and condolences go to Val and her family.

## FAREWELL JACKY TAYLOR

Jacky and Ron, moved into Lucita, in Charlton Lane, twelve years ago. They came from Eltham. They very quickly got involved in the community, even though they were still commuting to work by car. Ron got to know the villagers that frequented the Good Intent.

Jacky joined the WI and sang in the choir, as well as worshipping in the village church and joining the PCC. After their retirement Ron worked behind the bar in the Good Intent, he made a great "Mine Host". Jacky joined the WI and participated with all the village social events, cajoling her sister Sam to help her and later took a part time job which curtailed her social life.



Their son Paul came to live with them and also was involved in the village. BBQs are his thing!

Unfortunately, Ron was diagnosed with cancer on two separate occasions and subsequently died, leaving Jacky to run the house on her own modest income. To enable her to stay in the village she increased her hours of work which meant an early start and she had to cut down on her village activities. However, she still had time to be one of the three editors of Lifeline, manage West Farleigh's Facebook account and be on the Website committee.

Time has ticked on, and Jacky felt it was time to retire and subsequently decided to move in with her sister Sam in Swanley. She will be leaving the village at the end of March.

We shall miss her cheerful and encouraging smile. We understand and wish her well in the next phase of her life. We also hope that she will visit and continue to enjoy West Farleigh's social events. She will always be welcome.

## AN INVITATION FROM THE EDITORS OF LIFELINE

For the last 6 years, editorship of your village Lifeline has been shared between three of us. We rotate, editing an issue every 3 months.

During this time, LIFELINE has moved into the digital age, greatly simplifying the production process and print times. We now distribute by email, as well as by hand to every house in the village. Thanks to Paul Baines, you can now view 30 years of LIFELINE on-line, including the latest issue. And, of course, we have moved from 8 to 12 pages and into colour. And we have rejuvenated our advertising income to cover our costs.

We have also shamelessly syndicated the content, with regular contributions from the Rector, the Parish Council, local horticulturalists and ornithologists, Ed our photographer and other columns. All of which has meant that the task of producing 12 pages is probably simpler than it was 20 years ago with 4 pages.

Sadly, Jacky Taylor, enthusiastic editor and member of the website committee and the PCC is leaving the village and will be giving up the editor's mantle. This issue will be her last.

So, we are looking for a new editor! That means YOU. Read on, do not turn the page. You don't need to be a professional journalist; you don't need to be an IT guru. You need to live here, and be interested in village affairs, and you would need about a day per quarter to assemble it.

Register your interest! Email [editor@thefarleighs.co.uk](mailto:editor@thefarleighs.co.uk) now. You can do it from your phone!



## Reports from around the village organisations

### PARISH COUNCIL REPORT:

The rotten, damaged and missing posts around the Green have been replaced. The decision to try to save or take down the tree on the Green has been made for us. Eunice decided to do away with it!

If you have anything you wish to bring up with the Parish Council, it would be helpful to all, if you Emailed the Clerk [westfarleighpc@googlemail.com](mailto:westfarleighpc@googlemail.com) or spoke to a councillor with your comments, suggestions, ideas etc If you are able to do this at least 2 weeks before the next meeting, there is time for the council to make it an agenda item if deemed appropriate.



### SPORTS REPORTS:

**Football:** Our 1st XI have continued their fine season so far, our four games last month resulted three victories and one draw. We started with a 3-1 win over Punjab, next came a tricky away fixture versus Dean which ended 2-2, the following week and amazing 7-3 victory against Cuxton in the cup after extra time, finally another hard-fought game against Punjab ending in a 1-0 victory. Meanwhile our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI has found it hard to find positive results, however we came good in our quarter final versus St Lawrence in a very tight match in which we came away 2-1 victorious. Unfortunately, in our final match last month we went down 3-0 to lowly Orpington.



**Netball:** Our girls have had a roller coaster of a month with highs and lows in terms of results. We started with a thumping victory over Bengals 45-16, next a tight game versus Foxy Wotsits unfortunately going down 34-26. Better new the following week when we soundly beat All The Girls 39-10. Sadly, after that we have had two defeats versus Dragon Flies 45-20 and Vixen 47-23.



**Cricket:** When the season just around the corner, any new members will be more than welcome.

**Club News:** Our Lucky Ton-up winners last month were:

No 148 – Tina Woodhams £30; No 69 Ian Prideaux £20; No 122 – Linda Body £10

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# EVERGREENS



At our meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>, members were asked to share what they could remember around the time of the Kings death 70 years ago. Some were at school, Others working and some too young for school. This led to interesting conversations around the tea tables. We enjoy a good reminisce! We will be enjoying Fish and chips at our lunch meeting.

If you are retired, do come and join us. We meet in the WI Hall, Forge Lane, East Farleigh. We can collect if you do not drive. On 8th March we will be having afternoon tea and Kettle Bridge Concertinas will be entertaining us. Lunch on 22<sup>nd</sup> March will be East End Pie and Mash and a good old Cockney Sing Song. If you would like to join us ring Helen 07710 442971 or 01622 814445 Who can give you more details.



## THE FARLEIGHS W.I

This month's Zoom speaker gave us a tour around the London shops – Diane Burstein is a London Blue Badge tour guide who gave a very interesting talk on the history of some of the famous Shops.

The Farleighs W.I are looking for new members to join our friendly group. Why not come along to our **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March** meeting when **Lotties Loft** will be giving us a **Fashion Show**. . Doors open at 6:15. You will be made very welcome.

On **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March** we have an Open Evening when Guy Bartlett will be giving a talk on the **History of the Red Arrows**. – Doors open 6:30 All Welcome – tickets £3 members and £5 guests – Refreshments included.

If you would like more information on the W.I or any of our events please e-mail [Thefarleighs@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:Thefarleighs@wkwfi.org.uk)

**Diane Scott- President.**

**The Farleighs W.I Hall – Forge Lane East Farleigh**



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## FARLEIGH FEATHERS by Ray Morris

### Rambling Bramblings

This year has been a remarkable year for Bramblings. You may have seen one or two on your garden feeders, or a whole flock or two on your walks around the village. You may also have dismissed them as slightly odd-looking chaffinches as they are very closely related.

As closely related species it's not surprising they behave similarly – in this case their feeding behaviour – as they are both major consumers in winter of seeds generally found on the woodland floor or wherever there are seed-producing trees, like a tall hedgerow or a scrubby corner of a field. They can even turn up in a disused but overgrown plot of land in an urban area that now grows beer cans and fag packets as well as sycamores and buddleia.



But why Rambling? The species breeds in birch and conifer woodland across northern Europe when its diet is principally insects, like chaffinches. In winter though, as well as eating seeds, it has evolved to specialise in beechmast, seeds of beech trees (possibly to avoid competition with chaffinches). This strategy works well until the beech mast runs out or completely 'fails' as it does periodically. Then the species rambles across Europe looking for it, into northern Africa and India, as far as China and Japan and, even, The Farleighs!

In some areas of the UK now, both species are enjoying the changes brought about by new DEFRA payments to farmers to support wintering farmland birds. These include planting crops for seed that is deliberately left for birds. When the crops run out, as they tend to by January (when natural food has all but disappeared too, supplementary seed is strewn on the ground to keep them going.

This winter has seen a huge influx of Bramblings into the UK, when last year we barely saw any. A farm in Marden has a trail camera set up at one of its supplementary feed sites and this year these colourful visitors have heavily outnumbered all the other farmland birds.

They have also been welcome visitors in gardens, so we haven't had to ramble too far to see these beautiful birds.



## LOCAL TRADES LISTINGS (neighbours who can help you)

Photo courtesy of Candy Martin

Business name	Business service	Website	Contact name	Phone no	email
Firefly Payroll Services	Payroll	<a href="http://www.fireflypayroll.com">www.fireflypayroll.com</a>	Jason Hart	01622 934110	<a href="mailto:enquiries@fireflypayroll.com">enquiries@fireflypayroll.com</a>
No Muck'in About	Professional and affordable cleaning services		Sarah Dunn	07885 634559	<a href="mailto:nomuckinabout@outlook.com">nomuckinabout@outlook.com</a>
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Pest Purge	Pest Control	<a href="http://www.pestpurge.co.uk">www.pestpurge.co.uk</a>	Richard Lee	01622 842481 or 07758 615101	<a href="mailto:richard@pestpurge.co.uk">richard@pestpurge.co.uk</a>
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Castle Portable Loo Hire Ltd	Events	<a href="http://www.castleportableloohire.co.uk/">http://www.castleportableloohire.co.uk/</a>	Steve Millsom	07990 606067	<a href="mailto:castleplh@gmail.com">castleplh@gmail.com</a>

### WHATS ON THE HORIZON



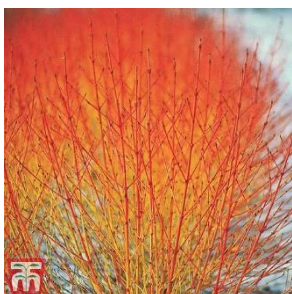
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|-------------------------------|-------------|--|
| March 6 <sup>th</sup>         | 10am-4pm    | <b>LAMBING DAY</b> at Smiths Hill Farm, Hunt Street  |
| March 9 <sup>th</sup>         | from 6.15pm | The Farleighs WI are hosting <b>Lotties Loft Fashion Show</b>                                |
| March 30 <sup>th</sup>        | from 6.30   | The Farleighs WI open evening features <b>Guy Bartlett on The History of the Red Arrows.</b> |
| April 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Hall | from 7.30   | <b>Folk Music with Hannah Sanders and Ben Savage</b> at Hunton Village                       |

## IN THE GARDEN with Sara Cushing

After the devastation left by the storms of February, including the sad demise of our much-loved Farleigh Green Oak, it's good to be seeing some positives in the garden! One of the first signs of winter coming to an end, for me, is seeing the crocus pop up around the Green, planted by our dedicated, green-fingered villagers, and which have spread out beautifully over the years!



Spring is the busiest time in the garden! Apart from all the winter detritus to clear, it's the time to be preparing for the next six months of growing. Sweet peas should be shooting up in the greenhouse (the tips can be pinched out to encourage bushier growth) and can be planted out once hardened off. If you haven't done this, the seeds can be directly sown outside. Summer flowering bulbs, such as lily and gladioli can be planted in pots and borders. They love a well drained soil, so I always mix compost through the borders, and horticultural grit can be used if the ground is particularly claggy. Lilies are toxic to cats and dogs, so it's always worth putting them somewhere they won't be munched! Dahlia can be started in pots but need to be kept in until all risk of frost has passed. Again, pinching tips out will give a thicker growth, but if you wanted to get the huge flowers on the dinner-plate-sized varieties, side shoots/buds should be removed so that all the energy goes to the main flower. Hardy annuals - nasturtium and poppies can be sown outside.



March always brings a huge amount of pruning! Cornus and Cotinus can be taken down hard to the base to encourage strong new growth, and roses can be pruned to an outward-facing bud to promote good air flow through an open centre. Hedges should now be left until Autumn as birds will be nesting.

Seedheads on daffodils should be removed, and it's essential to let the foliage die back naturally so energy goes back into the bulb to produce flowers for next year. Removing the leaves early can mean your daffodils come up 'blind', without flowering. I always use a general purpose feed around this time, not only to give the spring bulbs one last feed, but also to give the other plants in the garden a good start to the season. This month is also the time to be keeping an eye out for pests and diseases. Box caterpillar was a real issue in our lovely part of the world last year, so it is worth starting treatment now. There are organic methods, pheromone traps or nematodes for example, if you prefer not to spray, but signs to look out for are eaten leaves and cobwebbing. Caterpillars can be picked off and disposed of in a permanent way..



The early potatoes that were chitted off last month should have developed some lovely strong shoots! These can be now planted out, either in barrels with a minimum 8" depth compost, or in the ground. If there is a risk of sub-zero temperatures, they can be covered with fleece. Parsnips and carrots, and hardy leafy veg, such as spinach can be sown, again I find protection given by fleece or cloches can really help, especially if there are late frosts. Annual herbs - coriander, dill and basil should be started indoors, and if you haven't started your tomatoes, peppers and chillies, now is the time! **Happy Gardening!**



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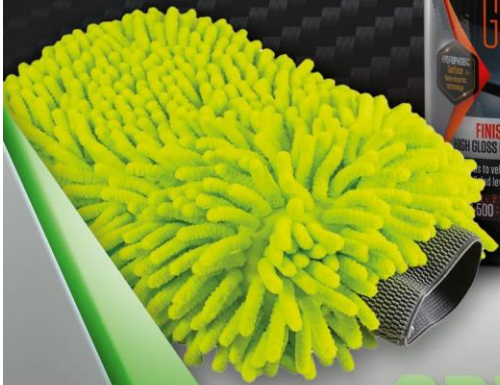
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