

GRAPEVINE

JANUARY 2021

EAST FARLEIGH



2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Farleighs

Christmas was a different time this year and we were all disappointed by the change in the arrangements at the last minute, but I hope everyone did enjoy the festivities. We now have to look forward to 2021 and I hope it will be a better year than this year has been. I am arranging for a zoom meeting for all our members on the 13th January at 7.30pm and will be sending the details out at the beginning of January. I have asked Lesley Springett Dean to do a talk on her Travels and her Company. I will also be going through updates with everyone as well. We will be having new doors fitted to the Hall on the 4th January and hope these will enhance the aspect of the building.

Dear friends,

As we approach the end of 2020, we look back with sadness at opportunities denied and with joy at blessings received. In spite of everything, God is still there and loving us.

As we find ourselves in Tier 4 (Stay Home) and schools are closed, we proceed with caution with our interim worship pattern, but with a weather eye on the value of holding services in church compared to the risks involved. We must not, under Tier 4 regulations, engage with anybody outside our household whilst in church, and we are only permitted to hold services because we have been strict in implementing all controls.

Our online services and study continue, and following a wonderful Alpha, we are looking at study groups going forward. We will kick off the term with an Epiphany Service, followed by an opportunity for discussion and fellowship. This will be on **January 6th at 7.30pm** on <https://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice> and we will follow that for the next 6 weeks (leading into Lent) with study session from the Bible Society, each of which will have opportunity for worship, teaching and discussion in small groups.

If you plan to be there on Wednesday evenings please let us know so we can arrange the best groups. Or, if Wednesdays don't work for you let me know and we will see if we can hold a Tuesday afternoon group.

Peter Callway

-PARISH NEWS-

Revd. Peter Callway, Rector
Thanksgivings, Weddings & Funerals
01622 747570 *Unavailable Fridays*

Revd. Lorna Faulkner
Assistant Curate
01622 439304

Revd. David Jones, Hon Associate Rector
01622 741474
Unavailable Fridays

George Moore, Church Warden
01622 204874
george-n-pat@blueyonder.co.uk

February Grapevine issue deadline – 18th January
beckii_richford@hotmail.com 07702 551745

Becky Parnham
Children & Families Worker
07949 646865

Judith Dorothy Wootton. 3rd December Funeral Service with Burial in the Churchyard
Our Thoughts and Prayers are with Judith's Family and Friends

Dear friends,

'The Repair Shop' is a popular TV program where experts restore items that are precious to their owners. Amazing things happen in the hands of these masters of their trades; leather work; upholstery; jewellery; woodwork; metalwork; ceramics; paintings; clocks; you name it and they will fix it. The BBC says the show is an 'antidote to throwaway culture.'

As we begin a New Year what are we looking forward to being restored?

- Restoration of health for all who are ill, either with Covid-19, other illnesses or with mental health issues.
- Restoration of an economy so burdened with debt.
- Restoration of jobs for those who have lost them this year along with thousands of others.
- Restoration of life as we know it!

We have just celebrated the coming to earth of God's son, Jesus, as a baby. When he began his ministry as an adult he quoted Isaiah, an Old Testament prophet, by saying, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Luke 4:18).

Can you imagine being blind and having your sight restored? These words of Jesus aren't just words, he actually did restore sight to blind people (Mark 8:22 and Matthew 9:29, for instance). He also restored a man's shrivelled hand (Luke 6:6) and restored to health many who were brought to him (e.g. Matthew 4:24).

However, the best restoration that Jesus did was to restore our relationship with God by dying for us; for all the things we have thought or done which are wrong. All these are forgiven when we confess our faults to God in Jesus' name, and at the beginning of a New Year there is no better time.

Wishing you all a blessed New Year as we travel with the God whose ability to restore us through Jesus is beyond our understanding ... but thank goodness He did because, just as the items in The Repair Shop, we are precious to Him!

Blessings,
Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant

East Farleigh Church Services January 2021



Date	Time	Service
17 th	9:30am	Holy Communion Lorna Faulkner
24 th	8:00am	Holy Communion Peter Callway

With the guidelines from the Diocese all members of the congregation will be required to wear facemasks, there will be no singing, no chanting and no music or social gathering after the service.

Details of weekly Church service at
10.30 Sunday mornings:

Computer, tablet or smartphone:
<http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>

By 'phone
Dial 0203 051 2874
Enter 185124308#

Enter #
(Cost of a call is standard cost to a
geographic number.)

Rev Peter Callway
East Farleigh Parish Church
Tel: 01622 747570

Clerk: 07999 414712
Chairperson: 07768 352414



EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Desirée Home, Clerk to the Council
The Pump House, Riverside Park, East Farleigh, Maidstone ME16 9ND
T: 07999 414712
E: eastfarleighpc@goolemail.com
www.eastfarleighpc.kentparishes.gov.co.uk

The Parish Council is here to help at all times.

If you want advice as to how you can get food or medicines or help with any other difficulty, please ring the Clerk of a Parish Councillor and we will call on the knowledge of the whole team to try and help.

The EU (ecological union) we haven't left

It's said that if you add together all the gardens in Britain you would have an area greater than that of Suffolk. So those of us fortunate enough to have had a garden during the long periods we have been 'locked down' in 2020 can be said to have jointly enjoyed the pleasures of a rural county. Although large parts of Kent are still considered rural, they may not feel like it sometimes: even if not hemmed-in by thousands of new houses, few are free from the additional road traffic generated – and that's before we add many thousands of temporarily stranded lorries.

But wherever they are, it can only be a few gardens that are not used by birds, especially if food is provided for them. Ironically, probably the most frequent species to be found in gardens now (and certainly the most easily seen) is the one most commonly considered to be a farmland bird – the woodpigeon. One of the few birds to have benefitted from industrial-scale arable farming, its numbers have swelled in step with the increase in oilseed rape. As vegetable gardeners will readily attest, woodpigeons are partial to the foliage of plants in the cabbage family – and that includes rape. So as this crop has expanded, so has the woodpigeon population.

At the other end of the garden bird scale, the diminutive wren still holds sway as the most common – in terms of being found in the greatest variety of locations - from sea-level to mountainous areas. Also possibly the loudest, certainly for its size, this tiny seeker-of-cavities for its nest bears a scientific name to match the habit: *Troglodytes*, the cave-dweller.

Both are resident in the UK, but are joined throughout the year by species like redwing and fieldfare seeking for relief from the harsh northern European winter, or chaffinch and swallow that view our summers as perfect for raising young and, in the case of the latter, are prepared to cross half the world to get here.

Other species' numbers are increased in the winter as their continental counterparts join them for the UK's milder weather and, it has to be said, for the life-saving food generously provided by householders. Should it be possible, an eaves-dropped conversation overheard between blackbirds, thrushes, chaffinches or robins, to name just a few species, would be enriched with Scandinavian, Polish, Dutch and even Russian accents - demonstrating that even if we are no longer politically entwined with Europe, we cannot escape our ecological interdependence.

Something to reflect on in a locked-down January.

Ray Morris

**BULLET POINT SUMMARY ARISING FROM EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ONLINE via 'ZOOM' Meeting ID 996 0638 5030**

On Tuesday 1st December 2020 at 7.25pm

Please note that these bullet points (taken from the minutes) are not yet approved by Council when published in The Grapevine.

EAST FARLEIGH MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020

Information provided by: PSCO Paul Vasey Maidstone Community Safety Unit

Crimes of note:

- 25/10/2020 - Horseshoes pub, phone left in toilet. Owner realised but phone was not there upon returning
- 27/10/2020 - theft of motor vehicle Dean Street East Farleigh
- 18/11/2020 - criminal damage to a vehicle – Dean Street East Farleigh
- 16/11/2020 - Burglary – Lower Gallants Business Park Offices, lock broken, nothing taken

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

None reported

Good Work:

Regular phone calls to Parish Council Clerk/Good Liaison

Regular patrols of Lower Road

For more information about policing in your area, visit: www.kent.police.uk

To report a non-urgent crime online, visit: www.kent.police.uk/contactus

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Under local Government guidelines, all meetings will be conducted on-line until such time as normal meetings may resume– the link will be posted on the Agendas where appropriate – Agendas are published on the East Farleigh Parish Website & Face Book, village notice boards and social media.

AGENDA ITEMS & MATTERS RAISED

- **Review of Planning Committee:** All Planning Committee items (incl. planning applications, enforcement issues, planning appeals etc.) can be viewed on the Planning Committee Agendas/Minutes which are published on the East Farleigh Parish Website:
<http://www.eastfarleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>
- **Vacancy for Parish Councillor/s:** At the moment there is a Parish Councillor vacancy and the Parish Council now have the authority to Co-opt. Further, next May 2021 will see Parish Elections for a new Parish Council and as some councillors will not be standing for re-election, NOW is the time to start thinking about how you can help your community by becoming part of the Parish Council. Please contact the Clerk for information
- **Call for Sites:**
Parishioners are reminded that updated information can be found on the Parish Website:
<http://www.eastfarleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/> (and other social media). Please share this information with family
- It was stated that there is an increase in the report of “undesirable” characters acting suspiciously in the area & surrounding villages. It was noted that people should be aware of security, especially at this time of year.

• **CONTINUED.....**

- **Speedwatch** is still “on hold” because of COVID restrictions and safety concerns for volunteers. A repeat Traffic Survey has been requested but no reply has been received yet. Police have been asked for extra support/speed checks around the village.
- It was agreed to defer the **Lorry Watch Scheme**” in Dean Street until after Christmas.
- **Highways:** Gullies around the village need attention and this has been reported to Highways and EFPC contractors (Pearsons) asked to check when carrying out their regular works. It was further agreed to write to Highways to request more “Unsuitable for HGV’s” signage at appropriate places in the village.
- **Vegetation/tree/hedge overgrowth:** Residents are reminded that if the overgrowth stems from the landowner’s property, it is their responsibility to cut back the overgrowth so that public pathways/highways are kept clear.
- It was AGREED to continue with the “**Diffusion Tubes**” under the MBC Air Pollution Monitoring scheme for another year.
- The Parish Council **Communications Working Party** have recommended a new Website Host (NETWISE) and it was AGREED to forge ahead as the new Website needs to be in place by the end of March 2021.
- **Parish Council Recreation Ground:** Replacement trees have been ordered and Treecycle Ltd have been given approval to deal with an overhanging branch.
- **Parish Car Park:** New saplings have been planted to fill the gaps in the hedge and it was AGREED that Pearson’s are to cut the current hedge growth, as necessary.
- **Fete Committee/Christmas Tree:** This will be going into the Church Yard as usual but there will be no “switching on” event this year. The Christmas Tree is funded by the Fete Committee money. The Parish Council wished to express thanks to the Fete Committee regards arrangements for the village Christmas Tree again this year.
- **Parish Council Financial Matters:** All monthly Parish Council Financial matters can be viewed on the published Minutes of Meetings which can be found on the EFPC Website and other social media sites.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Please see the East Farleigh Parish Council website for further updates/information

For further information on COVID, please see the following Government website link:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

- A reminder that the Local Community Help Group is still assisting people. All information and telephone numbers are on the Parish Website and Notice Boards.
- If you require help, please contact:
East Farleigh Parish Council Cllr Glyn Charlton (Chairman): 07768 352414
East Farleigh Parish Clerk, Desiree: 07999 414712

**The next Parish Council meeting will be online on
Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.15pm**