

# GRAPEVINE

## FEBRUARY 2021

### EAST FARLEIGH

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Dear friends,

Following the government's response to the new strain of virus and the announcement of a new nationwide lockdown, including the restriction on travel for anything other than essential reasons, the decision on keeping church buildings open has been left to parish priests in consultation with PCCs.

The latest communication from the Bishops says: "It is clear that the Government is very concerned indeed about the increasing spread of the virus, not least in our region. Our health service, including importantly hospitals in our region, is under great pressure. The 'stay at home' message now being promoted is one which we must all abide by and commend... Many parishes have already put in place formal dispensations from the provisions of Canon Law in relation to public worship. Others, having assessed the current situation, may now wish to do so."

Following consultation with the ministry team and with PCC approvals, **we have decided to close all five of our church buildings until the end of February.**

The decision has not been taken lightly, but we must always bear in mind the need to make decisions which prevent potential harm to a member of the church or public.

We will keep this under review and pray that the vaccine and other measures might see a return to collective worship face to face sooner rather than later.

All our services will be online at <http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice> on Sundays and <http://bit.ly/ThursdayCommunion>

Please do pass on the message to your friends who may do not have email, and continue to pray for each other.

Peter Callway

#### WI MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY

At last the Farleighs have caught up with technology by holding their first Zoom meeting this week. We had a speaker, who is a member of our WI, talking about her travels when she was younger and her own travel business. It was an interesting and enlightening presentation, and we thank Lesley for her demonstration of how great travel can be. We were all envious of her travels and we look forward to the time when we can all arrange our own trips. We have now had new front Doors installed at the WI Hall to not only enhance the look of the building but to retain the heat and ensure access is safer and easier. We have an exciting virtual speaker talking about chocolate in February and I believe making some. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have samples, it maybe when we are able to have a meeting at our own hall, we will invite her back to try the products.

Please everybody keep safe. Pam Lindon

# **-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

March Grapevine issue deadline – 18<sup>th</sup> February  
beckii\_richford@hotmail.com    07702 551745


Becky Parnham  
Children & Families Worker  
07949 646865

*You don't need me to tell you that we are in the midst of a global pandemic at the moment. It's everywhere you look, all the news, conversations with friends, it pervades everything. Probably rightly so. It really is important that we do all we can to stay safe and keep others safe. Yet, there are those who deny that the pandemic is real, or it is a plot by the communists/right wing politicians/liberal elite/big tech to infect the world with a virus/microchip/fake news in order to suppress/repress/remove the rights of/control the world's population. Getting accurate information is more challenging than ever in a world of instant online social platforms and 24/7 news channels. Who do we believe? Do we trust our governments? The scientists? The newspapers? The BBC?*

*One thing we can trust is our own experience. I've had COVID-19 and it is most unpleasant. As an overweight, asthmatic, 65-year-old I was at risk of serious illness, but I am grateful that I am over it and working off the after effects. I am still struggling with shortness of breath and my thinking capacity is diminished. (Insert your own joke here 😊) Seriously, it is not be recommended, and my father died from it. He had a weak heart and other underlying conditions, but it was the COVID which finally ended his life.*

*One exchange I had with a chap who described himself as an "Apostolic Pentecostal Christian" had him saying that it was a severe lack of faith to wear a face covering and asked the question WWJD? (What Would Jesus Do?) My response to that was that it was not a particularly helpful question because he was God, and we're not, but that Jesus taught us that the greatest commandments are to love your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself. Wearing a face covering, washing hands, staying home, keeping distance when out are not showing a lack of faith. They are showing a love of neighbour. Isn't that what Jesus would want us to do?*

*Stay safe and well.*  
*Peter Callway,    Rector*

<b>East Farleigh Church Services February 2021</b>				<b>Details of weekly Church service at 10.30 Sunday mornings:</b>  <b>Computer, tablet or smartphone:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice">http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice</a>  <b>By 'phone</b> <b>Dial 0203 051 2874</b> <b>Enter 185124308#</b> <b>Enter #</b> <b>(Cost of a call is standard cost to a geographic number.)</b>
Date	Time	Service		
<p align="center"><i><b>NO SERVICES UNTIL THE END OF FEBRUARY</b></i></p>				

### Labouring into Spring

The thoughts of our local tawny owls are now turning to courtship with the familiar 'kee-wick' call of the female being answered by the 'whoo' of the male. Spring is on its way.

When he first rendered their call in Loves Labours Lost as

'Then nightly sings the staring owl,  
Tu-whit;  
Tu-who, a merry note'

Shakespeare also painted a, nowadays less familiar, picture of 'icicles hanging from walls, and milk being frozen in the pail'. But his line 'When blood is nipp'd and ways be foul,' can still be a daily occurrence as we take our lockdown exercise around the local lanes.

Suffice it say that owls and other birds are generally impervious to the weather thanks to the superb natural insulation they get from their feathers. The tiny, hooked strands of keratin in their feathers (it's what our fingernails are made from too) can not only be zipped together to trap pockets of air for insulation, but the angle at which they are held can also be subtly changed to deflect wind and water. Feathers provide a superb adaptation to the cold and wet – just think of Emperor penguins, not just surviving, but incubating their egg at sixty degrees below zero. But our owls have problems on wet and windy nights. Although they have better night vision than us, they still have to hunt by sound; their facial disc operates in the same way your satellite TV dish concentrates the signal – but in their case it's to concentrate the sound of small animals moving about on the ground. So noise created by wind and rain interferes with their ability to hear their prey.

Feathers on many species also undergo other subtle changes as the breeding season approaches. Take a regular look over the next month or so at the house sparrows in your garden. The male's black bib will slowly expand, becoming increasingly black as the feathers' grey tips slowly wear away, to impress the females. Although made of keratin, plumage doesn't keep growing like fingernails do – once a feather is fully emerged from the bird's skin, wear and tear begins to take its toll. As the black lower part of the male's bib feathers become more obvious, so it appears to spread and become blacker as the tips wear away. His bill, also made of keratin, will slowly change from brown to black as well, but as a result of increased testosterone.

Blue tits undergo subtle changes for the same reason too. The ones with the brightest blue heads and richest yellow breasts are likely to be the males, their rich colours demonstrating their 'superior' fitness as a mate to prospective females.

These subtle changes hardly qualify as labour of course as they happen naturally with no effort on the bird's part. But where love is concerned their significance is clearly not lost on the birds around them!

**Ray Morris**

**BULLET POINT SUMMARY ARISING FROM EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ONLINE via 'ZOOM' Meeting ID 931 0071 7372**

**On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 @ 7.15pm**

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**

**DECEMBER 2020**

Information provided by: PSCO Paul Vasey Maidstone Community Safety Unit

**Crimes of note:**

- 03/01/2021 - Road traffic collision Dean St. Driver did not stop to exchange details after collision
- 30/12/2021 - Lower Road Nuisance bikes on Farm land next to East Farleigh Church and Oast Houses
- 11/12/2020 - Dean Farm, Dean Street. Lorry driver overtook a cycle and clipped a tree and wing mirror  
Hit him in the head.
- 05/12/2020 - Lower Road – vehicle went through trees
- 04/12/2020 - Car on its side - Heath Road

**Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:**

- 15/12/2020 - Dean Street disturbance man in a motor home being abusive to work men
- 16/12/2020 - The Bull Inn - People in garden urinating over patio and rummaging through items

**Good Work:**

- Regular patrols of Dean St, and Lower Road. Police presence deters speeding.
- Regular fly tipping reports submitted to Maidstone Borough Council.
- Good Liaison with Parish Council Clerks

For more information about policing in your area, visit: [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)

To report a non-urgent crime online, visit: [www.kent.police.uk/contactus](http://www.kent.police.uk/contactus)

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**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, Notice Boards and other social media : <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, 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.**  
**Note:** Elections may be postponed until later in the Spring/Summer because of Covid restrictions – further information will be published when Government advice has been received.  
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

**CONTINUED....**

- **Speedwatch** is still “on hold” because of COVID restrictions and safety concerns for volunteers. A repeat Traffic Survey has been requested but reply has still not been received. Police have been asked for extra support/speed checks around the village.
- **Lorry Watch Scheme** – It was reported that the Risk Assessment form has now been completed and sent to Highways, who will be supplying the necessary tools to carry out the scheme ie hi-viz, signs etc. It was further reported that this scheme can be put into place in a Covid secure manner, observing the necessary guidelines.
- **Highways:** There were further reports of speeding within the village – in particular, Forge Lane and Station Hill. The Chairman and Clerk are to raise these issues with Highways and Borough Councillor/s. Further, EFPC Councillors agreed that the HIP (Highways Improvement Plan) will be updated and a meeting sought with Highways to agree a way forward to try and resolve issues. Further, it was agreed to speak with Highways regards further “Unsuitable for HGV’s” signs to be placed in strategic positions within the village (there are already signs in Dean Street). This item is to be added to the HIP.
- **Vegetation/tree/hedge overgrowth:** It was noted that there is significant overgrowth encroaching on some public footpaths around the village. These have been reported to Highways. 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.
- **Diffusion Tubes:** It was noted that the report from MBC regards the Air Pollution Monitoring (Diffusion Tubes) has not yet been received. The Clerk is to contact MBC.
- **Flood Plan:** An email had been received questioning if it is safe to use the Old School Hall as a gathering point in times of extreme flood during Covid restrictions. The Clerk is to liaise and confirm arrangements.
- The Parish Council **Communications Working Party** reported that the new Website is now being developed and, hopefully will be in place by the end of March 2021.
- **Parish Council Financial Matters:**  
The 2021/2022 Final Budget was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed. The Precept was Approved.  
All monthly Parish Council Financial matters are published within the Minutes of Meetings (EFPC Website, Notice Boards and other social media sites). Other Financial matters can be found on the Parish Website under the heading “Publication Scheme – What we spend and how we spend it”  
<http://www.eastfarleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 7.15pm**