

Regular Events in the Benefice of Linton, Coxheath, Hunton, East and West Farleigh

Every Monday	4.20 for 4.30pm	Wellsprings silent prayer – The Vestry, St. Nicholas Linton. Details from Cilla 741318
Every Thursday	1.30 to 3pm	'PSST'- Fellowship and Bible study. For weekly venue, phone Becky 07949 646865
First and Third Wednesdays in the month	7.30pm	The Next Step – fellowship group open to all. Bible Study, Prayer, Worship and Friendship. Venue varies, so call Becky 07949 646865
Every second Wednesday in the month	12 noon	Service of 'Prayers for the Parish' at St. Nicholas, Linton
Every last Wednesday in the month	12 noon	A said Communion Service at St. Nicholas, Linton.
Every Thursday	10am	Holy Communion (1662) Holy Trinity, Coxheath
	1.30 to 3pm	"Up and Running" Toddler Group, Holy Trinity, Coxheath. Contact David 741474 for details
Every Saturday	10am to 11am	Meeting for prayer and short Bible Study. Details from Peter 747570

The Rector: Revd Peter Walker 747570 - Marriages, Thanksgivings and Baptisms (Not available Mondays)

Revd David Jones - 741474 (Not available Fridays)

Churchwardens
Mr Roger Bettle 743278
Mr John McKenzie 741318
Items for May Parish News
By 14th April to Harold Pounds 745303
h.p.pounds@btinternet.com

Linton Village Hall AGM Monday 6th April 7.30pm. Come and have your say!

Maidstone Bible Convention Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May at 8pm each night at The Salvation Army Citadel, Union Street, Details next month.

Rochester Cathedral presents The Kent Police Male Voice Choir in Concert with Dan Soper at the organ. **Saturday 16th May 7.30pm.** Tickets £8 from Rochester Cathedral 01634 843366. The choir was formed in 1978 and performs about fifteen concerts a year singing at fund raising events around the County of Kent

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St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 75 April 2009

Dear Friends,

The Gospel of John reports, 'on the first day of the week Jesus came and stood among them'. So it was Easter Day night. The disciples were unsure as to what was happening – some had said that Jesus was alive again – the women at the tomb had brought strange news, two men on the Emmaus road had encountered Jesus – and now, if doubt existed, doubt was to be removed, certainly for all but Thomas, for there was Jesus among them, though the doors were locked. Yes, Jesus accomplished many things in just a few minutes. He came to them; he spoke with the disciples; he showed them his wounds; he commissioned them; and gave them a special gift.

Yes, the doors were locked, but Jesus still came to them. If death couldn't hold him, locked doors couldn't! 'Jesus came and stood among them'. Jesus spoke to them: 'Peace be with you'. How the disciples needed to hear those words – those days of the past week were so totally perplexing, and yet, here was Jesus with them again offering words of peace. And Jesus showed them his wounds, his hands, his side. There was no doubt about it – Jesus certainly suffered that cruel death on a cross: here were the cruel nails impress.

The immediate result of this appearance of Jesus? 'Then were the disciples overjoyed to see their Lord'.

Then came the commissioning: 'As the Father has sent me, even so I send you'..Yes, Jesus had come from the Father with a special commission; that commission had *not* just begun at the birth of Jesus, it had begun before all time, and it saw its fulfilment in the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. So Jesus commissions the disciples.

Peter's letter continues inside.

Centre Pages: MSO Concert; Spinal Injuries Assn; Canon Gordon Oliver; Passover Meal; Easter Services, Maidstone

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Linton V.H. AGM; Bible Convention; Kent Police Choir

Services in Linton Church in April

Sunday	5 th	9.30am	Palm Sunday	Holy Communion
Thursday	9 th	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday	Benefice Holy Communion
Friday	10 th	12noon – 1.00pm	Good Friday	Hour at the Cross
Sunday	12 th	9.30am	Easter Day	Holy Communion
Sunday	19 th	8.00am		Holy Communion (1662)
		11.00am		Family Service
Sunday	26 th	9.30am		Holy Communion

Peter's letter continued from previous page

The original Greek word is 'Apostello' – but it means more than to just 'send' – no, the disciples were being sent with a special mission: to teach, preach and baptise. We get the word 'Apostle' from this – a person sent with a specific duty and goal.

This duty and goal could only be achieved with the very special gift that Jesus was to give. He breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit, if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven and if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'. It is no coincidence that these words are used at the Ordination of a new Priest. So, not in their own strength, but always in God's strength through the Holy Spirit, that gentle breath of God breathing life into all. Jesus 'breathed on them'. We can think of other instances of breath being the means of giving life and power, not least the story of creation when God formed man and breathed life in to him.

So for you and I Jesus comes to us. He has come to you, for why ever else would you have faith? Jesus speaks to us – have you not heard in that still inner being the voice of he who calls and leads us? Jesus shows us – have we not 'seen' the Living Lord active in our lives and in the lives of others? Jesus commissions us too – he promises never to leave us, though we often leave him – 'I will not leave you desolate' – what a desolate place the cross was for Jesus hanging there with the sins of the whole world on him – yet he was never left there – the resurrection proved that.

The Gospel writer says, 'these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name'.

Jesus Christ comes into *our* upper room – our lives, and speaks words of peace and asks of us to live for him and, in so doing, gives us the power to do these things.

And we have the promise, 'Lo, I am with you always even to the end of time'.

With Easter blessings, Peter

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra concert Saturday 23rd May 7.30pm Mote Hall Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park. Bernstein, Barber, Saint-Saens, Faure', and Ravel. Conductor, Brian Wright; Violin soloist Ulf Hoelscher. Tickets £12, £16, £21, children and student cards £5. Tel 736392 or Box Office 0845 1552277

Rev'd Canon Gordon Oliver,
Diocesan Director of Training,
will be coming to the United
*Benefice on **Saturday 30th May***
*to lead an **'Away Day'**. (9.30am-*
3.30pm)

The purpose is to work out a
vision for the future of the
parishes. This is an opportunity
for all parishioners to voice their
hopes, aspirations and vision for
the future as we seek the way
forward.

Please note in your diaries now.
More details to follow.

Passover Meal. Jesus celebrated his last supper with his disciples at a Passover meal where he established the symbolic act of drinking wine and eating bread in memory of his sacrificial death to redeem the world.

Come and celebrate Passover with us and, during the course of the meal, hear the story re-told about God's people and their escape from Egypt (suitable for families).

St Faith's Church, Next to Brenchley Gardens
Wednesday 8th April at 6.00pm, RSVP by Sunday 5th
April, please.

Rev Jackie Cray 01622 673068

Churches Together in Maidstone 2009 - **EASTER**

Maundy Thursday 9th April - Holy Communion at St Nicholas' Allington at 7.30pm led by Rev Lesley Ludlow and the preacher Rev Brian Reed.

Good Friday 10th April - March of Witness starting from Knightrider Street, Baptist Church at 10.30am followed by Open Air Service at about 10.50am, top of Earl Street/Week Street. The service will be led by Major Grayson Williams SA and the speaker will be Rev Canon Jean Kerr, Bishop's Officer for Mission & Unity, Diocese of Rochester.

Service of Meditation and Reflection at about 11.20am. At United Reformed Church, Week Street led by Rev Chris Esgate, Methodist Minister, Maidstone Methodist Church.

Good Friday Evening Worship at 7.30pm At United Reformed Church Week Street. A 'Cantata for Easter in popular style' 'Jerusalem Joy' by Roger Jones and sung by a joint choir led by Freda Crispin from churches in the Maidstone area.

Easter Sunday 12th April - Sunrise Service starting at 6.30am at the top of Bluebell Hill. This will take the form of a communion service led by Rev Chris Esgate and Rev Gary Watts. Meet at the viewing area/car park

Forum Meeting Monday 27th April at 7.30pm for 7.45 start at Methodist Church, Union Street. Church and Society presentation by David Helms (Church and Society is a charitable Company, part of the English Dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester). It works to enable the Church's effective contribution to community, economic and social transformation, so that the full potential of all communities may be realised. It is based in Maidstone.

For further details of all these services/meetings please contact Rev David Jones (Chairman of Churches Together in Maidstone) on 01622 741474 Or david_w_jones@talk21.com

The Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) asks people to hold a fund-raising 'fish and chip supper' on Friday 15th May at home, at work or a community centre to help spinal cord injured people to live full and independent lives. SIA will provide a fund raising pack containing hints, tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. Inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5 will raise at least £35 from your supper. In 2009 SIA will celebrate its 35th anniversary with Friday 15th May being Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Day. Every year in the UK over 1000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone. For more information or to request a fund raising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 6786633 ext 229, email fishandchips.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk