

**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 Wednesday	1.30 to 3pm	'PSS'T' - Fellowship and Bible study. For weekly venue, phone Emma 741874
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 Jean 726248
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	10.00am	Holy Communion (1662) Holy Trinity Coxheath
	1.30 to 3.00pm	"Up and Running" Toddler Group, Holy Trinity, Coxheath. Contact David 741474 for details

The Rector: Revd Peter Walker  
747570 - Marriages, Thanksgivings and Baptisms (Not available Mondays)  
Associate Rector: Revd Ruth Bierbaum - 743866 (Not available Fridays)  
Revd David Jones - 741474 (Not available Fridays)

Churchwardens  
Mr Roger Bettie 743278  
Mr John McKenzie 741318  
  
Items for Sept. Parish News  
By 14<sup>th</sup> August to Harold Pounds 745303  
[h.p.pounds@btinternet.com](mailto:h.p.pounds@btinternet.com)

**The Friends of Kent Churches sponsored bike ride** will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September from 10am to 6pm involving 700 Kent Churches, including St Nicholas, Linton. Churches will be welcoming riders and walkers, often with refreshments. Money raised through sponsorship is shared between the nominated church and The Friends of Kent Churches who give grants for church repairs. Last year £40,000+ was raised. Plan your own route, flat or hilly, challenging or relaxed, whatever suits you. See the website 'Friends of Kent Churches' for information, tee shirts and more, or contact Carolyn Millen 843383.

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**St Nicholas Parish News**  
Issue 67 August 2008

*Grateful Thanks*

*David Jones and family would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support following the death of his wife, Anne, in July. Donations amounting to over £1,200.00 were given for research work into Scleroderma and Pulmonary Hypertension (the two major illnesses that Anne had) at the Royal Free Hospital.*

*David's letter*

**National Health Service Diamond Jubilee**

July saw two significant Health Service events, one nationally and the other locally. On July 4<sup>th</sup> the National Health Service reached its Diamond Jubilee and later in the month we marked the tenth anniversary of the death of the three paramedics who died in the Air Ambulance crash on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Both these events, I believe, focus our attention on those who provide us with emergency and 365/24/7 care throughout our lives and on the gratitude we owe to the men and women of the NHS.

Which one of us hasn't had some experience of the National Health Service? I can tell you that the pressures within our NHS are always great. We expect, and rightly so, to be treated according to need yet money is limited, resources stretched and medical staff overworked.

*David's letter continues inside.....*

Centre Pages: Strawberry Cream Teas; Summer Barbecue; Dates; Freighters; Linton Walks.  
Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Sponsored Bike Ride.

**Services in Linton Church in August**

Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> August	9.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup> August	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		11.00am	Family Service
		5.00pm	<i>Songs of Praise Holy Trinity Coxheath</i>
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup> August	9.15am	Holy Communion

**Ruth's Farewell Songs of Praise**, her final service in the Benefice, is to be on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 5pm at Holy Trinity, Coxheath**. We are very pleased that Ruth, who is having ongoing treatment for serious hand/arm injuries sustained in a car accident on 7<sup>th</sup> July, is able to be at the service.

*David's letter continued from previous page*

I am a volunteer chaplain at Maidstone Hospital and was working before, during and after last year's Report on the many patients who died of hospital borne infection. I believe that throughout the problems the level of commitment and professionalism from all staff was high and patient care the best that medical staff could provide. That is not to say that things were right! However, imagine *yourself* working in a hospital at the centre of national media attention and people in the community losing trust in their local hospital.

Remember also that this media attention came at a time when consultation was taking place about reorganising services between Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells and feelings were running high. To work in such an environment, when all around you the constant publicity was negative, was a demoralising experience for all. The criticism hurt even if the truth was sometimes misdirected. It was to the credit of staff that patients being treated in the hospital found the care they received at odds with the publicity. Chaplaincy played its part in supporting staff and reassuring patients at a time when paid Chaplaincy in the Trust was at an all time low and volunteers were doing the service. Since then the paid Chaplaincy is almost back to full strength. At the centre of the NHS are people, people trying to do their best.

The NHS always seems to be undergoing review and re-organisation. Within the NHS Ambulance Trust the Kent merger with the counties of Sussex and Surrey brought with it a sense of uncertainty as to direction since the change had taken place over a very short period of time. The merger is bedding in and only time will tell if the obvious advantages of size result in better patient care. The demands on the NHS Ambulance Service have changed since the Chaplaincy service started some ten years ago. No longer is the aim to transfer the patient to the nearest hospital for treatment as quickly as possible. Treatment is now provided at the scene by highly trained paramedics equipped with the latest drugs and equipment and only when the patient is stable is the move to hospital considered. The air ambulance can transfer very sick patients needing specialist treatment right into the heart of London within minutes from anywhere in the region. The Service is changing and demands increasing on all staff, from those in the Control Centres to the crews on the road, to meet strict time constraints as well as to provide the public with the best health care available. Chaplaincy to this service is changing with crews no longer in the station but on the road during their 12-hour shift, so chaplains are increasingly going with the crew in the ambulance during their shift.

The NHS doesn't always live up to our expectations. Improvements in drugs and equipment are costly, training costs, the rapid changes in treatments, the shorter stays in hospital for treatment all place a strain on budgets yet, at the heart of the NHS, are people demonstrating their professional skills, giving of themselves in time and energy well above the call of duty and for what they are paid to do. And this is often in a climate of criticism and expectation that is misplaced and unfair.

This is our NHS Health Service today. Composed of men and women dedicated as they have always been to providing the public, us, with a service that is the best. Pray for those who serve us so well.

David

### **Strawberry Cream Teas**

Jerry Whitmarsh, Chairman of the Friends of Linton Church, says that this event, held on the weekend of 28/29<sup>th</sup> June, raised a total, after expenses, of £833-57. With a contribution of £117-95 from the art exhibition and the plant stall the total income for the weekend amounted to a record **£951-52**.

He thanks each one of the many people who contributed to this remarkable success and, in particular, those who produced the 200+ scones that were sold, including Linda Perch and also Roger Bettle who produced 70 beautiful scones at very short notice.

Special thanks are due to Camilla Pascall, of Clock House Farm, who very kindly donated all of the considerable quantity of strawberries for the teas.

**Summer Barbecue** – 12<sup>th</sup> July - About 90 adults and 30 children enjoyed the delightful surroundings of Philip Daubeny's meadow, and the deliciously warm swimming pool, on a bright Saturday afternoon. Barbecue food was cooked to perfection by Paul, Steve and John, and salads served by Margaret, Wendy & Gwen. Then there were cakes, teas and coffees. The event raised £1,122.95 for Church funds, of which £386 was due to the amazing raffle prize donations. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed in any way to make such a successful and happy day! And of course a special thank you to Philip for allowing us to use the facilities.  
Kath Cooper

### **Dates for your diary**

26<sup>th</sup> Sept - Coffee morning - Macmillan Cancer Support  
28<sup>th</sup> Sept - Back to Church Sunday

**Freighter collection** – The vehicle to collect bulky waste will be at the Wheeler's Lane junction with Cornwallis Avenue on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August between 1.30pm and 2.15pm.

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September **Linton Walks** start time will move from 7pm to 6pm. Church car park. Linton Hill