

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 Cilia 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	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 January Parish News
By 14th December to Harold Pounds 745303
h.p.pounds@btinternet.com

And finally, we wish

everyone

A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful

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St Nicholas Parish News
Issue 71 December 2008

Dear Friends

I guess I must have been about 8 years old when one Christmas I hoped that Father Christmas would bring me a train set. And yes, there it was that Christmas morning! What a great present that was!

Only years later did I discover that my Dad and Uncle Jeffrey had laboured many hours to lay track on a board and get all the bits and pieces together so that an electric train and carriages could travel along its railway.

What a wonderful time Christmas is to give others presents and to enjoy time to relax with family and friends. But each Christmas there is an aftermath to all this gift swapping, and it's often seen in adverts offering articles for sale followed by the words, 'unwanted gift'. We all hope that the presents we give will never be an 'unwanted gift'. Amazingly, we might have already put this 'tag' on a gift that has been offered to us. A gift offered by God Himself.

The Bible says, 'God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son, does not have life' (1st John 5:1-12). God, you see, offers us eternal life (Romans 6:23). But we can only receive this gift when we accept Jesus as our Saviour. There is no other way (Acts 4:12).
What a wonderful gift for everyone without distinction!
Peter's letter continues inside...

Reminder: This year's Yuletiders Christmas Lunch for the Over 60s is on Tuesday 2nd December in Linton Village Hall.

Centre Pages: Angel or Star; Peter Ross; Almshouses; 'Dreaming of a Holy Night'; M.S.O. Concert; Linton Boundaries; Service Times.
Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who;

Services in Linton Church in December

Sunday	7 th December	9.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday	14 th December	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662) 11.00am Family Service
Sunday	21 st December	4.00pm	Carol Service
Wed	24 th December	11.30pm	Holy Communion
Thurs	25 th December	9.15am	Christmas Day service followed by Holy Communion

*Sunday 28th December 10.30am Benefice Service – Coxheath
Christingles – Thursday 1st December – Coxheath School 4.00pm and Hunton School 6.00pm*

Peter's letter continued from previous page

This Christmas when we recall the coming of God's greatest gift, the Lord Jesus, it is a time to re-commit oneself to Him or accept Him for the first time. Or is it going to be, as those adverts put it, an 'unwanted gift'.

No matter what presents may come your way this Christmas, none will so perfectly meet your need as Jesus, for only He can ensure that you have forgiveness of sins now and a place in Heaven for all eternity.

I loved that train set, but even at that young age I knew about a greater gift -Jesus; six years later I knew Him!

'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift' (2 Corinthians 9:15)

We send our best wishes and prayers for a Happy and Holy Christmas and peaceful New Year,

Peter & Diana

Acquire an Angel or a Star – David Jones is selling illuminated stars for Christmas, 60cm high, weatherproof, with a 3m cable and mains plug, only get slightly warm and consume a small amount of current - £15 each. Or Angels at £35, 70cm high. Contact David 741474 to support this

*Many thanks to **Peter Ross** for raising £250 for the **Friends of Kent Churches sponsored cycle ride**, 50% of which has been given to Linton Church*



Linton Garden Gala
Sunday 9th June 2009

The Trustees of **Linton Park Almshouses** (Charity No. 262420) need to appoint an Independent Examiner for the 2008 end of year accounting period. If you have the necessary qualification, or know someone who has, and would be prepared to offer your services to this small charity, preferably on a voluntary basis, please contact the Chairman, Mr P Daubeny, 01622 743345 or the Clerk to the Trustees, 741494.

'Dreaming of a Holy Night' Tour: Graham Kendrick, the well known Christian song writer and composer, will be in concert at All Saints Church, Mill Street, Maidstone on Wednesday 10th December starting at 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm). Tickets £10, including mulled wine and mince pies, from David Jones

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra - Saturday 6th December 7.30pm Mote Hall Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park.

The programme consists of three works - Sibelius, En Saga; Richard Strauss, Horn Concerto No 2, Soloist Michael Thompson; and Tchaikovsky, Symphony No 5.

One of our finest horn virtuosos, Michael Thompson, returns to MSO in Richard Strauss's wonderful wistful 2nd Horn Concerto. The musical links between Finland and Russia are tangible in the brilliance of the young Sibelius's tone poem En Saga, with his inspiration plain to hear in Tchaikovsky's powerful 5th Symphony.

Tickets £12, £16 and £21, children and students with a student card £5, available from Membership Secretaries 01622 736392 or Maidstone Leisure Centre box office 0845 1552277.

Concert dates for your diary:- Saturdays at 7.30pm - 7th February 2009, 28th March 2009 and 23rd May 2009

Wednesday 10th December 2008 - Treasure Hunt!

Venue: Somewhere around the boundary of Linton

Date: Wednesday 10th December 2008-11-18

Time: 10.30 to 13.00

Details: **The Linton Boundary Project** is conducting a series of working parties and search parties to look for new boundary markers. This one will be looking at a part of the Linton Boundary and hopes to resite one or two vulnerable boundary stones. Why not join in? To register your interest, please contact Jerry Whitmarsh 747572 lpc@jerrywhitmarsh.com (see Linton Parish Council website)

Change of Sunday Service times:

As from January 2009 the service timing structure will follow a 8am - 9.30am - 11am format.

8am Holy Communion:

--West Farleigh **1st Sunday**

--East Farleigh **2nd Sunday**

--Linton **3rd Sunday**

--East Farleigh **4th Sunday**

9.30am services: 1st Sunday

--Linton HC

--East Farleigh HC

11am services: 1st Sunday

--Coxheath HC

--Hunton FS

9.30am services: 2nd Sunday

--Linton HC

--Coxheath MP

--Hunton HC

11am services: 2nd Sunday

--East Farleigh **Modern Matins**

--West Farleigh **Matins**

9.30am services: 3rd Sunday

--East Farleigh HC

--West Farleigh HC

11am services: 3rd Sunday

--Linton FS

--Coxheath HC

--Hunton MP

9.30am services: 4th Sunday

--Linton HC

--East Farleigh **Matins**

--Hunton HC

11am services: 4th Sunday

--Coxheath FS

--West Farleigh **Modern Matins**

5th Sunday:

--United Benefice Service 10.30am