

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

Every Monday Except Bank Holidays	4.20 for 4.30pm	'Wellsprings' silent prayer – The Vestry, St. Nicholas Linton. (Details from 'Cilla 741318)
Term time only: First four Tuesdays in the month	10.00 - 11.30am	'PSST'- Fellowship and Bible study. (Contact Becky Parnham 07949 646865)
First and Third Wednesdays in the month	7.30 - 9.00pm	The Next Step - A group that meets for study and prayer. (Contact 1 st Wed – Jean 726248; 3 rd Wed – Anne 745702)
Every last Wednesday in the month	12 noon	A said Communion Service at St. Nicholas, Linton.
Every Thursday	10am 1.30-3 pm 3.30pm	Holy Communion (1662) Holy Trinity, Coxheath. "Up and Running" Toddler Group, Holy Trinity, Coxheath. Contact David 741474 for details. Seekers (6 – 11yrs) Holy Trinity, Coxheath. (Further information from Becky 07949 646865)
Every Saturday	10-11am	Ladies Prayer Time – All welcome (Details from Eileen 204241)

The Rector: Rev'd Peter Walker
747570 - Marriages,
Thanksgivings and Baptisms (Not
available Mondays)
Rev'd David Jones - 741474 (Not
available Fridays)
Deacon - Rev'd Eileen Doyle -
204241

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

East Farleigh Farmers' Market Sunday 4th December 9am to 12noon in the Bull car
park. Produce includes a variety of prepared food, seasonal game, sausages, English and
French cheeses, cold meats, bread and cakes, fresh local juice, preserves and honey, and
sweets and chocolates. All stall fees are donated to charity. sue@suemorris.plus.co

*And finally we wish everyone
a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year*



St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 107 December 2011

Services in Linton Church in December

Sunday 4 th	December 9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th	December 9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th	December 4.00pm	Carol Service
Saturday 24 th	December 11.30pm	Christmas Eve Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	December 9.30am	Christmas Day Service followed by Holy Communion

Monday 12th December Christmas Lunch with the **"Yuletiders"** in
the Linton Village Hall meeting at 12.30pm for lunch at 1pm.

St Nicholas Church Tower Clock.

You may have noticed that for some time our clock has been
stopped at 12 o'clock and that now it has no hands at all!
Representatives from repairers Gillett and Johnston
(Croydon) Ltd., climbed to the clock face on 10th November
and removed the hands to facilitate the clock's repair and
overhaul..

(The main mechanism dates from the mid -1600's and was
installed in the present tower in 1861)
We hope that the repairs will be completed and the clock will
be back in full working order before Christmas.

John McKenzie - Churchwarden.

The Freighter Service will be at Wheeler's Lane/Cornwallis
Avenue Junction on Saturday 3rd December 1.40 to 2.20pm .
Please note that garden waste, bulky items, electrical items,
and hazardous waste will not be accepted: take them to the
recycling Centre at Tovil.

Centre Pages: Peter's Letter; Linton Park Almshouses; Over 60s Switch; St
Nicholas Parish News.

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; East Farleigh Farmers' Market

Dear Friends

'On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me.....'

We know the song so well! 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' is often seen as a song of secular origin for children. Others have said it is a song of Christian instruction, perhaps dating back to the 16th century religious wars in England, with hidden references to the basic teachings of the Christian faith. 'True love' mentioned in the song is not a earthly suitor, but rather a reference to God Himself. The 'me' who receives the presents refers to every baptised person who is part of the Christian faith. Each of the 'sent's represents some aspect of the faith that was important for children (and adults) to learn.

Many have questioned the historical accuracy of the origin of this delightful Christmas song, yet even if it was written all those years ago as a secular nonsense song for children it is still today a song which serves as a timely reminder of the basic tenets of Christian belief:

On the first day of Christmas my true love (God) sent to me (the Christian)

A partridge in a pear tree (Jesus)

Two turtle doves (The Old and New Testaments)

Three French hens (Faith, Hope and Love)

Four calling birds (The 4 Gospels)

Five Gold rings (The first 5 books of the Old Testament)

Six geese a-laying (The 6 days of Creation)

Seven swans a-swimming (The 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit)

Eight maids a-milking (The Beatitudes - Matthew chapter 5)

Nine ladies dancing (The 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit)

Ten lords a-leaping (The Ten Commandments)

Eleven pipers piping (The 11 faithful disciples)

Twelve drummers drumming (The 12 points of the Apostle's Creed)

So when is the 12th day? January 5th is the last day of Christmas before Epiphany: January 6th the traditional date of the Three Kings. In some cultures, especially Hispanic and Latin American, January 6th is observed as the Three Kings Day. I remember when we lived in Spain how January 6th seemed more popular than December 25th, with street carnivals and floats carrying men dressed as Eastern Magi throwing sweets to the children and parents as they lined the streets.

The loved song is a celebration of Christmas with a Christian context hidden within it: a purely secular song becomes a vehicle for reminding us once more of the grace of God working in transforming ways in our lives and in our world. After all, is not that the meaning of Christmas anyway?

My wife Diana joins me in wishing you all a Happy and Holy Christmas!

Peter

Linton Park Almshouses (opposite The Bull Inn) is a Registered Charity (No.262420) that has provided accommodation for older people in this community for many years. Should you be thinking of making or changing your Will, please will you consider supporting this charity by way of a legacy. This is a particularly valuable way of giving and can make all the difference in ensuring the continuance of this landmark in our village. Information about the legacy will not be made public by the Charity, if so requested. If you need any further information please contact the Chairman of the Trustees, Philip Daubeny 01622 743345.

Over 60's Switch is a new club at 34A High Street, Maidstone being run in partnership with Age Concern Maidstone, with the assistance of sixth formers from Oakwood Park Grammar School, for citizens aged 60 and over. Activities include playing board/Wii games, computer tuition, forming new friendships and interacting with young people from the borough. The club operates on the first Wednesday of each month from 1 to 3pm. Each session can accommodate 20 people. The cost is £1.50 per person per session (this includes coffee/tea and cake). **Booking is required.** Contact: 01622 753618 or katie@ageconcernmaidstone.org.uk

250 copies of **Linton Parish News** are delivered each month to every home in Linton by a dedicated delivery team. Copies are also sent by email and post to some people who live outside the village but have an interest in what is happening. Thank you so much if you are one of the dedicated few! It would, of course, be helpful to have some more people on the team. If you think you could help with this and would like more information please call Colin Mills 744178. You would only have to deliver to about 20 homes and, as the Parish News is free, there would be no money to collect!