

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 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 Jan '10 Parish News
By 14th December to Harold
Pounds 745303
h.p.pounds@btinternet.com

Did you know?
China, that has 1,300 million people, will soon become the No 1 English speaking country in the world.
There are about 540,000 words in the English language and that is about 5 times as many as during Shakespeare's time.

And finally...
we wish a Happy Christmas and a peaceful
New Year to our readers, everywhere.



St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 83 December 2009

Services in Linton Church in December

Sunday	6 th December	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	13 th December	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	20 th December	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		11.00am	No service
		4.00pm	Carol Service
Thursday	24 th December	11.30pm	Holy Communion
Friday	25 th December	9.30am	Christmas Day Service
			followed by Holy Communion
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>27th December</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Benefice Service – Holy Communion at Coxheath</i>

Yuletiders' Christmas lunch
Monday 7th December 12.30pm for 1.00pm

For your diary

Confirmation Service - 7th February 2010. Five adults from the Benefice will be confirmed at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath, by the Rt Rev Michael Gear, as Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese, who lives at Yalding. The service begins at 10am and will include Confirmation and Holy Communion. Please pray for these five adults as they take this step on their Christian journey.

Ash Wednesday - 17th February 2010 7.30pm. There will be a celebration of Holy Communion at St Mary's Hunton to mark this day and also the beginning of Lent.

Lent Study 2010 - Starting on Wednesday 17th February and every Wednesday during Lent (until 24th March) the Lent Course this year will be entitled 'A Lent Study on the Healing Ministry' led by the Rector, Rev Peter Walker. It will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath for the whole Benefice. Each evening will commence at 7.30pm and finish at 9.00pm.

Centre Pages: Peter's Letter; Kenward Trust Carol Service; MSO Concert; EHIC; St Faith's Church - Talk.

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who.

Dear Friends,

When the time had fully come, God sent His Son' (Galatians 4:4)

I remember well when my parents bought me my first watch - a 'Timex'. I have had a number of watches since, but that first one still lingers in the memory.

The word 'time' has a number of different words in the New Testament: 'chronos' the time we measure with a watch or clock and 'kairos' meaning 'the right time', to mention but two.

St. Paul records for us, in his Galatians letter, that when the 'kairos' time had come, God sent His Son. Thus Old Testament prophecies began to be realised and the dawn of the time of the Messiah began. The plan of salvation unfolded and the New Adam walked on the world's stage to redress what the first Adam had done.

Christmas cards, like so many cards for other occasions, have sentimental words; many hit the spot to convey what we want to say to the person to whom we send such cards. Many years ago I received a Christmas card which had words which resonated with me long after that Christmas had passed,

*'If God had never sent His Son to dwell with men on earth:
If there had never been a Christmas to herald the Christ child's birth,
if in this world of violence, and hatred, crime and war,
there was absolutely nothing that made life living for,
If whenever Man was troubled and lost in loneliness,
there was no heaven for his heart to calm his restlessness;
then life would be intolerable and loathsome with disgust..
or there would be no love at all, just ugliness and lust..
And there would be no Easter, and no resurrected Lord,
No promise of Eternity, and no heavenly reward.
So let us thank our Father that He sent his only Son,
so after this life's ended and our work on earth is done,
there's the promise of Eternity, where our Cross becomes a Crown,
when all our trials are over and we lay our burdens down'*

St. John writes in his Gospel about the coming of the Saviour in words which in their way are poetic - St. John chapter 1. We call it 'the Christmas Gospel'. His Gospel is written for this reason: 'These (words) are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name' (John 20:31). Let us make good use of what time is left to us on earth to use that time well in His service, and celebrate this Christmas rejoicing that God sent the Son at the right time!

My wife, Diana, joins me in wishing you a Blessed and Holy Christmas and peaceful New Year. *Peter*

Kenward Trust Candle-lit Carol Service, St Peter and St Paul's Church, Yalding at 4pm on Saturday 12th December.

Kenward Trust is the Kent-based independent registered Christian charity offering professionally operated recovery programmes for people suffering from alcohol and other drug misuse problems. The guest speaker will be the Chief Executive of the Kenward Trust, Angela Painter, with two clients, currently in recovery, giving their moving and powerful testimonies on how they are finding "A New Life – from Addiction" thanks to the support and work of the Kenward Trust.

The choral worship will be led by the Holy Cross Church choir from Bearsted and there will also be a group of residents playing seasonal tunes on handbells.

For help and advice or more information on the work of the Kenward Trust, phone 01622 814187 or visit www.kenwardtrust.org.uk

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra - Conductor Brian Wright - Saturday 6th February 2010 at 7.30pm at Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park. Ben Hancox, violin; Brahms, *Tragic Overture*; Vaughan Williams, *The Lark Ascending*, and Bruckner, *Symphony No. 2*.

"Two mighty Viennese late-romantic works by Brahms and Bruckner frame Vaughan Williams' iconic evocation of English pastoralism, *The Lark Ascending*. Taking wing with MSO is popular Kentish-born violinist, Ben Hancox, whose Sacconi Quartet is rapidly gaining a reputation as one of the UK's finest string quartets".

Tickets £12, £16, £21, FT Students £5 01622 736392 or Leisure Centre 0845 1552277 or www.mso.org.uk

Travellers to Europe will know that it is advisable to have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) that replaced the E111. Advice has been received to the effect that one should check the expiry date as they are only valid for 3 – 5 years depending on when they were issued. This is particularly relevant to anyone intending to travel shortly. Renewal (or replacement) can be done online at www.nhs.uk/ehic or phone 0845 606 2030

St Faith's Church, Brenchley Gardens Wednesday 2nd December

1.00 - 1.30pm Talk by Rev Nick Finlay of St Mary's Sittingbourne - "Love - The Greatest Gift". Hot drinks available from 12.30pm. Bring