

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	'PSST' - 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 March Parish News
By 14th February to Harold
Pounds 745303
h.p.pounds@btinternet.com

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra – Saturday 7th February
7.30pm Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park
Hindemith; Elgar; Bartok. For information and tickets etc., see
January edition of this Parish News.

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St Nicholas Parish News
Issue 73 February 2009

Dear Friends,

"Are you going to be ashed?" I recall the moment well when, in my first year with the brothers at St. Michael's, Ash Wednesday loomed and the beginning of Lent was heralded by this ancient custom, a tradition unknown to me having come from a very middle of the road Anglican upbringing. I did recall the phrase 'sackcloth and ashes' which I later discovered comes from Daniel chapter 9: 'And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting and sackcloth and ashes'. An ancient Hebrew custom it was to wear sackcloth dusted with or accompanied by ashes as a sign of humbleness and contrition. No sackcloth at St. Michael's but plenty of ash.

Many years have passed since those days of discovery and in some churches I too have 'ashed' people - so that those who know not this practice sometimes give a peculiar sideways look to folk emerging from church with that distinctive dirty mark on their foreheads, and wonder if they forgot to look in the bathroom mirror that day.

Peter's letter continues inside...

Churches Together in Maidstone - Forum Meeting
Wednesday 11th February 2009 7.30pm for 7.45pm start
Drink, Drugs and Jesus - 40 years of the KENWARD TRUST
Talk by Tony Williams and others on the work and vision of the Trust
Salvation Army, Union Street Maidstone

Centre Pages: Letter from Chris; Garden Gala; Valentine's Night Supper Dance; Coffee Morning, Hunton.
Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Services in Linton Church in February

Sunday	1 st	February	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	8 th	February	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	15 th	February	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
			11.00am	Family Service & Baptism
Sunday	22 nd	February	9.30am	Holy Communion
Ash Wed	25 th	February	7.30pm	Holy Communion – All Saints

West Farleigh

Peter's letter continued from previous page

So I guess this year it's a trip to Mary's house and her fireplace, which has accumulated much ash from her wood burning over Winter, and collect a container full for the Ash Wednesday service. Though, in truth, the ash is supposed to come from the burnt palm crosses of the previous year, it requires a lot of crosses to even make a decent pile of ash - I tried it once and failed. Perhaps this year I will put my little collection of Palm Crosses in Mary's fire.

So Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and the road towards Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter. I often wonder if people do stick to 'giving things up for Lent'. A brother at St. Michael's would say to us students, "take on something - don't give something up". In retrospect it was a sensible suggestion, though I cannot recall now taking on something else, but I do remember how, many years ago, I gave up sugar in my tea and coffee and have never returned to it since.

Lent is an old Anglo-Saxon word, 'Lencten' meaning Spring. It doesn't feel much like Spring at present, though the snowdrops are starting to edge their way up through the soil in the Rectory garden. It'll be a while yet. The fog lingers and clings around the village and only a few days ago the Christmas Carol verse seemed so true, 'Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone'.

'Put some more water out for the birds' I'm reminded. It still freezes solid every time, though the birdseeds and nuts are always welcomed by the blackbirds and robins.

So we will make our way to church on Ash Wednesday and armed with Mary's fireplace offerings will perform the ancient custom once more as we are reminded of our own need for contrition knowing that our Heavenly Father is all too ready and willing to give us His forgiveness and blessing.

With prayers as Lent approaches (Ash Wednesday February 25th) Peter.

(Written in the style of 'A word from Wormingford' - a weekly column in the Church Times)

A letter from Chris

Dear All,

Hopefully, by the time you read this, I shall be back at work following my recent illness.

I want to thank everyone for their concern, love and prayers during this time. I was absolutely amazed at the number of cards and messages I received. The Ward Administrator complained one day that I had monopolised the mail!

It was so good to know that so many were praying for me at that time. Others have talked before about 'a blanket of prayer' and I know what they mean.

I shall be taking things steady for another few weeks but I look forward to being back on the Ministry Team and supporting Peter and David.

With Love and thanks. God Bless, *Chris* (15 01 09)



GARDEN GALA on Sunday, 7th June 2009

Full details in January edition of this "News" If you would like any further information, or can help in any way, please call Paul and Kath Cooper on 01622 741494, or email: cooperkathryn@btopenworld.com

**Valentine's Night
Supper Dance** at the
Linton Village Hall on
Saturday 14th February
7.30 to 11pm. Live music
by the **Rockaholics**.
Only £12.50 a head
including supper. Bring
your own drinks and
glasses. Tickets from
**David Sendles 745612
or Mike Brooker
746067**. More information
at <http://lintonkent.org>

Thursday 12th February and Tuesday 10th
March
'Known Unto God' All day Coffee Morning, 23
Bensted Close Hunton ME15 OSD - 10.30 to 3pm
All Welcome. Raising funds for OPTIONS
centre for crisis pregnancy and post-abortion
support. The event will feature a small
exhibition titled "Known unto God" and
contain a short film, textile art in the form of
muslin gowns, charcoal drawings, acrylic
painting on canvas and the artist's research
journal. All of this will be available to view
and to discuss in relation to the motivation
behind the works. For more information please
contact Kay Mason 07921122802 or
016220820488 or email: kaysey61@yahoo.com