

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
	3.30pm	Seekers (6 – 11yrs) Holy Trinity, Coxheath Further information from Becky 07949 646865
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

At St Nicholas, Linton, **books and drawing materials are available for young children** to use during services, in the 'blue chair' area. Also, we have a **loop system** in the Church. Hearing aids need to be switched to 'T' for clearer sound. Please ask a Sidesman if you would like any help with this.

If you might be interested in having this church open for a few hours a week during the Spring/Summer months, please take a copy of **'Opening St Nicholas Church to Visitors'** which is by the church door and/or speak to Kath Cooper



St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 85 February 2010

Services in Linton Church in February

Sunday 7th February	10.00am	Confirmation and Holy Communion – Holy Trinity Coxheath
Sunday 14 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st February	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
	11.00am	Family Service
Sunday 28 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion

A Feast of Living Spirituality

in Rochester Cathedral

Saturday, 6th March 2010

12.30 - 18.00

12.30 Register and bring your own picnic lunch
(drinks provided)

13.30 Welcome
14.00 Workshop
15.15 Evensong or Personal Space
16.00 Workshop
17.15 Worship

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.

Mobile Library - Tuesdays - Near allotments, Wheeler's Lane - 2nd and 16th February and by entrance to Church car park, Linton Hill- 9th and 23rd February.

Centre Pages: David's Letter; Confirmation Service; MSO Concert; Day of Prayer for Africa; Lent Study 2010; Freighter Service.

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Facilities for Children: Facilities for Hearing Aids. Church Opening.

Dear Fellow Humans,

Oh dear! Just sitting down comfortably for a relaxing evening when the phone rings. 'Is it your turn or Peter's to write the letter for the Newsletter?' 'Peter's' was my immediate thought and prayer! But no, when I looked at the list it was mine. Have you ever been caught out thinking all was well and that it was someone else's job? Well I have now and certainly it is not the first time I have fallen for mistakes like this. When I was teaching, I remember a member of staff forgetting to write all of his reports before the final due date when they had to be handed in to his colleagues. He was mortified and rushed round to every member of staff he was due to hand in reports to, apologised for his mistake and then set to that night to try to make amends. In my career I met other teachers who were forgetful, tried to cover up their mistakes and left the recipients of the missing reports to chase them. We all make mistakes but it is what we do about them that makes all the difference.

Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, February 17th and goes on until just before Easter, is often thought of as a time to give up things. Well, I'm not suggesting you give up making mistakes although, for me, I'm going to give up thinking that when problems arise they are for other people to solve. No, I'm thinking that maybe I ought to be thinking about the problems that I cause other people by my mistakes. Saying we're going to do something to time, like many of the trades and professions we deal with, is one annoying habit we can easily get into ourselves. Do we always deliver on time and can we be trusted to complete a task we have offered to do? Are we reliable? Can people trust us to do what we promise? Are we lazy and rely on others? There are so many things that we can look at in our lives that involve 'giving up' but also 'giving out' to others. Giving up chocolate might make the chocolate producers redundant! All our actions, good and bad, have a consequence.

Surely an attitude of serving each other, being aware of others, is the message that Jesus encouraged his followers to do. He encouraged people to love and to serve and to be aware of their actions. In the parable of the talents Jesus says 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.' We need to treat everyone with respect in our approach to them and maybe Lent is our opportunity to think about the ways we can 'give up' the things that prevent this happening in our lives.

Have an enjoyable Lent! David

Confirmation Service - Sunday 7th February 10am. Five adults from the Benefice will be confirmed at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath, by the Rt Rev Michael Gear, 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.

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

A Day of Prayer for Africa is to be held at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Aylesford on Saturday 13th February. The organisers say that everyone is most welcome to attend and they ask if anyone would like to be involved in leading part of the day's proceedings, e.g. in reading a short prayer. Anyone who is interested in Africa is asked to get in touch with the organisers, Iris Neel or Claire Sullivan at 56 Mackenders Lane, Eccles, Tel 01622 710634 or claireandiris@btinternet.com

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.. Please let Peter know if you would like a copy of Francis MacNutt's book 'The Prayer that Heals' as a prelude. About £6 per copy.

Freighter Service for free disposal of bulky waste. Saturday 20th March 10.15 to 11am Wheeler's Lane and Cornwallis Avenue junction. Also at Hubbards Lane outside Cornwallis School from 8.45 to 9.15am the same morning