

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

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| Every Monday | 4.20 for 4.30pm | 'Wellsprings' silent prayer – The Vestry, St. Nicholas Linton. Details from 'Cilla 741318 (Not during School Holidays or Bank Holidays) |
| Term time only: First four Tuesdays in the month | 10.00 - 11.30am | 'PSST'- Fellowship and Bible study. (Contact Becky Pamham 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 10 – 10.45 am | Meeting for prayer and short Bible Study. (Details from Peter 747570) Ladies Prayer Time – All welcome (Details from Eileen 236170) |

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

A date for your diary - 'Rockaholic Retromania' - another evening of 50's and 60's live music by The Rockaholics. Saturday 19th March 7.30-11pm Linton Village Hall. More details soon.



St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 97 February 2011

Services in Linton Church in February

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| Sunday | 6 th Feb | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday | 13 th Feb | 9.30am | Family Service |
| Sunday | 20 th Feb | 8.00am | Holy Communion (1662) |
| Sunday | 27 th Feb | 9.30am | Holy Communion |

An Evening with Peter Owen Jones
Tuesday 8th February 2011 7.45pm (doors open 7.15pm)
Rochester Cathedral

Join us in the Cathedral Nave for an evening of readings and reflections led by Priest, Author and TV Presenter, Rev Peter Owen Jones
Tickets £7, available from the Chapter Office. Please make cheques payable to "The Dean and Chapter of Rochester". To book tickets by post please send your cheque, a contact telephone number and a SAE to: Education Officer, Chapter Office, Garth House, The Precinct, Rochester, ME1 1SX. For further details, please call 01634 810066 or email: helen.bradshaw@rochester-cathedral.org

A Prayer for the Work of the Children's Society

Lord Jesus Christ to whom this world and its history belong,
We give you thanks for the work of The Children's Society,
a faithful witness to your command that none of your little ones
should be lost.

Continue to stir up your gifts in us that:
children in trouble with the law will know your justice,
children at risk on the streets may know your protection,
children who are refugees may know your welcome,
children who care for their parents may know your gift of childhood,
children affected by substance misuse may know your safety,
and all people may know the power of your Kingdom where you live
and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.
Amen

Centre Pages: David's Letter; MSO; Confirmation 2011

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Diary Date - Rockaholics.

Hi All

Well, 2011 has been with us one month and the increases in VAT, petrol prices and rail fares have had time to bite. We are promised a time of real austerity and cutbacks and, as I hear and read the media outbursts, many interest groups are pleading their case not to have to bear the brunt of the cuts.

Over recent weeks the word 'fair' has been used to justify changes to the way things are financed. The increase in VAT is said to be 'fair' because it affects everyone, true but not equally. Tuition fees are 'fair' because people with degrees earn more than people without, but do they? And so it goes on. Cuts in library services in one county are set against spending on children's services. Road repairs are set against care for the elderly. Each group feels they are a special case. We look at how 'cuts' affect us and we shout loud and clear if we feel the pinch.

In early December I was invited to a consultative meeting attended by six officers and five members of the Maidstone Borough Council to discuss possible reductions/savings in expenditure by the Borough Council to take effect over the next three years. I had been invited as chairman of Churches Together in Maidstone and three other interest groups had accepted the invitation. Although a public meeting, only one member of the public attended. We were asked where we would like to see savings in the council's budget. Little progress was made as suggestions put forward were unacceptable to others present.

The debate started me thinking firstly about 'fairness' in a world that is obviously not 'fair' and never has been since God created it and mankind thought they could do a better job.. What is 'fair' to one person is unfair to another. So then my thinking turned to the values that I, as a Christian, might adopt. The meaning of Joy – putting Jesus first, others second and ourselves last - comes to mind. The summary of the Ten Commandments directs us - Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'You shall love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.....love your neighbour as yourself'. Perhaps if we all applied that Commandment to the cuts/savings as they come along then, whilst we might not all agree, at least we may be generous in accepting what needs to be done.

To be honest I haven't reached a conclusion and maybe I need others to point me in the right direction. Everything I think of seems pious and not particularly practicable. But what I do think is important is that we enter into the debating of the ideas as they are made and recognise that people, who are in authority and who we ask to make decisions, have sometimes to make difficult judgements.

What could you change in your personal life to make a difference or, better still, how could you improve the lives of those around you?

David

**Maidstone Symphony Orchestra – Conductor
Brian Wright**

Saturday 5th February at 7.30pm at Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park. Holst, 'Egdon Heath'; Tchaikovsky, Violin Concerto; Dvorak, Symphony No. 9 "From the New World". The great German violinist Ulf Hoelscher is welcomed for his fifth visit to MSO to play Tchaikovsky's well-loved Violin Concerto. The eerily evocative musical landscape of Holst's tone poem 'Egdon Heath' contrasts starkly with the romantic warmth and panache of Dvorak's New World Symphony, written at the start of his time as Director of the New York Music Conservatory. Tickets £14, £18 and £22. Full time students £5, 18's and under free. Tel: 736392 or Maidstone Leisure Centre 0845 1552277

Confirmation 2011

It has been the custom and practice in the Church of England to baptise babies and children and, when they come to faith as older children or adults, for them to be confirmed by the Bishop. We have not booked a Confirmation Service in our Benefice for 2011 but are planning to join with another church locally who have booked a service. We will either go to Hildenborough on Sunday 10th April at 10am or St Justus, Rochester on Sunday 8th May at 6.30pm. The newly installed Bishop of Rochester, Rt. Revd. James Langstaff, will officiate at both services.

If you would like to consider being confirmed, please either contact Revd. David Jones 741474 or come to an initial gathering and tea on Sunday 6th February at 5.00pm for an hour at 13 Woodlands, Coxheath. Confirmation is open to all adults and teenagers who have made a commitment, or are thinking about making one, to follow Jesus in their lives.

David Jones