

## 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 <sup>st</sup> Wed – Jean 726248; 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 March Parish News  
by 14<sup>th</sup> February to Harold  
Pounds 745303  
[h.p.pounds@btinternet.com](mailto:h.p.pounds@btinternet.com)

**Reminder - Maidstone Symphony Orchestra Concert - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February**  
7.30pm Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park. See January Parish News.

**East Farleigh Farmers' Market - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February** and every first Sunday of  
the month throughout the year, selling a wide variety of local and exotic foods.

Printed by Jerry Whitmarsh - your print work too? Tel. 01622 747572



## St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 109 February 2012

### Services in Linton Church in February

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am Holy Communion  
 Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am Family Service  
 Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)  
*Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 7.30pm Ash-Wednesday Service  
 at St Mary's Hunton*  
 Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am Holy Communion

**N.B.** Kath has a copy of the Archdeacon's sermon that he preached  
at our Anniversary Service in November if anyone would like one.

**St Nicholas Church Clock** - With grateful thanks to 'The Friends of  
Linton Church' who generously paid for the overhaul and repairs, we  
are pleased to report that the church clock has been restored to  
'good running order'. It is now undergoing a period of settling-in and  
final adjustment. *John McKenzie/Roger Bettle, Churchwardens.*

**Linton Walks** start Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 11.00 to 13.00 from the  
Church car park Linton Hill. Details at: <http://lintonkent.org/walks>  
**MBC Freighter Service** for free disposal of certain refuse. Corner of  
Cornwallis Ave/Wheeler's Lane 13.40 - 14.20, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**The Kent Messenger** has a vacancy for a **Village News  
Correspondent** for Linton. It carries a small remuneration and is  
not time-consuming. Basic computer skills are needed. Are you  
interested? It would be wonderful if this position could be filled by a  
Linton resident - please email Jerry Whitmarsh, if you would like to  
apply: [lpc@jerrywhitmarsh.com](mailto:lpc@jerrywhitmarsh.com)

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February between 11am and 4pm the Friends of St  
Mary's Church Hunton welcome visitors to see a display of  
snowdrops in both of the churchyards, Entrance free.  
Refreshments, information and displays and videos for sale.

**Centre Pages:** David's Letter; 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Church Trail.  
**Back Page:** Regular Events; Who's Who; MSO, E. Farleigh Farmers' Market

Dear All

I have just returned from a long walk through the fields in the Linton and Hunton area. No car, simply left the house and walked across Amsbury Road and down the hill. You know, I've lived in this area for nearly 45 years and never done that walk before and I doubt if I could repeat it as I lost the footpath signs and found myself in orchards looking for ways out. Round two reservoirs (no doubt trespassing) with wild life in abundance, past two clumps of primroses and the sun shining in my eyes it was so low. What a way to spend an afternoon! 'What should I have been doing?', I kept thinking as I walked. 'What emails awaited my return from people not able to attend a meeting that evening?' Oh, how I longed for that cup of tea in front of the fire when I got home! Was I disappointed? Did anyone miss me or want me? Well, happily the answer to the first was 'no', I was not disappointed with the cup of tea and, to the second, again, 'no', only one email and no phone calls. Sometimes we simply need to do what we want and not bother too much about the 'self inflicted' consequences, which may never happen.

So where does all this lead me? Well, it is to the verse that the Ministry Team decided to use for 2012. From the Psalms, it reminds us to *'Commit ourselves to God, trust in Him and He will act!'*\* Perhaps my life is too well organised in my own strength, perhaps I have a 'self inflated' opinion of what is required of me, perhaps the world, mine or others, will not come to an end if I take an afternoon off. Perhaps I might be the better for it? Who knows, but certainly this afternoon was worth it and maybe another afternoon waits for me?

Go on, stop trusting always in yourself and trust God to provide. At least in my case the February letter was written quicker and with more enthusiasm. That might not be obvious to the reader of course!

Hope to see you out and about.. David. *\*(Psalm 37 v 5)*

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011, St Nicholas Church Linton celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the re-opening of the church in 1861 after major renovations and rebuilding. A joyful service of thanksgiving and commemoration was supported by a good congregation of local people and also visitors returning to the village to celebrate the occasion. The Rector, Rev Peter Walker, led the service and the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, the Venerable Clive Mansell, preached on words from Psalm 122, *"I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord"*. How true of this celebration! The themes of the sermon were linked with the letters of the word GLAD: the GENEROSITY of those who enhanced a building to suit the needs of the day; LEARNING about the local church and those who have worshipped here over many centuries; the message of ADVENT Sunday that the coming of Jesus will enable things to be made right for all eternity; and to remember that this place is ultimately about the DIVINE love of God in our lives.

At the beginning of 2011 members of St Nicholas Linton started to work with High Weald DFAS (Decorative and Fine Arts Society) to prepare a church trail. NADFAS\* church trails identify special characteristics in the church for children of up to 12 to follow, search and check against the ultimately revealed answers (the trail is of interest to all ages, though!). Using line drawings by Mary Price, computer skills of Kath Cooper and historical research by David and Jane Sawyer, the St Nicholas Church Trail gradually took shape, and was launched at the Anniversary Service by Sarah Harris, Head of Church Trails at NADFAS. It was presented to the Rector by Jane Hoole, Chairman of High Weald DFAS who had supported the project.

In preparing the church trail it became apparent that it was 150 years since the refurbishment at the expense of the Ladies Louisa and Elizabeth Cornwallis of Linton Park. The church was reopened in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. An article in the Kentish Express of 4<sup>th</sup> August 1861 gave some fascinating insights into the celebrations that took place, including an "excellent supper at the Bull Inn for the workforce of the Maidstone builders and a feast for 140 children at Linton school". The Anniversary was almost passed by but the PCC, realising its significance, arranged the anniversary celebrations.

An exhibition of documents and photographs showing the historic link between the Cornwallis Family and St Nicholas Church was on display.

We are delighted to welcome visitors to explore the Church Trail. To arrange a visit by children's groups, families and school groups, please contact Mrs Kath Cooper 01622 741494. [cooperkathryn@btopenworld.com](mailto:cooperkathryn@btopenworld.com) For information about NADFAS visit [www.nadfas.org.uk](http://www.nadfas.org.uk)

\*NADFAS - National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies