

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 Wednesday	10.00 to 11.30am	'PSST'- Fellowship Group (Children welcome). For weekly venue, phone Ruth 743866
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	10.00am	Holy Communion (1662) Holy Trinity Coxheath
	1.30 to 3.00pm	"Up and Running" Toddler Group, Holy Trinity, Coxheath. Contact David 741474 for details
Term-time Thursdays	7.30pm	LOGOS Youth Group, West Farleigh Church Details from Ruth 743866

The Rector: Revd Peter Walker
747570 - Marriages, Thanksgivings and Baptisms (Not available Mondays)

Associate Rector: Revd Ruth Bierbaum - 743866 (Not available Fridays)

Revd David Jones - 741474 (Not available Fridays)

Churchwardens
Mr Roger Bettle 743278
Mr John McKenzie 741318
Pastoral Care Link
Mrs Vera Figgins 745950
Items for March Parish News
By 14th February to Harold Pounds 745303
h.p.pounds@btinternet.com

Actual Church Notices (but not at St. Nicholas!).

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house, Bring your husbands.

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St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 61 February 2008

Dear All

Here we are at the beginning of February with still a few distant memories of Christmas and the New Year. Yet within six days we will be in Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 6th and Easter next month! . It's all getting very confusing with the shops having the New Year Sales before Christmas and now schools having their Easter holiday not at Easter this year. Still, I saw the first snowdrops and primroses on Christmas Day, so who knows, maybe the daffs will be out before the end of the month?

Time is a strange concept. It occurs naturally in the cycle of day and night, months and years and is constant and unchanging. Yet we know time can drag or fly by depending on what is happening to us. The saying, 'A watched kettle never boils' comes to mind.

Whilst at work tasks were departmentalised, the working day, the weekends and evenings all seemed to fit a pattern and it was only when that pattern was disturbed that real stress points arose and then I really felt under pressure. Now in retirement I'm sure that when I was working and had less 'free' time in the day, I did more. As I get older the long days of summer never seem as long and major events such as birthdays and Christmas seem to come around so much quicker and days seem shorter.

David's letter continues inside....

Centre Pages: Chris Bostock - Deputy Warden of Readers; Lent 2008; Maidstone Symphony Orchestra; Freighter Service.

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Church Notices!

Services in Linton Church in February

Sun 3 rd February	9.15am	Holy Communion
Wed 6 th February	7.30pm	Holy Communion (Ash Wednesday)
Sun 10 th February	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
	11.00am	Family Service
Sun 17 th February	9.15am	Holy Communion
Sun 24 th February	9.15am	Holy Communion

David's letter continued from the previous page

Now, with no regular pattern to the week, the months and days and years roll by and it is easier to think it is possible to put off things because the deadlines are more self-defined. But is that really true? What now happens is that life loses the cycle and we have to really think about how we use our time, what is important, who is important, what really needs to be done and why? Is the stress self-inflicted by my own laziness, by the demands I put on myself, by the demands I perceive others place upon me? Do I get 'ratty' and 'snappy' with those I feel put the greatest demands upon me?

Lent is a time in the Christian calendar that has become lost in its purpose. We have come to think of it traditionally as a time for 'giving up' the luxuries of living. Maybe this year we should reflect on the life that God has given us and to seek how best to use that life personally and within the communities in which we live and work. Jesus took time out. He didn't give up things but he was always seeking to do his Father's will and taking time to seek that direction for his life. Lent this year could be a time of doing that, seeking God's purpose for our lives so that the time we have may be used aright and used to greater effect in His service. I believe it is not about 'giving up' but about 'giving out' so that we may experience the richness of our humanity in Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

David Jones

*Congratulations to Chris Bostock on being appointed Deputy Warden of Readers for the
Tonbridge Archdeanery*

A message from Chris:-

The role of Deputy Warden of Readers for Tonbridge Archdeanery is a new one within our Association and so it is quite exciting to be in at the beginning, so to speak. Whilst it is the practice for the Warden to be commissioned, usually at our October Cathedral Service, it has been decided that the Deputy Wardens should be authorised, within our own Parish. I will, therefore be authorised on Sunday 17th February at 6:00pm in Linton Church and I would very much like the support of as many Readers and friends as possible.

Please accept this as a personal invitation to you for the Service and for refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall. I should be grateful if you would be kind enough to RSVP as we need to know for catering purposes. Also let us know if you have any dietary needs or wish to have help in accessing the service.

I look forward to meeting you on 17th and working with you in the future.

With Best Wishes, Yours in Christ, **Chris Bostock**

Mobile: 07951 007382 Email: chris.bostock@tiscali.co.uk

Lent 2008 Our Lent Course this year is a study of the Lord's Prayer, 'praying it, meaning it, living it' in five parts each consisting of a taped introduction, course booklet and time for discussion and questions. In the Benefice there will be four locations so that people can choose the most convenient evening and location. Each evening will be at 7.45pm for a prompt 8.00pm start.

Mondays we will be in Hunton - the first will be at Mary's 749496

Tuesdays at Linton at the home of John and Cilla McKenzie, Iona, Linton Hill, and also on Tuesdays at All Saints, West Farleigh.

Thursdays in Coxheath at the Coxheath Centre.

The topic will be the same each week in each of the locations:

Week 1 commencing February 11th - 'Our Father'

Week 2 commencing February 18th - 'Thy will be done'

Week 3 commencing February 25th - 'Our daily bread'

Week 4 commencing March 3rd - 'As we are forgiven'

Week 5 commencing March 10th - 'In heaven!'

Please contact any of the clergy for the exact details of the venue or if you have any further questions.

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra - Concert **Saturday 2nd February** See January edition of this 'News'

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, Conductor, Brian Wright. Concert **Saturday 15th March** 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park. The superb Italian cellist, Sylvia Chiesa is to play Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations and a fine Concerto by her famous film composer compatriot, Nino Rota. Sylvia's performances will be framed by two of the greatest French impressionist masterpieces, Ravel's sparkling vision of Vienna, La Valse and Debussy's intoxicating set of seascapes, La Mer.

Tickets from £10 to £20, children/students £5 from Membership Secretaries 736392 or Leisure Centre 0845 1552277

Freighter Service for free disposal of bulky waste:
Saturday 15th March, 13.15
- 13.45 at Wheelers Lane/
Cornwallis Ave., Junction.