

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)

Rev'd David Jones - 741474 (Not
available Fridays)

Churchwardens
Mr Roger Bettle 743278
Mr John McKenzie 741318

Items for February Parish News
By 14th January to Harold
Pounds 745303
h.p.pounds@btinternet.com

Linton Park Almshouses. On Tuesday 9th December, the residents of Linton Park Almshouses were invited to join the Trustees for a festive meal at the Bull Inn, Linton. We were so pleased that all of our residents were able to come and enjoy an evening of good company, lively conversation and an excellent meal.

John McKenzie (Churchwarden/Trustee)

Printed by KTC Office Supplies. 21 Pudding Lane. Maidstone 01622 758853



St Nicholas Parish News
Issue 72 January 2009

Dear fellow readers

Jesus said, 'A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' John 13:34

As we begin a new year there is always that opportunity for a fresh start. The past year is now behind us, with perhaps all its problems, disappointments and fears, and a new year is open before us. We wish each other a 'Happy New Year' and this greeting is heartfelt to people we know for whom 2008 may have been a difficult year. But as the words come out I wonder if we really believe that next year will be any better: and how can it be better?

As a teacher I used to see the excitement in pupils' faces as they came to the end of an exercise book and were offered a fresh one. The first page was always so fresh, no writing coming through from the previous page, no crossings out reminding of work rushed or done badly, no comments from the teacher about 'bucking up our ideas' (today such comments would be frowned upon as not being positive). A fresh book, a fresh page meant a new beginning. And I know from experience that if I made a mistake on that first page or my writing was poor it could haunt me for the rest of the life of that book. So it is with a new year. We are promising ourselves that things will be different yet know that, so quickly, we forget and slip back into old ways that are familiar and comfortable.

David's letter continues inside...

Centre Pages: Yuletiders; Valentine's Day Dance; Maidstone Symphony Orch.; Garden Gala
Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Linton Park Almshouses

Services in Linton Church in January

Sunday	4 th January	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	11 th January	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	18 th January	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		11.00am	Family Service
Sunday	25 th January	9.30am	Holy Communion

Note the later times of some of the services

David's letter continued from previous page

Maybe this year we could try a different approach? Rather than setting tasks to be changed why not consider attitudes that need addressing. Could we approach situations with expectations that, rather than problems to be faced, they are opportunities to be grasped? Rather than thinking of the bother that people can cause us, seeing them as challenges to be resolved. Jesus taught this approach and set an example when he said, 'Love one another' and in so doing we are reminded of the love that God has for each of us. I am sure that when people feel loved, they can in return give out love. "It won't work", says someone! Well we can try and then, when we look back on 2009, we might be surprised at the change! The simple things in life often work best!

May I wish you all every blessing during 2009 as you set out into the New Year with a fresh start?

Yours,
David

The **Yuletiders' Christmas Lunch** on 2nd December was well attended and much enjoyed. It could never have happened without the invaluable support of St Nicholas Church and the invisible army of cooks who prepare all the food at home and bring it piping hot to the village hall. Thanks go to Antonia Allfrey, Jean Avery, Pat Canfield, Kath Cooper, Ve Gibbard, Mary Henson, Cilla McKenzie, Linda Perch, Mary Price, Jane Sawyer, Linda Walter, Ann Watson and Sue Whitmarsh; to Wendy Sendles and Sheila Macdonald for the table decorations and flowers for our very welcome guest, the Mayor; to June and John Baker for the festive decorations which transformed the hall and to the great team of helpers at lunch – some of whom had moved furniture earlier and grappled with a faulty electricity supply. Thank you also to those kind people who gave donations. We have a rich store of talent and goodwill in Linton, generously given.

Come Dancing... to a romantic candlelit St.Valentine's evening at the Linton Village Hall on **Saturday 14th February** 7.30 to 11pm. Music from the ever popular **Rockaholics**. Tickets £12.50 and this includes a hot meal! Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Further details and tickets from **David Sendles 745612 or Mike Brooker 746067**. Proceeds from this event will go towards refurbishing the inside of the Village Hall. (A lot of work has already been done on the outside of the Hall).

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra - Saturday 7th February 7.30pm Mote Hall Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park. The programme consists of three works - Hindemith - Symphonic Metamorphoses on themes by Weber; Elgar - Cello Concerto; Bartok - Concerto for orchestra. Former BBC Young Musician, Guy Johnston, plays Elgar's evergreen Cello Concerto. Elsewhere, Bartok's Concerto is the ultimate in exciting orchestral showpieces, while Hindemith's Metamorphoses would be a perennial audience favourite had he only given it a more digestible title! Tickets £12, £16 and £21, children and students with a student card £5, available from Membership Secretaries 01622 736392 or Maidstone Leisure Centre box office 0845 1552277.



Hard to imagine, but Spring is just around the corner! Time to start thinking of our gardens and how we can make the most of them for

GARDEN GALA on Sunday, 7th June 2009. Eleven residents in Linton have promised to open their gardens on this afternoon and, for

there will be a great deal of time and effort spent in ensuring their gardens are in beautiful condition.

In 2003, there were about 900 visitors to the village in those few hours, and nearly £5,000 was raised for St Nicholas Church.

We hope that everyone in Linton will be able to be part of this event to show off our lovely village. Can you help?

Tell your neighbours, friends and relatives - Make cakes to sell at the two gardens, which will be serving teas – Be a steward at one of the

gardens – Help with car parking on the day - Advertise your business in the programme for the day.

In addition to the gardens, the Church will be open, and also the Allotments in Wheelers Lane. There will be several off-road car parks for easy access