

## 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
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 Feb '10 Parish News  
By 14<sup>th</sup> January to Harold  
Pounds 745303  
[h.p.pounds@btinternet.com](mailto:h.p.pounds@btinternet.com)

### Seekers - Fun and games for Kids

Seekers is a group for 6-11 year old (school years 2-6) children that meets on Thursdays, starting straight after school, at 3.30pm at Holy Trinity in Coxheath. We have fun and games, stories and activities teaching the children about Christianity. Anyone interested in joining us should contact Becky on 07949 646865



## St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 84 January 2010

### Services in Linton Church in January

Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> January	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup> January	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		11.00am	Family service
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup> January	10.30am	Benefice Service, E. Farleigh

**New Year's Day – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010.** Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath will be open for personal prayer from 9.30 until 11.30am.

The **Yuletiders** Christmas lunch on 7<sup>th</sup> December was well attended and much enjoyed. I am sure that we speak for everyone who was there in offering many thanks to Mrs. Jane Sawyer and to all the many people who obviously worked extremely hard to make the event such a success. Harold and Pat.

**Linton Parish Council** A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council. If anyone is interested in this important and fulfilling work, they should talk to any parish councillor or to the Parish Clerk, Mike Stevens 01622 741085 in good time before the meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January. Events arranged so far are Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm at the Salvation Army Citadel; Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 1.00pm at St Faith's and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm, for ladies, at URC.

### Alpha New Year Celebration



You, your partners, friends and families are warmly invited to join us for a 'BRING & SHARE' - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm. RSVP Kay and Tony Mason 01622 820488/ 07921122802 email: [getfilled@live.co.uk](mailto:getfilled@live.co.uk)

Centre Pages: Peter's Letter; Confirmation Service; M.S.O.; Ash Wednesday; Lent Study; Mobile Library.

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Seekers.

Dear Friends,

2010 dawns and what will the New Year bring? What resolutions are you making - or even breaking - already?

I know that I intend to have a go at reading the Bible through in one year. There are some very good guides written to achieve this without feeling too weighed down by the sheer thought of such an enterprise. Let me know if you need some direction on this.

Why read the Bible at all? As Christians we need to consult the Maker's manual. The Bible is full of all sorts of different styles of writing, ranging across history, poetry, prophecy and metaphor, addressing mankind's needs. When we read that 'trees sing for joy and floods clap their hands' we understand that this is poetry. When Jesus told us to 'be as harmless as doves', we are not meant to lay eggs. When he told a story about a man falling among thieves it was a parable explaining a deeper truth.

The Bible is not a book of abstract philosophy - it is a book about life and about people in real situations. In our reading of it we should look expectantly - we may be shocked or surprised by some of the events recounted - but, too, we can expect to hear God speaking through these words with something for us and when we apply the Bible regularly one of the great benefits is that we start to see the world in a Christian way.

Jesus enjoins us to act obediently to the Bible's guidelines. He says that when we hear and obey, our lives become like houses built on a rock, safe and secure. As we persist in reading the Bible thoroughly, worship becomes a living force, our work for God becomes a vital activity and Jesus becomes a daily companion.

A man in prison was given a Bible to read. He used its thin pages to roll his tobacco in. He smoked his way through all the Bible and reached St. John's Gospel. Reading what he was about to burn he gave his life to Jesus!

Yes, the Word of God is very powerful - 'sharper than a two-edged sword' writes St. Paul.

Happy New Year and Happy Reading!

With prayers,  
PETER

**Confirmation Service - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010.** Five adults from the Benefice will be confirmed at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath, by the Rt Rev Michael Gear, as 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mso.org.uk)

**Ash Wednesday - 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Lent Study 2010 - Starting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February** and every Wednesday during Lent (until 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Mobile Library.** The KCC mobile library service stops in Linton every week. It is completely free to join, just turn up. Every two weeks it stops near the allotments in Wheeler's Lane from 12.10 to 12.30pm. Next visits: 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January, then every fortnight. In the intervening weeks it stops at the entrance to the Church car park on Linton Hill. Next visits: 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January, then every fortnight. The service is under threat - so it is a case of "Use it or lose it"