

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

Every Monday oOo (see front page)	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 Tme – 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 February Parish News by 14th January to Harold Pounds 745303
h.p.pounds@btinternet.com

Linton Walkers have agreed to donate £1,000 towards the cost of improvements to the children's playground above Cornwallis Avenue.



St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 96 January 2011

Services in Linton Church in January

Sunday	2 nd Jan	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	9 th Jan	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday	16 th Jan	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
Sunday	23 rd Jan	9.30am	Holy Communion
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>30th Jan</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Benefice Service Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Coxheath</i>

oOo (see back page) There will be NO Wellsprings meeting on 3rd January

An Evening with Peter Owen Jones
Tuesday 8th February 2011 7.45pm (doors open 7.15)
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@rochestercathedral.org

Christingle at St Nicholas Church in aid of The Children's Society

We were very sorry to have to cancel the Christingle celebrations at St Nicholas Church on Sunday 5th December because of the very heavy snowfall earlier in the week which meant that the village car park still had deep snow that by Sunday was turning to ice. Some of the pathways around the church were becoming safer but a decision had to be made in time to inform everyone. It was very sad to disappoint so many children and adults. If the children have collected money for the Children's Society we can send that on to them, or donations could be sent direct. Please contact Jean Avery on 747571 if you would like any further information.

Centre Pages: Peter's Letter; New Year's Day Walk; MSO

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Linton Walkers.

Dear Friends,

What a great day it was when on Saturday December 11th saw the welcome and inauguration of James Langstaff as the 107th Bishop of Rochester. The Cathedral was full of parish representatives, clergy, bishops, the local mayor, the High Sheriff, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent. There seemed no end of the procession of dignitaries! There is no doubt that, at these sorts of events, the Church of England excels in putting on such proceedings.

As the Dean of Rochester said at the opening of the service: 'Today we have come gathered in the presence of Almighty God to inaugurate the ministry of James, 107th Bishop of Rochester and to place him in the Episcopal chair of his cathedral church as the chief shepherd of Christ's flock in this Diocese and as the guardian of the faith that we have received from the apostles'.

I am reminded of that phrase in the Creed when we affirm belief in 'One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic church'. Yes, we are in the line of the first Apostles commissioned by Jesus to 'go out into all the world making disciples'. The Apostolic succession is seen in that unbroken line of the laying-on of hands of those who became the first ministers of the early church, as the Apostles placed their hands on the heads of those 'ordained' leaders. So those ordained as Deacons, Priests and Bishops are in that direct line.

That faith received from the Apostles is that which Bishop James and all of us seek to proclaim. In his first sermon Bishop James spoke on the Gospel read that day about the feeding of the five thousand. In this he spoke of how Jesus gave more than enough to feed the multitude with much left over. This was a sign of the very generosity of God. Generosity was the key word at the heart of the sermon, not least the generosity of so many people coming together to welcome him and his wife, Bridget.

(The Diocese were very generous too in providing a packed lunch in boxes so that we could all sit down afterwards and have lunch together, and there was more than enough!)

Advent, which we were then observing, was and is that time of the year when we remember and prepare for the generosity of God in sending His Son Jesus as a babe in Bethlehem. 'God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son'. It is that gift and generosity of giving which should inspire and help us to live out our Christian lives.

The Bishop concluded thus: 'Dioceses sometimes come up with strap lines to describe themselves and their aspirations. We could do worse than being: 'The Diocese of Rochester: a generous people' - Just so long as it is true.

There will, I am sure, be a copy of the complete sermon in a future Rochester Link.

With all good wishes for 2011 with our new Bishop as the chief shepherd of Christ's flock in this Diocese and his leading us forward in that Apostolic faith.

Peter

Friends of Linton Church New Year's Day

Walk: The next monthly walk will take place on **Saturday 1st January 2011, New Year's Day**. As is traditional, it is a bit shorter than a normal monthly walk and starts a bit later to cater for those who like to see in the New Year enthusiastically. We will start from the public car park behind the King & Queen pub in East Malling at **11am**. Please note there are two car parks - drive through the one belonging to the pub, to the public one beyond.

From there we will walk through the village and then across to West Malling, via Broadwater and the Manor Park country park. On the way we pass by one of the oldest houses in this part of Kent, The Barracks. For the half way halt we are recommending the Five Pointed Star, a listed building. On the way back we pass by Malling Abbey, a Benedictine community on and off since 1090 ad. Overall, the walk is 4 1/4 miles long, only a little further than a typical Tuesday walk. It is quite flat and has not a single stile! So should be very easy to manage. All are welcome to join in and Jerry hopes to see you there, full of New Year resolution. Contact: Jerry Whitmarsh on 747572, or see: <http://lintonkent.org/walks>

Maidstone Symphony Orch. – 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