

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

The organisers of **East Farleigh Farmers Market** announce that the total raised for Kent charities by the holding of the markets since April is almost £900. There will be no market in January as it would fall on New Year's Day, so the first market of 2012 will be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February.



## St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 108 January 2012

### Services in Linton Church in January

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	January	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	January	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup>	January	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	January	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup>	January	10.30am	Benefice Service Holy Communion

Linton is fortunate to have an historic **village hall**, built in 1887 and gifted to the people of Linton in 1923. It is available for you to hire! Rates are very reasonable, starting at £7 per hour...and discounts are available for Linton residents. ...it can be used for meetings, events, receptions, parties, clubs, associations and businesses, dinners...you name it! ...it has a capacity of up to 100 people ...it is situated right in the village centre on the A229 Linton Hill, directly opposite St Nicholas' Church and just below the Bull Inn ...it has extensive parking within easy walking distance and disabled parking and access, by arrangement ...it has been extensively improved.

To hire the hall, please contact the lettings secretary, Sue McGillivray, on 01622 741475 or email [pcmccgillivray@gmail.com](mailto:pcmccgillivray@gmail.com)

### The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Weekend 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2012

The Linton Parish Council is considering the possibility of marking this event by the issue of a Jubilee mug to each of the children in the village of Linton and would welcome your comments on the suggestion.

The Parish Clerk, Sherrie Babington would be pleased to receive your views on 01634 863719 or email via the Linton Parish website - <http://lintonkent.org>

**Centre Pages:** Peter's Letter; 5P Men; The Giving Envelopes; Snowdrops;  
M.S.O.

**Back Page:** Regular Events; Who's Who; East Farleigh Farmer's Market

Dear Friends,

'So Faith, Hope, Love, abide these three, but  
the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Michelangelo and Raphael were great Italian Renaissance painters. The story goes that Michelangelo visited Raphael's studio and examined one of Raphael's early drawings. Picking up a piece of chalk, Michelangelo scrawled across the painting the Latin word 'Amplius' which means 'greater' or 'larger'. To the older painter's trained eye, Raphael's painting demonstrated too little vision. Think bigger and better - could be a way of entering a New Year. The God who thinks big wants us to live greater and nobler lives. If we are to do this there are some things we cannot do without. Saint Paul lists three.

**FAITH:** we cannot do without it! Faith is listed as a gift of the Holy Spirit. We have faith to believe the Good News and the person it proclaims. The Evangelist, John Wimber, once said that faith should be spelt, RISK. Many people cannot, as the old saying goes: 'take the leap of faith'. It was with an element of 'risk' that I left this country to live and train in Australia. It seemed it was what God wanted me to do. Sometimes we need to 'take a leap of faith'!

**HOPE:** A man, whose shop was among the buildings lost in a great fire, arrived the next morning at what was his place of business. He set up a table in the midst of the charred debris. Above the table he placed a sign that read: 'Everything lost except wife, children and hope - business will be resumed as usual tomorrow morning'.

Christian hope is a two-pronged thing. Not only does hope give us victory in life's current crises, but it also gives us assurance of rest and peace with God when this life is over. The hope written of in the Bible is a confident expectation; hope is an assurance that is absolute. Paul writes in Romans 5:2 'We rejoice in hope of the glory of God'. Hope is as natural as the beating of our hearts. God has put it there.

**LOVE:** 'Love came down at Christmas' was one of the choir items at the East Farleigh carol service. That is the reality of God's love for us - God who came in human form to show us the way of love. That way of love eventually led up a hill on which criminals were crucified. It was, in truth, the way of Love itself.

Love's healing touch is desperately needed in all sorts of places and situations.

The hymn tells us: 'Thy touch still has its ancient power', the touch of the Loving Jesus Christ. May that touch be upon you this New Year.

So, as we commence a New Year, more than anything God wants to write 'Amplius' across our lives. He wants to make them bigger and better. If we embrace these three qualities, as Saint Paul wrote of in that Corinthian letter, we will go a long way towards making this year 2012 a good year, and one in which we can actively demonstrate Faith, Hope and Love.

With every blessing for the Year ahead, Peter

**5P Men group** will next meet on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** in the Bull Inn, Lower Road East Farleigh at 7.30pm. We will be having our AGM and presenting the usual items such as a report on the group and a finance balance sheet. We'll also outline planned events/meetings for 2012 for discussion. The rest of the evening there will be another activity so it will not be all about reports and finance! Mike Marsh

**The Giving Envelopes** These are to be issued for 2012 over the next few weeks. If you would like to make your regular giving by this method or by standing order, then please ask the churchwardens for details. If you are a taxpayer you can increase your giving by completing a Gift Aid Form. For every £1 given, the church can claim back an extra 25p from the Inland Revenue, making your donations go further.

**Get out and about on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February!**  
One of the most charming harbingers of Spring are snowdrops and several kinds are to be seen in the churchyards at Hunton. The Friends of St. Mary's Church will be welcoming snowdrop visitors to both its churchyards which have a wealth of snowdrops in a charming setting. Open between 11am and 4pm. Refreshments, information and displays. Videos for sale. **Entrance free.**

**Maidstone Symphony Orchestra - Conductor Brian Wright.** Saturday 4th February at Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park. Vaughan Williams - Overture 'The Wasps'; Nielsen - Violin Concerto, Soloist Ben Hancox; and Sibelius - Symphony No. 1.  
Tickets £10, £19, and £23. Students £5, 18's and under, free. Tel 735830 or Leisure Centre 0845 1552277. Also [www.mso.org.uk](http://www.mso.org.uk) using the booking form.