

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	1.30 to 3pm	'PSST'- Fellowship and Bible study. For weekly venue, phone Ruth 743866
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 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

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

Items for August Parish

News

By 14th July to Harold Pounds 745303
h.p.pounds@btinternet.com

More notices that have appeared in churches, (other than ours).

Potluck supper – Sunday at 5.00pm – prayer and medication to follow.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.

Printed by KTC Office Supplies. 21 Pudding Lane. Maidstone O1622 758853



St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 66 July 2008

Sadly, Ruth will be leaving us on Sunday 10th August. She will be taking up a post as Lead Mental Health Care Chaplain in Medway and Kent Partnership NHS Trust. We will miss her and are grateful to her for all she has done here in the Benefice. We wish her success in her new role.

And finally....

‘I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the riches hidden in secret places
so that you may know that it is
I, the Lord, the God of Israel,
who call you by your name’ *Isaiah 45 v 3*

This is a promise of God to his servant(s), as spoken through the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah. It is a significant one to me because through it I have felt God calling me to minister to those with mental health problems. And this is not a step I take lightly. My roots have grown down deep in this place and taking them up is not easy. I only do it because I believe this is God’s will.. and, after all, what a promise:

‘I will give you the treasures of darkness’.

As I look at those words from Isaiah, an unexpected truth occurs to me - that it is in darkness, in the difficult times, in the bereavements and the losses, in the valley of the shadow of death, that God says he will increase my faith, your faith! That isn’t what we expect, is it? Surely suffering leads to doubt and a loss of faith! I have spoken to many who have chosen that path. *Ruth’s final letter continues inside.....*

Centre Pages: Strawberry Cream Teas; Free Choir Concert; Summer Barbecue; 5 P Men’s
Back Page: Regular Events; Who’s Who. Group.

Services in Linton Church in July

Sunday	6 th	July	9.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday	13 th	July	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
			11.00am	Family Service
Sunday	20 th	July	9.15am	Holy Communion

Ruth's letter continued from previous page

Certainly, when faced with suffering, the question "Why?" can be dominant. We can't understand God's reasoning. We can't work out why he doesn't answer our prayers the way that, say, I would, if I were God.

In the Old Testament, before Samson is conceived, God appears as a man to Samson's parents to tell them about the special child they will have and when they ask what this man's name is he says *"It is beyond understanding"*... in other words it is *"wonderful"*, in other words: *"full of wonder"*, in still other words *"wisdom unsearchable"*.

So maybe here is one precious jewel to be going on with, for you and for me...

that we do not need to understand God's ways, for we will never do that, but rather we need to trust him. Trust him in the day. Trust him in the night. That, as we walk through the changes and the valleys of uncertainty, all God asks us to do is keep proclaiming his name - *"Wonderful"* - *"I cannot understand you God, but I trust in your victory over death. I trust in you"*. And as you do that, you *will* in some very personal way hear him calling your name and calling you *"my beloved"* and *"my precious child"*.

In that simple faith, may we walk as Jesus bids, together.

With love and thanksgiving for all the years

and all the encouragements.

Yours in faith,

Ruth

Farewell Songs of Praise -

After 6 lovely years of ministry in the Benefice, I will, as mentioned elsewhere, be leaving on Sunday 10th August.

Please come to my final service in the Benefice on that day at 5pm at Holy Trinity Coxheath. It will be a Songs of Praise and I get to choose what we sing, so be prepared for an eclectic selection. All welcome. **Ruth**

Linton Church - Strawberry Cream Teas 2.30 to 5.30pm, Sat 28th and Sun 29th June.

Yet another record success last year! Come along to this popular and well supported event and have a strawberry cream tea with scones or cake, biscuits, tea and coffee etc. Sit outside and enjoy the view or wander around the church and churchyard at your leisure. Additionally, we will again feature the ever-expanding exhibition of paintings and artefacts by local artists.

Free Concert at Holy Trinity, Coxheath on Tuesday 8th July at 7.30 pm.

The Bel Canto, a mixed Chamber Choir from the Ysgol John Bright in Llandudno, North Wales, as part of their Kent tour, will be singing a wide range of music from Bach, Mozart and Faure, from gospel and pop and from the shows including 'Les Miserables', 'Chess' and 'Rent'. (African chants and Welsh folk songs are also on the menu!)

The choir, made up of some 18 teenagers, is led by Mrs Susan Collins (nee Susan Kelly) who grew up in Coxheath, and who attended Coxheath School, Cornwallis and MGS before studying at Bangor University.

Do come to support this choir who are travelling by train and 89 bus from Wales that day. They are then staying in Maidstone for a few days whilst performing at the Maidstone Inter-nation festival of Music and Dance (incidentally, Susan's mum used to work at Stockett Lane Surgery and still lives in Coxheath).

No tickets, simply turn up on the night
David Jones

Summer Barbecue - Join us for our barbecue (by invitation of Mr Philip Daubeny) Saturday 12th July 12.30pm onwards.

Park in the Village Car Park, behind the Church. The venue is a short walk along the Greensand Way past Linton Park House (less than ½ mile). Closer access can be provided on request.

Tickets £8 for adults, £3 for 3-13 years. This includes barbecue food and a glass of wine or soft drink. Tea, coffee,, cakes and soft drinks will be on sale.

Heated swimming pool, tennis courts, games in the meadow. Or just sit and enjoy the lovely countryside.

Contact Kath Cooper (741494) or Jean Avery (747571) for more information or for tickets.

5 P Men's Group - Monday 21st July - Petanque Night - The White House Pub, West Farleigh - 7.30pm