

## 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 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)

Revd David Jones - 741474 (Not available Fridays)

Churchwardens  
Mr Roger Bettle 743278  
Mr John McKenzie 741318  
Items for April Parish News  
By 14<sup>th</sup> March to Harold Pounds 745303  
[h.p.pounds@btinternet.com](mailto:h.p.pounds@btinternet.com)

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra - Concert - Sat 28<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm Leisure Centre, Mote Park. 0845 1552277. Music by Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms

### Valentine's Night Supper Dance.

This was a wonderfully successful evening and thanks must go to David Sendles and Mike Brooker for organising it and, surely, particular thanks to Margaret Waller and her team who produced an exceptional meal of beef in red wine with jacket potatoes, all served piping hot. The Rockaholics will return in September. This event was a sell-out, so get your tickets early!

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## St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 74 March 2009

Dear fellow reader

March this year falls rather neatly into the Christian period of Lent, a period of 40 days that comes immediately before Easter and is meant as a time of preparation and reflection as we prepare for the events of Good Friday and the glory of Easter morning - Christ has risen! Hallelujah! The early church took time out to prepare and to reflect on the pressures of the daily routine, to look at life and how that life was in tune with the creator, God.

Gradually, over time, Lent has come to mark a time of 'giving up things' and more recently we think in terms of giving up luxuries, chocolate, cakes and other things.

I've been thinking about the whole idea of 'giving up' and I wonder if we ought to be a little more positive. Over recent years and months I have become increasingly irritated by the media, the press and radio and TV, in its negative approach to news. Everything is gloomy, and if it's not gloomy then they'll make it so by the way events are reported - the recent snow resulting in millions of pounds lost in production caused by people staying off work, schools being closed and how terrible that is, the shortage of salt and even the gloom of the headlines stating 'most of Britain is in the grip of snow and ice, cities and towns paralysed, councils running out of salt' and so on, when in fact it is only parts of the country. Who saw the report of an airport being closed? Whilst the reporter was reporting this, an aeroplane took off behind her! It all adds to the negativity of life. Added to that, of course, is the 'blame industry'. Everything is someone's fault but certainly not ours!

*David's letter continues inside...*

N.B. Clocks need to be put forward one hour on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Centre Pages: Lent Studies; Linton Village Hall AGM; Good Friday Worship: Talks for Lent; Garden Gala; 5P Men's Group; Cream Teas; Fairtrade; Spinal Cord Injuries.

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; MSO Concert; Valentine's Night Dance.

### Services in Linton Church in March

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	March	9.30am	Holy Communion
				<i>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 7.30 pm Women's World Day of Prayer Holy Trinity Coxheath</i>
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	March	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup>	March	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
			11.00am	Family Service
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	March	9.30am	Holy Communion
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>29<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>March</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Benefice Service Hunton</i>

David's letter continued from previous page

This Lent I'm going to try to think of the positive things that I enjoy. The beauty of the world around me, the warmth of good relationships, the joy of helping people and being helped, of seeing people responding to support from family, friends and neighbours. We all suffer enough at times through illness, loss of employment, bereavement and concern for our families. It is right to be concerned: Jesus was always concerned by those around him who wanted support and help but he didn't go round casting gloom and despondency. He took delight in seeing people respond to his Good News.

So for Lent this year give up negative thoughts and give out the love and forgiveness and peace that can make our lives feel better and, for those around us, can we seek to lift the fallen? At the same time turn our backs on those who would have us see everything in terms of yet one more incident of gloom to bring us down.

Have a great Lent and come to the light and joy of the risen Christ, refreshed and renewed this coming Eastertide. Enjoy the chocolate and cakes this year!

Yours, David

#### United Benefice 2009 Lent Studies.

'Reconciling One And All - God's Gift To The World'. Based on the book by The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Brian Castle, Bishop of Tonbridge.

7.30 to 9pm - Mondays in March W. Farleigh Church  
- or Tuesdays in March at The Coxheath Centre.

Please come to whichever night/venue suits you best. For further information please contact John McKenzie, Churchwarden - 741318.

#### Linton Village Hall AGM Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm

The Hall is a non profit resource, run entirely by volunteers for the benefit of local residents and other users. Tim Figgins, Chairman of the Management Committee, invites and encourages all regular users of the Village Hall to attend this meeting which will include a review of the activities of 2008 and of current and future plans for work on the hall. Questions and comments will be welcomed and after the meeting informal discussion may continue over a glass of wine.

**Churches Together in Maidstone** 10<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm - Good Friday evening worship at the United Reformed Church, Week Street. A 'cantata for Easter in popular style' 'Jerusalem Joy' by Roger Jones, sung by a joint choir led by Freda Crispin from churches in the Maidstone area. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to be part of the group. 5 rehearsals at the United Reformed Church on Friday evenings 6,13,20,27 March and 3 April from 8pm to 9pm. Subsidised music copies will be available at the first rehearsal at £4 per copy, payable in cash please. So that sufficient copies may be purchased please order by the beginning of March. Contact details: Freda Crispin - 01622 726193 email >freda@me169lb.fsnet.co.uk< 4 Long Rede Lane, Barming Heath, Maidstone, ME16 9LB

**Wednesday Talks for Lent from John's Gospel - St Faith's Church Brenchley Gardens Maidstone - Soup/hot drinks available from 12.30 Please bring your own sandwiches. Talks 1.00 -1.30 pm**

4th March Jesus heals a sick boy

Canon Arthur Houston

11th March Jesus cures an invalid

Major Janice Williams

18th March Jesus feeds 5,000

Derek Savage

25th March Jesus walks on water

Jonathan Jankowski

1st April Jesus restores sight

Steve Edney

8th April Jesus raises Lazarus

Bishop Graham Cray

Further details from Jackie Cray

01622 673068

Is Spring here yet? Plans for the **GARDEN GALA** on **Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June** are well under way. Eleven residents in Linton have promised to open their gardens on this afternoon and, for them, there will be a great deal of time and effort spent in ensuring their gardens are in beautiful condition. Let's hope the spring will be mild so that the plants will not be held back by the cold winter.

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 to the gardens, and there will be a plant stall. If you would like some small handouts to give to people or can put an A4 notice up outside your house or in your car or somewhere locally, or you can help in any way, please call Paul or Kath Cooper on 741494, email [cooperkathryn@btopenworld.com](mailto:cooperkathryn@btopenworld.com)

The next event of the **5P Men's Group** is an evening of **Curling at Fentons Rink Nr Tunbridge Wells** (England's only Curling Rink) on **Thursday 26th March at 7 30 pm**. Help is available with transport.

No experience is necessary as all instruction and footwear (not skates) are provided - just wrap up warm and come along and enjoy the fun. This particular ice is not slippery so no Torvil and Dean expertise required. Why not bring a friend? For more details and to book a place please contact Jonathan Barnes 01622 747934 or Mike Marsh on 01622 745702 or email [5pmen@talktalk.net](mailto:5pmen@talktalk.net).

**Sheer indulgence - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March** - Bring your Mum (or anyone else you'd like to treat) for a special **CREAM TEA** in the Church from 2.30 - 5pm. Our organist, Bob Caudwell, will be playing music from the shows and light classics during the afternoon and will take requests.

**Fairtrade Coffee morning - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** 15 Hanover Road, Coxheath 9.30 to noon, details - Becky Parnham 07949 646865

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**Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people** live full and independent lives. **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May** - Information from Elizabeth Wright 0845 6786633 ext 229. Visit [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk) or email [fishandchips@spinal.co.uk](mailto:fishandchips@spinal.co.uk)



One people: One passion: One Purpose: Together @ Bognor

I'd like to share a little of what happened at this Diocesan Conference that I attended with Peter, Diana and David. We were tired at the end of four days and no wonder! This is a typical day's programme;

7.30 Early morning service; 8.30 Breakfast; 9.30 Bible Study; 10.30 Coffee Break; 11.00 Main Meeting; 12.45 Lunch; 2.00 Workshop; 3.00 Workshop; 4.00 Tea Break; 4.30 Another Main Meeting; 6.00 Worship – choice between 8 different styles of worship; 6.45 Getting to know you – informal gathering; 7.30 Dinner; 9.00 Entertainment; 10.00 Late night cinema – if you had the energy!

The Bible Studies were led by Revd. Dr Chris Wright, former Principal of All Nations College, and he said he chose Deuteronomy because it was God's word through Moses to God's people on the move, and God's purpose, promise and passion are running through it. Through the challenges that lay ahead of them would they stay loyal to God? Chris Wright spoke about the treasured possession of the people – a shared history; a sense of identity and mission. The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus are as important for us; the New Testament experience of coming out of darkness into light is, if you like, our Exodus. If our mission is to win people for Christ and bring them into God's Kingdom then it has got to begin with our own experience of God so that what He wants us to do is our priority; not going our own way in the hope that it's right!

John Bell (Church of Scotland and the Iona Community) spoke on the theme of 'One People'. He said that it was the 'connectiveness' of the members that made the early church 'one body'. They all knew each other; worked alongside each other; shared meals. When a person joined their group they were known because they were local. Since the War people have used their cars to go to the church where they like the style of worship, but 'the body' is nourished by 'each other' not only the preferred kind of worship. For instance, a demanding common task builds community; imagination is a gift of the Holy Spirit. He implored us to meet, to talk, to share.

Mark Russell, head of the Church Army, spoke with great passion about 'One Purpose'. He said that we need to be a sign post to Jesus, go where Jesus would go, root ourselves in integrity and love, be courageous, risk more and expect more from God. Alison Morgan, biblical scholar, spoke on the theme of 'Together'. She also implored us to take risks; to use our imaginations, saying that creativity is often stifled. She also said this, 'Failure is only the opportunity to try or begin again'. What a lovely expression!

There were many workshops on a myriad of different subjects. Between the four of us we took in a few. We'll talk about them as opportunities arise, no doubt.

I would like to end by telling you how the conference started. As we entered the room our hands were washed by a senior clergyman or woman. Encouraging words were said to each of us and we were given small white towels with John 13 v.15 embroidered on them. Jesus' words, 'I have set you an example – go and do as I have done.' As we took our seats a worship group were singing and the words touched me deeply. I'd like to share them with you. They are very challenging!

'If we are the body, why aren't His arms reaching?  
Why aren't His hands healing? Why aren't His words teaching?  
And if we are the body, why aren't His feet going?  
Why is His love not showing them there is a way? Jesus is the way.

Words by Mark Hall

I have come back from Bognor ready to use my imagination; prepared to take risks; read God's word and prayerfully come to Him, finding out what His mission is, for me and for us as Christ's body; and, to try to be a blessing to others. Please join me.

With love in Christ, Sue Elliott (Pastoral Assistant)