

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

Term time only Every Monday	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 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 Time – 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 April Parish News by
14th March to Harold Pounds
745303
h.p.pounds@btinternet.com

Reminder: Alter clocks forward one hour on Sunday 27th March

We shall be **opening the Church** to visitors on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from Saturday 30th April until the end of September. If you would like to be involved in this by manning the church for 2 hours, please let Kath know, 741494.

Sat. 12th March 9am Linton churchyard tidying working party. All welcome.



St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 98 March 2011

Services in Linton Church in March

Sunday	6th March	9.30am	Holy Communion
Wed	9th March	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday	13th March	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday	20th March	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
Sunday	27th March	9.30am	Holy Communion

Women's World Day of Prayer - Friday 4th March 7.30pm at the Congregational Church, 157 Linton Road. Our benefice churches are joining with the members of the Congregational Church for this annual service. (Last year there were members of at least 10 churches present). All are very welcome, adults and young people. The service has been prepared by the women of Chile and the guest speaker is Jenny Thompson, our new Benefice secretary.

Linton Lent Course You are warmly invited to join us for the 'York Course'. We will be looking at 'Rich Inheritance - Jesus' Legacy of Love'. This is a five week course, written by Stephen Cottrell, commencing on **Tuesday 15th March at 7.30pm** and running each consecutive week. It will be held at the home of Paul and Kath Cooper - Forge Cottage, Linton Hill, Linton ME17 4AW. For further information please contact John and Cilla McKenzie 01622 741318

Who let the dads out? Saturday 5th March at Holy Trinity Church Coxheath 10am to 12noon. A 'drop-in' time for dads and children up to 7 years, with food, games and informal chat. A chance for dads to be with their children and mums to have some 'me' time. Granddads and grandchildren too.
5P Men - Mike Marsh 745702 5Pmen@talktalk.net
Don't forget the Curry Night on 21st March 7pm - Marden Tandoori

Linton Village Hall Dance Back by popular request - 'Rockaholics Retromania' 50's and 60's live music. **Saturday 19th March, 7.30 to 11pm.** Tickets £12.50 (including supper) Bring your own drinks and glasses Michael 745067 or David 745612. Limited number only so book early!

Mothering Sunday weekend - This year's Cream Teas in the Church will be on Saturday 2nd April 2.30 - 5pm. Details and requests for help will follow!

Centre Pages: Peter's Letter; MSO Concert; Confirmation; KC Youth Orchestra; Tearfund.

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Church Opening; Churchard tidying.

Dear Friends,

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 2:1)

Those Scriptural words were written in my little book *'The Hill of the Lord'* given to me by the school chaplain on the occasion of my Confirmation on Lady Day, March 25th 1965. It is a small guide to prayer and the service of Holy Communion.

March 1965 was also significant because it was my mother's 45th birthday on the 14th and seven days later, on the 21st she was there by my side when I was baptised in the parish church of St. Mary, Shoreham-by-Sea. Four days later I was confirmed by the Bishop of Lewes in the same church. My parents had never thought it necessary for either my sister or I to be baptised as babes in arms.

In England Lady Day was New Year's Day up to 1752 when, following the move from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, the 1st January became the start of the year. A vestige of this remains in the UK tax year, which starts on April 6th i.e. Lady Day adjusted for the lost days of the calendar change.

As a year-end and quarter day that conveniently did not fall within or between the seasons for ploughing and harvesting, Lady Day was a traditional day on which year-long contracts between landowners and tenant farmers would begin and end in England and nearby lands. A result of this was that farming families who were changing farms would travel from the old farm to the new one on Lady Day. After the calendar change 'Old Lady Day' (April 6th), the former date of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary, largely assumed this role. The date is significant in some of the works of Thomas Hardy, e.g. *'Tess of the D'Urbervilles'* and *'Far From the Madding Crowd'*.

Three things stand out in that little Lady Day book of mine in connection with the Holy Communion service. First, we may expect *fellowship or communion with our Lord Jesus Christ*. 'Thus we come as to a trysting-place where we shall meet the Lord and Master whom we love and adore' so the book recounts. Secondly, we may expect *fellowship with one another*. We are at the family meal of Jesus' family. Whatever our station in life, we all share one loaf and drink of one cup. Lastly, we may expect a *fresh supply of strength*. We open our hands to take what God of his goodness gives us - strength for the body and soul.

So this coming Lady Day, as every Lady Day, I will remember again all that happened in March 1965 and give thanks that God has given me His grace to remain strong in Him as those words (now a little faded) in that modest book enjoined on me 45 years ago.

With my prayers, PETER

Centenary Concert - Maidstone Symphony Orchestra
Conductor Brian Wright (celebrating 20 years as conductor of MSO) **Saturday 26th March at 7.30pm at Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park.** Walton, Overture, Portsmouth Point; Brahms, Piano Concerto No 1; John McCabe, Portraits from Arthur (world premiere/MSO commission); Britten, Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. In this Centenary Concert there is an important premiere by John McCabe, one of the finest of the present-day composers. His portraits from Arthur are concert reworkings from two highly successful scores for the Royal Ballet based on Arthurian legend. Also celebrated are great 20th century British composers, Walton and Britten and MSO's President John Lill plays Brahms's magnificent 1st piano concerto Tickets £14, £18 and £22. Full time students £5, 18's and under free. Tel: 736392 or Maidstone Leisure Centre 0845 1552277

Confirmation 2011

For our Church there will be a Confirmation Service at either Hildenborough on Sunday 10th April at 10am or St Justus, Rochester on Sunday 8th May at 6.30pm. The Bishop of Rochester, Rt. Revd. James Langstaff, will officiate at both services.

If you would like to consider being confirmed, please contact Revd. David Jones 741474. Confirmation is open to all adults and teenagers who have made a commitment, or are thinking about making one, to follow Jesus in their lives.

Kent County Youth Orchestra Concert - Saturday 16th April 7.30pm Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre. These talented and committed youngsters from all over Kent will have prepared for the concert during a week's intensive residential course of rehearsals. The result is always astonishingly professional. A delightful programme awaits us of Elgar, 'In the South'; Lyadov, 8 Russian Folk Songs; and Tchaikovsky, 4th Symphony, conducted by the distinguished American musician, Kenneth Woods. Please do come and be part of the audience our Youth Orchestra deserves. Box Office 01622 358402.

Tearfund Wednesday 23rd March at 7.45pm in Loose Baptist Church. Ian Roberts will talk on "A Christian View of Disasters" Directions: The Church meets on the school site (not Loose village) in Boughton Lane, Maidstone. Information - Karen Mackley 01732 870625