

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

Mon	Every week (except Bank Holidays) 'Cilla 741318	4.20 for 4.30start	Wellsprings Contemplative Prayer	Linton
Tues	1 st Tuesday of the Month	6.45pm	Compline	E. Farleigh
Wed	Last Wednesday of the month	12 noon	Said Holy Communion (light lunch soup/bread)	Linton
Thurs	Every week	10am	Holy Communion 1662	Coxheath
Sat	Quarterly (See notice sheets for details)	10am	Alternative Service	Coxheath
Last Tuesday in the month		10 – 11.30am	Coffee and chat at Holy Trinity, Coxheath (Contact Becky Parnham 07949 646865)	
First and third Wednesdays in the month		7.30 – 9pm	'The Next Step' – A group that meets for study and prayer. (Contact Anne Whybrow 749704)	
Every Thursday		1.30 – 3pm 3.30pm	'Up and Running' Toddler Group, Holy Trinity Coxheath (Contact Kate Till 746482 for details) 'Seekers' (6-11yrs) Holy Trinity, Coxheath. (Further information from Becky 07949 646865)	
Every Saturday		10 - 11am	Ladies Prayer Group – at the home of Pat Wilmshurst (East Farleigh). Leader, Eileen 204241	
Rector Rev'd Peter Callway 747570 (Not available Fridays)			Churchwardens Mr Roger Bettle 743278 Mr John McKenzie 741318	
Curate Rev'd Eileen Doyle – 204241			Items for April News By 14 th March to Harold Pounds 745303 h.p.pounds@btinternet.com	
Honorary Associate Rector Rev'd David Jones – 741474 (Not available Fridays) Rev'd 'Cilla McKenzie - 741318				
Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/linton-st-nicholas and: http://lintonkent.org/church				
East Farleigh Farmers' Market Sunday 2 nd March from 9am to 12noon, Sue Morris 01622 726164				
East Farleigh Gardening Club – Winter Meeting Thursday 6 th March 7.45pm for 8.00pm in the Old School Hall. "The Work of the Loose Valley Conservation Society", an illustrated talk by the Chairman of the Society, Bryn Cornwell. (The talk will be followed later in the year by a guided walk in the valley). Tea and cakes, raffle, question time. Members £1, non-members £3				

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St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 134 March 2014

Services in Linton Church in March

Sunday 2nd March 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday 9th March 9.30am Family Service and Baptism
 Sunday 16th March 8.00am Holy Communion 1662
Sunday 23rd March 10.30am Benefice Service, East Farleigh
 Sunday 30th March 9.30am Family Service, Mothering Sunday, to include the traditional distribution of Spring Flower Posies

Lent Courses start on Thursday 6th March in the Benefice. More information from John McKenzie 741318

Women's World Day of Prayer at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath – Friday 7th March at 7.30pm. Our Benefice Churches join together with the Congregational Church for this annual service. Both men and women are warmly invited. The service this year is entitled 'Streams in the Desert' and has been prepared by the Christian Women of Egypt. The guest speaker for the evening will be Alison Callway.

Thursday 20th March 7.30pm – St Nicholas Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Church

Saturday 29th March from 2.30 to 5.00pm St Nicholas Church will be open for **Cream Teas**. Bring your mother (or anyone else special) and treat them to a scrumptious, celebrated, LINTON CREAM TEA.

Friday 7th March 7.30pm **Dandelion Time** are holding a **Quiz Night** at the Old School Hall, East Farleigh. £12 a ticket including dinner. Contact 01622 814001 or fundraising@dandeliontime.org.uk

Friday 14th March 7.30pm An evening with **Graham Kendrick** at St. Faith's Church, Maidstone ME14 1LH Tickets £10 from www.christiantickets.co.uk

Reminder: **British Summer Time** begins on Sunday 30th March, when clocks should be put forward one hour.

Centre Pages: Peter's letter; Tree Survey; Hunton Pantomime; Tearfund; Maidstone Symphony Orchestra.
 Back Page: Midweek Services and Regular Events; Who's Who; E Farleigh Farmers' Mkt; E Farleigh Gdning Club.

This time of year sees a number of British traditions and customs get played out or enjoyed. These include the Imbolc Fire Festival in Yorkshire, celebrating the coming of Spring, which has a procession through the streets of Marsden near Huddersfield, fire sculptures and juggling and a battle between the Green Man of Spring and Jack Frost of Winter. The outcome is, I believe, pre-determined!

Then there is the Slaithwaite (pronounced Slawit) Moonraking Festival based on a story that once upon a time a smuggler tricked an excise duty man into believing he was "raking canal for t'moon" because it had fallen in the water when he was really retrieving his moonshine hidden there earlier in the day. The excise man thought he was just a Slawit idiot and left him to it. Nowadays, a giant paper illuminated moon is floated down the canal and retrieved by the Moon Maidens, and there is a fancy dress parade with hundreds of lanterns.

Then there is my favourite: Hurling the Silver Ball, in St. Ives, Cornwall. Here, the Mayor takes a silver covered apple wood ball about the size of a cricket ball and hurls it from the balcony of the Town Hall. Accounts vary about what happens next but the ball is passed around from person to person and towards noon the action really hots up as a rugby style scrum and battle for possession of the ball takes place. A swim in the freezing cold sea is often undertaken to retain possession of the prized ball. The person who presents the ball to the Mayor on the stroke of noon wins a silver coin.

These customs date back hundreds, if not thousands, of years and have their roots in pagan customs and ancient religions which mark the seasons or a particular festival.

Christianity has its share of customs and rituals too! Shrove Tuesday has a number all of its own. One such is the ringing of the Shrivng Bell to summon worshippers to church to confess their sins and a reminder to start making the pancakes. These were then used not only for eating and using up all the fats in the house but as the basis for a race - flipping them as you go. Now the reason for using up the fat is probably well known. Shrove Tuesday is the day before the beginning of Lent. This is forty days before Easter (quadragesima in Latin - Lent is called cuaresma in Spanish and quaresma in Portuguese). Lent is the name taken from the Old English and simply means Spring. These forty days are set aside in the Christian tradition to prepare for Easter through prayer, repentance, penance and self-denial. The commonest form of self-denial is to fast - or "give something up for Lent". This is inspired by the story of Jesus in the wilderness who prepared for his ministry by fasting for forty days and nights.

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The purpose of the fast is to take one's mind off of earthly things and help focus on the more spiritual aspects of life.

It doesn't have to be food that is given up (and indeed for those with diabetes or other related conditions this is to be avoided at all costs) but can be a denial of such things as watching a favourite soap or other TV programme. And you might even take something up instead of giving something up. Reading the Bible regularly or attending a course at your local church. Or making a commitment to do an act of kindness every day for neighbours or friends or family.

However you mark the season of Lent or enjoy other customs, we hope you will take time to ponder the rich heritage we are able to enjoy and the reason for the season.

Many blessings,
Peter

Linton Parish Council has asked its **Tree Warden** to conduct a survey of any trees that may be a danger to the public following the recent bad weather. Trees that are leaning more than previously, those heavily covered in ivy, those with broken or damaged branches, with fungal infestation, particularly low on the trunk near the ground, or any other damage that you may observe.
Peter McGillivray, Parish Tree Warden 0622 741475 or: pcmcgillivray@gmail.com

Jack and the Beanstalk Hunton Village Hall - Thursday 10th, Friday 11th, Saturday 12th April 7.30p.m. Saturday matinee - 2 p.m. Licensed bar.
Adults £8.50, Children under 12 £5.00 Tickets available from 1st March from Joy McLoughlin 01622 820551

Tearfund - Wednesday 19th March at 7.45pm John Archer, Specialist Volunteer Manager will speak on "One Big Mountain". After this there will be prayer for Tearfund projects and the needs of the World. This will be in the Vine Church (previously Loose Baptist Church). Directions: The church meets on a school site, not in Loose village. Take the A229 (Hastings Road) out of Maidstone. After passing the Fire Station turn left after a parade of shops into Boughton Lane. Follow the road round to the right and then turn left into the school site. Ample parking available. Sale of Tearcraft and Fairtrade goods. Refreshments at close of meeting. More information from Karen Mackley 01732 870625

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Brian Wright will perform on Saturday 22nd March commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone ME15 7RN.
The programme consists of three works: Schumann - Overture, Manfred; Beethoven - Violin Concerto; Sibelius - Symphony No. 5.
For ticket details, see St Nicholas Parish News - February edition.