

**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	10.00 to 11.30am	'PSST'- Fellowship Group (Children welcome). For weekly venue, phone 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
Term-time Thursdays	7.30pm	LOGOS Youth Group, West Farleigh Church Details from Ruth 743866

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  
Pastoral Care Link  
Mrs Vera Figgins 745950  
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)

*True: these sentences actually appeared in church notices or were announced:-*

- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get

Printed by KTC Office Supplies, 21 Pudding Lane, Maidstone 01622 758853



**St Nicholas Parish News**  
Issue 62 March 2008

Dear Friends,

*'...If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins...'*  
*(1 Corinthians 15:17)*

'What do you preach about on Easter Day?' This was the question I was asked by a Bishop some years ago when I was being interviewed for a new job. My answer was, thankfully, what he wanted to hear, that is 'I preach Christ risen from the dead as told us by the Bible'.

Saint Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth was written to address problems in the church, to offer solutions and to teach believers how to live for Christ in a corrupt society. Both Paul's letters are worth reading for, in many ways, such problems he focuses on are the same today.

*Peter's letter continues inside*

Centre Pages: Detling 2008 - Together; Linton P. C. website items; Alpha; Maidstone Symphony Orchestra; Freighter Service.

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Funnies.

**Children!** Watch out for posters or invites to our next **Easter Party**. Details are in the pipeline as we go to press, but if you want to come and you haven't heard anything by 10<sup>th</sup> March, please give Ruth a call.

**Services in Linton Church in March**

Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> March 9.15am Mothering Sunday Service, with  
Communion

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> March 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)  
11.00am Family Service

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> March 9.15am Holy Communion  
(Palm Sunday)  
*Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm Holy Communion (Hunton)*  
*(Maundy Thursday)*

Fri 21<sup>st</sup> March 12-1pm Good Friday Reflections

*Reminder: Clocks need to be put forward one hour on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March*

*Peter's letter continued from the previous page*

Saint Paul uses six 'ifs' as he explores the consequences of the belief of some of the Corinthian Christians who held that the body is not resurrected. These six 'ifs' are building up to the crunch statement: 'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins'. Ouch!

In a consistent and clear way St. Paul sets out in chapter 15 to give four statements: **1)** Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (15:3) - **2)** He was buried (15:4) - **3)** He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures (15:4) - **4)** He was seen by many witnesses (15:5,6).

What does this mean for us today? If we deny the resurrection, we deny one of the greatest of all truths of the Gospel. Preaching is in vain; faith and hope are all in vain. But more than all that, no resurrection would mean no Gospel (Good News) at all, for we would be worshipping a dead Jesus. There would be no proof that God had accepted the death of Jesus on the cross as atonement for our sins. If a sailor on jumping overboard to rescue a drowning man were drowned himself then we would know that he did not save the man after whom he went. If Jesus did not emerge from that grave, then he could not bring anyone else from the grave.

Do we really know the reality of this Scriptural truth: that Jesus' body died, and it was His body that was raised again!

Pray this Easter that the Risen Jesus shows Himself to you afresh, or for the first time, and then the following hymn 'I serve a Risen Saviour' and its refrain will be a reality:

*'He lives, He lives,  
Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me  
along life's narrow way.  
He lives, He lives,  
Salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know he lives?  
He lives within my heart'*

With every blessing for a Happy and Holy Easter.  
*PETER.*

**Delting 2008 - Together.** Diocese of Rochester Conference. This is a weekend organised by the Diocese of Rochester to be held over **Saturday and Sunday 21st/22nd June at the County showground at Detling.** Admission is free but tickets need to be obtained. Details of how to obtain tickets will be given very soon. In the meanwhile note that the event will be held from 10 am to 5.30pm on the Saturday and from 10 am on the Sunday, ending with the Petertide Ordination Service at 3.00pm. Fuller details are in this month's Rochester link and more details will follow in the coming months. PLEASE NOTE THE DATES NOW and perhaps we can make up a party! David

### **Alpha - - - Ever wondered what it's all about?**

Over 2 million people in the UK and 10 million worldwide have now attended an Alpha course, an opportunity to explore the meaning of life.

The London Express concluded that, "Alpha makes Christianity relevant to modern life."

Time Magazine wrote, "Many claim Alpha has changed their lives and appear genuinely happier for the experience."

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions, with a day away.

You now have the chance to experience an Alpha Course for yourself, as the churches of Coxheath Benefice are running one from this Spring, starting with the question "Christianity: Boring, Irrelevant, Untrue?" on Tuesday 15th April.

Everyone is welcome. There will be an evening meal provided and plenty of opportunity to discuss questions you have about faith and God.

So remember, Tuesday evenings from 15th April at the Coxheath Centre 7.15-9.15pm

Cost: Free but donations always welcome.

If you intend to come please tell Revd Ruth Bierbaum on 01622 743866. ruth@bierbaum.freeseve.co.uk