

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 <i>(but not the 3rd Thursday in the month)</i>	7.30pm	LOGOS Youth Group, <u>19 Westerhill Road, Coxheath</u> . 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

Items for June Parish News
By 14th May to Harold Pounds 745303
h.p.pounds@btinternet.com

together@Detling The Diocese of Rochester is planning a weekend of events on **21st and 22nd June** at the Kent County Showground, Detling. Over the weekend, we will be thinking about what it means to be One People with One Purpose and One Passion. Throughout the weekend there will be a programme of activities suitable for all ages. Saturday (10am to 8pm) will finish with a big bang, with music, dancing, a hog roast and more! Sunday's events(10am to 5pm) will culminate in the Petertide Ordination Service, to which all are invited. Admission is free but you need to wear an official wristband. If you plan to go, ring David on 741474 to obtain the appropriate band for the day you wish to attend.

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St Nicholas Parish News
Issue 64 May 2008

Dear fellow readers,

I'm just back from Butlins at Minehead having attended Spring Harvest, a Christian Conference held now for 30 years and attended by about 30,000 people over a 3 week period each year at Skegness and Minehead. Six days of teaching, worship and holiday all rolled into one.

For that short period the events of the world are blotted out. Interest rates, murders, election swindles or corruptions are no longer part of life. No more thoughts about the mundane matters that take over our thinking and our lives. (Fortunately, some important news does slip in over the fence, so we heard of the success of Cardiff, Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester United!). We are taken out of our everyday existences for a moment.

Arriving back home to the real world, the first news on Breakfast TV was of the proposed ban by Southwark Cathedral of the hymn, Jerusalem by William Blake, being sung in the cathedral. It had, in the words of the spokesman, become words more associated with the Last Night of the Proms, football, national events and, of course, the anthem of the Women's Institute. It had lost its focus on the praise of God, so was not a hymn.

Our theme this year at Spring Harvest was Hope. Hope is a strange word, for in everyday usage it can focus on a 'wishful thinking' kind of hope. The hope comes without any real concrete evidence to suggest the outcome will be as we would like or wish. We use expressions such as 'hope is fading....', 'we hope a drug or an operation will....', or 'we hope for better weather....' etc., meaning that we are not certain of the outcome. We buy Lottery tickets in the 'hope' that they will win.

David's letter continues inside.....

Childrens Society Boxes - Please let Jean Avery have the boxes as soon as possible or phone her on 747571 to arrange collection.

Centre Pages: Maidstone Bible Convention; Maidstone Symphony Orchestra; 5 P Mens Group; A Quiet Time.

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; together@Detling

Services in Linton Church in May

Sunday	4 th May	9.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday	11 th May	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		11.00am	Family Service
Sunday	18 th May	9.15am	Holy Communion

David's letter continued from previous page

Yet, hope, when used in the Bible is never used in the 'wishful thinking', sense. Such hope is not built on the right conditions, nor on the prevailing circumstances being right, nor what man possesses, what he can do for himself or others can do for him. We perhaps don't think of the word hope being used in terms of certainty, expectation, reliance or trust. That hope, expressed in the Bible, is based on faith in God, in a God who sent his Son Jesus into the world to be the Saviour of that world; not a 'wishful thinking' hope but on the sure hope found in Christ Jesus.

Blake's great hymn is a hymn, in my book, because it speaks of that sure hope that comes from Jesus, the Lamb of God, coming to a world lost in human values and forever seeking happiness in the things of little lasting worth. What Blake called for is a world in which the values of the New Jerusalem would flourish based upon God's certain values of social justice and freedom.

I hope the hairs on the back of your neck rise each time you sing Jerusalem as you 'hope' for the certainty of the life based in Jesus Christ, knowing that in all your joys and sorrows, in all your pain and grief, Jesus walks with you on your journey.

David

Maidstone Bible Convention - Monday 12th to Thursday 15th May at Maidstone Baptist Church, Knight rider Street. The theme this year is 'Living in Hope' and the speaker on Monday and Tuesday evenings is Richard Bewes, past Rector at All Souls, Langham Place and on Wednesday and Thursday evenings Graham Cray, Bishop of Maidstone. Any queries - email maidstonebc@gmail.com

Concert - Maidstone Symphony Orchestra
 Conductor, Brian Wright. Saturday 17th May 7.30pm
 Maidstone Leisure Centre Mote Park. Three works -
 Walton - Spiffire Prelude and Fugue; Tchaikovsky -
 Piano Concerto No. 1 Soloist: Ronan O'Hora; and
 Shostakovich - Symphony No. 10. Tickets from £10
 to £20, children/ students £5 from Membership
 Secretaries 736392 or Leisure Centre 0845
 1552277.

5 P Mens Group

The group meets regularly throughout the year and is run from Holy Trinity Coxheath for all the churches in the Benefice i.e. Coxheath, East Farleigh, West Farleigh, Hunton and Linton. Men of all ages are eligible and we aim to provide fellowship within a Christian context through a variety of social activities. All are welcome so why not join us for some or all of our events. Please invite your friends/ neighbours.

More details for each event will follow nearer the time. Meantime please book the dates in your diary if you are interested.

Date	Event	Venue
Saturday 17th May	Men's Breakfast with Guest Speaker Brigadier Ian Dobbie RE.	Hunton Village Hall West St. 8am to 9.45am
Monday 2nd June	Visit to William Harvey Hospital, Ashford 7 pm (a look at how a major hospital functions)	White House Pub West Farleigh 7.30pm
Monday 21st July	Petanque Night	The Bull Pub East Farleigh 7.30pm
August	No meeting	The Bull Pub East Farleigh 7.30pm
Thursday 18th September	Pub Talk- Guest speaker Don Ellis HM Coastguard	The Bull Pub East Farleigh 7.30pm
Saturday 18th October	Planned visit to local attraction TBA (Open to ladies too)	The Bull Pub East Farleigh 7.30pm
Thursday 13th November	Pub Talk- Guest Speaker (TBA)	
December	No meeting	

For details about any of the events or to find out more about the 5 Parishes Mens Group please contact - Mike Marsh Tel 01622 74570 or 07734 336339 or email mlmarsh@talktalk.net

Stop in the Name of God: Find some stillness today --- a time for rest, reflection and renewal, led by Margaret Palladino.

Where? Linton Church

When? Saturday 2nd June 2008 10.30am - 4.30pm

What shall I bring? A packed lunch! (tea, coffee and juice will be available throughout the day) also bring a bible, notebook and pencil + art materials if you use them.

How much will it cost? We suggest a £7 donation towards expenses - but we do not wish anyone to be excluded because of cost.

Booking? To reserve your place or for more information contact Cilla McKenzie by 18th June: Tel 01622 741318. Please advise of special needs when booking as facilities are limited.

An initiative of The Retreat Association & Churches together in England

Please note that this event is not to be confused with the Diocesan event at Detling that takes place on the same day.