

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

Every Monday Except Bank Holidays	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 June Parish News by
14th May to Harold Pounds
745303
h.p.pounds@btinternet.com

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Brian Wright, Saturday 14th May at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre. The programme consists of two works, Schumann - Concertstuck for 4 horns, soloists Laurence Rogers, John Thurgood, Peter Hatfield, and Derek Parkins; and Mahler's Symphony No. 5.

Tickets £14, £18 and £22. Full time students £5. 18s and under free. Tel 736392 or Maidstone Leisure Centre 08451 552277. Also on www.mso.org.uk, using the booking form on the 'Performance' page.



St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 100 May 2011

Services in Linton Church in May

Sunday	1 st May	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	8 th May	9.30am	Family Service +Baptism
Sunday	15 th May	8.00am	Holy Communion 1662
Sunday	22 nd May	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	29 th May	10.30am	Benefice Service: Holy Communion

Church Cream Teas

"What a joy it was to see so many people in our church..". Paul and Kath Cooper wish to thank everyone who helped at the Cream Teas in St Nicholas Church on Saturday 3rd April. They are pleased to say that a total of £358 was made for church funds, which is a record for the Spring cream teas.

Don't forget, Linton Walks move to a 7pm start - 10th May onwards

Saturday 30th April 2-4pm Linton Church open to visitors every Saturday and Wednesday until the end of September
Thursday 5th May Local Elections and Referendum

Friends of Linton Church AGM Tuesday 3rd May 7.30pm in the Church. You are warmly invited to attend and hear the plans for the coming year; hear of activities in 2010 and how a record amount of money was earned and a record amount was spent; look around the church and meet the committee and supporters over a glass of wine; but, most of all, to show your support for this worthy cause.

Freighter Service - Saturday 7th May 13.40 to 14.20hrs at the junction of Wheelers Lane and Cornwallis Avenue. for disposal of certain refuse items. Garden waste, very bulky items, electrical items and items of hazardous waste cannot be accepted. Instead, take them to the recycling Centre at Tovil

Centre Pages: David's Letter; Church Open to Visitors; Linton 'Beating the Bounds'

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Dear folks

Although this is the letter for May, I feel that the last few weeks of April contain days that may be uppermost in our minds and especially the last two Fridays. Both could be called 'Good Friday' for both say such a great deal about important relationships. The first, the relationship between God and humanity and the second the relationship that God gave for humanity.

Relationship is at the heart of our being. How we relate to the world God created and our relationships with the rest of the living world influence our view on life. We all are reminded of God's love in the commandments and in the events of Easter and in particular in Good Friday when he showed that ultimate example of love in giving to us his Son Jesus Christ to die for us.

In these last weeks our television screen was filled with the greatest of example of love between two people in the marriage of Prince William and Catherine Middleton. Yet that outward sign of love is changing. Marriage, either in church or other places, is on the decline. Since the 1960's the number of marriages has been on a steady decline so that there are now a third less marriages in this country compared with the 1960's. Divorce is increasing and, whilst I am no advocate of unhappy marriages continuing, it is perhaps a sign that people are searching for love and maybe not finding that the love they search for is the love they expected.

My daughter gets married in July in Canada, to a chap she's known and been living with for many years. Whilst neither family will be attending the wedding, everyone is delighted that at long last they are making that public step of marriage to celebrate their love for each other and we wish them both well. The fact that no one from the families will be present is sad but a sign, I hope, that whilst the day of the wedding is important, it is their marriage that is more so. We are all looking forward to the day in 2012 when they return to England and there will be a great family celebration.

True love is about 'giving and receiving', but so many see it only in terms of 'receiving'. God 'gave' so that we might 'receive'. He gave us His Son so that we might have Life in all its fullness and we need to accept that to truly understand and receive love. So, as the summer days arrive in May and life moves into a brighter phase with the new growth and the colour of May, I hope we all look at our relationships and give thanks for the joys that we can experience when they work well and, if they are going through a 'rocky' stage, work to put them right.
David

Congratulations to Harold Pounds on publishing issue 100 of the Parish News!

Come and visit St. Nicholas Church Linton

Following the successful arrangement in 2010, St Nicholas Church will again be open to visitors every Saturday and Wednesday from Easter Saturday 30th April until end of September from 2-4pm.. Note that the Easter flower decorations will still be fresh to be admired and enjoyed. Last year many different people enjoyed a visit to the Church; walking groups after refreshments at The Bull Inn; people visiting friends or relatives locally; those visiting graves in the churchyard; some having a day out from London; and people living or working in Linton. You may not attend church on Sundays but might still appreciate the sense of quiet and peace to be found in St Nicholas. A sense that this building has been part of this community for a thousand years, where people have shared sorrows and joys and marked special occasions in their lives. So whether you enjoy visiting historical places, need a quiet place to reflect and contemplate, would like to have somewhere special to pray to God in whatever your tradition, or just to come and enjoy some refreshment and chat, that is what this Church is here for and we welcome you. More information from Kath Cooper 01622 741494
email: cooperkathryn@btopenworld.com
Church website: <http://lintonkent.org/church>

Rogation Sunday 29th May - Linton Boundary Walk Church Car Park 10.30am

In England the custom of 'beating the bounds' is as old as Anglo-Saxon days and is held on Rogation Sunday, the fifth Sunday after Easter. The term 'Rogation' refers to the practice of the clergy beseeching (rogare) the divine blessing upon the parish lands for the ensuing harvest. The beating of the bounds on Rogation Sunday took place so that evidence of the boundaries of parishes might be preserved. Although modern surveying techniques make the ceremony obsolete in any practical sense, many English parishes still carry out a regular beating of the bounds as a way of strengthening the community and giving it a sense of place. In Linton, the practice lapsed but in 2004 it was revived by Jerry Whitmarsh, Chairman of the Friends of Linton Church and has taken place each year since then. The practice has many attractive elements - notably, it brings together the secular and religious elements of the Linton community: it focuses on nature, on "nature's bounty" and on the seasons. It shows the participants the beauty of their Parish, its landscapes and its glorious views; it teaches a little about history and local tradition, and Linton history in particular; and last but by no means least, it is a lot of fun to take part and those who do have a wonderful time. Refreshments in the Bull Inn after the walk. The walk is about 7.5 miles long, partly on public paths and partly on private land not normally available. There will also be a break around half way at the Stile Bridge Inn, where food and drinks are available. Suitable clothing and footwear are recommended, according to the weather. Sorry, not really suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs. More information from the Linton website: <http://linton.org/boundarywalk>, or from FOLC@jerrywhitmarsh.com.