

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

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| Every Monday | 4.20 for 4.30pm | Wellsprings silent prayer – The Vestry, St. Nicholas Linton. Details from Cilla 741318 |
| Every Thursday | 1.30 to 3pm | 'PSST'- Fellowship and Bible study. For weekly venue, phone Becky 07949 646865 |
| First and Third Wednesdays in the month | 7.30pm | The Next Step – fellowship group open to all. Bible Study, Prayer, Worship and Friendship. Venue varies, so call Becky 07949 646865 |
| Every last Wednesday in the month | 12 noon | A said Communion Service at St. Nicholas, Linton. |
| Every Thursday | 10am | Holy Communion (1662) Holy Trinity, Coxheath |
| | 1.30 to 3pm | "Up and Running" Toddler Group, Holy Trinity, Coxheath. Contact David 741474 for details |
| Every Saturday | 10am to 11am | Meeting for prayer and short Bible Study. Details from Peter 747570 |

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

Churches Together in Maidstone – Forum – On Wednesday 8th July the Forum meeting will be addressed by the Rev Stuart Piper, the lead chaplain at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Hospital – venue to be arranged.

Rochester Cathedral presents The Kent Police Male Voice Choir in Concert with Dan Soper at the organ. **Saturday 16th May 7.30pm.** Tickets £8 from Rochester Cathedral 01634 843366.

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St Nicholas Parish News Issue 76 May 2009

Hi

Easter is over for another year and spring well established although those of us who live on top of the hill know that the cold winds still blow until the end of this month. Good Friday the time to plant potatoes, but the late Spring Bank Holiday to put out the bedding plants!

Well what did we make of Easter? Easter is the greatest Christian Festival and the only day now in the year when the big shops and Garden Centres have to close. We really are 'spoil sports' aren't we as Christians? We only ask for one day out of 365 and the commercial life of the country moans!

But why should we still ask for our 'one' day? St Paul, writing to the church in Corinth says, 'By this Gospel we are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.' What is that Gospel that Paul preached? He thought it was of first importance to tell people 'That Jesus died for our sins, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day and that he appeared...' Very simple really and I believe well worth stopping for 'one day' to think about what that means for each one of us. You see, the disciples after they had seen Jesus die were, we read, 'together with the doors locked for fear'. For them the world had come to an end. Fear is surely the one thing that is at the heart of all of us and can stop us living our lives to the full.

David's letter continues inside...

Please look out for the leaflet accompanying this "News" about tickets for the **Garden Gala on Sunday 7th June 2009**. Further information from Paul and Kath Cooper – 01622 741494 or email – cooperkathryn@btopenworld.com

Centre Pages: Maidstone Music and Dance Festival; Canon Gordon Oliver; Vigo Singers; MSO Concert; Linton Walks; Beating the Bounds; Strawberry Cream Teas.

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Churches Together in Maidstone; Kent Police Choir.

Services in Linton Church in May

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|--------|------------------|-----|---------|-----------------------|
| Sunday | 3 rd | May | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday | 10 th | May | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday | 17 th | May | 8.00am | Holy Communion (1662) |
| | | | 11.00am | Family Service |

Thursday 21st May Ascension Day 7.30pm Holy Communion E. Farleigh

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|--------|------------------|-----|---------|------------------|
| Sunday | 24 th | May | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday | 31 st | May | 10.30am | Benefice Service |

David's letter continued from previous page

The present situation in the world is that people are frozen with fear. The fear of losing their job, of pensioners losing their savings and hence their pensions, the fear of buying things in case we find that that money is tighter in the future, the fear of not being able to afford a holiday. If we ourselves are not fearful, we can be for our children and grandchildren as they face a future of uncertainty. But Easter was not simply about Jesus dying, being buried, rising again but also about 'appearing.' We live in this time after Easter in a world liberated from fear. Yes, the present fears are very real but they ought not to 'freeze' us with fear. The great promise of Easter, and now as we approach the Ascension of Jesus, is that through the power of Jesus' ever present presence with us through his Holy Spirit, we can live as people who can call upon him to seek comfort and support in the situations we find ourselves facing knowing that the world is in good hands or, better still, in God's hands. Jesus left his disciples, and so us, with these words 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' May the days ahead fill you with God's peace as we face what lies ahead in our lives.

David

A former pupil of Maidstone Girls Grammar School, **Rachel Lloyd**, who has regularly sung at Glyndebourne Festival Opera, is one of two soloists in Kent's premiere performance of **Karl Jenkins Stabat Mater at Maidstone Leisure Centre on Saturday 13th June** with Maldstone Singers and the Festival Choir. The Gala Concert, in aid of Heart of Kent Hospice, opens the 17th **International Maidstone Music and Dance Festival**. The other soloist is the new musical director of Maidstone Choral Union, **Martin Hindmarsh** tenor. The evening also features **Benjamin Britten's Saint Nicholas** with a 150-strong choir formed of students from Maidstone Grammar School, Maidstone Girls Grammar School, Invicta Grammar School and St Simon Stock RC School with Maidstone Youth Singers. Tickets now on sale at Sharon Music, Maidstone High Street 761407 at £15, £12, £10, and £8.

Away Day

Rev'd Canon

Gordon Oliver, Diocesan Director of Training, will be coming to the United Benefice on **Saturday 30th May** to lead an 'Away Day'. (9.30am-3.30pm)

The purpose is to work out a vision for the future of the parishes. This is an opportunity for all parishioners to voice their hopes, aspirations and vision for the future as we seek the way forward.

Tea/Coffee provided – please bring packed lunch.

Further details from Rev'd Peter Walker 747570

The **Vigo Singers**, an all female choir based in Vigo Village near Meopham, are inviting applications for the post of **musical director** effective from September 2009. For further information contact Linda King 01474 705519 or Judy Yallop 01732 823213. Job description at www.vigosingers.org.uk

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra concert Saturday 23rd May 7.30pm Mote Hall Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park. Bernstein, Barber, Saint-Saens, Faure', and Ravel. Conductor, Brian Wright; Violin soloist Ulf Hoelscher. Tickets £12, £16, £21, children and student cards £5. Tel 736392 or Box Office 0845 1552277

Friends of Linton Church -

Linton Walks - These involve a not-too-challenging 3-4 mile ramble in Linton or the surrounding area, some on public and some on private land and usually ending somewhere near a pub! Good for fresh air and exercise and finding out more about the beautiful countryside that we live in, as well as being social occasions in themselves. The walks start from Linton Church car park at 6pm (7pm from 12th May). Just come along, or phone David Sendles on 745612 for more details. Donation £1 each. Dogs also very welcome.

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The Friends also arrange longer walks that take place on the first Sunday in every month. These are between 6 and 8 miles long with a pub stop half way. Lifts available, if needed. Contact Jerry Whitmarsh on 747572 or see <http://lintonkent.org/walks>

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"Beating the Bounds" Walk - This will take place on Rogation Sunday **17th May Starting at 10.30am**. An enjoyable walk of between 7 and 8 miles, it passes along the Greensand Way, down through private apple orchards to the River Beault and then follows the river along beyond the Style Bridge before climbing back up the Greensand Way and through Linton Park to the Church. Part of the walk crosses private land not normally open to the public. There will be a stop at Style Bridge, near the halfway point, where refreshments can be obtained. There is no charge, but a £5 donation is requested. More details from David Sendles 01622 745612. Prizes for the oldest and the youngest to complete the walk and a refreshing visit to the Bull Inn afterwards...

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Strawberry Cream Teas 2.30 - 5.30pm Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July 2009. Yet another record success last year! Come along to this popular and well-supported event and have a strawberry Cream Tea with scones or cake, biscuits, tea, coffee etc. Sit outside and enjoy the view or wander round the church and churchyard at your leisure. View an ever-expanding exhibition of paintings, sculpture and artefacts by local artists. Last year's successful plant stall will also feature again.