

**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 Cilia 741318
Every Wednesday	1.30 to 3pm	'PSS'T' - Fellowship and Bible study. For weekly venue, phone Emma 741874
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 Jean 726248
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	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 December Parish  
News  
By 14<sup>th</sup> November to Harold  
Pounds 745303  
[h.p.pounds@btinternet.com](mailto:h.p.pounds@btinternet.com)

'Dreaming of a Holy Night' Tour: Graham Kendrick, the well known Christian song writer and composer, will be in concert at All Saints Church, Mill Street, Maidstone on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December starting at 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm). Tickets £10, including mulled wine and mince pies, from David Jones 741474 or the Box Office, Union Street Methodist Church – weekdays 9am to 12 noon or email [info@hope08maidstone.co.uk](mailto:info@hope08maidstone.co.uk)

Reminder: This year's Yuletiders Christmas Lunch for the Over 60s is on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December in Linton Village Hall.

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**St Nicholas Parish News**  
Issue 70 November 2008

Dear Friends,  
***God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself (2 Cor 5:19)***  
***'Without vision the people perish' (Proverbs 29:18)***

You know the saying, "You wait for the bus which never seems to come, and then three come along at once". I have just attended two conferences within the space of two weeks.

The first was actually a retreat for the clergy of the Malling Deanery. It was organised by our Rural Dean, Jim Brown of East Malling. The retreat was led by Bishop Brian and the venue was a retreat house about one hour's journey from Calais. Four cars transported the twelve clergy to Dover and thence to the ferry for the 75 minute crossing. Bishop Brian gave us a number of talks on the subject of 'reconciliation'. His Lent book on this subject is being published in late November. One phrase which stuck with me was: 'when one fails to forgive another, it imprisons both the unforgiven person and you'. It reminded me of something similar I learnt a long time ago: 'to be unforgiving towards another is as if one locks that person in prison and throws away the key'. The Scriptures tell us: 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself'. Again, Jesus tells us to be reconciled one to another.

It's often a hard lesson to learn and carry out! We need to seek God's grace to be our help in all such times. *Peter's letter continues inside...*

Centre Pages: Letter from Ruth; Marriage locations; Angel/Star; Warning - Parcel Scam.  
Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Dreaming of a Holy Night; Yuletiders.

The Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at St Nicholas Linton raised the magnificent sum of £583.21. Many thanks to everyone who helped and supported this worthwhile cause.

The Friends of Linton Church have led some delightful walks throughout the Spring and Summer and raised about £500 from the £1 a head donation. Sincere thanks to the Friends for the money they raise to keep our building in such good order.

**Services in Linton Church in November**

Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> November	9.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> November	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		10.00am	Remembrance Sunday
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup> November	9.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup> November	9.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am	Benefice Service – East Farleigh

*Peter's letter continued from previous page*

A week later another ship came along - it was the 'Black Prince' sailing from Liverpool to Dublin. It was the occasion of the Annual Conference of CVM (Christian Vision for Men). This was an opportunity for some of our '5P Men's group' in the United Benefice to attend. Six of us hurtled up the motorway in a hired people-carrier to board the ship and enjoy two days of excellent teaching, worship and fellowship. There was also the opportunity to visit the city of Dublin. 'Band of Brothers' was the theme and it was certainly that as some 300 men came together.

The vision that had its beginnings 15 years ago with Max Sinclair (who lives near Sevenoaks) has as its goal 'to win the men of this country for Christ'. It seems an impossible vision, but over the years many have come to know the Lord Jesus as a reality through this organisation's passion. The 5P group affiliated to CVM earlier this year and we are grateful to Mike Marsh of Coxheath for heading up this and organising events throughout the year to bring men together.

There is a statistic that brings home to us the need for men to come to faith. That is, that if a man comes to Christ there is near a 90% probability to bring his family to Jesus than any other member of that family. The Harvest is indeed ripe!

Speak to me or Mike Marsh (745702) about outreach to the men of our parishes. Also have a look at the website: [www.cvmen.org.uk](http://www.cvmen.org.uk)

Two mighty themes for our thoughts and prayers this month. Reconciliation and Vision.  
With my prayers, Peter

### A letter from Ruth

Dear All,

In these last days before I take up my new post, I am able to find some space, at last, to express my long overdue 'thank you's' to you.

Since July 7<sup>th</sup> life has been what I like to call 'interesting'. What with learning car gymnastics and the subsequent operations on my right hand and arm, moving home and saying goodbye to many friends, my 3 months off sick have been somewhat frantic! Now, as I start as a mental health-care chaplain on 13<sup>th</sup> October, my rather ironic hope is that things might find a new 'normal'.

But back to the purpose of my writing: 'Thank you!'

Thank you for your prayers around my hand, health and home. I know they have made an absolute difference and all three are as good as they could possibly be. The doctors at East Grinstead continue to be very impressed by my progress.

Thank you for all the cards and encouraging words you have sent me (I think I need an extension to display them all) And thank you for the gifts I received on leaving, including the cruciform arrangement of pictures of the 5 churches, and the very generous monetary gift. I have to tell you that this made, again, a very real difference as, put together with a special grant, I have now been able to purchase a car, a little, very red, 3 year old Kia Picanto. Praise God also that I am able to drive, even a manual, and have no horrible flashbacks or phobias.

This is really about Christ's power to heal, rather than any bravery on my part.

God has been faithful throughout this difficult time - alongside me. 'Come near to God and He will come near to you' is the promise found in James 4:8, and one that I have found to be true. May you also know the strength and peace of the presence of Christ alongside, in all the interesting episodes of your lives.

With love, RUTH.

### 'I'm getting married in the morning' but where?

The Church of England has decided, from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008, to widen the choice of places in which couples can marry. The decision does not affect the existing rights of parishioners. A couple continue to have the right to be married in the parish church of a parish where one or both of them are resident or are entered on the electoral roll.

The object of the Measure is to grant couples the same right to marry in the parish church of a parish with which one or both of them can demonstrate a "qualifying connection" of a kind specified in the new legislation as a person resident in the parish would have.

A person has a Qualifying Connection with a parish if: **that person:**

was baptised in the parish; or

had his or her confirmation entered in a church register book of a church or chapel in the parish; or

has at any time had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or

at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

**or a Parent of that person has at any time during that person's lifetime:**

had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or

has habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months

**or a Parent or Grandparent of that person was married in the parish.**

**If you are considering marriage in any of the churches in the benefice please contact the Rector - Rev Peter Walker 01622 747570 for clarification of this new arrangement.**

**'Be an angel this year and/or a star?'** - Last year I sold 150 illuminated stars for Christmas in Coxheath and nearby. The stars are about 60cm high can be used outdoors and have a 3m cable with mains plug. They are weatherproof, only get slightly warm and consume a small amount of current. I am selling the stars again this year at £15 each but all of the members of churches in Maidstone are being encouraged to display Angels which cost £35 each. These are 70cm high and come with the same features as stars. Contact David 741474 if you wish to support this outward sign of the Christmas Message.

### Parcel scam warning confirmed by Royal Mail and Trading Standards Office:-

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.