

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	Ladies Prayer Time – All welcome (Details from Eileen 01622 204241)

The Rector: Rev'd Peter Walker
747570 - Marriages,
Thanksgivings and Baptisms (Not
available Mondays)
Rev'd David Jones - 741474 (Not
available Fridays)
Deacon - Rev'd Eileen Doyle

Churchwardens
Mr Roger Bettle 743278
Mr John McKenzie 741318
Items for December Parish
News by 14th November to
Harold Pounds 745303
h.p.pounds@btinternet.com

Saturday 19th November at 7.30pm - Concert by "The Straight Eight" in St. Nicholas Church. Tickets £6 from Kath Cooper 741494 or Jean Avery 747571. (See separate flyer)

St Nicholas Church Clock You may have noticed that the ancient clock on the Church Tower, which dates from the 17th century, has not been working properly for a while and is now set to 12 o'clock. Well, keep an eye on it, because repairs are about to be undertaken – repairers will remove the hands from the front of the clock from a bosun's chair!



St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 106 November 2011

Services in Linton Church in November

Sunday 6 th	November 9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th	November 10.00am	Service of Remembrance
Sunday 20 th	November 8.00am	Holy Communion 1662
<i>Sunday 20th</i>	<i>November 3.00pm</i>	<i>Annual Bereavement Service</i> <i>Hunton</i>
Sunday 27 th	November 9.30am	Holy Communion and 150 th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Parish Church
<i>Sunday 27th</i>	<i>November 3.30pm</i>	<i>Hospice Service (details tba)</i>

150th Anniversary

Can you imagine the village of Linton without the imposing tower of St Nicholas Church which is visible for many miles? On 4th August 1861 an article in the "*Kentish Express*" reported on the celebrations which had taken place the weekend before for the reopening of the parish church. "During the past year this church, which forms so conspicuous an object in the landscape, has been undergoing a complete restoration, nearly the whole having been rebuilt, considerably enlarged and beautified." Before the restoration "the tower was a rude and plain structure" but a new splendid tower with a stone spire was built as part of the works as we see it today. The restoration was financed by the Ladies Elizabeth and Louisa Cornwallis of Linton Park who were described as "benevolent and beloved".

On **Sunday 27th November** this year, 150 years after the reopening, we shall be remembering the work that was carried out then to give us the church we know today. Special guests at the **Anniversary service at 9.30am** will be the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, the Venerable Clive Mansell and the Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr. Brian Mortimer.

There has been much research going on to gather together an exhibition of historic information, including the *Kentish Express* article, which was found in the depths of the archives of the Centre for Kentish Studies, and copies of pictures of the Ladies Cornwallis which are in the National Portrait Gallery will be displayed in the church with many other fascinating artefacts. The Church will be open all day for visitors to see the exhibition.

Do come along to the service at 9.30am (all are very welcome), stay for refreshments afterwards, or come later in the day to view the exhibition.

Centre Pages: David's Letter; Talk by Bishop James; Yuletiders' Lunch; Harvest Lunch and Flowers; Pastoral Care; Church Trail; E. Farleigh Farmers' Market; M.S.O.

Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; Concert "The Straight Eight"; St Nicholas Church Clock.

Hi All
 With Christmas approaching, my next task is to write the Family Christmas Letter - you know the one, the one nobody likes to admit they read. Well we always kept the letters we received at Christmas over the years from family and friends and Anne used to file them in used A4 envelopes clearly marked with 'Christmas and the year,' I was going through the box that they are all filed in and came across another envelope with 'Interesting Things' written on the outside. Curiosity got the better of me and a very pleasant hour was spent reading the collection. One in particular I thought might interest and challenge you. So I am reprinting it and acknowledge its source is unknown as it is in Anne's handwriting with no acknowledgement. It is called:

The Devil's Beatitudes

- Blessed are those who are tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour or so once a week in Church with their fellow Christians - they are the best workers.
- Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked - I can use them.
- Blessed are the touchy - with a bit of luck they may stop going to church for they are my missionaries.
- Blessed are those who are very religious but get on everyone's nerves - they are mine forever.
- Blessed are the troublemakers - they shall be called my children.
- Blessed are those who have no time to pray or read the Bible - they are easy prey for me.
- Blessed are the complainers - I'm all ears for them.
- Blessed are you when you read this and think it's about other people and not you - I've got you!

If you want to read Christ's beatitudes then read St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 5

Keep smiling! Yours, David

Saturday 29th October in the Crypt, Rochester Cathedral. Bishop James will offer "Reflections on men and women in ministry together". 9.30am Said Eucharist; 10am Coffee; 10.30am Bishop James and questions/discussion; 12 noon depart. All are welcome.

Harvest What a super Harvest Meal we enjoyed on Sunday 9th October. I'm sure all those who attended will agree with me in offering grateful thanks to all the people who worked so hard to make everything so enjoyable. Top of the list Head Cook, Margaret Waller, ably assisted by the couples Avery, Cooper, Sendles and Whitmarsh and Son - not forgetting the pies and crumbles donated by several parishioners. Time spent with our St. Nicholas family over a pleasant meal is so precious. Also may I offer a personal thank you for the beautiful flower arrangements in our lovely church? This year we are fortunate to have three new arrangers, Wendy Griffiths, Sherry Giles and Pam Hayward. Watch this space! Sheila Mac.

Pastoral Care Do you know someone who is going through a tough time right now and who would benefit from some pastoral care? Did you know that we have a Pastoral Care Team for our Benefice that you could refer them to? The Pastoral Care Team is authorised by the Rector to support those in need, by generously giving of their time, prayerfully listening, practical help, and offering prayer. The aim is to share the love of Christ, the redemptive power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God, with those who are members of our churches and also people from the wider community, who are suffering or otherwise in need, as an expression of the Churches pastoral care. You can make a referral by calling one of the numbers below and giving the name address and phone number of the person to be visited. Please make sure that anyone you refer has given their consent.

For Linton call Rev. 'Cilla McKenzie 01622741318
 For East Farleigh call Pat Wilmshurst 01622 728241. For Coxheath call Marion Simpson 01622 743977
 Or call Pastoral Assistant Judith Barnes 01622 747934

On Thursday 13th October, 12 children from the Benefice 'Seekers' Group spent an hour in St Nicholas Church completely absorbed in following the new Church Trail. This will be officially launched at the Anniversary Service on 27 November (see front page) and for the rest of that day, children of all ages will be able to explore. The Trail is a double sided illustrated A4 sheet with questions guiding the visitor round in order to find all sorts of items of interest and curiosity. There is an answer sheet, too!

East Farleigh Farmers' Market Sunday 6th November 9am to 12noon in the Bull car park. Produce includes a variety of prepared food, seasonal game, sausages, English and French cheeses, cold meats, bread and cakes, fresh local juice, preserves and honey, and sweets and chocolates. All stall fees are donated to charity. sue@suemorris.plus.co

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra – Conductor Brian Wright. Saturday 3rd December at Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park. Brahms – Variations on a theme by Haydn; Mozart – Clarinet Concerto, Soloist David Campbell; Dvorak – Symphony No 5. Tickets £10, £19, and £23. Students £5, 18s and under Free. Tel 735830 or Leisure Centre 0845 1552277 Also www.mso.org.uk using the booking form

Reminder: **The Yuletiders' Christmas Lunch** will be on Monday 12th December in Linton Village Hall, meeting at 12.30pm for lunch at 1pm.