

**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	1.30 to 3pm	'PSST' - 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 November Parish News  
By 14<sup>th</sup> October to Harold Pounds 745303  
[h.p.pounds@btinternet.com](mailto:h.p.pounds@btinternet.com)

**Wednesday 10th December:** **Graham Kendrick's 'Dreaming of a Holy Night' Tour** comes to All Saints Church, Maidstone! 7.30 pm, ticket price £10 including mulled wine/apple juice and mince pies. What more could you ask for at Christmas? Details to follow but why not consider buying a ticket for a friend as a Christmas present!

Calling All Yuletiders! This year the Yuletiders' Christmas Lunch for the Over 60s is on Tuesday 2nd December in Linton Village Hall. If you know of anyone in Linton (among your old friends or new neighbours) who has now reached the magic age of 60 and would like an invitation, please contact Jane Sawyer 746659 or Mary Price 741597.

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**St Nicholas Parish News**  
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Dear Fellow readers

Please excuse me if my letter is in many ways personal. When I wrote the July letter, Anne, my wife was still alive, and although her health was declining none of us knew that that she would die within days. Life has changed. An understatement in so many ways and it is hard to come to terms with that change. I know that I am neither the first nor the last to experience the change that the death of a loved one brings about. Over these last weeks I have been surrounded by so much love, love in the many cards and letters, love in the words that have been said about Anne, love in the concern for myself and family, and that has been a great help and support and I am grateful for all that love.

So where does faith help? I believe our faith is in a loving God who walks with us through the events of life. We don't escape those events as Christians. It is not about an 'insurance policy' against what life throws at us. It's not like a lucky charm. I feel that at times the Christian faith can be portrayed in that manner. So often I hear people speaking about miracles in terms of a cure or escaping the consequences of events. My faith allows me to know that Jesus Christ walks with me through those dark moments of doubt and anguish in offering me his comfort and knowing his presence in my journey.  
*David's letter continues inside.....*

**Grateful thanks:**

*Ken Sussums and family would like to thank everyone for their kindness, thoughts and prayers following the death of his wife, Brenda, on 27<sup>th</sup> August.  
May she rest in peace.*

Centre Pages: Linton Garden Gala; Dance - 'Rockaholics'; Yeshua Messiah; M.S.O. Concert  
Back Page: Regular Events; Who's Who; 'Dreaming of a Holy Night'; Yuletiders

**Services in Linton Church in October**

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	9.15am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Baptism
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
	11.00am	Harvest Service
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	9.15am	Holy Communion

Remember to put clocks back one hour on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

*David's letter continued from previous page*

But secondly my faith helps me because of Anne's faith and God's promise, recorded by the writer to the Hebrews, '(Jesus will) neither leave us nor forsake us' (Hebrews 13 v 5). I know that for Anne the years of meeting the challenges of her illness and the pain within her body are no more and that she is with her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Jesus said 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.' (John 10 v 10) Anne believed that and saw death in terms of the fullness, the completion of life.

Yes, the physical absence of the one we love does hurt and the sharing of life and things together isn't easy to accept and the emptiness is painful. Faith doesn't remove those human feelings but it can remove the fear of the future for both the one who dies and those who live on..

Anne was one for writing down her thoughts.. She wrote to try to put into words her thinking. These notes were seldom for reading; that is unless she wanted me to know something. After she died I came across her response to being told her condition was in its terminal stage. I finish with them and hope that you may understand why she could face with confidence her death and maybe help other readers face the future with confidence.

*"I do not expect to live until I am 70 but I want to live until I die. I am not dying...every day is a bonus! I hope to live until I die, not to be dying until I die."*

May you all know the presence of the living Lord in your lives.

David

P.S. On Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup> (the day after All Saints Day) at 3.00 p.m. at East Farleigh church there will be the annual service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for those who have died. All are very welcome to attend and to light a candle in memory of a relation or friend. Many people find this service helpful in their journey of coping with their loss. The preacher will be the Rev Stuart Piper, Lead Chaplain for the Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells Hospital Trust.

## Linton Garden Gala

There have been five garden galas in Linton, the most recent in 2003, which Colin and Beryl Mills organised so successfully. They have now handed the baton to us, which we have accepted with some trepidation and some excitement.

**We** hope that everyone in Linton will feel able to participate in some way. There will be all sorts of tasks to be done and the most important will be to invite people to come along on the day, namely, **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009.**

### Objective

To support the parish church of St Nicholas, Linton by raising funds.

To bring neighbours and friends in Linton together, working towards an event to show our village at its best.

To provide an enjoyable and interesting day for all our visitors.

### Garden details

There will be approximately 12 gardens open for viewing, and we are very grateful to the owners who have shown such enthusiasm for the project and for all of the planning and preparation that will be required.

Visitors will be able to purchase one ticket that will enable admission to all open gardens.

Detailed arrangements will be made in the Spring, but this is to give the general outline of the day which will be similar to previous Garden Galas.

Publicity. There will be extensive publicity in the press, on the web and locally by posters and in this monthly Parish News. A programme will be published with advertisements from local businesses and organisations.

If you would like any further information or wish to help in any way, please do contact us.

Paul & Kath Cooper, Forge Cottage, Linton Hill, Linton, Maidstone ME17 4AW - 01622 741494 -

Email: cooperkathryn@btopenworld.com

**Back by popular demand.** Come and dance to the music of the **Rockaholics** at the Linton Village Hall on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November** 7.30 to 11pm.

Tickets £10 and this includes a ploughman's supper! Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Further details and tickets from David Sendles 01622 745612 or Mike Brooker 01622 746067.

This event is in aid of the village hall funds. Last year's dance was very popular, so apply early to make sure of your tickets!

YESHUA MESSIAH" ([www.hopeintonbridge.org](http://www.hopeintonbridge.org))

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October Tonbridge Baptist Church

10<sup>th</sup> October Christchurch, Tunbridge Wells

11<sup>th</sup> October St Luke's Maidstone

1<sup>st</sup> November St Andrew's Paddock Wood

Free admission. All performances 8pm.

See details in last month's Linton News or ring 01732 364517

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra Concert, Conductor Brian Wright.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park Maidstone. Dukas - 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice'; Schumann - Piano Concerto, Soloist Llyr Williams; Vaughan Williams - 'Job' (A Masque for Dancing) inspired by William Blake's illustrations. Tickets £12, £16 and £21, children and students (student card) £5, from Membership Secretaries 736392 or Mote Hall box office 0845 1552277