

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

Tues	1 st Tuesday of the Month	6.45pm	Compline	E. Farleigh
Wed	Last Wednesday of the month	12 noon	Said Holy Communion (Light lunch soup/roll)	Linton
Thurs	Every week	10am	Holy Communion 1662	Coxheath
Sat	Quarterly (See notice sheets for details)	10am	Alternative Service	Coxheath
Last Tuesday in the month	10 – 11.30am	Coffee and chat at Holy Trinity, Coxheath (Contact Becky Parnham 07949 646865)		
First and third Wednesdays in the month	7.30 – 9pm	'The Next Step' – A group that meets for study and prayer. (Contact Anne Whybrow 749704)		
Every Thursday	1.30 – 3pm 3.30pm	'Up and Running' Toddler Group, Holy Trinity Coxheath (Contact Kate Till 746482 for details) 'Seekers' (6-11yrs) Holy Trinity, Coxheath. (Further information from Becky 07949 646865)		
Every Saturday	10 - 11am	Ladies Prayer Group – at the home of Pat Wilmshurst (East Farleigh). Leader, Eileen 204241		
Rector Rev'd Peter Callway 747570 (Not available Fridays)		Churchwardens Mr Roger Bettle 743278 Mr John McKenzie 741318		
Curate Rev'd Eileen Doyle – 204241		Items for October News By 15 th September to Harold Pounds 745303 h.p.pounds@btinternet.com		
Honorary Associate Rector Rev'd David Jones – 741474 (Not available Fridays) Rev'd 'Cilla McKenzie - 741318				

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, Conductor, Brian Wright, will perform on Saturday 11th October commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park. The programme consists of three works –Wagner – Overture, Tannhauser – Beethoven – Piano Concerto No 5 'Emperor' Soloist Tae-Hyung Kim – Tchaikovsky – Symphony No 1 'Winter Daydreams'. Tickets £10, £20, £25, full time students with a student card £5 01622 735830. These can be collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall. Bookings can also be taken on www.mso.org.uk using the booking form. Tickets for all children up to and including 18 years of age are free. MSO Registered Charity No. 287986

East Farleigh Farmers' Market will be held on Sunday 7th September from 9am to 12 noon. Make the most of the freshly picked seasonal fruit. Sue Morris 726164

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/linton-st-nicholas
and: <http://lintonkent.org/church>

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St Nicholas Parish News

Issue 140 September 2014

Services in Linton Church in September

Sunday	7 th September	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	14 th September	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday	21 st September	8.00am	Holy Communion 1662
Sunday	28 th September	9.30am	Holy Communion

Please note that there will be no more Wellsprings Contemplative Prayer meetings. (Previously held on Monday afternoons)

John and Rev. 'Cilla McKenzie. As many already know, John and 'Cilla are moving to Tenterden at the end of August and may already have moved by the time you receive this newsletter. John has been a churchwarden since 2006 and 'Cilla has been part of the ministry team for a number of years. We thank them for their service to St. Nicholas and wish them all the best in their new house.
Roger Bettle, Churchwarden

Saturday 13th September, 10am – 6pm The Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride. If you would like to do a sponsored ride or 'stroll' for this event, half the sponsor money goes to The Friends of Kent Churches and half is returned to your choice of church (hopefully St Nicholas). Sponsor forms are available from Paul and Kath Cooper (01622 741494). It is hoped to man the church from 10am – 6pm to receive cyclists, walkers or any other visitors. If you are able to come along for an hour or two during the day, please let Kath know. More information at <http://friendsofkentchurches.co.uk/ride-and-stride>

The latest issue of **Loose Threads** has now been published and will soon be on sale at Boughton Monchelsea Post Office, Coxheath Library, Loose Post Office, Lucky's Newsagents (Boughton Parade), South Park News (192 Loose Road), The Victory pub, Farleigh Bridge and at the Loose Area History Society's next meeting. It is a special issue commemorating life on active service and on the Home front during **the Great War and World War II**. To order by mail within the UK please send a cheque for £6.50, payable to the Loose Area History Society, to me, Paul Tritton, at Khanspur, 2 Salts Avenue, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 0AY
We have copies of 'Linton Parish News' from 1914 -19 in church, as well as the Book of Remembrance, if you would like to see these, please ask a churchwarden.

Centre Pages: Peter's letter; Linton Summer Barbecue; Items from 1914 Linton Parish Magazine.
Back Page: Midweek Services and Regular Events; Who's Who; Maidstone Symphony Orchestra;
E. Farleigh Farmers' Market.

Pastoral Letter for September 2014

I am shamelessly stealing the content for this month's pastoral letter from 'Cilla McKenzie. This is based on a talk she gave at a recent lunchtime service. As you may know, John and 'Cilla have decided to move away, and we are ever grateful for the ministry and friendship they have shared with us and especially the church fellowship at Linton. The church calendar helps us remember people and their actions by dedicating a day to them. William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson, who were anti-slavery campaigners, had such a day. These three men used their positions of personal influence and power to work for the freedom of others whom they had never met. The British campaign to abolish the slave trade is generally considered to have begun in the 1870s with the establishment of the anti-slavery committees and the presentation to Parliament of the first 'slave trade petition' in 1783. The same year, William Wilberforce, whilst dining with an old friend, met slavery abolitionist the Rev. James Ramsay. Ramsay had been a clergyman in the Isle of Kitts in the Leeward Isles and a medical supervisor on the plantations there. What Ramsay witnessed of the conditions endured by the slaves, both at sea and on the plantations, horrified him. Of the 11 million Africans exported for slavery about 1.4 million died during the voyage.

On returning to England after 15 years he accepted the Benefice of Teston in 1781. [This is one of our neighbouring parishes, and you may know that two of William Wilberforce's sons were later Rectors of East Farleigh] There he met Sir Charles and Lady Middleton and others interested in promoting Christianity and moral improvements in Britain and overseas - a group that later became known as the Testonites.

They were appalled at Ramsey's reports of the depraved lifestyles of slave owners and the cruel treatment of the slaves in the British sugar colonies. The anti-slavery group, then, was born at Teston and, at the urging of Lady Middleton, Sir Charles suggested that William Wilberforce bring forward the abolition of the slave trade in Parliament. Although he felt inadequate for the task, he pursued it with vigour for 18 years and in 1801 the slave trade was finally abolished. This did not, however, free those who were already slaves - it was not until 1833 that an Act was passed giving freedom to all slaves in the British Empire. William Wilberforce made his final anti-slavery speech in Maidstone in 1833.

The modern slave trade is, of course, largely to do with people trafficking, where people are bought and sold for sexual exploitation, forced labour, street crime, domestic servitude or even the sale of organs and human sacrifice. Men, women and children are trafficked within their own countries and across international borders. Trafficking affects every continent and every country. It is estimated that there are still 2 million men, women and children trafficked every year. You can find out more, and learn about what individuals can do at www.stopthetraffic.org. Let us pray that the work of the great reformers will not be forgotten and that we will be inspired by their great efforts.

Many blessings, Peter

Linton Summer Barbecue: What a wonderful afternoon on Saturday 16th August. It rained on and off all week and on Sunday but Saturday was fine and warm with light summer breezes. 120 people enjoyed the barbecue and all the activities that were laid on for the afternoon. What a treat to have the Red Arrows doing a flypast for us! (Actually they were returning from the Eastbourne Airshow but came right over us!). Thank you to all who helped make it such a lovely afternoon and raise £1089.45 for St Nicholas Church. Thank you especially to Mr Daubeny for the use of the facilities and to Matthew for his hard work in preparing the grounds.

In September 1914 the Vicar, the Rev J A Forrest published the following letter in the Linton Parish Magazine.

My Dear Friends,

Only a month! What a change in a month! Let us recall events. On July 29th a Council of War was held in Germany at midnight under the presidency of the German Emperor (Kaiser he is called, which is the same as the Roman Caesar).

After it was over Sir Edward Goschen, the British Ambassador in Berlin, was sent for and asked if England would be neutral in case Germany had to attack France. It was discovered that Germany really wanted to arrange with England behind both the backs of France and Belgium to be neutral while Germany defeated France and took her colonies, and while Germany invaded Belgium to attack France. With France this country was friends, and as to Belgium England had guaranteed that her independence should be respected. Sir Edward Grey, our Foreign Minister, had to decline to be traitor to either France or Belgium. On August 4th Belgium was invaded by Germany, but Sir Edward Grey still asked if Germany would desist. There was no reply, and at midnight we were in a state of war with Germany. Looking at it calmly, what does this mean? And after a month has elapsed many other considerations can be added. We can add a list of brutal acts to men, women and children who are citizens. We can add the story of towns wantonly destroyed. And we can recall the motive at the bottom of everything, which shows that it is force against religion, or materialism against Christianity, for the title page of General Bernhardt's book, which explains German ideas, had on it, "Valour and War have done greater things than love of neighbour". I trust you will all see what it all means, and what we are fighting, and why. Our enemies are not the German people, but the Germans who teach this stuff, and are angry with us because we stick to our friends. May God defend the Right.

Yours sincerely, Jacob Forrest

The War

Let no one make any mistake. The war is, as I have said in my letter, a war of a powerful set of men round the Kaiser for world power, who want to overpower the world by their army for the good of the world forsooth, because "valour and war have done greater things than love of neighbour"

As we love our neighbours and believe in the law of Christ "Bear ye one another's burdens" and not the German law "Pile all the burdens you can upon your neighbours, Belgium, France, England, Russia". As sure as we believe this we have to fight. Every man of us may yet have to go, for sacrifice is in front of us, and we mustn't draw back. And as sure as we believe in God and Jesus Christ, whom He has sent, we must PRAY and FIGHT.