



St Nicholas Church Linton December 2022

Services in the Benefice

Sunday 4th December

There will be no service at Linton.

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's Hunton

9.30am Morning Worship at East Farleigh

11am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Coxheath

Saturday 10th December

5pm Carols around the Tree at East Farleigh

Sunday 11th December

9.30am Morning Worship at Linton

11am Morning Worship at Coxheath

5.30pm Carol Service at West Farleigh

Saturday 17th December



3pm Messy Christingle in St Nicholas Linton followed by....

4.15pm Carol Service in St Nicholas

Sunday 18th December

No service at Linton

9.30am Carols and Holy Communion at East Farleigh

9.30am Holy Communion at Hunton

4.30pm Carol Service at Coxheath (No morning service)

Friday 21st December

7pm Carols in the Bull Inn Linton



Christmas Eve - (Saturday 24th)

4pm Christingle at East Farleigh

5pm Children's service at Coxheath

6.30pm Carol Service at Hunton

9.30pm Holy Communion at West Farleigh

11.15pm Holy Communion at Coxheath

Christmas Day - (Sunday 25th)

10am Family service and Communion at Linton

10am Family Service and Communion at Coxheath

Tuesday 29th November

10am – 12 noon

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING in



Linton Church. Bacon rolls, scones, cakes and lots more. **The grand Christmas Hamper Raffle will be drawn at this our last Coffee morning of the year.**

Wednesday 30th November

12 noon Midweek Holy Communion in Linton followed by a light lunch of soup and a roll.

Every Thursday

10am Midweek Holy Communion, Holy Trinity

Coxheath an online <http://bit.ly/ThursdayCommunion>

Sunday 1st January 2023

10.30am Benefice Communion at Hunton

Hunton Almshouse vacancy

There is a vacancy for a non-smoking single resident in Peace Cottages Almshouses in West Street, Hunton. Those interested, over the age of 60, preferably with a connection to Hunton should contact Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 or liz.oliver@waitrose.com for an application form. Further criteria will apply.

St Nicholas Church - Building work

Scaffolding is now in place in both the north and south aisles in readiness for the specialist plastering company to repair the ceiling panels. We should have a start date fairly soon. Christmas services will go ahead as planned, as will the coffee morning on 29th November.

Pastoral Support

"Sometimes we just need someone to listen"



If you would like someone to talk to in person, or by telephone, the Benefice Pastoral Support Team are here for you. We will happily pray for you, or with you, if that is

what you would like us to do.

Call: 07437 544229 in confidence to speak to one of the team.

If there is no answer please leave your name and number. We will get back to you just as soon as we can. You can also contact us online here: <https://unitedbenefice.church/contact-the-pastoral-support-team/>

Prayer Chain

The Benefice has a prayer chain which prays confidentially for anyone who asks for prayer. The contact person for prayer requests or more information is Marian Simpson 743977

For up to date details about benefice group meetings please contact the following people:

Children's Work	Becky Parnham 07949 646865
Men's Prayer Group	Mike Marsh 07595 428639
Ladies Prayer Group	Dawn Burnell 01622 435882
Beacon Men	Steve Poole 01622 297144
Mothers' Union	Margaret Poole 01622 297144
	Lesley Marsh 07814 817204

Revd. Lorna Faulkner, Rector 01622 747570

Revd. David Jones, Hon. Associate Rector 741474

Becky Parnham, Benefice Children & Families Worker

<https://www.facebook.com/Coxheath-Benefice-Kids-112089254485427/>

Benefice Websites:

www.unitedbenefice.church

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9958/>



The United Benefice of Coxheath, East Farleigh,
Hunton, Linton and West Farleigh

Pastoral Letter from The Rector

Christmas is coming! People the world over will soon be celebrating this 2000 year old feast in a variety of ways – and here in the UK Christmas is traditionally celebrated as a time of joyous giving (well, yes, and eating!)

I remember learning an old folk song. I was very small. We performed it on the little stage in the assembly hall of my Primary school. Someone was definitely dressed up as a Christmas pudding.

You may know, it goes like this:

*'Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat
Please put a penny in the poor man's hat
If you haven't got a penny, A ha'penny will do
If you haven't got a ha'penny then God bless you.'*

(Apparently, the Muppets once recorded a calypso version of it with John Denver. I digress, but Google is your friend!)



The message is simple:

If you can give a lot, give.

If you can give a little, give.

If you have nothing to give – then receive. (I am optimistic that the 'God Bless you' also came with the gift of a penny or a ha'penny!)

Just stop for a moment and imagine a world where we lived by those simple principles...

Many among us are approaching the winter this year with trepidation. Worrying about how to make ends meet. How will we feed the family? How will we stay warm? How many kettles can I afford to boil? All that brings enough worry in itself, let alone trying to celebrate Christmas too.

Perhaps this year, for those of us who are able, we might consider how we can extend our seasonal giving. As well as giving to friends and family, perhaps we might find it in our hearts to give a little (or even a lot!) to those for whom this is shaping up to be anything but a time of peace and joy.

Here are a just a few places to be found locally who are working to support those in need. I am sure they would be delighted to receive a gift from you. So, if you have a penny or a ha'penny to share, look them up?

Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter [Home | Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter \(maidstoneshelter.org.uk\)](#)

Salvation Army ([Maidstone | The Salvation Army](#))

Samaritans

(<https://www.samaritans.org/branches/maidstone/>)

Make a Difference Maidstone

(<https://www.madm.org.uk/>)

The Princess Project

(<https://www.princessproject.co.uk/>)

British Red Cross (<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/>)

(And if you are one of those who doesn't have a ha'penny, well, please reach out – let someone know you need help.)

And, whoever you are, whatever you have or may not have; This year, may you receive this most precious of gifts: the priceless presence of Jesus, Emmanuel, God who is with you, in your heart and in your home. May God bless you.

Lorna
