

Pastoral Letter for January 2023

Janus – the Roman god from which the first month of our calendar gets its name – is most often depicted with two faces, looking in opposite directions. Known as the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, frames, and endings: An appropriate choice by the Romans to mark the turn of the year.

Now, while I do like the promise of new beginnings, I am increasingly coming to find the passing of time quite daunting. 2023 is here - I am sure it was 1987 last time I looked - and, this year, I turn 50. A milestone birthday they say. So old! (According to the younger generation...) Still young! (According to those who are older than me...)

I find myself looking forward with trepidation – wondering if I can manage to do any of the things this coming year that I have written on my ever-hopeful to-do list for life. I also find myself looking back more than is good for me... on the things I wish I had not left undone. The things I wish I had not done at all. The things I wish I could do again...but differently this time, with hindsight and experience.

The one thing I don't do often enough, however, is just stand still and enjoy the view from this part of my journey. Seeing how far I have come in my 50 years of life, noticing where I stand today, acknowledging what has made me 'me', setting my feet in the direction of whatever is next.

Maybe we could all learn something from this double-faced image of Janus. Maybe there's something in taking time to stand still for moment – one foot in yesterday and one foot in tomorrow - as we mark this turning year.

Stop. Look. Take in the view. Count our blessings. Acknowledge our troubles. And see them all in the context of the whole. In one single moment, we are each all we have been, and we are each all we have yet to be.

As humans we seem to be ever mindful of the past and ever wondering about the future. But the Bible reminds us that it is good sometimes to simply stop and take it all in.

'This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.'

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Lorna

Contact Details

Rector Revd. Lorna Faulkner 01622 747570

Revd. David Jones Hon. Associate Rector 741474



Other News and Information

To find out more information about our Benefice and five Benefice Churches go to www.unitedbenefice.church on the updated website which also includes useful links.

Holy Trinity Church January 2023

... and the star that they had seen in the east went ahead of them.



Sunday 1st January
10.30am

Holy Communion
Benefice Service at Hunton
(No service at Coxheath)

Sunday 8th January

Morning Worship **1st Sunday after Epiphany**
Baptism of Christ

11.00am

Led by: Becky Parnham

Readings: Isaiah 60.v1-6, Matthew 2.v1-12

Sunday 15th January

Holy Communion

Epiphany 2

11.00am

Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner

Readings: Isaiah 49.v1-7, 1 Corinthians 1.v1-9, John 1.v29-42

Sunday 22nd January

Morning Worship

Epiphany 3

11.00am

Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner

Readings: Preacher's Choice

Sunday 29th January

Holy Communion

Epiphany 4

10.30am

Benefice Service at Linton
(No service at Coxheath)

Each Sunday the 11.00am service from Coxheath will be available on zoom <http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>

*Let everything that has breath praise the
Lord
Psalm 150 v9*

Diary Dates

Saturday 14th January 10.00am – 12.00noon Holy Trinity Church Coffee

Morning A warm and friendly welcome awaits you at the **Scout HQ, Westerhill Road**. Admission 70p which includes free tea/coffee and biscuits. You can also buy from the popular cake and card stalls. There are usually members of the Coxheath Parish Council there to chat to.



Monday 16th January 7.30pm PCC Meeting

To members of the PCC this is a reminder of the next meeting.

Saturday 21st January 3.00 – 4.00pm Muddy Church at St Nicholas, Linton

Muddy Church is open to anyone and is 'Walking and Wondering' in the open air so weather appropriate clothing is a must.

Sunday 22nd January Soup on Sunday All Welcome

This will be held after the morning service and the usual refreshments. Please consider inviting someone else who might be on their own for Sunday lunch.

Tuesday 31st January 10.00am – 12noon Community Coffee Morning at

St Nicholas, Linton All Welcome

Sunday 5th February Giving Sunday

This will be a Giving Sunday to support the work of Maidstone Street Pastors.

News and Other Information

Christmas Celebrations

Thank you to those who prepared and led the services over Christmas and for those involved with the carol singing at the lighting of the village Christmas Lights. The Christmas message, music and carols being appreciated and enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who helped to decorate and prepare the church for Christmas. Thank you also to the children of Seekers after school club for their lovely uplifting Nativity play.

November Giving Sunday for Mercy Ships

Thank you to all who supported our Giving Sunday for Mercy Ships. £332.50 was raised for the charity which included £100 from church funds.

British Legion Poppy Appeal

Thank you to those who purchased a poppy or gave a donation to this charity. £33.19 was donated in the church Poppy Appeal collecting box.

Monthly News Letter by email

If you do not already receive the monthly News Letter by email and would prefer to receive it in this format please contact Marian S with your email address at david.marian@btinternet.com

(Please note that Marian is spelt with 2 'a's)

Food Box for Homeless Care in Maidstone

Please remember the collecting box on the windowsill at the back of the church for donations of non-perishable food and toiletries. These gifts are used to help vulnerable people and are also distributed in food bags for

families in great need. The donations are always gratefully received by the charity. Thank you to all those who support this cause.

Coffee Morning Thanks

David Jones, Jean Bartholomew and Anne Whybrow have stepped down from the organising and baking for the coffee mornings after many, many years of service at this friendly monthly outreach event. We thank them for their generosity, commitment and for all that they have done each month. Hopefully we will see them sitting down and relaxing at the next coffee morning!

The Christmas coffee morning and raffle raised just under £400.

Group Details

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

Children's Work - Becky Parnham 07949 646865

Men's Prayer Group – Mike Marsh 07595 428639

Beacon Men – Steve Poole 297144

Mothers' Union – Margaret Poole 01622 297144 or

Lesley Marsh 07814 817204

Benefice Services

	9.30am	11.00am
Sunday 1st January	<u>10.30am</u> Benefice Holy Communion at Hunton	
8th January	West Farleigh Holy Communion Linton Morning Worship	Coxheath Morning Worship
Sunday 15th January	East Farleigh Holy Communion Hunton, Morning Worship	Coxheath Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd January	West Farleigh Morning Worship Linton Holy Communion	Coxheath Morning Worship
Sunday 29th January	<u>10.30am</u> Benefice Holy Communion at Linton	

Benefice Church Website go to www.unitedbenefice.church