

Pastoral Letter for February 2023

Dear friends, I am beginning to write this letter on New Years Day. It will be another month before everyone reads it. For some the beginning of a New Year is a time for planning new things, looking forward to new adventures to be had. For others, and especially at the moment, the future is full of worries and fears. Will finances stretch to all that needs to be paid for? Will the mortgage be manageable? Will energy costs go up so much that the choice between heating the home, eating properly or perhaps cancelling a planned holiday, need to be made?

By the time you read this I will have faced the biggest fear I have, one of flying, which I know is the safest form of travel, but fears are often not logical. As Christians, we believe that, if we turn to Scripture, we can find encouraging words.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

"Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." John 14:27

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

Fear does not have to control us any longer. With God we can do anything – even overcome all our fears!

"Hope and fear cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Invite one to stay." So said the late Maya Angelou, American poet, writer and civil rights activist.

Let us look with hope into the future and support each other through difficult times.

If you would like to talk to someone or have someone pray with/for you then do get in touch with us. I head up the Pastoral Support Team, a committed group of Christians who are very willing to come alongside folk in our village communities and offer support.

Oh, and by the way, I flew to Edinburgh and back. I faced my fear and overcame! Praise the Lord!

Blessings,

Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant and member of the Benefice Ministry Team.

<https://unitedbenefice.church/benefice-groups/pastoral-support-team/>

Contact Details

Rector Revd. Lorna Faulkner 01622 747570

Revd. David Jones Hon. Associate Rector 741474



Holy Trinity Church February 2023



Sunday 5th February **Holy Communion** **3rd before Lent**
11.00am Led by: Rev David Jones
Readings: Isaiah 58.1-9a(b12), 1 Corinthians 2.v1-12(13-16)
Matthew 5.v13-20
Giving Sunday in aid of Maidstone Street Pastors

Sunday 12th February **Morning Worship** **2nd before Lent**
11.00am Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner
Readings: Genesis 1.v1-2v3, Matthew 6.v25-34

Sunday 19th February **Holy Communion** **Sunday before Lent**
11.00am Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner
Readings: Exodus 24.v12-18, 2 Peter 1.v16-21, Matthew 17.v1-9

Sunday 26th February **All Age Worship** **1st Sunday of Lent**
11.00am Led by: Becky Parnham
Readings: Preacher's Choice

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

Wednesday 22nd February Ash Wednesday Service

7pm at Holy Trinity Coxheath

*..... God has said, 'never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.'
Hebrews 13 v5*

Diary Dates

Sunday 5th February Giving Sunday

Giving Sunday to support the work of Maidstone Street Pastors.

Saturday 11th February 10.00am – 12.00noon Holy Trinity Church Coffee

Morning A warm and friendly welcome awaits you at the **Scout HQ, Westerhill Road**. Admission £1 which includes tea/coffee, biscuits and refills. You can also buy from the popular cake, bric-a-brac and card stalls. There are usually members of the Coxheath Parish Council there to chat to



Thursday 16th February Love Coxheath A Community Event

We are inviting you to show your love for this quirky village in which we live. Maybe you could fill social media with photos of what you love about Coxheath, or you could pick up litter from our green spaces or even just perform a random act of kindness for a neighbour. Whatever you do we're inviting everyone, young and old to get involved. Holy Trinity Church will be open from 11am -5pm for you to come and get a hot drink and a cake and tell us what you've been up to, or what you are planning on doing. There will also be leaflets that need delivering to homes across the village for you to collect if you want to help out in that way. For more information or offers of help please contact Becky Parnham.

Saturday 18th February 3.00 – 5.00pm Messy Church at St Nicholas, Linton

A fun afternoon for families. Please let the organisers know if you are planning to take your family along so that they can cater for the right numbers. The contact person is Becky Parnham 07949 646865

Friday 3rd March 10.00am World Day of Prayer at Coxheath (please note the time change for this year)

Our Benefice Churches join together with the Linton Road Free Church for this annual service. The service this year will be held at Holy Trinity, Coxheath. The service is entitled **'I have heard about your faith'** and has been prepared by Christian women of Taiwan. For more information please speak to Marian (01622 743977) All are very welcome and there will be refreshments following the service.

News and Other Information

To find out more information about our Benefice and five Benefice Churches go to www.unitedbenefice.church

Giving at the Christmas Services

Thank you to all those who donated to the charity collections at the Christmas services to support the work of Demelza Children's Hospice and The Heart of Kent Hospice. £300 has been sent to each of the charities which has also included a donation from church funds.

Brew and A Bite (Starting Tuesday 31st January)

Open every Tuesday 8am – 5pm.

Pop into Holy Trinity, Coxheath for a free warm drink and a bite to eat.

3.30 – 5pm School Run Tuck Shop

For more information or offers of help please contact Jen Tobin.

The church will also be open between **11am – 1pm** on **Thursdays** for a warm drink and a bite to eat.

Almshouse vacancy - Hunton

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 or nearby villages should contact Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 or liz.oliver@waitrose.com for an application form. Further criteria will apply.

Rochester Cathedral – Peace Doves

From the 11th February until 21st April Rochester Cathedral will be transformed by 'Peace Doves' an artwork by sculptor Peter Walker. For more information and to check opening times please refer to the Rochester Cathedral website.



Benefice Services

	9.30am	11.00am
Sunday 5th February	East Farleigh Morning Worship Hunton, Holy Communion	Coxheath Holy Communion
Sunday 12th February	West Farleigh Holy Communion Linton Morning Worship	Coxheath Morning Worship
Sunday 19th February	East Farleigh Holy Communion Hunton, Morning Worship	Coxheath Holy Communion
Sunday 26th February	West Farleigh Morning Worship Linton Holy Communion	Coxheath All Age Worship

Every Thursday 10am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Coxheath
Last Wednesday of each month 12.00pm Holy Communion at Linton

Last Date for Items for the March News Letter

If you have an item for the News Letter please contact Marian on 01622 743977 or david.marian@btinternet.com by **23rd February** (The March news letter will be available on Sunday 26th February)