



St Nicholas, Linton March 2023

Services & Events in the Benefice



Friday 3rd March

10am **World Day of Prayer at Coxheath** (please note time change for this year). Our Benefice Churches join with the Linton Road Free Church for this annual service which will be held at Holy Trinity, Coxheath. Entitled 'I have heard about your faith', it has been prepared by Christian women of Taiwan. All are very welcome and there will be refreshments following the service.

Sunday 5th March (2nd in Lent)

9.30am Holy Communion at Hunton
9.30am Morning Worship at East Farleigh
11am Holy Communion at Coxheath

Saturday 11th March

10am to 12 noon Holy Trinity, Coxheath, **Coffee Morning** at the Scout HQ, Westerhill Road. Admission £1 which includes free tea/coffee and biscuits. You can also buy from the popular cake and card stalls.

Sunday 12th March (3rd in Lent)

9.30am **Morning Worship at Linton**
9.30am Holy Communion at West Farleigh
11am Morning Worship at Coxheath followed by **Soup on Sunday**. Join us for soup and fellowship and consider inviting someone who may otherwise be on their own. Contact Margaret on 07729 176762 for more information.

Wednesday 15th March

1pm **Mothers' Union** members and friends will meet again with a visit to Greensands Health Centre to find out more about The Greenery Cafe, Social Prescribing and Activity groups available. If you would like to join us, or for transport, contact Lesley 07814 817204

Saturday 18th March

8.30am **Beacon Men's Breakfast** at The Scout HQ, Westerhill Road, Coxheath. Our Guest speaker is Michael Cooper who will be talking about his work with the Church Army. To book a place please email beaconmen.coxheath@gmail.com or contact Mike on 07595 428639 or Steve on 07904 212245.

3-4pm Muddy Church at St Nicholas Linton,

open to anyone and is 'Walking and Wondering' in the open air so weather appropriate clothing is a must. Contact Becky for more information: 07949 646865 *Benefice Children & Families Worker* <https://www.facebook.com/Coxheath-Benefice-Kids-112089254485427/>



Sunday 19th March (Mothering Sunday)

9.30am Morning Worship at Hunton
9.30am Holy Communion at East Farleigh (with West Farleigh)
11am Holy Communion at Coxheath

Don't forget to put your clocks forward on Saturday evening 25th March

Sunday 26th March (5th in Lent)

9.30am **Holy Communion at Linton**
9.30am Morning Worship at West Farleigh
11am All Age Worship at Coxheath

Wednesday 29th March

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

Every Tuesday (until the end of March)

8am – 5pm **Brew and A Bite** Pop into Holy Trinity, Coxheath for a free warm drink and a bite to eat.
3.30 – 5pm School Run Tuck Shop

Every Thursday

10am Midweek Holy Communion, Holy Trinity Coxheath an online <http://bit.ly/ThursdayCommunion>
11am – 1pm during March Holy Trinity will also be open for a warm drink and a bite to eat.

Nicholas Church - Building work

The Plasterers have now completed their work and decoration has begun. We are still looking at another 3 to 4 weeks before completion. When the scaffolding eventually is removed we are planning a massive spring clean and hope that lots of people will be able to help with this. We have received a very welcome grant of £10,000 from the Friends of Kent Churches towards the cost of the ceiling works.

A new double skin oil tank was installed last week at a cost of £3,427.40 excl VAT.

As expected, we have decided to cancel the coffee morning on Tuesday 28th February but hope to be back in March.

OPEN CHURCH

At Linton's PCC meeting in January it was decided to arrange for Linton Church to be open to visitors on Saturday afternoons from March. We would like two people to man the church from 2-4pm each Saturday, so if you would like to help with this please speak to Margaret Waller (01622 741236) or Kath (01622 741494.)

Revision of Church Electoral Roll

For anyone who is not on the Linton Church Electoral Roll, but would like to be, registration forms will be available on Sunday 26th March. Forms will need to be completed by Saturday 8th April and handed to Roger Bettle. The Electoral Roll is then closed until after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which is being held on Thursday 20th April at 3pm.

Rochester Cathedral – Peace Doves

until the 21st April, Rochester Cathedral will be transformed by 'Peace Doves' an artwork by sculptor Peter Walker. For more information please refer to the Rochester Cathedral website.

Each Sunday the 11am service from Coxheath will be available on Zoom <http://bit.ly/UnitedBeneficeSt>

The beautiful and unusual photo of Linton Church at the top of the page, courtesy of Tim Gregson, was taken after our Carol Service in December

Pastoral Letter from the Rector

As I write to you this month, we find ourselves in the season of Lent. This ancient Christian season is often characterised by the question 'What are you giving up for Lent?'

When I was about 12, I gave up sweets. I can still recall the joyful breaking of the fast with a packet of liquorice wheels.

I eschewed daytime TV for Lent when my eldest was a baby. What I recall from that time was how much more time I found I had to do both useful and meaningful things, and how much I appreciated the quiet in the house when he was napping – as opposed to filling the quiet space with the noise of the outside world!

As a 12 year-old exploring faith, I didn't really think too deeply about my reasons for my fast – it was more a feat of self-control than an exercise in spiritual growth.

As a young 26 year-old mum, I used the time to pray more, and found it enriching and soul-feeding. But I went back to daytime TV noise after Lent. It didn't produce a lasting shift in my way of life.

I wonder if, rather than asking 'What are you giving up for Lent?' a better question might be 'WHY are you giving up for Lent?'

Often, Lent is used to kick-start some self-improvement that needs to be done, or to break a habit that has a hold on us. While these are valid reasons in many ways – and helpful and positive too – at its heart, the Lenten fast is not about improving 'us' at all.

In the Church, we believe it is about focussing our lives on the life of Jesus as we mirror – albeit in a tiny way - the 40 days of fasting that Jesus undertook as he prepared to begin his world-changing ministry on Earth; a ministry that would lead him through the suffering of the cross to the magnificent glory of the

resurrection. It is part of the on-going journey that brings us to the joy of Easter – a reminder and a recognition that our pilgrimage as people here on earth will not always be easy, joyful and abundant; there are hard times to walk through, times where we experience want and frustration. But it's a reminder and an encouragement too – that trying times won't last forever – change is possible... And that hope is at the heart of the message of Jesus.

Psalm 30:5 says '*Sorrow lasts for a night, but joy comes in the morning...*' I pray for us all that we will know true hope in our hearts and lives as we journey through Lent towards the celebration of Easter.

Lorna

Pastoral Support

"Sometimes we just need someone to listen"

The Benefice Pastoral Support Team 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. You can also contact us online. <https://unitedbenefice.church/benefice-groups/pastoral-support-team/>

BENEFICE CONTACTS

Revd. Lorna Faulkner, Rector 01622 747570

Revd. David Jones, Hon. Associate Rector 741474

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

Children's Work Becky Parnham 07949 646865
<https://www.facebook.com/Coxheath-Benefice-Kids-112089254485427/>

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

Our Benefice and five Benefice Churches website is

www.unitedbenefice.church

