

Pastoral Letter for April 2023

April is the month that seems to confirm that spring is here and new life is well established. Of course we may still get cold, wet or dry spells but normally these are short lived and the blossom opens out in all its glory. For that reason I have always loved April and remember when growing up in the suburbs of London, the joy of seeing primroses and daffodils in the fields when visiting relatives in the country during the Easter holidays. April is indeed a month for looking forward with renewed hope after the long winter months.

This year Easter comes in the first week of the month. The story begins again with the enthusiasm of Palm Sunday and the crowds welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem. The events that led up to Good Friday, the last supper with his disciples, his arrest, mock trial and then his crucifixion on good Friday, The darkness returns for a few days, until on Easter Sunday the wonderful news that Jesus had risen! Alleluia! Sin had been overcome, death defeated and new life established in all its glory. We are no longer controlled by the things of darkness but now the new life expressed in the marvellous light of the risen Jesus.

Yet we know that whilst all this is true, we fail over and over again to grasp this promise and go on doubting the new life promised to us in the events of Easter. It's like not believing that summer is coming. Today it's fashionable to blame governments for the darkness we live in yet, so much of what happens in our lives is down to us. Our relationships with nature, the environment and with people is also something that needs a spring like approach. The bareness of so many things in our lives needs a fresh start and what better way than as we see spring developing and new life appearing so in our lives the same can and should be happening. I came across this prayer the other day and I wondered if applied to each of our lives in a daily approach to each new day what a change would be brought about not only in our lives but in the relationships we have in our world. Read it in that light, ponder how each new day might bring about changes in our outlook if we applied it.

Blessed are you, creator of all, To you be praise and glory forever.

As your dawn renews the face of the earth

Bringing light and life to all creation,

May we rejoice in this day you have made;

As we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,

Open our eyes to behold your presence [\[DJ1\]](#)

And strengthen our hands to do your will,

That the world may rejoice and give you praise. Amen.

Have a wonderful Easter but above all enjoy the new opportunities that life offers us on a daily basis. David

Holy Trinity Church April 2023



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| Sunday 2nd April 11.00am | Holy Communion | Palm Sunday Led by: Rev David Jones Readings: Psalm 118.1-2,19-29, Matthew 21.v1-11 |
| Sunday 9th April 11.00am | Holy Communion | Easter Day Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner Readings: Jeremiah 31.v1-6, Acts 10.v34-43, John 20.v1-18 |
| Sunday 16th April 11.00am | Holy Communion | 2nd Sunday of Easter Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner Readings: Acts 2.v14a,22-32, 1Peter 1.v3-9, John 20.v19-31 |
| Sunday 23rd April 11.00am | All Age Worship | 3rd of Easter Led by: Rev Lorna & Becky Parnham <u>Followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting</u> |
| Sunday 30th April 10.30am 5.30pm | Benefice Celebration at <u>St Nicholas, Linton</u> <u>Communion at Coxheath</u> | 4th of Easter Led by: Rev Lorna |

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

Additional Easter Services

6th April Maundy Thursday 7.30pm at Hunton

7th April Good Friday 12 – 3.00pm at Coxheath

(Come for all or part of this service)



Contact Details

Rector Revd. Lorna Faulkner 01622 747570

Revd. David Jones Hon. Associate Rector 741474



Diary Dates

Thursday 6th April 3 – 5pm Easter Crafternoon at Holy Trinity, Coxheath

A fun afternoon for children and their families. All welcome

Saturday 8th April 10.00am – 12.00noon Holy Trinity Church Coffee

Morning and Easter Food and Drink Raffle (Please hand any prize donations to Sandra Baker) A warm and friendly welcome awaits you at the **Scout HQ, Westerhill Road**. Admission £1 which includes tea/coffee, biscuits and refills. Cakes, cards and bric-a-brac Usually members of the Coxheath Parish Council there to chat to



Saturday 15th April 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

Tuesday 25th April 10am – 12noon Community Coffee Morning at St Nicholas, Linton All Welcome

Sunday 7th May Coronation Service with Holy Communion followed by a picnic on the grass outside the church. Everyone welcome

Saturday 20th May 11 am Beacon Men have a Boat Trip from Tonbridge. Ladies are welcome at this event. Booking forms are at the back of the church with all the information or contact: beaconmen.coxheath@gmail.com

Other News and Information

Revision of Church Electoral Roll

For anyone who is not on the Church Electoral Roll, but would like to be, registration forms are available at the back of the church. Forms will need to be completed by **Saturday 8th April** and handed to Marian Simpson 743977. The Electoral Roll is then closed until after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which is being held on Sunday 23rd April.

Brew and A Bite - restarting Tuesday 18th April

Open on Tuesdays 10am – 5pm (please note change of time) Pop into Holy Trinity, Coxheath for a free warm drink and a bite to eat. 3.30 – 5pm School Run Tuck Shop Offers of help would be appreciated, please speak to Jen.



Rochester Cathedral – Peace Doves until the 21st April
An artwork by sculptor Peter Walker.

Rochester Cathedral – Jubilee Table until 1st March 2024

A 13 metre table made from a 5,000 year old Fenland black oak tree. For more information please refer to the Rochester Cathedral website.

Giving Sunday supporting Christians Against Poverty

Thank you to all of those who donated to this giving Sunday charity. £250 has been donated to CAP which included a £100 donation from church funds.

Thank you to those who attended and supported the World Day of Prayer service. We were joined by members of other churches and £135.02 was donated which will go, with other gifts from services in the UK, towards supporting a wide range of local and worldwide charities.

Other Services in the Benefice

| | 9.30am | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Sunday 2 nd April | East Farleigh Hunton | Morning Worship and APCM Holy Communion |
| Sunday 9 th April | West Farleigh (with EF) & Linton 9.30am Hunton 11am all Easter Day Communion Services | |
| Sunday 16 th April | East Farleigh Hunton, | Holy Communion Family Service and APCM |
| Sunday 23 rd April | West Farleigh Linton | Morning Worship Holy Communion |

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

Eco Church



God saw everything
that he had made,
and indeed, it was very good.
Genesis 1:31

Every month we would like to invite you to reflect upon the glory of God's creation by meditating on a Christian teaching. There will also be a helpful tip on how we can aim to be good stewards of God's earth.

This month's top tip will help save energy, time and pennies!

When boiling the kettle, pour any extra water into a thermos flask so that you do not need to boil the kettle again when you want another cuppa!

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.
Genesis 1 v31

Benefice website www.unitedbenefice.church

If you have an item for the May News Letter please contact Marian on 743977 or david.marian@btinternet.com by **Thursday** 27th April (The May news letter will be available on Sunday 30th April)