



# St Nicholas, Linton October 2023

## Services & Events in the Benefice

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September

#### **9.30am Holy Communion at Linton**

9.30am Morning Worship at West Farleigh

11am All Age worship (Harvest) at Coxheath

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October

No service at Linton

9.30am Holy Communion at Hunton

9.30am Morning Worship at East Farleigh

11am Holy Communion at Coxheath

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

#### **9.30am Harvest Festival at Linton**

Any harvest gifts you bring will be donated to  
Make a Difference Maidstone.

9.30am Holy Communion at West Farleigh

11am Morning Worship at Coxheath

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October

No service at Linton

9.30am Family Service at Hunton

9.30am Holy Communion at East Farleigh

11am Holy Communion at Coxheath

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

#### **9.30am Holy Communion at Linton**

9.30am Morning Worship at West Farleigh

11am All Age worship at Coxheath

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October

#### **10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Coxheath**

2.30pm Remembering Service at Coxheath

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

### Every Thursday

10am Midweek Holy Communion, Holy Trinity

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

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September & 25<sup>th</sup> October

12 noon Midweek Holy Communion in Linton.

Followed by a light lunch of soup and a roll.

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September & 31<sup>st</sup> October

10am to 12 noon Community Coffee  
Morning in Linton Church. All welcome.



### Saturday 14 October

6.30pm Holy Trinity, Coxheath Quiz evening at the Scout Hut, Westerhill Road, Coxheath. £5 per person. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. All proceeds towards Holy Trinity church floor and drainage repairs. Please contact Barry Doyle for more details or to book tickets 07480292437

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October

#### **12.30pm HARVEST LUNCH**

in St Nicholas Church. We haven't had a harvest lunch for some years now so would like to try out having this in the church. We will only be able to cater for 30 people, so book your place soon. Please see Kath or Margaret for tickets £20 each.



### **2.30pm The annual service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will take place at Holy Trinity Coxheath.**

This is the service where the bereaved are invited to light a candle and take part in the service of remembrance for loved ones. We always contact the families of those whom we have conducted the funeral service for their loved ones in the last two years and also invite anyone else who would like to attend. If you would like a name read out then please contact Rev David Jones - [davidjones.coxheath@gmail.com](mailto:davidjones.coxheath@gmail.com) - before October 26th please. Everyone is invited and there will be a short service followed by light refreshments.

### **OPEN CHURCH**

Linton Church is open to visitors on most days for a trial period. Why not come along and spend a few quiet moments in the church. Please sign the visitors book so we know if this facility is being used.

### **Brew and A Bite**

Tuesdays 10am – 5pm at Holy Trinity, Coxheath. Pop in 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.

### **Pastoral Letter from Rev David Jones**

Another part of the NHS left Coxheath last month as the Emergency Operation Control left after 36 years in the village. Nearly 400 staff are now located in a purpose-built Control Centre at Gillingham with the new Medway Make Ready Centre on the ground floor, the relocated 111 Operations on the top floor and the 999 Centre on the first floor with wonderful view over the estuary.

For many staff it marks the end of their connection with the Ambulance service with the travel from home increased as many staff travelling in from all around Kent and East Sussex coastal town. For Coxheath it adds to the long list of NHS facilities which have relocated or closed since I came to the village in the 1967.

Nothing lasts for ever but we will miss their contribution to the life of the village and to the shops. When things disappear, we sometimes realise their contribution to us all. That of course is true of everything. We can't live in the past but we can learn from the past and recognise what we have in the present and perhaps acknowledge the good things whilst they are happening and not moan when they go or regret what replaces them. As we are reminded, we rightly worry but are surrounded by nature which in one sense accepts what it has, response to what it experiences and often comes back stronger and more beautiful when circumstances change.

I remember a wonderful willow tree at school, severally damaged in the great storm, and looking very sorry for itself for a few years but in a very short time we marvelled once again at its beauty. Life goes on, nothing stands still, but it is how we react to change that makes life challenging and also exciting. Face the challenges ahead, recognise what we have and look for the opportunities that changes bring.

*David*

### Metamorphosis Bitesize course

What is it? This is a course which has been funded by the Church of England for the last 4 years and which the Mothers' Union has facilitated to help churches to become more involved with Community Engagement. So this follows on quite nicely from Lorna's sermons about Church and The Community.

There are 6 sessions, which last approx 90 mins.

1. Listening to God, Ourselves and Others
2. Discovering our Vision
3. Celebrating our Resources
4. Building Relationships
5. Understanding our Community
6. Stepping out in Faith

Our Mothers' Union branch have purchased booklets for this course. I plan to start this in the last week in September or the first week in October. Please get in touch if you would be interested in joining the group.

*Lesley Marsh*

### 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/>

### **Lorna's days off**

Clergy are expected to have one day off a week at the moment – 4 days a month. However, Bishop Jonathan (in line with a few other diocesan bishops around the country) is recommending that Clergy begin to take 5 days off a month - more specifically, 2 days together once a month. At present Lorna's day off is Friday so she will be trying out having the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in the month off.

### **St Nicholas Linton is now registered with**

**easyfundraising**, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use **easyfundraising** to shop online with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use **easyfundraising** whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE!



These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-nicholas-linton>

### **Church Kneelers (Hassocks) for sale**

These good condition blue vinyl kneelers which are no longer used in church are for sale at £5 each or 3 for 2. Possibly use as garden kneelers or footstools, or even to re-upholster your motorbike seat!

### **2nd hand book library**

If you love it, keep it. £1

If it's a good read, swap it for another. 50p  
Donations welcome

### **Remembrance Sunday – 12<sup>th</sup> November**

Linton's service of Remembrance will start at 11am with the Act of Remembrance at the Memorial Cross.

### **Advent & Christmas in the Benefice**

All Sunday services in December will follow the Advent theme and be Benefice Communion services at 10.30am. (ie. Only one service on each Sunday).

- 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Advent 1 – St Mary's Hunton  
10<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 2 – St Nicholas Linton  
17<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 3 – East Farleigh  
24<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 4 – All Saints West Farleigh  
25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day  
10.30am at Holy Trinity Coxheath

We will be arranging lifts for any who do not drive to get to each service.

Each Parish has other services/events during December which will be announced shortly.

### **BENEFICE CONTACTS**

Rev. Lorna Faulkner, Rector 01622 747570  
Rev. 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  
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](http://www.unitedbenefice.church)



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