

Pastoral Letter for October 2023

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 views 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 towns. For Coxheath it adds to the long list of NHS facilities which have relocated or closed since I came to the village in 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, responds to what it experiences and often comes back stronger and more beautiful when circumstances change. I remember a wonderful willow tree at school, severely 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.

Rev David Jones

Contact Details

Rector Revd. Lorna Faulkner 01622 747570

Revd. David Jones Hon. Associate Rector 741474

Benefice website www.unitedbenefice.church



If you have an item for the **November News Letter** please contact Marian on 743977 or david.marian@btinternet.com by **Thursday** 26th October at the latest

Holy Trinity Church October 2023



Sunday 1st October **Holy Communion** **Trinity 17**
11.00am Led by: Rev Clinton Davis

Readings: Genesis 1, Matthew 6.v25-33

God's Great Gift!

Sunday 8th October **Morning Worship** **Trinity 18**
11.00am Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner

Readings: Malachi 3.v6-12, John 14.v15-24

Why should we give?

Sunday 15th October **Holy Communion** **Trinity 19**
11.00am Led by: Rev David Jones

Readings: 1 Corinthians 16.v1-4, Luke 18.v18-30

What should we give?

Sunday 22nd October **All Age Worship** **Trinity 20**
11.00am Led by: Rev Lorna & Becky Parnham

Readings: 2 Corinthians 8.v1-7, Matthew 20.v1-16

How should we give?

Sunday 29th October **Benefice Communion** **Trinity 21**
10.30am at Holy Trinity Coxheath Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner

A culture of generosity

Please remember to put your clocks **back** one hour before you go to bed on
Saturday 28th October

Lots of thanks!

Thank you to everyone who helped at, donated to, or supported our Church Coffee and Cake event which raised the wonderful sum of £890 towards church repairs. Many thanks also to the musicians for entertaining us so well. Thanks also to Andrew for participating in the Kent Churches Ride and Stride and for those who sponsored him. £155 was raised.


Diary Dates

Saturday 7th October 9.30 – 1pm Dwell and Refresh New Wine Worship network event hosted at St Luke's Church, Maidstone. Further details at <https://www.stlukesmaidstone.church/dwell-refresh/>

Sunday 8th October Soup on Sunday

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.

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

Morning A warm welcome awaits you at the **Scout HQ, Westerhill Road**. Admission £1 which includes tea/coffee, biscuits and refills. 

Saturday 14th October 10am - 12noon Beacon Men Event - Have a go-Carp Fishing Experience at Hawkhurst Fish Lakes. Cost £12. All equipment and licenses provided. No experience needed and help with transport if required. To book a place, please contact: Steve on 07896 181588 or Mike on 07595 428639 or email: beaconmen.coxheath@gmail.com

Saturday 14 October 6 30pm Quiz Evening at the Scout Hut

£5 per person please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

All proceeds towards the church floor and drainage repairs

Please speak to Barry Doyle for more details 07480292437

Saturday 21st October 3.00 – 5.00pm Messy Church at St Nicholas, Linton

A fun afternoon for families. Please let Becky Parnham on 07949 646865 know if you are planning to take your family along.

Sunday 29th October 2.30pm Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Please see the item below for the details

Tuesday 31st October 10am – 12noon Community Coffee Morning

at St Nicholas, Linton All Welcome

Sunday 5th November Giving Sunday in aid of Making Miracles

Other News and Information

The annual service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will take place this year on Sunday 29th October at Holy Trinity Coxheath at 2.30pm. 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 - before October 26th please. Everyone is invited and there will be a short service followed by light refreshments.

Building work update

The repair work in the chancel is ongoing. After the new wooden floor is laid, some painting in the chancel is completed as well as a new radiator being installed then the outside work on the drainage system will begin.

Hopefully the inside work will be completed by the end of October but please be advised that there will be no heating in the church until the new radiator is in position. **Extra jumpers!**

The Church building is important to us all so we are asking you to consider how you can help, perhaps by increasing your regular giving, or giving an extra one-off gift? Maybe you could also run a fund-raising event for us.

Please speak to Tim Gregson our Treasurer or any member of the PCC if you can help. Tim can be contacted on 01622 741501 or at timmers@live.co.uk.

Holy Trinity PCC

Almshouse vacancy in 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.oliver25@outlook.com for an application form. Further criteria will apply.

Other Services in the Benefice

	9.30am	
Sunday 1st October	East Farleigh Hunton	Morning Worship Holy Communion
Sunday 8th October	West Farleigh Linton	Holy Communion Morning Worship
Sunday 15th October	East Farleigh Hunton	Holy Communion Family Service
Sunday 22nd October	West Farleigh Linton	Morning Worship Holy Communion

Every Thursday 10am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Coxheath

Last Wednesday of each month 12.00 noon Holy Communion at Linton

Metamorphosis Bitesize

Lesley will be running this course of 6 sessions beginning on Wednesday 4th October 7.15 for 7.30pm start. The course is aimed at helping us, as a church, to become more involved with our community and follows on from the sermons about Church and Community.

If you would like more information contact Lesley Mob 07814 817204 email lesley.marsh@gmail.com

Suggestions for Giving Sunday Charities Do you have any suggestions for our Giving Sundays? We are looking for 2 new charities which we will support for three years. If you do please fill in a nomination form which you will find at the back of the church from **mid-October** and place the slip in an envelope which you will find by the forms. When completed please place in the box alongside the forms and envelopes. The final date for nominations is **Friday 10th November.**