

## Pastoral Letter for January 2024

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Well, New Year is here again (I am sure it was only a few weeks ago that I was writing the letter for January 2023!)

So, what thoughts can I offer you as we embark on the next 12 months? I see a lot of people through my work here in the Benefice and, through so many conversations, I have become acutely aware of just how much so many of us are carrying through this life: difficult family relationships, grief and loss, conflicting priorities, overwhelming commitments, anxiety about the future, deep concerns for our loved ones. There is no one I have met – including myself - that is breezily trotting through this life without a hitch.

As I reflected on this, a song came to mind...

*The road is long*

*With a many a winding turn*

*That leads us to who knows where*

*Who knows where*

*He ain't heavy, he's my brother...*

*So on we go*

*His welfare is my concern*

*No burden is he to bear*

*We'll get there*

*He ain't heavy, he's my brother...*

Humans have created communities as long as we have existed – we are made for connection, and we are at our best when we come alongside one another in life. As John Donne so famously said: *'No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main;'*

At the turn of this New Year, I wonder... Whose load might I lighten? Whose burdens might I share? How might that look? Listening? Sitting with? Hugging? Laughing? Helping...

What opportunities might we all have in the next 12 months to walk the road of life with our fellow humans – our brothers and sisters – and help them to bear the load they carry, while allowing them to help us carry ours too.

What kind of a community would that be? Let's find out!

God bless you all in 2024 and beyond.

'Let us not become weary in doing good... as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people...' Galatians 6:9-10 From Lorna

### Contact Details

Rector Revd. Lorna Faulkner 01622 747570

Revd. David Jones Hon. Associate Rector 741474



## Holy Trinity Church January 2024

*"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." Matthew 2 v2*



**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January**  
**11.00am**

**Holy Communion**

**Epiphany**

Led by: Rev Clinton Davis

Readings: Isaiah 60.v1-6, Ephesians 3.v1-12, Matthew 2.v1-12

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January Morning Worship 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**11.00am**

Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner

Readings: 1 Samuel 3.v1-10 (11-20), John 1.v43 - end

**Giving Sunday supporting Maidstone Street Pastors**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January**  
**11.00am**

**Holy Communion**

**Epiphany 2**

Led by: Rev David Jones

Readings: Genesis 14.v17-20, Revelation 19.v6-10, John 2.v1-11

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January**  
**11.00am**

**All Age Worship**

**Candlemas**

Led by: Family Trust

Readings: Preacher's Choice

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

To find out more information about our Benefice and five Benefice Churches go to [www.unitedbenefice.church](http://www.unitedbenefice.church) on the updated website which also includes useful links.

## Diary Dates

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 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 free tea/coffee and biscuits. 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.

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January Giving Sunday supporting the work of Maidstone

#### **Street Pastors**

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January Soup on Sunday All Welcome

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.

### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 7.00pm PCC Meeting

To members of the PCC this is a reminder of the next meeting.

### Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 3.00 – 4.00pm Muddy Church at St Nicholas, Linton

Muddy Church is open to anyone and is 'Walking and Wondering' in the open air so weather appropriate clothing is a must.

### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 10.00am – 12noon Community Coffee Morning at St Nicholas, Linton All Welcome

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February Childe Rolande Folk Band at Holy Trinity, Coxheath

Chase away those Winter blues by joining us at Holy Trinity for an evening of music with the renowned Childe Rolande Folk Band on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Reserve your ticket by contacting Helen or Tim on 01622 741501. Further information will be available later in the month.

## News and Other Information

### Christmas Celebrations

Thank you to those who prepared and led the services over Christmas and for those involved with the carol singing at the lighting of the village Christmas Lights. The Christmas message, music and carols being appreciated and enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who helped to decorate and prepare the church for Christmas.

### Monthly News Letter by email

If you do not already receive the monthly News Letter by email and would prefer to receive it in this format, please contact Marian S with your email address at [david.marian@btinternet.com](mailto:david.marian@btinternet.com)

(Please note that Marian is spelt with 2 'a's)

### Food Box for Homeless Care in Maidstone

Please remember the collecting box on the windowsill at the back of the church for donations of non-perishable food and toiletries. These gifts are used to help vulnerable people and are also distributed in food bags for families in great need. The donations are always gratefully received by the charity. Thank you to all those who support this cause.

**Brew and a Bite at Holy Trinity, Coxheath** We are open (during school term times) every Tuesday 2.30pm – 5.00pm and Thursdays 11am – 1.00pm. There is no charge but you are invited to give a donation if you so wish. Please spread the word as these sessions are open for anybody in Coxheath or the surrounding areas.

### Group Details

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

Children's Work - Becky Parnham 07949 646865

Men's Prayer Group – Mike Marsh 07595 428639

Ladies Prayer Group – Dawn

Beacon Men – Steve Poole 297144

Mothers' Union – Margaret 07729176762 or

Lesley 07814 817204

### Benefice Services

	9.30am	
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>East Farleigh Hunton</b>	Morning Worship Holy Communion
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>West Farleigh Linton</b>	Holy Communion Morning Worship
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>East Farleigh Hunton</b>	Holy Communion Family Service
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>West Farleigh Linton</b>	Morning Worship Holy Communion

### The Festive Concert with the Hartlip Singers

The Hartlip Singers performed a wonderful selection of festive music before Christmas, which was enjoyed by all those who were fortunate enough to attend. £330 was raised in aid of the restoration of the chancel floor.

### British Legion Poppy Appeal

Thank you to those who purchased a poppy or gave a donation to this charity. £74.86 was donated in the church Poppy Appeal collecting box.

### 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](mailto:liz.oliver25@outlook.com) for an application form. Further criteria will apply.

### February News Letter

If you have an item for the **February News Letter** please contact Marian on 743977 or [david.marian@btinternet.com](mailto:david.marian@btinternet.com) by **Thursday** 25<sup>th</sup> January