

Pastoral Letter for February 2024

Hello everyone,

It's February already! Half-way through February the time known as Lent begins. Lent is a period of 40 days when Christians commemorate the time when Jesus was tested by the devil in the desert before beginning his ministry. It is a time of preparation for Easter, traditionally a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, which is described as the practice of giving money or food to poor people. Even if you don't identify as Christian or identify as religious you can still take part in the journey, which many people do.

Lent is often a time when folk give up something like, for instance, chocolate or coffee.

Here are some other suggestions that I found online: give up scrolling on your phone; give up gossiping; give up social media; give up unnecessary shopping; give up holding grudges.

Even better would be to give up time to help others. There are many volunteering opportunities or, maybe closer to home you know of a neighbour or friend who is needy in some way, and you can be of help. Perhaps consider giving to a food bank or donate to a charity any money saved by not buying chocolate!

The day before Lent begins is Shrove Tuesday or, as it is more popularly known, Pancake Day.

Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast, and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients. They were first mentioned in cookery books in 1439 and the first pancake race was in Olney in 1445.

Enjoy your pancakes on 13th February and I hope you mindfully consider ways in which you might be able to reach out to help others not just during Lent but maybe throughout the year.

Here are a couple of quotes on which to ponder.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." Dr Loretta Scott"

Blessings,

Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant

March News Letter If you have an item for the March letter, please contact Marian 743977 or david.marian@btinternet.com by **Thursday** 22nd February

Holy Trinity Church February 2024



Sunday 4th February 11.00am Readings: Proverbs 8. v1, 22-31, Colossians 1.v15-20, John 1.v1-14	Holy Communion	2nd before Lent Led by: Rev David Jones
Sunday 11th February 11.00am Readings: 2 Kings 2.v1-12, Mark 9.v2-9	Morning Worship	Sunday before Lent Led by: Becky Parnham
Sunday 18th February 11.00am Readings: Genesis 9.v8-17, 1 Peter 3.v18-22, Mark 1.v9-15	Holy Communion	First of Lent Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner
Sunday 25th February 11.00am Readings: Preacher's Choice	All Age Worship	Second of Lent Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner

Ash Wednesday Service - !4th February **7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Coxheath**

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

Contact Details

Rector Revd. Lorna Faulkner 01622 747570

Revd. David Jones Hon. Associate Rector 741474



To find out more information about our Benefice and five Benefice Churches go to www.unitedbenefice.church on the updated which also includes useful links.

Diary Dates

Saturday 10th February 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.

Saturday 10th 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 10th at 7pm. The cost is £10 which includes light refreshments. Reserve your ticket by contacting Sandra Baker or Marian Simpson

Saturday 17th February 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 for planning and catering purposes.

Tuesday 28th February 10.00am – 12noon Community Coffee Morning at St Nicholas, Linton All Welcome

Tuesdays and Thursdays 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.

Friday 1st March World Day of Prayer

An early date for your diaries. Further details will be available later in the month.

News and Other Information

Pastoral Support

We have a pastoral visiting group within the Benefice. If you or someone you know would like a visit or if you would like more information, please go to <https://unitedbenefice.church/benefice-groups/pastoral-support-team/>

Community Tea Boxes

Tea boxes will be going out to elderly and vulnerable residents in our community again this year in February. If you can help in any way, with donations of food, baking, delivering or monetary, please contact Edna Dennison 01622 746103.

Benefice Services

	9.30am	
Sunday 4th February	East Farleigh Hunton	Morning Worship Holy Communion
Sunday 11th February	West Farleigh Linton	Holy Communion Morning Worship
Sunday 18th February	East Farleigh Hunton	Holy Communion Family Service
Sunday 25th February	West Farleigh Linton	Morning Worship Holy Communion

Giving at Christmas Services

Thank you to those who donated to the charity collections at the Christmas services to support the work of Demelza Children's Hospice and The Heart of Kent Hospice. £360 has been sent to each of the charities.

January Giving Sunday for Street Pastors

£290 has been donated to the Street Pastors which included a gift from church funds. Thank you to all those who donated.

Offertory Cards

If you make regular gifts to the church by way of Standing Order then you might like to use the small yellow cards that are on the left hand cupboard to the rear of the aisle. These can be placed in the offertory bags at services. The wording on the cards being 'I offer gifts to Holy Trinity by way of a Standing Order direct to the church'

Mothers' Union

Mothering Sunday

Looking for a gift for Mothering Sunday, why not give a 'Gift of Dignity' an ethical gift which will make a difference to women and girls around the world, through Mothers' Union. See Margaret, or Lesley, for more information, and range of gifts. Orders by 1st March.

Coxheath Area Mothers' Union next meeting February 21st at 2pm will be the AGM, plus Annual Renewal service with Communion, with Rev. Lorna presiding.

Many thanks to all who donate to the work of Mothers' Union, at Soup on Sunday. 2023 total was £327, enabling us to support local, national, and Global projects, see notice board, also from the MU enterprises catalogue £343.