

Pastoral Letter for April 2024

'Alleluia, Christ is risen!'

May the message of Easter joy be to you all! Easter is a wonderful time in so many ways. To the first Christians it marked the message that Jesus came to bring; new life after the dark message of Good Friday. It's a message that lives on each year. It comes as the dark days of winter come to a close. The days are longer and warmer. The bulbs and blossom are beginning to encourage us that summer is coming with their colour and new life is bursting out in so many different ways.

As a child the Easter holidays took us out of the suburbs of North Kent into the countryside to stay with our relations in Somerset, Northamptonshire or Kent. We saw primroses, daffodils in the hedgerows and lambs in the fields, the cherry blossom beginning to show. It was all good.

The cycle of the seasons gives us hope.

Earlier in March, when I was thinking about this letter, my thoughts were focused on the gloom in so much of life and in the news. Who to believe, what to believe. The future in the news was grim. But now there seems to be hope. The news hasn't changed but with the Easter message in our ears and new life springing up all around us, we are reminded of God's faithful love and promise yet again. The world may just come to its senses, and love in all its beauty and fullness may start to fill broken relationships, between individuals and nations. Is this really too good to be true? How can it come about? It will happen when we realise that each of us is one of God's wonderful creations like so much around us, and we can show this in the new life he gives us when he died and rose again for us, his children.

So try to live the Easter Life in the coming days and for the rest of your earthly journey and we will all see Life in all its joy and beauty.

David

Contact Details

Rector Revd. Lorna Faulkner 01622 747570

Revd. David Jones Hon. Associate Rector 01622 741474



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

May News Letter If you have an item for the May letter, please contact Marian 743977 or david.marian@btinternet.com by **Thursday** 25th April

Holy Trinity Church April 2024



Sunday 7th April 11.00am Readings: Acts 4. v32-35, Psalm 133, John 20.v19-31	Holy Communion	Second Sunday of Easter Led by: Rev Clinton Davis
Sunday 14th April 11.00am Readings: Acts 3.v12-19, Luke 24.v36b - 48 Giving Sunday in aid of Young Lives Foundation	Morning Worship	3rd of Easter Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner
Sunday 21st April 11.00am Readings: Acts 4.v5-12, 1 John 3.v16-24, John 10.v11-18	Holy Communion	4th of Easter Led by: Rev David Jones
Sunday 28th April 11.00am Readings: Preacher's Choice	All Age Worship	5th of Easter Led by: Becky Parnham

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

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' John 14 v27

Diary Dates

Until Thursday 4th April 'Come eat with me' at Rochester Cathedral

An installation – exhibition, taking inspiration from Leonardo Da Vincis Last Supper. Further details on the Rochester Cathedral website.

Saturday 6th April 2.00 – 5.00pm Teddy Zip Wire Adventure at St Nicholas Church, Linton

Is your bear brave enough? Certificate of bravery to all bears who complete the challenge. £3 per teddy or another soft toy. Refreshments and games.

Saturday 13th April 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 buy from the popular cake, bric-a-brac and card stalls.



There are usually members of the Coxheath Parish Council there to chat to.

Friday 19th April Beacon Men

The next event is a walk starting at The Bull Inn, Linton 6.30 pm, followed by refreshment at the Pub. In the event of inclement weather, we shall just remain at The Bull.

Book your summer cruise! River Stour Boat Trip **Saturday July 13th**. Details are at the back of the church and on the Beacon Men page, Benefice website. Open to all.

Saturday 20th April 1.30-3.30pm Messy Church at Rochester Cathedral

This is an opportunity to join with families from all the diocesan churches. A free event, no need to book. Take your own picnic and something to sit on. Further details from Becky Parnham 07949 646865

Tuesday 30th April 10.00am – 12noon Community Coffee Morning at St Nicholas, Linton All Welcome

Tuesdays and Thursdays Brew and a Bite at Holy Trinity, Coxheath

Brew and a Bite will be open again from Tuesday 16th April. 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. **If you would be willing to help occasionally making tea and chatting to folk at Brew and a Bite please speak to Jen Tobin** 01622 749532 or jenny@poole.com

News and Other Information

Thanks

Thank you to those who donated to our Giving Sunday supporting the work of the Young Lives Foundation. £250 has been forwarded to the charity which included a donation from church funds.

Thanks also to those who attended and supported the World Day of Prayer service. £133.65 was donated which will go, with other gifts from services in the UK, towards supporting a wide range of local and worldwide charities.

Church Finances

Our Church Treasurer and PCC (Parochial Church Council) are grateful and thankful for the generosity of the congregation at Holy Trinity. Your monetary gifts go toward our Rectors salary, gas & electric bills, other running costs and children's ministry. Gifts can be given as one-off donations at services, in church weekly giving envelopes or by standing order. There is now a contactless card device at the back of the church as an additional way of giving. Forty-two parishes in Rochester Diocese are participating in a national roll out of contactless card devices. For any help or information about giving or gift aid please contact Tim Gregson, Holy Trinity Church Treasurer 01622 741501

Holy Trinity Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 5th May

Please do come to this annual meeting to find out more about the life and work at Holy Trinity.

Nomination forms for church wardens and PCC members will be at the back of the church. Please think about whether this is something you would be willing to consider and for more information please speak to Sandra (church warden) or Rev Lorna. Please hand nomination forms to Sandra Baker.

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 **Sunday 14th April** and handed to Marian Simpson 743977 or Sandra Baker. The Electoral Roll is then closed until after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which is being held on Sunday 5th May.

Benefice Services

	9.30am	
Sunday 7th April	East Farleigh Hunton	Morning Worship Holy Communion
Sunday 14th April	West Farleigh Linton	Holy Communion Morning Worship
Sunday 21st April	East Farleigh Hunton	Holy Communion Morning Worship and APCM
Sunday 28th April	West Farleigh Linton	Morning Worship and APCM Holy Communion