



St Nicholas Linton October 2024

Sunday 29th September - Trinity 18
10.30am Benefice Communion at Linton
No other services in the Benefice.

Sunday 6th October – Trinity 19
9.30am Holy Communion at Hunton
9.30am Harvest Service at East Farleigh
11am Holy Communion at Coxheath

Sunday 13th October – Trinity 20
9.30am Harvest Service at Linton
9.30am Holy Communion at West Farleigh
11am Morning Worship at Coxheath

Sunday 20th October – Trinity 21
9.30am Harvest Service at Hunton
9.30am Holy Communion at East Farleigh
11am Holy Communion at Coxheath
12.30pm Harvest lunch in St Nicholas Linton

Sunday 27th October – Last after Trinity
9.30am Holy Communion at Linton
9.30am Morning Worship at West Farleigh
11am All age Worship at Coxheath

Every Thursday
10am Midweek Holy Communion, Coxheath Church

Tuesdays 24th September & 29th October
10am -12 noon Community coffee morning in St Nicholas Linton



Wednesdays 25th September and 30th October 12 noon Midweek Holy Communion in Linton.



St Nicholas Church is open most days for anyone to come in to find a quiet space for prayer and reflection. More information from Kath (07876 101390)

HARVEST FESTIVAL
Sunday 13th October at 9.30am. Please invite friends, neighbours and family along to this lovely service of thanksgiving. Any gifts of produce which are donated will be taken to MADM (Make a Difference Maidstone).

There will also be a **HARVEST LUNCH on Sunday 20th October served in Church as we did last year.** Please let Margaret or Kath know if you would like to come along.

Saturday 19th October
3–5pm Messy Harvest 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. *Benefice Children & Families Worker* <https://www.facebook.com/Coxheath-Benefice-Kids-112089254485427/>



Sunday 3rd November
3pm Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance
Each year we hold a service in one of the churches in the benefice to give thanks and remember people whose funeral services we have taken in the benefice or at Vinters Park Crematorium in the past years. We invite relatives and friends to the service from the registers over the last two years and extend the invitation via the monthly newsletters to anyone else whose relatives would like to add names to the list of names read out. If you would like a name added please contact Rev David Jones with the name you wish to be remembered by the end of October by email at davidjones.coxheath@gmail.com or 01622 741474. **The service this year is on Sunday November 3rd at St Nicholas Church, Linton commencing at 3pm.** Light refreshments will be served after the service.

Pastoral Letter from Rev David Jones

Dear All
Dates and anniversaries play an important part of life's journey. As I write this letter in September 2024 it suddenly came to me that September marked the 25th year of my retirement from teaching, a career that had lasted 35 years. It also marked my 24th year since I was first ordained on 29th September 2000. I was getting old!!! Autumn for so many years of my life had marked the beginning of a fresh start. The school year had governed the first 50 plus years of my journey.

Yet this year seemed different and I don't know why. Maybe it's the news, the international situation, the USA election for a new President, the financial problems effecting so many. In reality 'I'm all right Jack'. Yes, life has become more difficult, more complex, more demanding and more challenging? Certainly, we see and hear information more and more swiftly and in more graphic detail than we used to. Do I have an answer? Then as so often happens in my daily readings came this passage.

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?"
(Matthew 6:28-30)

This passage from the Sermon on the Mount offers is a perfect example of how we sometimes worry about things which are actually fairly unimportant. The words may be very familiar to many. Yet it takes a greater effort to realize that Jesus is not just speaking poetically; he means what he says! The point of this passage is in the words: which come earlier "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life." He is speaking to people who had nothing, for whom every day was a struggle to survive. He realizes that they cannot embrace the spiritual power within them if they continue to focus on the poverty in their situation. So, Jesus assures them—in very real

and practical terms, that if they put their faith and focus on God, God will provide for their needs. We may say that's not realistic; our human needs must take priority. Few indeed are the people who have fully trusted this teaching and fully surrendered their human condition to their inner divinity! But Jesus always meant what he said. The promise of this passage is always present for all of us. Our work is to remove the doubts and fears and false priorities, and trust our Oneness with God. It's a hard life and words which, whilst we know are true, can at times be hard to accept.

David

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Brew and a Bite at Holy Trinity, Coxheath We are open (during school term times) every Tuesday 2.30pm – 5pm and Thursdays 11am – 1pm. 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.

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/>

Benefice Men's Prayer Group

We meet each Tuesday at 9am for an hour, an informal time of topical discussion, looking at a short bible passage and finishing with prayer. There is no obligation or pressure to pray, just listening is fine. If you would like prayer for yourself or someone please contact us. All requests are in total confidence and all are welcome to join us. For more information please contact Mike on 07595 428639 or email: beaconmen.coxheath@gmail.com

Benefice Ladies' Prayer Group

We are a group of Christian women who believe in the power of prayer. We meet to pray together, sharing our own prayer requests over a cup of coffee, reading a short passage from the Bible and listening to a song. Our prayers are often inspired and shaped by this time of sharing. We pray for world situations in the news, for the church throughout the world and locally, and we pray for those who are in any kind of need. The meetings are for one hour starting at 10am every Saturday, at the home of one of the ladies.



St Nicholas Linton is registered with

[easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-nicholas-linton). Just a few people have raised over £90 for St Nicholas Church, by shopping online and remembering to use easyfundraising. So why not join us, sign up and help St Nicholas Church for FREE. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-nicholas-linton) to shop online with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-nicholas-linton>



BENEFICE CONTACTS

Revd. Lorna Faulkner, Rector 01622 747570
Revd. David Jones, 01622 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
Safeguarding	Margaret Poole 01622 297144

Our Benefice and five Benefice Churches website is www.unitedbenefice.church



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