

Pastoral Letter for December 2024

'Someday, I would like to go home. The exact location of this place, I don't know, but someday I would like to go.'

I read these words by a writer called Henry Rollins the other day and it made me stop and think about what 'home' really means.

A house can be a home. But a home is so much more than the place we sleep at night, or eat our meals. It's the place we live. The place where we can be ourselves.

For me, there are some people who are home too, because when I am with them I breathe out; let my guard down; I can rest in their presence - I know I am safe.

But we are all too aware that life doesn't stand still: we lose loved ones; relationships move on; circumstances press in. And the safe feeling of home can feel a long way away from us.

One of the Bible verses we so often hear read at Christmas services is from John's Gospel. Chapter 1, verse 14.

'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...'

The Message version of the Bible says he 'moved into the neighbourhood...'

This image of God becoming human and coming to make his home with us.. wow, well it blows me away every time I hear it.

Christmas often means we're having visitors, or doing some *visiting*. But at Christmas we celebrate far more than a special guest: Jesus wasn't just visiting. He wasn't popping by, hoping to catch us at our best, then leaving when the edges begin to fray (or when Auntie Beryl has had one too many Snowballs...)

He was moving in... coming to live alongside us in all our humanity - in our joy, our work, our play, our tears and laughter, our mess and mistakes: All our everyday glory. He made his home with us, so that we could discover the home our hearts can find in him.

Whatever your circumstances at this time - be they challenging or cheerful - may each of be blessed by the warm, familiar presence of God in your hearts and your homes this Christmas.

Lorna

January News Letter

If you have an item for the January letter, please contact Marian 743977 or david.marian@btinternet.com BEFORE 27th December

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

Holy Trinity Church December 2024



- Sunday 1st December Holy Communion Advent 1**
10.30am Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner and Rev David Jones
at Holy Trinity, Coxheath
- Sunday 8th December Holy Communion Advent 2**
10.30am Led by: Rev David Jones and Rev Clinton Davis
at All Saints, West Farleigh
- Sunday 15th December Holy Communion Advent 3**
10.30am Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner and Becky Parnham
at St Mary's, Hunton
- Sunday 22nd December Holy Communion Advent 4**
10.30am Led by: Rev Clinton Davis and Rev Lorna
at the Ancient Parish Church of East Farleigh
- Sunday 29th December Benefice Holy Communion**
10.30am Led by: Rev David Jones
at Holy Trinity, Coxheath

Thursday 10am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Coxheath

Christmas Services at Coxheath

Sunday 15th December 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Monday 23rd December 6.00 -7.30pm Lights of Love

Christmas Eve 4.30pm Children's Service

Christmas Eve 11.15pm Midnight Communion



During December all Sunday Services are at 10.30am travelling around the Benefice.

The Benefice Christmas Day Service is being held in Linton at 10.30am which is a Family Service followed by Communion

If you would like a lift to any of the Sunday Morning Services please speak to Lorna, Sandra Baker or Jen Tobin

Diary Dates

Sunday 1st December 4.30pm Carols and Lighting of the Village Christmas Lights. This is a joint venture with Coxheath Parish Council where we as a congregation lead the carol singing around the Christmas tree outside the church. All welcome

Saturday 7th December 10am – 5pm and Sunday 8th December 1pm–5pm Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity, Coxheath

This is a community event and everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a beautiful display of Christmas trees. Refreshments will be available.

Saturday 14th December 10.00am – 12.00noon Holy Trinity Church Coffee Morning and Christmas Food and Drink Raffle 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



December Saturday Coffee Morning

The Christmas food and drink raffle will be held at this coffee morning. Any donations for prizes please hand to Sandra Baker

Saturday 21st December 3.00pm Messy Christingle at St Nicholas, Linton followed at 4.15pm Carols with Christingles

A fun afternoon for families. Please let the organisers know if you are planning to take your family along to Messy Christingle so that they can cater for the right numbers. The contact person is Becky Parnham 07949 646865

Monday 23rd December at any time between 6.00 – 7.30pm Lights of Love at Holy Trinity, Coxheath

A quiet place to light a candle and hang a special star to remember those precious ones who will be missing from Christmas this year.

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

Please note change of times

We are open during **school term times** Tuesday 12 noon-7.00pm. From 5.30 – 7.00pm this is a time specifically for a youth group in school years 7 - 13.

Thursdays 11am – 1.00pm.

There is no charge but you are invited to give a donation if you so wish.

News and Other Information

Contact Details

Rector Revd. Lorna Faulkner 01622 747570

Revd. David Jones Hon. Associate Rector 01622 741474



Christmas Service Charities

The monies collected at all the Christmas Services will be divided between the Heart of Kent Hospice and Demelza Children's Hospice

*'Glory to God in the highest and
on earth peace, good will towards men'
Luke 2 v 14*

Christmas Flowers

We will be decorating the church ready for all the Christmas services. We would appreciate any donations of money towards the cost of the flowers by **Sunday 8th December**. Please give any donations to Sandra Baker. Thank you

Christmas Invitations

At the back of the church there are Christmas Invitation cards to deliver around Coxheath between the **1st – 14th December**. If you are able to help with the delivery please do take some. Many thanks

Coxheath School

We will again be welcoming Coxheath school who will be holding their carol services at Holy Trinity, Coxheath.

'Travelling' Benefice Christmas Card

There will be a Christmas card at the 1st December service to write Christmas messages to all of the Benefice Congregation which will then travel to all of the other Benefice Sunday Services during December.

Christmas Cards - Church Posting Box (No Delivery, Collection Only)

The 'pigeon hole' post box will be at the back of the church for your Christmas Cards to friends at Holy Trinity, Coxheath church from the 1st December until Christmas Eve. Please note there is **no delivery service** from the box so only include cards for those who will be at our church services.

Christmas Cards for Sale

Christmas cards which have been made in aid of church funds are available at the back of the church and will also be for sale at the December coffee morning. They cost 30p each or 6 for £1.50

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 07904 212245

Mothers' Union – Margaret Poole or

Lesley Marsh 07814 817204

