



St Nicholas Linton December 2024

Sunday 24th November - CHRIST THE KING

9.30am Holy Communion at Linton

9.30am Morning Worship at West Farleigh

11am All age worship at Coxheath

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS IN THE BENEFICE

Sunday 1st December Advent 1

10.30am Holy Communion at Coxheath

4.30pm Carols and Christmas tree light switch on at Coxheath

Saturday 7th December

4pm Carols around the tree at East Farleigh

Sunday 8th December Advent 2

10.30am Holy Communion at West Farleigh

15th December Advent 3

10.30am Holy Communion at Hunton

4pm Carol Service at Coxheath

6pm Carol Service at West Farleigh

Saturday 21st December

3pm – **Messy Christingle** in St Nicholas Linton. A fun afternoon for all the family, making Christingles and other crafts before continuing in Church at

4.15pm **Carol Service** with Christingles

Festive refreshments to follow.

You can come to the whole afternoon or just come along to the Carol Service at 4.15pm.

Sunday 22nd December Advent 4

10.30am Holy Communion at East Farleigh

Monday 23rd December

6-7.30pm Lights of Love at Coxheath

Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle at East Farleigh

4.30pm Children's service at Coxheath

6pm Carol Service at Hunton

9.30pm Christmas Eve Communion at West Farleigh

11.15 Midnight Communion at Coxheath

Christmas Day

10.30am Benefice Family Service and Holy Communion at Linton

Tuesday 26th November



10am -12 noon Community coffee morning in St Nicholas Linton. Grand Christmas Raffle will be drawn at the end of the coffee morning.

Wednesday 27th November

12 noon Midweek Holy Communion in Linton followed by a light lunch.

In January the date for this service will be changed to the 2nd Wednesday of the month which will be Wednesday 8th January.



Every Thursday

10am Midweek Holy Communion, Coxheath Church

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Brew and a Bite at Holy Trinity, Coxheath Open (during school term times) every Tuesday 2.30pm – 5pm and Thursdays 11am – 1pm. No charge but donate if you so wish. These sessions are open for anybody in Coxheath or the surrounding areas.

Second-hand book library in St Nicholas

If you love it, keep it. £1

If it's a good read, swap it for another. 50p

Donations welcome



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

Pastoral Letter from the Rector

'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 every-day 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**

St Nicholas Linton is registered with [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-nicholas-linton). We recently received £38 into the Church account from donations by Easyfundraising. So why not sign up to Easyfundraising when shopping online 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>



St Nicholas Church Tower Clock



Our ancient and well-loved turret clock on the tower of St Nicholas Church does not keep good time, but then it is 300 years old! With receipt of a generous gift we have arranged for Gillett & Johnson to supply a quartz master clock with radio receiver, electro-magnetic bell hammer to strike the hours and quarter chimes on the existing bell, during the day only. The master clock has a battery back up so a mains failure will not affect it. Summer and Winter time changes are carried out automatically. As the master is monitored by radio signal from the Atomic clock, time keeping is extremely accurate.

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.



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

