



# St Nicholas Linton March 2025

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent

**9.30am Holy Communion at Linton**

9.30am Morning Worship at West Farleigh

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March Sunday next before Lent

9.30am Holy Communion at Hunton

9.30am Morning Prayer at East Farleigh

11am Holy Communion at Coxheath

## Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Ash Wednesday

10am Holy Communion at Coxheath

(There will not be a Thursday communion this week)

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

**9.30am Morning Worship at Linton**

9.30am Holy Communion at West Farleigh

11am Morning Worship at Coxheath

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

9.30am Family Service at Hunton

9.30am Holy Communion at East Farleigh

11am Holy Communion at Coxheath

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

**9.30am Holy Communion at Linton**

9.30am Morning Worship at West Farleigh

11am All age Worship at Coxheath

**Don't forget: clocks go forward an hour  
before bedtime on Saturday 29th March**



## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday

11am All Age Worship at Coxheath

11am Family Service at Hunton

**2.30pm Afternoon Teas at Linton**

**The funeral of Roger Bettle will take place in St Nicholas Church on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 11.am. There will be a choir so if anyone in the Benefice would like to join in please let Kath know.**



## Tuesdays 25th February & 25<sup>th</sup> March

10am -12 noon **Community coffee morning** in St Nicholas Linton.

## Every Thursday (except 5<sup>th</sup> March)

10am Midweek Holy Communion, Coxheath Church

## Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March

**10am World Day of Prayer Service at Linton**

**Road Free Church** This year our Benefice churches are joining together with the Linton Road Free Church, 157 Linton Road, ME15 0AL. The service has been planned and prepared by Christian women of the Cook Islands and is entitled 'I made you wonderful'. All are very welcome and there will be refreshments following the service.

## Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March

**Church spring cleaning day.** All hands very much appreciated and there will be jobs for all abilities! Please let Kath know if you are able to help

## Saturday 8th March

10am – 12 noon\_\_Holy Trinity Church Coffee Morning at the Scout HQ, Westerhill Road. Admission £1 which includes free tea/coffee and biscuits. You can from the popular cake, bric-a-brac and card stalls. There are usually members of the Coxheath Parish Council there to chat with.

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March

**Soup on Sunday** This will be held in Holy Trinity Coxheath after the morning service and the usual refreshments. Please consider inviting someone else who might be on their own for Sunday lunch.

## Lent 2025

There will be an informal Lent gathering at Forge Cottage in Linton on the 5 Wednesdays starting on 12<sup>th</sup> March at 11am. The First (12<sup>th</sup> March) and last (9<sup>th</sup> April) sessions will be followed by Holy Communion and a light lunch

## Mothering Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March

2.30 – 5pm As this is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, we do not have a worship service, but are planning to serve Cream Teas in Linton Church. Bring your Mum, or anyone else you would like to treat on this special day. If you are able to bake any cakes or scones, please let Margaret or Kath know.

## Plans for 2025

### Messy Easter

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April from 3 – 5pm.

### Friends of Linton Church AGM

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in church

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June

A return of the very popular Teddy Zip Wire event.

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September

3pm Concert by the Kent Police Male Voice Choir.

### Nick Figgins (RIP)

Many people around the Benefice will remember the Figgins family. Sadly, Tim and Vera's son, Nick, died this week at the age of 58 after a long battle with cancer. We send our condolences to his wife, Sue and sister Abbi and family.

### Pastoral Letter from Sue Elliott

March has arrived! Lots of special days occur in March.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March it is Saint David's Day, the Patron Saint of Wales, who died on this day in 589. It was declared a National Day of Celebration within Wales in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He is the only native-born patron saint of the countries of Britain and Ireland.

Another special day is Saint Patrick's Day on 17<sup>th</sup> March. He is not only the Patron Saint of Ireland but also of Nigeria, Montserrat, and of engineers! My husband and I happened to be in Ireland last year on St Patricks Day. Oh my goodness, there were parades everywhere, and, of course, lots of people wearing green because it is said that Leprechauns can't see you if you wear green and therefore can't pinch you!

For Muslim folks the whole month is Ramadan, meaning 'scorching heat', a time of fasting from dawn to sunset. It is so called because of the climate in Mecca at the time when, according to Islamic tradition, God first spoke to the Prophet Muhammad when the Qur'an was revealed.

Mothering Sunday is 30<sup>th</sup> March. In the 1600s poorer families would send their children to work as domestic servants in the homes of affluent people. Once a year they were allowed to return to their 'Mother Church' where they had been baptised and take gifts of flowers for their mothers. Observance declined after the industrial revolution but was revived in 1913 when a 'Mothering Sunday Movement' was started by Constance Penswick Smith. She reinvigorated the UK celebration and by the 1950s her legacy had encouraged the celebration across the UK and Commonwealth Nations, leading to the now familiar day of reflection and the celebration of mothers and motherly figures.

Before it was known as Mothering Sunday, this day was called Laetare Sunday, which means 'rejoice,' and there is definitely a cause for rejoicing in March because at 10.01am on 20<sup>th</sup> it is the Spring Equinox, hurrah! This is when days and nights are of equal length before the days continue to get longer thereafter. Spring has really sprung when daffodils are appearing, for Saint David, Wales, and for us! Those beautiful flowers really lift the spirits, and I discovered that they symbolise hope and renewal.

I saw a photograph the other day of some daffodils flowering amongst the rubble of Gaza. Now that is an image of hope and renewal for the whole world, isn't it?

Enjoy the exquisite nature around us that God created and go well in the wonderful month of March.

Blessings,  
Sue Elliott - Pastoral Assistant

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### **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

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### **Brew and a Bite on Tuesdays at Holy Trinity,**

Coxheath. We are open during school term times every Tuesday 12 noon-7.00pm.  
From 5.30 – 7.00pm this is a time specifically for a youth group in school years 7 -13  
There is no charge but you are invited to give a donation if you so wish.

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### **Rochester Cathedral**

From 11<sup>th</sup> February – 8<sup>th</sup> March a touring artwork 'Mars: War and Peace' by Luke Jerram. This follows on from his other astronomical artworks the Moon and the Gaia. This is a free event during the day but please see the cathedral website for opening times.

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Coxheath Area Branch

Check out our Face Book page for latest news from our local branch and national and international items, too! Meetings are held in member's homes, usually at 2pm. Contact Lesley on 07814 817204 or Margaret on 07729176762 for venue or email [mu.coxheath@gmail.com](mailto:mu.coxheath@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/mothersunioncoxheath>  
The next meeting is on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

### **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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Coxheath-Benefice-Kids-112089254485427/">https://www.facebook.com/Coxheath-Benefice-Kids-112089254485427/</a>
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](http://www.unitedbenefice.church)



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