

Pastoral Letter for July 2025

As I was pondering what to write about in this month's letter, I struck on the idea of having a look in my Daily Prayer book at what saints' days and festivals fall in July.

There are quite a few – big names too: Mary Magdalene, Anne and Joachim (Jesus' maternal grandparents) his great friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus. But the one I have chosen isn't a saint at all.

July 30th is a day of commemoration for the social reformer, William Wilberforce.

William Wilberforce is well-known as one of the major voices in the – what would prove to be successful - campaign to abolish the transatlantic slave trade, and indeed slavery across most of the British Empire. He was a devout and passionate Christian believer: One of his advisors, as he wrestled reconciling his faith with his career in politics, was John Newton, an Anglican priest, a repentant former slave-trader, and the writer of the beautiful hymn, Amazing Grace.

What might be less well-known is that Wilberforce, born in Yorkshire, was, in fact, no stranger to our part of Kent: Two of his sons, Robert and Henry, were vicars of East Farleigh church in our Benefice. There is a grave plot down at East Farleigh, where William's wife, Elizabeth, is buried as well as other members of the family. He gave his last anti-slavery speech in Maidstone, just 3 months before his death in 1833, hearing just days before his death that the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery had been passed.

The Church of England has a special prayer for each day, known as the Collect. The Collect for July 30th contains these words:

'...grant that, as your servant William Wilberforce toiled against the sin of slavery,
so we may bring compassion to all
and work for the freedom of all the children of God...'

We are living in turbulent times; switching on the news of an evening can feel like an act of courage as we brace ourselves for reports of more unrest and suffering.

We may not know how to solve the world's problems. We may not all be a Wilberforce and go down in history for our part in trying – but we can all choose, as he did, to bestow respect and dignity on our fellow human beings, and challenge others to do the same.

A prayer that we may work to 'bring compassion to all' is perhaps a very good place to start.

Lorna

August News Letter If you have an item for the letter, please contact Marian on 743977 or david.marian@btinternet.com **BEFORE Wednesday 23rd July**

Holy Trinity Church

July 2025



Sunday 6th July 11.00am Readings: Isaiah 66 v10 -14, Galatians 6 v7-16, Luke 10 v1-11,16-20	Holy Communion	4th after Pentecost Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner
Sunday 13th July 11.00am Readings: Deuteronomy 30 v9-14, Luke 10 v25-37	Morning Worship & Baptism	5th after Pentecost Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner
Sunday 20th July 11.00am Readings: Genesis 18v1-10a, Colossians 1 v15-28, Luke 10 v38-end <u>Giving Sunday supporting Blackthorne Trust</u>	Holy Communion	6th after Pentecost Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner
Sunday 27th July 11.00am Readings: Preachers Choice	All Age Worship	7th after Pentecost Led by: Becky Parnham and Jen Tobin

Every Thursday 10am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Coxheath

2nd Wednesday of the month 12 noon Holy Communion at Linton

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

Diary Dates

Saturday 12th July 10.00am – 12.00noon Holy Trinity Church Coffee
Morning 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 Parish Council to chat with.

Sunday 20th July Giving Sunday
Giving Sunday supporting the work of Blackthorne Trust

Tuesday 29th July 10.00am – 12noon
Community Coffee Morning at St Nicholas, Linton All Welcome

Brew and a Bite on Tuesdays at HT 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.

Tuesday 12th August 9.30 – 3.00pm Holiday Club at Holy Trinity, Coxheath



Oh Dear Daniel!

School Years 1 – 6

To book a place asap email – becky.thecat@btopenworld.com or
Web – www.unitedbenefice.com

Early Dates for Your Diary

1st – 31st August Rochester Cathedral
Celebrate Medways aviation history this August at Rochester Cathedral. A newly restored Short Scion Floatplane will be displayed in the Cathedral Nave. Alongside it will be free family activities and an exhibition about the Short brothers. Please see the Rochester Cathedral website for more information and opening times.

Sunday 7th September 3.00pm Concert at St Nicholas, Linton
Linton are pleased to be welcoming the Kent Police Male Voice Choir.
Tickets will soon be available

Saturday 13th September Holy Trinity, Coxheath
Coffee and Cake on the Green outside the church 10.00am – 1.00pm
More details to follow

News and Other Information

Pastoral Support

We have a pastoral visiting group within the Benefice. If you or someone you know would like a visit or if you would like more information, please go to <https://unitedbenefice.church/benefice-groups/pastoral-support-team/>

Children's Society 'Thank You'

Many thanks to all box holders for your continued support and generosity. The money raised during 2024 – 2025 was £405.40. If you would like to join this small group of supporters and become a box holder for the Children's Society by collecting some of your change during the year, do please speak to Marian S 743977

PCC Meetings and Minutes

If you are interested in the workings of the PCC and the things that are discussed copies of the minutes are displayed at the rear of the Church. If you would like any further details from the individual reports that are referred to please contact Helen Gregson, PCC Secretary 01622 741501

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 07729 176762 or

Lesley Marsh 07814 817204

Benefice Safeguarding Officer - Margaret Poole 07729 176762

Benefice Services

	9.30am	
Sunday 6th July	East Farleigh Hunton	Morning Worship Holy Communion
Sunday 13th July	West Farleigh Linton	Holy Communion Morning Worship
Sunday 20th July	East Farleigh Hunton	Holy Communion Family Service
Sunday 27th July	West Farleigh Linton	Morning Worship Holy Communion