

Pastoral Letter for December 2025

It's the time of year for my guilty pleasure: The Christmas movie. Made for TV schmaltz. Big city girl, small town boy (in a flannel shirt, probably runs a Christmas Tree farm or a café...) meet; instant attraction; some misunderstandings occur; there's a Christmas pageant; wiser older community person says wise words... there's a kiss, and a happy ending. However, whilst they are a whole lot of escapist fun, I have had to learn, over the years, to be very careful about allowing Christmas films to shape my expectations around what Christmas *should* be.

Christmas must be indulgent, cosy, sparkly, tidy, perfectly decorated, romantic, filled with laughter. It must be red and white and green and gold and there must be waffles and Christmas sweaters champagne for breakfast and perfectly iced cookies and snow and coordinating hats and scarves and open fires and hot cocoa and parties and... STOP!!!!!!

I bought the Christmas edition of a supermarket magazine a few years ago. Articles included how to wrap the perfect present, make the perfect cocktails, lay the perfect table, arrange the perfect drinks tray, host the perfect party, wear the perfect dress, do the perfect make up... and then, right at the back, there was an advice page where someone had written in saying that the pressure of Christmas made them feel depressed and overwhelmed... I confess, I can be a sucker for it all; I have felt the sharp pinch of imagined failure...

So, this time of year, I just want to remind you – and myself - that all the games and trimmings are a riot – they can be fun and make dull winter days feel a little warmer... but there is no *should* with Christmas... apart from remembering that Christmas should be whatever works for you and your loved ones.

My prayer for you all this Christmas is not that your decorations are perfect or that your homemade crackers go bang; my prayer is that wherever you are, whatever you do, whatever you wear, or eat, or drink, or watch, that you will simply know the presence and love of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, God with you.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Lorna

To find out more information about our Benefice and five Benefice Churches go to www.unitedbenefice.church

January News Letter If you have an item for the letter, please contact Marian on 743977 or david.marian@btinternet.com **BEFORE Wednesday 31st**

December

Holy Trinity Church

December 2025



Sundays at Coxheath and around the Benefice

Sunday 7th December

2nd Sunday in Advent

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Linton

11.00am Christmas Crafts at Coxheath

Sunday 14th December

3rd Sunday in Advent

10.00am Christmas Tree Festival followed at 4.30 by folk carols

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at East Farleigh

4.30pm Carol Service at West Farleigh

Sunday 21st December

4th Sunday in Advent

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Hunter

11.00am All-Age Christingle at Coxheath

4.00pm Carols by Candlelight at Coxheath



Sunday 28th December

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Coxheath

(If you need a lift to any service please contact Rev Lorna on Jen Tobin)

Christmas Services at Coxheath

Sunday 21st December 11.00am Christingle

Sunday 21st December 4.00pm Carol Service

Monday 22nd December 6.00 – 7.30pm Lights of Love

Christmas Eve 4.30pm Children's Service

Christmas Eve 11.15pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day 10.00am All Age Family Worship



Thursdays 10am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Coxheath

(not on the 25th)

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

Diary Dates

Tuesdays at Holy Trinity Brew and a Bite

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.
Dementia Group On the first Tuesday of the month Age UK are now holding a dementia group drop in gathering for tea and coffee between 1 – 3pm in the church. No need to book but if you would like more information please contact Tracy on 01622 753618

Sunday 7th December 4.30pm Community Carols and Lighting of the Village 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 13th December 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.
All welcome

December Saturday Coffee Morning



The Christmas food and drink raffle will be held at this coffee morning. Please support this event.

Saturday 13th December 10am – 5pm Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity, Coxheath Day 1 This is a community event and everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a beautiful display of Christmas trees. Refreshments will be available.

Saturday 13th December 4.00pm Carols around the tree at East Farleigh

Sunday 14th December 1.00pm – 5pm Christmas tree Festival Day 2
At 4.30pm there will be Folk Carols and a Christmas Singalong

Saturday 14th December 4.30pm Carol Service at West Farleigh

Saturday 20th December 3.00pm Messy Christingle at St Nicholas, Linton
followed at 4.15pm Carols with Christingles A fun afternoon for families

Monday 22nd 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.

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle at East Farleigh

6pm Carol Service at Hunton

9.30pm Christmas Eve Communion at West Farleigh

*“When the time had fully come,
God sent his Son”
Galatians 4:4*

Other News and Information

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

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

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 7th December until Christmas Eve. Please note there is **no delivery service** from the box so please only include cards for those who will be at our church services.

Coxheath School

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

Benefice Kids – Bible Brick Builders This new club will now be running into the new year. It’s held from after school until 5pm at Holy Trinity, Coxheath. The club is suitable for children in school years 1 - 6. To book a place (only 20 available) and for more information please email becky.thecat@btopenworld



Giving Sunday thanks

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the work of Making Miracles at our recent Giving Sunday. £285 has been forwarded to the charity which included a donation from church funds.

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 07729 176762 or Lesley 07814 817204

Benefice Safeguarding Officer - Margaret Poole 07729 176762