

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

St Nicholas Church Linton October 2020



Pastoral Letter from the Rev Lorna Faulkner, our Curate

Dear Friends,

I've been helping our youngest son with a photography project this week. One of the photographers whose work he has been looking at is Ansel Adams, an American photographer. His most often quoted piece of advice about photography is this: *'A good photograph is knowing where to stand.'*

In a year of cancelled events and restricted gatherings, mask-wearing and no hugging, I have found myself standing in a less than optimistic place. I have been impatient and irritable. Restless and resentful. You may have felt the same at times – but I know I can't stay there forever. Ansel Adams was known to go out hiking early in the morning, climbing mountains in search of the perfect place to stand to capture the image he wanted that day.

There are constants: The mountain is still a mountain. The sky is still the sky. But the way we see things depends on how we look at them, and how we look at them depends on where we stand; and, sometimes, we have to search for a better perspective, to discover a better way of seeing what is in front of us. In this time of mask wearing and no hugging, of cancelled events and restricted gatherings, perhaps part of the journey is about finding other ways to see things. Other ways to do things. Maybe we can revive the lost art of letter writing? Make time for a telephone call rather than a text? Enjoy a walk in the fresh air and an autumn picnic rather than a meal out? There are so many things we can't do – but still so many we can! Navigating the 'new normal' everyone is talking about can feel like climbing a mountain. Some parts are

easier than others. At times, we'll find ourselves on a fairly clear path. Other times we'll feel like we're clinging on by our fingertips. Sometimes our metaphorical legs will ache from all the effort and we'll need to stop and rest and just have a little moan about it. But we will get up again and keep going, seeing the beauty that is all around us - and in those around us - as we climb it together, with one another and with God.

'I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.' Psalm 121.

I do pray for us all that, as this year continues, we will be inspired and refreshed as we encourage one another to stand and look at the view from a different perspective. Be blessed, Lorna



Beacon Men on line Prayer Group

Every Wednesday at 9am Zoom group meeting.
Contact Steve 297144 or Mike 745702 for more details

Benefice Ladies' on line Prayer Group

Every Saturday at 10am Zoom group meeting
Contact Dawn Burnell 435882 for more details

Bible Babble on line Young Peoples Group

for young people in school year 6 and up.

For more information and dates contact Becky Parnham 07949 646865

Holy Communion at Coxheath Church

Every Thursday at 10am Also on Zoom
<https://bit.ly/ThursdayCommunion> or by 'phone. Dial 0203 901 7895. Meeting ID: 862 4548 7631

Coffee Time on line

Every Thursday at 10.30am following Thursday communion, all welcome for social meeting. Contact Lesley 07814 817204 for details.

Mothers' Union online meetings.

Wednesday 21st October 2pm. Contact Lesley 07814 817204. Corporate Communion 1st Thursday of month 10am at Coxheath Church

Benefice Services in October

10.30am Every Sunday morning

A worship service on Zoom. Log in with your Computer, tablet or smartphone:

<http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>

or by landline phone **0203 051 2874**, Enter **185124308#**, #Enter# (Password 316).

In addition, the following services will take place in our Benefice Churches. We must maintain social distancing at all times, and follow measures in place for infection control and keeping each other safe. All these services are for anybody across the benefice who wishes to attend, and not just those from a particular parish.

Sunday 4th October Harvest

9.30am Harvest Service at Hunton

Readings:

Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday 11th October Trinity 18

8am Holy Communion at Linton

9.30am Harvest Morning Prayer at West Farleigh,
followed by Holy Communion

Readings:

Isaiah 25:1-9; Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday 18th October Trinity 19

9.30am Harvest Holy Communion at East Farleigh

9.30am Family Service at Hunton

Readings:

Isaiah 45:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matt. 22:15-22

Clocks Go Back!

Please remember to put your clocks **back one hour**
before you go to bed on **Saturday 24th October**

Sunday 25th October Bible Sunday

8am Holy Communion at East Farleigh

**9.30am Harvest Morning Prayer followed by
Holy Communion at Linton**

Readings: Nehemiah 8:1-4a,5-12,
Colossians 3:12-17, Matthew 24:v30-35

**If you are currently not able to worship in
church due to shielding or other vulnerability,
please do let Peter Callway know.**

Sunday 1st November Service for the Bereaved **2-5pm at West Farleigh.**

It will not be possible to safely hold our usual service where we all come together to remember the loved ones lost to us in the past two years, so we are making an opportunity to do so throughout the afternoon of November 1st at West Farleigh, where the church will be open from 2pm to 5pm for individuals or family groups to come and say a prayer and place a lighted candle on the altar.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November

10.45am in Linton where the service will be outside at the war memorial, in time for the Act of Remembrance at 11am.

Same time in Coxheath and East Farleigh.

In West Farleigh (10.45) and Hunton (10.50), the memorials are in church and plans are in place to hold short services inside, with attendance managed and safely distanced. More details in due course. For Hunton, to reserve a seat contact Wendy Simmons 01622 820875 Wendysimmons01@btinternet.com (note the zero after simmons)

Remembrance Sunday on Zoom

We also plan to record a service for those who cannot get to church, which will be live streamed via Zoom on the day at the usual time of 10.30. We hope to record some hymns using musicians and singers who we can edit together (a mini virtual choir) and if you would like to take part in that, please let the Rector know as soon as possible.

Christmas

Clearly, we will not be allowed to hold services as normal during Christmas unless something changes, and so we hope to produce a Carol Service video using as many of our church members and community as possible. We will record readers, musicians and carol singers and produce the best that we are able to do. Again, more details later but if you sing, play an instrument or have technical capabilities please be in touch with the Rector soon so that we can start to put together a plan.



Friends of Kent Churches **Sponsored Ride+Stride**

Peter Ross (Jane Sawyer's son)

walked around 6 of Tonbridge's church aid of St Nicholas Church and the Friends of Kent Churches. There is still time if you are able to sponsor Peter, please let Kath know - tel 01622 741494, email: cooperkathryn@btopenworld.com;



We were going to have a Muddy Church Walk instead of Messy Church in September but that too had to be changed. So a fine afternoon

was spent in Linton Churchyard doing a MUDDY TRAIL. There are posters around the churchyard pointing to things in nature to look out for – Pathways, Creatures, Leaves, Weather etc. The trail is still there, so why not have a gentle stroll on a fine autumn day. See our FACEBOOK page:

<https://www.facebook.com/LintonMessyChurch/>

Prayer Chain and Pastoral Support

The Benefice has a prayer chain which prays confidentially for anyone who asks for prayer. There is also a Benefice pastoral group. Please contact the Rector Peter Callway details below or Marian at david.marian@btinternet.com phone 01622 743977

Donations for Homeless Care

Until the church is reopened Becky Parnham is kindly collecting any food donations you wish to make. Donations can be left in a plastic box outside Becky's front door. Contact Becky on 07949 646865. Thank you to those who have already kindly donated.

Recorded Sermons

From time to time recorded sermons can be found on Holy Trinity Face Book Page or the Benefice Face Book Page.

The Ministry Team have looked at our pattern of worship and undertaken a risk assessment to see if we are able to make any further moves to increase services in church. At present this is not possible to do safely and without risk of interruption. So we will continue with the current until Easter unless something dramatic changes in the world of Covid-19.

We are immensely grateful for the continued support from a variety of people across the benefice who are keeping our worship alive, ensuring that we are all cared for, praying for each other and the nation, and keeping our buildings safe and virus free. This is how the church should be – loving, mutually supportive, and worshipping the living God. Stay safe and keep praying!



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

Rector:

Rev Peter Callway Tel: 01622 747570

email: peter@callways.co.uk (not available Fridays)

Assistant Curate:

Rev Lorna Faulkner 01622 439304

Hon. Associate Rector:

Rev David Jones Tel: 741474

Children & Families' Worker:

Becky Parnham Tel: 07949 646865

Church Website

To find out more information about our Benefice and five Benefice Churches go to

www.unitedbenefice.church

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9958/>