

St Nicholas Church Linton November 2020



10.30am Every Sunday morning
A Benefice 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.

Sunday 1st November All Saints Day

9.30am Holy Communion Hunton

2-5pm Service for the Bereaved

West Farleigh church will be open from 2-5pm for individuals or family groups to come and say a prayer and place a lighted candle on the altar to remember loved ones lost to us in the past 2 years.

Sunday 8th November Remembrance

10.45am Linton, Coxheath and East Farleigh

Short services will be held outside at war memorials, in time for the Act of Remembrance at 11am.

10.45am West Farleigh and 10.50am Hunton

Short services at the memorials inside these churches, with attendance managed and safely distanced. For Hunton, to reserve a seat contact Wendy Simmons Wendysimmons01@btinternet.com (note the zero after simmons. Or tel: 01622 820875

Sunday 15th November 2nd before Advent

9.30am Holy Communion at East Farleigh

9.30am Family Service at Hunton

Sunday 22nd November Christ the King

8am Holy Communion at East Farleigh

9.30am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion at Linton

Sunday 29th November Advent Sunday

Zoom service only

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.

Men's Prayer Group – Change of Day

The Men's Prayer Group now meets online via Zoom each **Tuesday from 9 to 10am**. We start with topical chat, look at short bible passage and finish with a time of prayer. Just come on to listen in if preferred. Direct Link <http://bit.ly/MensPrayers> If needed Meeting ID is: 880 8371 5146. Passcode: 316. More details or help with Zoom from Mike 07595 428639 or Steve 01622 297144. All are very welcome.

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. On line recording
<http://bit.ly/ThursdayCommunion> 86245487631
Pass Word 316.

Pastoral Letter from the Rev David Jones

'Thank you for the memories....'

This morning I woke and found myself singing the opening bars of the anthem we always sang at harvest time many years before. 'Thou visitest the earth and blessed it, Thou crownest the year with thy goodness.'



Yes, looking out of the window it was plain to see the signs of autumn and harvest but why did those words from years before come into my mind? What had awoken my memory of that event and that moment? The memory opens us to the past at sometimes the most unexpected moments and is so many ways.

Deep in thought I heard the words 'The TV's gone dead'. A search for the remote control indicated that it would take more than that solution to sort out the problem. No power, so check the fuses, and then the realisation that we had no electricity to the house. Had the workmen working at the substation at the corner cut us off? Oh blow and I was going to write the letter for the November Newsletter and now no computer!

The mind went off again into that distant memory of a similar moment at school when we had a power cut at school and the dance teacher was beside herself when she realised that the lesson after break couldn't happen as she had no ways of playing music. The solution was to ask me to duplicate off a worksheet for the lesson instead and the agony of her face when I said the lack of power meant that I couldn't use the duplicator either!

It's wonderful the way our memories work, bringing us at one moment pain of moments we wish we could put well into the past and at other times memories of joy and happiness which we long to keep and share. They come to us at odd moments, out of the blue with seemingly little connection to the present moment. So my November letter got changed and delayed until the computer came back. Whatever happened to the written word, of pen and paper? But no that's another memory.

November is the traditional time for memories as do birthdays, anniversaries or Christmas, smell and sounds spark off thoughts of events or people from the past. Throughout the Bible, the act of remembrance is never far away. The children of Israel on that epic journey to the Promised Land were told over and over and over again to 'remember' the great promises God gave them throughout that journey. And again following Jesus' death the women went to the tomb and we read that two men in clothes 'that gleamed like lightning' reassured the women that Jesus had risen and we read 'Then they remembered his words' (Luke 24 v 8). Memories are there to encourage, challenge and reassure us. May your memories at this time give you comfort, reassurance and hope for the future as perhaps the events of the past bring an assortment of memories. *David*

Update for Children's Society Box Holders

Unfortunately due to the current situation we're still unable to collect boxes. If your collection box is now getting full and you would like another box please phone Marian 743977. Thank you for your support

Harvest Gifts Many thanks to everyone who kindly and generously donated Harvest food gifts at the service Linton on 25th October. The gifts were taken to Homeless Care, Maidstone and will be used for the homeless as well as families who are in great need.

Until the church is reopened Becky Parnham continues to collect 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.

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

Thank you to Peter Ross (Jane Sawyer's son) who walked around 6 of Tonbridge's church and to all who sponsored him, raising £185 for the Friends of Kent Churches. 50% of this will be returned to St Nicholas Church.

Bible Readings at services

Sunday 1st November

Readings: Revelation 7:9-17; 1 John 3:1-3, Matt 5:1-12

Sunday 8th November

Readings: Amos 5. v18-24, 1 Thessalonians 4. v13-18, Matthew 25. v1-13

Sunday 15th November

Readings: Zeph 7:12-18, 1 Thess 5:1-11, Matt 25:14-30

Sunday 22nd November

Readings: Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24, Ephes. 1:15-23, Matt: 25:31-46

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!

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

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, or Marian at david.marian@btinternet.com phone 01622 743977



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/>