

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

St Nicholas Church Linton September 2020



Pastoral Letter from the Rector



I wonder if you are aware of The Listening Project? If you are a regular listener to Radio Four, you probably are. It's a partnership between BBC Radio 4, BBC local and national radio stations, and the British Library. The idea is to capture the nation in conversation. Since 2012 they have been collecting conversations between friends or relatives, to build a unique picture of life today. To date they have collected over a thousand conversations, each about 3 minutes, and most will be broadcast across BBC radio, while all are archived by the British Library, preserving them for future generations. They cover a wide range of topics – from living with Alzheimer's to falling in love in the front seat of a Reliant Robin. About 30 of them available online are about faith.

Talking with somebody and discovering more about them is a natural, very human thing to do. We crave relationship and even the most introvert or shy amongst us value a chance to chat from time to time. During lockdown, when we have not been able to meet in church, we quickly realised that an important part of being together, even online, was to chat. So we started inviting folk to stay on and go into a chat room with 3 or 4 others after the online service was done. It has proved immensely popular and facilitated discussions between people from different parishes, backgrounds and interests. Some people have found new friendships and I know of some people who have since met up for socially distanced chats face to face!

We are delighted to be running Alpha Online using Zoom starting on Wednesday 23rd September at 7.15pm. Alpha online is a series of interactive sessions

designed to create and inspire conversation, with a short talk and discussion where you can share thoughts. Each talk will look at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. If you are interested in joining in, or inviting a friend to join in, more details are available on the benefice website at www.unitedbenefice.church/alpha/ or you can call the Rector, who would be delighted to have a chat about it – or anything else on your mind!

Many blessings, *Peter*

Alpha Online

We are delighted to announce that we will be offering **Alpha Online**. This will be via Zoom on Wednesday evenings during the autumn term. Please consider attending and start thinking about who you might invite. *We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to ask the big questions of life. What is my purpose? What happens when I die? Why is there suffering?*

Alpha is a chance to ask these big questions and explore the Christian faith in a fun, non-pressurised environment.

Each session includes a short film and a discussion where you can share what you think with a small group of people just like you.



**Saturday
12th September**

Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Ride+Stride

Peter Ross (Jane Sawyer's son) will be doing a "Stride" around Tonbridge churches in aid of St Nicholas Church and the Friends of Kent Churches. Linton has supported this event generously in the past and it is one of the events that will actually be going ahead this year! So, if you are able to sponsor Peter, please let Kath know (email: cooperkathryn@btopenworld.com; tel: 01622 741494). The Church will not be open that day, but there will be a table outside the church for riders/walkers to sign in as usual.

Benefice Services in September

10.30am Every Sunday morning

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

<http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>

If you do not have access to the internet you can dial into the service from your landline

0203 051 2874, Enter 185124308#, #Enter#

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 6th September

9.30am Holy Communion at Hunton

Readings:

Ezekiel 33.7-11, Romans 13.8-14; Matthew 18.15-20

Sunday 13th September

8am Holy Communion at Linton

9.30am Morning Prayer at West Farleigh

Readings:

Genesis 50.15-21; Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

Sunday 20th September

9.30am Holy Communion at East Farleigh

9.30am Family Service at Hunton

Readings:

Jonah 3.10-4.11; Philippians 1.21-30; Matt 20.1-16

Sunday 27th September

8am Holy Communion at East Farleigh

9.30am Morning Prayer at Linton

Readings: Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-32;

Philippians 2.1-13; Matt 21.23-32

Every Thursday

10am at Coxheath, BCP Holy Communion. This service will also be available on Zoom.

<https://bit.ly/ThursdayCommunion> or by 'phone. Dial 0203 901 7895. Meeting ID: 862 4548 7631

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



We've missed MESSYCHURCH during the lockdown and sadly we still can't meet in the usual way. Saturday 19th September would have been our next

MessyChurch which we have had to cancel.

However, not to be disheartened, we thought we could try something a little different. MUDDY CHURCH started from a conversation about wanting to get children outside and off a screen. The idea is to engage with the nature of your community, a chance for families to wander together, dog owners to enjoy company as they walk their pets, people who engage spiritually through nature to have a place to be and seek God more. Everyone is welcome, with a low key agenda the idea is to journey together, to talk, chat, explore, have fun and be.

So we'll have a go! **SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER is the date – 4pm is the time.** Meet at Linton Church, bring some snacks and drinks, and we'll go for a short-ish circular walk from Linton Church, exploring this lovely area. Returning to meet outside the church and share what we have seen and learnt on our walk. It could be MUDDY, it could be RAINY, the SUN could SHINE, but it's sure to be FUN.

Everyone's welcome, Mums and Dads, Grannies and Grandads, dogs and even children!

See our FACEBOOK page:

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

Lorna's Ordination

On Sunday 27th September our Curate, Lorna Faulkner, will be ordained Priest at a service at St Andrew's, Paddock Wood. We have very little further info at present but please hold Lorna and the family in your prayers as she prepares for this special day in her life and her continuing ministry with us in the Benefice.



Beacon Men on line Prayer Group

The Zoom group meetings are on Wednesdays at 9am
Contact Steve 297144 or Mike 745702 for more details

Benefice Ladies' on line Prayer Group

The online Zoom group meetings are on Saturdays at 10am. Contact Dawn Burnell 435882 for more details

Bible Babble on line Young Peoples Group

This is an online Zoom group for young people in school year 6 and up. For more information and dates contact Becky Parnham 07949 646865

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.



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/>