

St Nicholas Church Linton January 2021



'Give all your worries to God, for he cares for you.' 1 Peter 5. 7

Dear friends,

As we look back at 2020 with sadness at opportunities denied and with joy at blessings received, in spite of everything, God is still there and loving us.

We find ourselves in Tier 4 (Stay Home) and schools are closed, so we proceed with caution with our interim worship pattern, but with a weather eye on the value of holding services in church compared to the risks involved. We must not, under Tier 4, engage with anybody outside our household whilst in church, and we are only permitted to hold services because we have been strict in implementing all controls.


Our online services and study continue, and following a wonderful Alpha, we are looking at study groups going forward. We will kick off the term with an Epiphany Service, followed by an opportunity for discussion and fellowship.

Wednesday 6th January 7.30pm
online Epiphany Service
<https://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>

We will follow that for the next 6 weeks (leading into Lent) with study session from the Bible Society, each of which will have opportunity for worship, teaching and discussion in small groups.

If you plan to be there on Wednesday evenings please let us know so we can arrange the best groups. Or, if Wednesdays don't work for you let me know and we will see if we can hold a Tuesday afternoon group.



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

Our planned worship for the foreseeable future:
Sunday online service which can also be accessed by telephone at 10.30am Sunday mornings:
On Computer, Tablet or Smartphone:
<http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>
By phone :
Dial 0203 051 2874 Enter 185124308 #,# Enter#
Password 316
(Cost of call is standard cost to a geographic number)

Some of our church buildings are now open for public worship. The pattern for this, for the time being, is as shown below.

	8am Holy Communion	9.30am	10.30am
Sunday 3rd January	none	Hunton, Holy Communion	Online
Sunday 10 th January	Linton	West Farleigh Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion	Online + HC
Sunday 17 th January	none	East Farleigh, Holy Communion <i>and</i> Hunton, Family Service	Online
Sunday 24 th January	East Farleigh	Linton, Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion	Online + HC
Sunday 31 st January	none	none	Online
10am Each Thursday at Coxheath, BCP Holy Communion On line recording http://bit.ly/ThursdayCommunion 86245487631 PassWord 316			

Pastoral Letter from Sue Elliott



Dear friends,
'The Repair Shop' is a popular TV program where experts restore items that are precious to their owners. Amazing things happen in the hands of these masters of their trades; leatherwork; upholstery; woodwork; ceramics; you name it and they will fix it. The BBC says the show is an 'antidote to throwaway culture.'

As we begin a New Year what are we looking forward to being restored?

- *Restoration of health for all who are ill, either with Covid-19, other illnesses or with mental health issues.*
- *Restoration of an economy so burdened with debt.*
- *Restoration of jobs for those who have lost them*
- *Restoration of life as we know it!*

We have just celebrated the coming to earth of God's son, Jesus, as a baby. When he began his ministry as an adult he quoted Isaiah, an Old Testament prophet, by saying, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour".

Can you imagine being blind and having your sight restored? These words of Jesus aren't just words, he actually did restore sight to blind people. He also restored a man's shrivelled hand and restored to health many who were brought to him.

However, the best restoration that Jesus did was to restore our relationship with God by dying for us; for all the things we have thought or done which are wrong. All these are forgiven when we confess our faults to God in Jesus' name, and at the beginning of a New Year there is no better time.

Wishing you all a blessed New Year as we travel with the God whose ability to restore us through Jesus is beyond our understanding ... but thank goodness He did because, just as the items in The Repair Shop, we are precious to Him!
Blessings, Sue.

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

Recorded Sermons

From time to time recorded sermons can be found on the Benefice FaceBook Page

Beacon Men on line Prayer Group

The Zoom group meetings are on Tuesdays at 9.00am 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

Coffee Time on line. Following Thursday communion. 10.30am. All welcome for social meeting online. Contact Lesley 07814 817204

Mothers' Union online meetings.

Alternative months, 3rd Wednesday 2pm. Contact Lesley 07814 817204

Church Website

For more information about our Benefice and five Benefice Churches go to www.unitedbenefice.church
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9958/>

Benefice Contact Details

Rector Rev Peter Callway email:peter@callways.co.uk
01622 747570 - not available Fridays
Rev. Lorna Faulkner Assistant Curate 01622 439304
Rev David Jones, Hon.Associate Rector 741474 - not available Fridays