

Linton Parish News

Summer 2021

published jointly by Linton Parish Council
and St Nicholas Church



Welcome to Linton! If you are one of our many new neighbours who have recently moved to the village, we welcome you and hope you will soon come to appreciate and enjoy this beautiful village and get to know some of the characters who call it home. Pat Burden, one of our Parish Councillors has a "Welcome" pack with lots of helpful information about the village. So get in touch. If you have new neighbours perhaps you could use the opportunity of taking a Welcome pack round to them and introducing yourself!!



**From the Chair of Linton Parish Council,
Bernie Cresswell**



We learn of the sad recent loss of Mike Stevens who for 20 years was Clerk to Linton Parish Council. Please see page 2 for more detail of all he did for Linton. Our thoughts are with his family.

Church Bells ring out On a happier note, it was lovely to hear the resumption of the bells of St Nicholas Church Linton, ringing aloud after such a long absence. This reminds me of all those who offer up their time to make our lives a bit richer and a better environment to live in.

Keep Linton Clear of Litter This brings me onto the great work of the small number of volunteers who keep our roads free of rubbish that blights our countryside. The recent Summer edition of Maidstone Council's "Borough" magazine has an article on this menace.

The Linton Litterpickers are organised by Cllr Julie Urquhart. Get in touch; it's very worthwhile.

Flytipping is an issue which puts off people coming to the area and impacts on some of our local businesses. We know of an American tourist company who no longer comes to us because of it. With this in mind and the volunteer litterpickers who work so hard to make Linton pleasing to the eye, please don't abandon white goods on the side of the road in the hope that some will collect it; its fly tipping!

Traffic Calming Linton Hill has had a revamp on its signage along with gateways to try and slow vehicles down; all thanks to Alan Firmin Ltd. Kent Highways will shortly be carrying out a speed survey to gather data to compare with previous surveys to see its impact and if there is anything else continued on page 2.....

Linton Parish Council Website <http://lintonkent.org>

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that can be done. The problem is that policies change so one can never be sure of what is in the armoury and what is not. We've also added some pedestrian signage to encourage crossing from the vicinity of church to be made from just above the Almshouses where vision is much better.

SpeedWatch

Let's not forget Linton has a SpeedWatch that can make a difference, get in touch to find out more.

Litterpicking

Berry Gardens also help with litter picking and have made large strides to reduce their light pollutions; well done to them.

Planning Applications

Still ongoing is Fridays Ltd planning application (20/505751/EIFUL) for 192,000 chickens in 3 large hen houses at Reed Court Farm, just on our Parish doorstep.

The large **Polytunnels** that can be seen from most areas of Linton, stretching from Berry Gardens in the valley all the way to the A229, were subject to a

planning application to have them remain covered the whole year round (21/500517/FULL) This has been withdrawn. The MBC planning portal has no reason given so we wait and see what happens next.

Parish Council

And finally... Your Parish Council has three vacancies which need to be filled if we are to ensure we have a proper representation of your views. Get in touch for a no obligation chat.... Honest!

Just Stay Safe

I'm resisting mentioning the pandemic and the road map; JUST STAY SAFE. What I can say is, although we currently operate under delegated powers, we're still busy behind the scenes. Normal service and schedule should resume later this month (July), in theory!

The above means that again there won't be a Parish Annual meeting so, as happened last year, we'll compile an annual report that should be on our Lintonkent.org website in August so watch out for it.

Bernie Cresswell



We were sorry to hear of the death of Mike Stevens on 5th April. Many will remember him as Linton Parish Clerk. His early career spanned several years in the Youth Service of London County Council. He then moved to Kent, continuing with his work in Education and in the Youth Service for KCC. In 1981 he moved to Linton, where he stayed for over 30 years and became a well known figure, with an encyclopaedic knowledge of our village, its residents and their properties. He was Chairman of Governors of Oakwood Park Grammar School for which he received an MBE. For 20 years he was Clerk to Linton Parish Council, steering us all through the complexities of planning law, local government policy and for some years managing the Village Hall. With his support the Allotments were revived and Speed Watch and Neighbourhood Watch were set up. Over five years ago he and his wife, Ann, moved to Loose but they kept their ties with Linton, enjoying the Cream Teas and seeing old friends.

**Letter from Sue Elliott,
Pastoral Assistant**



Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on 11th June. By the time you read it we will all know whether the lockdown was eased or lifted, whether we can holiday in certain countries; whether a third wave is here. So much uncertainty at present!

I want to take you back to another time of great uncertainty, the Second World War. On the wall of a concentration camp a prisoner scratched these words:

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

I believe in love even when I feel it not.

I believe in God even when He is silent.

Such powerful words! This person has had their freedom, their friends and the people they love taken away in the most dreadful of circumstances. We can't compare ourselves to this horror but this might be a little bit how the last year has seemed for us in that we have not had the freedom to go where we want when we want; no meeting up with friends; many of us losing

loved ones. There was something that the prisoner was sure of in the midst of all their loss – that even if they couldn't hear God they had the faith to know He was there with them.

Many years ago I wrote a song with the words:

*Oh my God, where are you now?
I'm so frightened and so full of doubt.*

*Oh my God, are you there?
When I'm discouraged
I need to feel your love....*

It wasn't a great song but it shows that although I believed in God He was silent for me at that time. Faith can be a bumpy road but hang on in there because God loves you!

If you would like some encouragement with a moment of peace then the composer Kim André Arnesen has written a beautiful song using the concentration camp words. Head over to YouTube and search for 'Even when He is silent.' There are several versions – a particularly good one is by Sofia Vokalensemble. Here's the link :

<https://youtu.be/3vp1WJN5WSg>

enjoy the music and enjoy the certainty that God is there for us all, even when we can't hear Him!

Blessings to you all, *Sue*

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Neighbourhood Watch & Welcome Pack

Pat Burden - Mobile: 07979 430148

Email: lintonnhw@gmail.com

Village Hall Lettings Secretary

Jane Brooker Mobile: 07903 419055

Email: lvhbookings15@gmail.com

Allotments Julie Urquhart: 07943 734587

Email: julieurquhart_1@hotmail.com

Parish Council Chairman: Bernard Cresswell

Email: bernardjresswell@gmail.com

See Website for other Councillors:

Pat Burden, Julie Urquhart, Peter Lewis

<http://lintonkent.org>

Linton Walkers are walking again!

Linton has an active walking group that meets every week, almost throughout the year ... at present, suitably socially distanced! Every other Thursday at 11am and Tuesday evenings. Contact David: davidhill1945@gmail.com, Peter: pgoodhew67@gmail.com, or Jerry: lintonwalkers1@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE BENEFICE

There will soon be a new rota of church services in the Benefice but for the time being, the following services will be held in addition to the Zoom service.

1st Sunday of the month

9.30am Holy Communion in Hunton

2nd Sunday of the month

8am Holy Communion in Linton

9.30am Morning Prayer in West Farleigh, followed by Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month

9.30am Holy Communion at East Farleigh

9.30am Family Service at Hunton

4th Sunday of the month

8am Holy Communion at East Farleigh

9.30am Morning Prayer at Linton followed by Holy Communion

10.30 Every Sunday morning:

On your Computer, tablet or smartphone:



<http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>

Or dial into the service from a landline **Dial 0203 051 2874**

Enter 185124308# Enter #, password 316. Cost of call

standard to a geographic number.

Benefice Contacts

Rector Rev Peter Callway 01622 747570
peter@callways.co.uk (not Fridays)

Assistant Curate Rev Lorna Faulkner
01622 439304

Hon. Associate Rector Rev David Jones
01622 741474

Children & Families' Worker

Becky Parnham 07949 646865

websites <http://unitedbenefice.church>
[www.achurchnearyou.com/
church/9958/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9958/)

Farewell to Peter and Alison

We say goodbye to our Rector, Rev



Peter Callway, and Alison on Sunday 29th August at a service at St Mary's Hunton at 10.30am, followed by lunch in Hunton Village Hall. Peter and Alison are retiring after seven years' ministry in the Benefice. We are thankful for all they have done here, much of which is unseen, and will miss them. Please pray for the Ministry Team, Lorna, David and Becky, and the Churchwardens of the 5 churches as they continue to serve the Benefice during the 'Interregnum' before a new Rector is appointed.

Holy Trinity Church Coxheath remains closed for Sunday Worship, with services broadcast over zoom until the next decision point. Thursday Holy Communion Services at Holy Trinity are now taking place at 10am as well as being online.

<http://bit.ly/ThursdayCommunion>

Linton Churchyard is a lovely quiet space



to spend some time and enjoy the environment and you will find some small boards there with

thoughts on nature and who made it. To find out more go to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/LintonMuddyChurch/> We hope that Muddy Church will resume before long.



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