



St Nicholas Church Linton March 2021

We continue to worship online with the rest of the Benefice every Sunday at 10.30am
On Computer, Tablet or Smartphone:
<http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>

It can also be accessed by telephone:
Dial 0203 051 2874 Enter 185124308 #,# Enter#
Password 316

(Cost of call is standard cost to a geographic number)

Friday 5th March World Day of Prayer Service

7.30pm on Zoom <http://bit.ly/VanuatuDayofPrayer>

Meeting ID: 816 1914 2059 Passcode: 316

This year's service, which is entitled 'Build on a Strong Foundation' has been prepared by Christian women of Vanuatu. All welcome to join this service.

Return to Worship in Church Buildings

Following the government's announcement of a roadmap for recovery, we are planning to open our church buildings in a safe and well managed way.

Palm Sunday 28th March

From Palm Sunday, we plan to revert to our interim worship pattern, with services in Churches as follows:

8am at East Farleigh

9.30am at Linton

Easter

There will be Easter Day Services in East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton and West Farleigh Churches. These churches will be able to accommodate congregations with appropriate social distancing with numbers as previously established according to risk assessments.

In Coxheath at Easter there will be a small team in church and the service will be broadcast over Zoom. Holy Trinity Church Coxheath will remain closed for Sunday Worship, with services broadcast over zoom until the next decision point.

Online Lent Study Goups

Lent Groups for our own study and worship during the period approaching Easter. Our Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening groups will continue. Please let the Rector know if you would like to join an online group for the weeks of Lent.

Caring for each other As we approach a time when we will have been isolating for almost a year, and when it is almost 12 months since some folk have set foot inside a church building, please do let us know if there are any needs that you are aware of, for yourself or others, and please keep supporting those in your friendship networks. Meanwhile, stay safe and continue to pray for all affected by the pandemic.

Peter Callway

Pastoral Letter from Alison Callway

Do you sometimes feel you're caught in some kind of time warp? Or living the experience of 'Groundhog Day'? How do we experience time, particularly when our normal routines have been disrupted? Has our sense of time somehow collapsed? With fewer 'landmarks' in our lives, it's sometimes even difficult to remember which day of the week it is.

In our Western culture we tend to view time as linear, with a definitive beginning and end. We talk about wasting, spending and saving time, so as time is viewed as limited in supply, we structure our lives by milestones and deadlines. We think of time as a road along which we proceed, with life referred to as a 'journey', and death as the 'end of the road'. We imagine ourselves as having travelled along the part of the road that is behind us (the past) and we see the untrodden path of the future stretching out in front of us.

Our culture is also predominantly 'monochronic'; that is, we prefer to do only one thing at a time, to concentrate on it and do it within a fixed schedule. This is how we think we get more things done — and more efficiently. Others perceive time differently. More importance is placed on doing things in the right

way and maintaining harmony, rather than worrying about getting things done 'on time'. The driving forces are not schedules or punctuality, but the view of the present reality being more important than appointments. Priority is given to the relative excitement or significance of each human encounter as this is seen as the best use of time.

In some Eastern cultures, time is viewed neither as linear nor relationship related, but as cyclic. Each day the sun rises and sets, the seasons follow one another, people grow old and die, but their children reconstitute the process. This cycle has gone on for 100,000 years and more, so cyclical time is not a scarce commodity. There's a saying 'when God made time, He made plenty of it'.

Where does God fit into our perceptions of time? As Christians we believe that God is eternal – a challenging concept, and personally I find the 'always has been' aspect harder than the 'always will be' part. But God is also 'temporal' in that he exists at each moment in time. He also intervenes in our time. Many stories in the Bible point to this, most specifically the pivotal event of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Whatever challenges we currently face as we struggle with using our time, worrying about our future, or regretting the past, we can believe that God is alongside us, sharing our time here on earth, and beyond.

Alison Callway



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

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

For more information about our Benefice and 5 Benefice Churches go to www.unitedbenefice.church or <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9958/>