



# St Nicholas Church Linton September 2021

## Benefice Services in September

**11am Zoom service every Sunday from Holy Trinity, Coxheath**

On Computer, Tablet or Smartphone:

<http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>

Or by phone Dial 0203 051 2874

Enter 185124308 #,# Enter#

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September Trinity

9.30am Service of the Word at East Farleigh

9.30am Holy Communion at Hunton

11am Holy Communion at Coxheath

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion at West Farleigh

**9.30am Service of the Word at Linton**

11am Service of the Word at Coxheath

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September Trinity

**9.30am** Holy Communion at East Farleigh

9.30am Service of the Word at Hunton

11am Holy Communion at Coxheath

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September Trinity

9.30am Service of the Word at West Farleigh

**9.30am Holy Communion at Linton**

**11am Harvest Festival at Coxheath**

*This is a giving service in aid of MADM (Making a Difference to Maidstone) with the gifts of food being donated to Maidstone Homeless Care, which also provides food boxes for families in need.*

## Every Thursday

10am Midweek Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Coxheath. Also online at

<http://bit.ly/ThursdayCommunion>

## Saturday 11th September

Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride St Nicholas church will be open from 10am to 4.30pm. Sadly, we don't have anyone cycling or riding for St Nicholas Church but will welcome all who pass by. If you would like to sponsor Andrew Baker at Coxheath, please let Sandra Baker know. (If anyone would like to take part in the annual Ride and Stride please contact Andrew Baker on 07713403527)

## Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

12 noon A short service of Holy Communion in Linton Church, with refreshments. We hope to return to having a light lunch after this service in October.

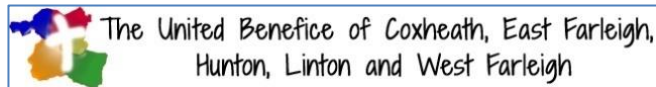
## Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September

9.30am to 12 noon Coffee morning in Linton Church. We are looking forward to welcoming you back to St Nicholas for our monthly coffee mornings. Bacon rolls, scones, cakes and lots more.

## Coronavirus update

The current situation is:

- We continue to sign in and use hand gel at our services.
- We strongly recommend the wearing of face masks, especially when moving around.
- We recommend social distancing wherever possible
- Singing is now permitted.
- After service refreshments are also permitted.
- Administration of Holy Communion will be as follows: Individuals are invited to come forward, distanced as far as possible, and stand to receive. The priest will intinct (dip) the wafer into the wine before offering to each communicant



Revd. Lorna Faulkner Assistant Curate 01622 439304

Revd. David Jones - Hon. Associate Rector 741474

Websites: [www.unitedbenefice.church](http://www.unitedbenefice.church) or

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9958/>

## Pastoral Letter from the Rector

As they part, Romeo says to Juliet "Parting is such sweet sorrow". The sorrow comes from the departure but the sweetness from the fact that they will meet again. As Alison and I depart after eight years of serving here in the benefice, we do so with the same sentiments. Parting is difficult as we leave behind new friends and situations which have sustained us in our ministry here. We leave with the regret of things left unfinished, of having had a year and a half of pandemic which has suppressed the life of worship. However, we leave with joy as we look back on our life of ministry here and see individuals who have grown in their discipleship, in their love of Jesus. We see the benefice more closely aligned perhaps than when we arrived, and we see the potential for a continued development of the life of faith amongst the believers in these five villages. We look back with joy at the fellowship we have enjoyed with so many people and in the knowledge that we are just 10 minutes away and able to maintain friendships formed (but no church talk please if we meet up!)

As we head into retirement, we do so encouraged by the God who sustains us and the knowledge that new horizons await. For us, sure, but for you all here too. Our prayer is for a vibrant life of worship that sees even more cross benefice support and collaboration, and for a new Rector who will build upon the sure foundation of faith that is here.

Two of my favourite Bible verses spring to mind as this final Pastoral letter draws to a close. Isaiah 40:3: "those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" and Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." May they be true for each and every one of us.

Many blessings. Peter Callway, Rector (retired)