



## St Nicholas Church Linton February 2021

We begin this update with the sad news that Bob Caudwell died on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Bob had been the organist at Linton for over 20 years, and had also played at other churches in the benefice. He will be greatly missed and we hold Margaret and Bob's family in our prayers. (See overleaf for a transcript of an article about Bob published in Kent Online).


### Church buildings remain closed for public worship until at least the end of February

Our planned worship for the foreseeable future:  
Sunday online service at 10.30am Sunday mornings:  
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)

**Ash Wednesday service** will be online. The service will begin at 7.30 on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at the usual address of <http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice> or connect to Zoom Meeting ID 185 124 308 (Passcode is 316). You can also dial in on 0203 481 5237.

**Lent begins at Ash Wednesday** and we will be running a number of Lent Groups for our own study and worship during the period approaching Easter as we all seek to draw nearer to Jesus Christ in our discipleship. Our Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening groups will continue, and we will run additional groups if there is demand. **Please let the Rector know by Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February** if you would like to join a group for the five weeks of Lent, and when you would prefer to meet. Clearly, these groups can only be online at present.

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

Finally, 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.



On behalf of the Ministry team. Kind regards, Peter  
**Rev. Peter Callway, Rector, United Benefice of  
Coxheath, East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton and  
West Farleigh. 01622 747570**

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

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](mailto: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](http://www.unitedbenefice.church)  
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9958/>

### **Pastoral Letter for February from the Rector**

You don't need me to tell you that we are in the midst of a global pandemic at the moment. It's everywhere you look, all the news, conversations with friends, it pervades everything. Probably rightly so. It really is important that we do all we can to stay safe and keep others safe. Yet, there are those who deny that the pandemic is real, or it is a plot by the communists/ right wing politicians/liberal elite/big tech to infect the world with a virus/microchip/fake news in order to suppress/repress/remove the rights of/control the world's population. Getting accurate information is more challenging than ever in a world of instant online social platforms and 24/7 news channels. Who do we believe? Do we trust our governments? The scientists? The newspapers? The BBC?

One thing we can trust is our own experience. I've had COVID-19 and it is most unpleasant. As an overweight, asthmatic, 65-year-old I was at risk of serious illness, but I am grateful that I am over it and working off the after effects. I am still struggling with shortness of breath and my thinking capacity is diminished. (Insert your own joke here 😊) Seriously, it is not to be recommended, and my father died from it. He had a weak heart and other underlying conditions, but it was the COVID which finally ended his life.

One exchange I had with a chap who described himself as an "Apostolic Pentecostal Christian" had him saying that it was a severe lack of faith to wear a face covering and asked the question WWJD? (What Would Jesus Do?) My response to that was that it was not a particularly helpful question because he was God, and we're not, but that Jesus taught us that the greatest commandments are to love your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself. Wearing a face covering, washing hands, staying home, keeping distance when out are not showing a lack of faith. They are showing a love of neighbour. Isn't that what Jesus would want us to do?  
Stay safe and well.  
Peter Callway, Rector.

Kent Online, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## A talented organist and much loved choirmaster and centenarian has died.



Robert (Bob) Caudwell was well known to worshippers at St Nicholas Church in Linton where he had been the organist for 24 years after seeing the post advertised in the Kent Messenger newspaper. Bob Caudwell was the organist at St Nicholas Church in Linton for 24 years. He also helped out at All Saints Church in West Farleigh when they found themselves short-handed.

Mr Caudwell, from Blue Bell Hill, Maidstone, was said to be able to play every hymn from memory without music and took pride in only ever missing one rehearsal in his long career. That included choir practice every Saturday and church services on Sunday. Since Covid, church services and choral singing have been severely limited, but Mr Caudwell played at the last service where music was permitted on March 8 last year.

Kath Cooper from Linton, who worships at St Nicholas, had known Mr Caudwell for his whole

time at the church. She said: "He was a brilliant organist. But he didn't just play hymns." Bob Caudwell was able to bash out show tunes as well as church music. "We would hold a cream tea event before Mothering Sunday each year and Bob would come for two hours playing songs from the shows - it was great fun!" Mrs Cooper was also full of praise for Mr Caudwell's achievements with the choir. She said: "It's a small choir and getting rather elderly, but Bob achieved some wonderful things with him and they loved him!"

Mr Caudwell was born in Nottinghamshire, the youngest of three sons. His father was a gardener. He started playing the organ at 14. He was called up to the army in 1940 and spent six years as a trooper with the Liverpool Welsh Tank Regiment, serving in Egypt, North Africa, Greece and Sicily, and after the end of the war, he was part of the British contingent supporting the government side in the Greek Civil War. Mr

Caudwell was proud of his service with a tank regiment during the Second World War. He also conducted an army choir during the Second World War, with three of his concerts broadcast on the BBC. He leaves a daughter-in-law  
Returning to civilian life in 1946, he worked as a maths, science and music teacher, gaining a professional diploma from the Royal Academy of Music, and he was awarded the prestigious Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists. He officially retired in 1980, though he continued



to give private piano lessons. His wife predeceased him and finding himself single again, he moved to Maidstone in 1996 to be closer to his son, John, and at once signed up as choirmaster and organist at St Nicholas Church.



Outside of music, his main interest was foreign travel and he undertook several long haul trips with his friend from church, Margaret Howe. She said: "Bob was a remarkable man. Very loving and kind, extremely reliable and terribly gifted. He was my best beloved friend and companion." He celebrated his 100th birthday on June 24, last year. He died at home on Wednesday January 27, from prostate cancer. He leaves a daughter-in-law, Judith, and two teenage grandchildren, twins Fred and George, both at university.

Written by Alan Smith, Kent Online