

September 2017



As I write, our primary schools have been saying goodbye to Year 6 children who will be starting the next phase of their education in September. Pupils and students can forget about their studies for a time and many of us can look forward to some time away during late July or August. Church will seem quiet, with fewer people and a temporary halt to committee meetings! Conversely, the wedding season will be in full swing and we are looking forward to several around the benefice over the next few weeks.

By the time this appears in the magazines, we will be well into the football season, gearing up for the new school year and, dare I say it, beginning to look ahead to preparations for Advent and Christmas!

The next several weeks will seem strange, particularly for Tunstall Church: there is now a large hole in the South aisle ceiling, from where a chunk of plaster fell one evening during the week. Those attending services or visiting the church over the next few weeks will enter the building through our new 'gazebo' which leads from the South porch to the bottom of the ramp. This was hastily erected within 2 days of the incident and we have blocked off the pews on that side of the building to ensure safety. We are very grateful to Terry and Carr Building Contractors for their prompt action and the temporary structure has drawn many favourable comments from parishioners – it has already become a feature!

In last month's magazine we set out the schedule for services during October, when from 8th to 22nd they will relocate to St Nicholas, Rodmersham. Our Celebration of Baptism, which was held last year at Tunstall, will take place this year at St John the Baptist, Bredgar on 15th October from 2:30pm. The United Benefice Service will be at St Dunstan's, Frinsted on 29th October and services at Tunstall Church will resume as normal from 5th November.

There is one significant change to take place in the Autumn: from Sunday 1st October we plan to hold a monthly Café-style gathering at Tunstall from 4:00pm to which all are welcome. This will not be a 'service' in the usual sense but an opportunity to meet and discuss issues of the day from

a moral or religious perspective. Further details will appear in our weekly newsletter and in the next issue of the magazine.

Whether you are involved in church life or not, I hope you have all managed to find some relaxation over the summer and are refreshed and ready to face the long haul between now and Christmas!

With best wishes,
Rev. Alan.

Services for September throughout the Benefice

Sunday, 3rd	<i>12th Sunday after Trinity – St Giles</i>	
8:00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9:00am	Holy Communion (said)	Bredgar
9:30am	Parish Communion (with Choir)	Tunstall
10:30am	Patronal Family Service	Wormshill
11:15am	Parish Communion	Rodmersham
6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Frinsted
6:30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall
Sunday, 10th	<i>13th Sunday after Trinity - Holy Cross</i>	
8:00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9:00am	Holy Communion (said)	Milstead
9:30am	Parish Communion (with Choir)	Tunstall
10:30am	Informal Communion	Bredgar
10:30am	Matins	Wormshill
6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Bredgar
6:30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall
Sunday, 17th	<i>14th Sunday after Trinity</i>	
8:00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9:00am	Holy Communion (said)	Frinsted
9:30am	Parish Communion (with Choir)	Tunstall
10:30am	Morning Prayer	Bredgar
11:15am	Morning Prayer	Rodmersham
6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Wormshill
6:30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall

Sunday, 24th	15th Sunday after Trinity	
8:00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9:00am	Holy Communion (said)	Wormshill
9:30am	Parish Communion (with Choir)	Tunstall
10:30am	Matins BCP	Frinsted
10:30am	ExCiTe all age lay-led worship	Bredgar
6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Milstead
6:30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall

New!!!!!! Café Tunstall

Church - with no singing, no preaching and no books!



Join us once a month to enjoy good coffee and good company; to discuss issues of the day from a moral or Christian standpoint; to ask awkward questions and to explore the meaning of life!

Tunstall Church from 4:00pm until 5:00pm
1st Sunday of every month, starting 1st October

Children are welcome!

Phil the Bag



Our next collection will be on Thursday November 2nd. Usual arrangement apply i.e. we are collecting in the car park 8.30-9.30am. and in church the previous Sunday. *Marilyn Austen*



COFFEE MORNING with information about
BENEFICE WEEKEND AWAY

Frinsted Village Hall

23rd September 2017 9.30am - 12 noon

Within the morning we will be providing information about the **BENEFICE WEEKEND** which will take place on **26th October 2018** at Ashburnham Place in Sussex. A group of people have been working hard on the planning for the weekend and would welcome the

opportunity to meet with you and encourage all ages to come and enjoy this weekend together.

There is a diverse programme being planned that will capture the imagination and also allow us to have two social evenings together with a variety of entertainment. If your partner or spouse does not come to church with you, they are very welcome to come on the weekend and enjoy the social aspect, the venue and the attractions within the surrounding area.

Please come to the coffee morning where we will be able to provide more detailed information about the weekend, and how to book.

Thank you Tricia Longbottom



Accessible Fitness For All To Enjoy

Chair Based and Older Adult Exercise - New Venue

I wonder if anyone would like to join me in the above exercise class? This class is on a Wednesday afternoon from 1.45pm to 2.45pm in Bapchild and Tonge Village

Hall next to the church and is run by the excellent Jane Seyler. It is only £5.00 a session and there is plenty of parking. The classes begin again on An start **Wednesday, 6th September.**

Even chair based exercise is beneficial and these classes are light-hearted and fun.

It would be good to have more in the group so if you would be interested please contact Jane on (01795) 886267 - jane.seyler@btopenworld.com

Thank you Sandra Vaughan



Ride and Stride - Saturday 9th September

Please, could you spare a morning or afternoon to ride a bike or walk to raise money for our churches in Tunstall and Rodmersham. The Ride and Stride is open to everyone. 50% of the sponsorship money goes to the church with the other 50% going to the Friends of Kent Churches who use it to help the most needy churches and chapels in the County. For further details and information please speak to **Joan O`Rawe 470476.**

Bequests

Would you like to leave some money to your parish church?

From time to time I am asked if there is any special wording that should be made if people wish to leave a legacy for the benefit of St. John's Church, Tunstall or St Nicholas, Rodmersham.

We have been advised that it is best to name the legacy:

“for the benefit of the PCC of the Parish of Tunstall, or the Parish of Rodmersham, (a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission)”.

If you need further help, please consult your solicitor. I hope this will be of assistance to those of you who have raised this query. We are always grateful to receive any donations or legacies.



Tunstall Folk Dancing

After the summer break, Tunstall's folk dancing group meets again **on Thursday 5th October at 2.00pm** in the village hall. New members will be most welcome. No experience is necessary in what is a light hearted afternoon with lots of merriment when it all goes wrong!

We have different callers each week and on **Thursday 19th October** we have arranged a special return visit by Alan Austen who compered the highly successful barn dance we arranged in March earlier this year. (Remember at one point capering around the village hall car park?).

Alan has agreed to come to one of our Thursday afternoon sessions with live music and the odd traditional folk song in between dances while we get our breath back. Do come on October 19th.

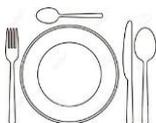
No membership is required and a mere £3 covers the cost of the afternoon. Come and find out what fun a set or two of 'Gathering Peasecods' and 'Haste to the Wedding' can be – to say nothing of the exercise. Much better than pounding away at a machine in the gym!

Pauline Panton

Tunstall Mothers' Union

Our next meeting will be on **20th September** when our speakers will be Keith and Janet Littlejohns speaking about their time regularly spent in Goa helping families in that region. This meeting is open to all and we would love to see you.

Sue Thomas



Tunstall School Luncheon Club

Lunches begin again after the summer break on **Wednesday September 13th**.

Please remember to contact the school by 7th September if you wish to attend. Thank you. Contact numbers are 01795 **472895** or email office@tunstall.kent.sch.uk

Friends of Tunstall Church

Although some of you will be receiving this magazine before this event takes place, I would especially thank those who made our 'Allo 'Allo Tunstall' French supper evening on August Bank Holiday such a memorable time again. I hope everyone will have enjoyed themselves. Many thanks to all who helped. Edith certainly would have been envious of the fare. *Merci à tous.*

September is a month when you might think the Friends are having a breather as no event is scheduled. But far from it, your committee has been hard at it preparing for and finalising the autumn/winter talks season.

We hope you have enjoyed our offerings during the past year and we start again on the **first Wednesday of each month** from October to April at 7.30pm. Our start time of 7.30pm trialled over the past year has met with unanimous approval.

Coming soon to the village hall near you will be the new season's varied programme and the Friends' newsletter advertising the first three months' events will soon be in your letterbox.

The October meeting begins with a short AGM, required because we are a registered charity, followed by a talk by William Opie on the history of his family business Bennett Opie; and fascinating it is.

My thanks to the committee and assistants for their efforts throughout the past year and to yourselves for your continuing support.

David Prew Chairman

HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 7th October, Tunstall Village Hall - 6.30 for 7.00pm,



You are warmly invited to our Harvest Supper being held in Tunstall Village Memorial Hall at 6.30 for 7pm on Saturday 7th October 2017.

This year, we can look forward to hearing some stories from some seasoned campaigners on the delights – or otherwise – of life at Harvest

Time. There will also be some suitable Harvest readings.

Following some very positive feedback from last year about how everybody enjoyed the Community singing, we will intersperse this year's meal with some classic Harvest Songs.

The meal this year will be a Shepherd's Pie, followed by Apple Tart and concluding with tea/coffee and mints. If you require a vegetarian option, please let us know. Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

There will be a raffle and the proceeds will go to one of the Food Banks in town.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children and are available from John Slate (john.slate49@hotmail.com mob: **07717 295 376**)

We look forward to seeing you on 7th October.

John Slate

Christmas Tree Festival in Tunstall Church, 7th – 10th December 2017

We are pleased to remind you that your contribution to this Festival would be warmly welcomed. Registration forms are available in the Church and also from John Vaughan, John Slate, (john.slate49@hotmail.com) and

myself. Your tree may be any shape, size, theme and design and contributed by you as an individual, family, school, charity or business organisation. This year we are hoping to have a 'late night' for those for whom a visit at this time may be more convenient. Throughout the Festival there will be a range of refreshments with free tea and coffee and a BBQ at lunchtime on the Saturday. Any donations will be divided between the roof fund and the Medical Dogs charity.

Even if you do not contribute a tree we hope you will mark this memorable event in your diary and plan a visit bringing with you your friends and family. Groups are also warmly invited especially our neighbours in residential homes who find this event a moving experience.

We look forward to receiving your contribution and seeing you at this event.

Marylyn Atkins, 01795 472577, (Marylyn@tunstalloast.co.uk) and John Vaughan, 01795 425123, (johncvaughan@btinternet.com)

Rodmersham Society

The Harvest Supper run by John and Barbara Fisher will be on **Wednesday 18th October**. Auditions and practices for the Singing Waiters will be on Wednesday evenings in October!

On **Friday 10th November** Dennis Taylor will organise a Pig Race evening in the village hall –this was popular last time.

Carols on the Green is planned for **Saturday 2nd December**.

The 100 Club run by Barbara Fisher (424 952) has sold 95 of the 100 tickets so almost there. Ring Barbara if you want to join the 100 Club.

For 2018 we need more ideas and volunteers. To set your minds working we have had successful Open Gardens usually in June and a Grand Auction either in March or in November. Talks, Quizzes, Barn Dances and musical events (Jazz or Folk) have all been popular and Thelma North will run a Tea Dance in Spring 2018. **But what do you want? Do get in touch with either Graham Haggard or John Fisher and let us know!** You don't have to be a committee member to help organise an event!

Rodmersham Church dates from the 11th Century and is at least 900 years old so care and maintenance is always ongoing. Over the last 12 years the PCC and the Rodmersham Society have been very successful in raising money to pay for improvements and repairs. Our current target is to raise £11,500 plus refundable VAT to repair the paved drainage gullies that channel rainwater away from the building. Laid down in the 1890s the gullies now leak directly into the foundations of the building and cause severe damp problems along the interior walls. Sorting out the damp problem would be a huge bonus! *Graham Haggard/John Fisher*