

February 2018

**Message from the Curate
Happy New Year**



“Tempus Fugit”, time really does fly doesn't it! By the time you read this, we will already be well into 2018 and wondering where last year went. For the Mem and I, 2017 marked the end of a journey that took 8 years but more of that in a separate missive.

2018 will mark the Centenary of the end of WW1, the Great War; the war to end all wars! Like churches all over the UK and indeed, the world, the churches across our benefice have memorials to those who left their villages to go and fight for King and Country, never to return, their names and the ultimate sacrifice they made consigned to an inscription on a wall plaque. However, to mark the centenary, and in cooperation with members of 2230 (Sittingbourne) Squadron, RAF Air Cadets, we intend to bring the names off the walls and into the pews.

A new charity called “Remembered” has launched a campaign inspired by the enormous impact of something done in Penshurst church in 2016 called “there but not there”. The following is taken from their website:

therebutnotthere.org.uk

Remembered has two main objectives:

- **To encourage future generations to remember and understand the sacrifices made by members of the British Armed Forces through the delivery of commemorative projects of specific historical Military significance**
- **To promote physical and mental well-being of former or existing members of the British Armed Forces through the provision of grants to Military charities with expertise in this work.**



The project uses life size Perspex cut outs and the impact is amazing and moving.

What the Cadets are hoping to do is raise enough money to buy one for each of the names on our memorials. They cost £55 each which includes a

name plaque and storage bag so that they can be kept safely intact from year to year. Some of you may feel moved to purchase one in memory of a loved one, or simply as a thank you to those who gave their lives from our villages. If so, please let me know.

We will keep you informed as to progress, but in the meantime, if you have access to the internet, visit the website, it's well worth a few minutes of your time to help remember those whose names should live on.

Fr Kevin

What now? What next? Where to?

These are the questions that we have been asked by many people over the last 6 months since I finished my Curacy.

The answer to all of them, at least in the short term is, we will remain where we are for the time being. I still have a business to run in Tunbridge Wells, the Mem still works in and around the community in the Maidstone area, and we still live locally, so it makes sense for us to continue as we are.

So, what will change? As far as the Benefice is concerned, very little, I will continue to assist Alan in whatever capacity I can, but the time that I had to put aside every week for all the study and essay writing, I plan to channel into my Chaplaincy work, especially with the Air Cadets. Because of time restraints, my work there has been restricted to "Padre's hour" once a month, and I have had to pass up numerous opportunities to go away on camp, exercises, and other duties with them but now hope to be able to do more of that. As some of you know, this is a ministry that is very important to me, and to the wider church too as it gives me an opportunity to minister and give pastoral support to 20-30 teenagers on a regular basis, (an opportunity few Parish Priests get!), who actually listen and interact with me, all based on mutual trust. For me, it beggars belief why it's so hard to recruit Chaplains to minister to the Cadet Forces, when most churches struggle to attract this age group.

In the longer term, I will be exploring other areas of Chaplaincy too, perhaps in Hospital/Hospice work or some other secular area.

What next? On a more personal note, the last 8 years of our lives have revolved around what was happening for me, and Suzie's life and career

were put on hold; i.e. we couldn't make any plans during the discernment process until we knew whether I would be accepted to train, then Theological College and curacy. So, for the first time in 8 years, the emphasis in our lives will be placed firmly on my long suffering wife and we will be thinking of her and what she wants now.

As for where to, who knows? I'm sure God does; but in the next few years the Mem would like to move back near to the sea and, God willing, that will be where we intend to spend our eventual retirement, and as she "doesn't do moving house" we will look long and carefully before we take the leap! So, as the saying goes, watch this space.

Fr Kevin

Services during February, 2018

Sunday, 4th	Education Sunday	
8.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Bredgar
9.30am	Family Service - non communion	Tunstall
10.30am	Family Service	Wormshill
11.15am	Parish Communion	Rodmersham
4.00pm	Café Tunstall	Tunstall
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Frinted
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall
Sunday, 11th	Sunday next before Lent	
8.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Milstead
9.30am	Parish Communion	Tunstall
10.30am	Informal Communion	Bredgar
10.30am	Matins	Wormshill
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall
Wednesday, 14th		
7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Communion	Tunstall
Sunday, 18th	1st Sunday of Lent	
8:00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Frinted

<i>Sunday, 18th</i>	<i>1st Sunday of Lent (continued)</i>	
9.30am	Parish Communion	Tunstall
10.30am	Morning Prayer	Bredgar
11.15am	Morning prayer	Rodmersham
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall

Sunday, 25th	2nd Sunday of Lent	
8.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Wormshill
9.30am	Parish Communion	Tunstall
10.30am	ExCiTe Service	Bredgar
10.30am	Matins	Frinsted
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Milstead
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall



Women's World Day of Prayer 2018
Friday March 2nd at 2pm in Milstead Church

The service this year, based on the women of Suriname, will be hosted and prepared by Milstead Church with members of other congregations in the Benefice taking part. Please put the date in your diary.

The service is open to everyone and provides an insight into the daily life of the people of Suriname, the smallest country in South America, as it is designed and written by the women of the country. For details please contact Phebe Chamberlain

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!

Next meeting: **Sunday 4th February** - Tunstall Church 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Tunstall Church Roof Update

Following the removal of the ceilings to the side aisles and the Lady Chapel in October, we have had the opportunity to take stock and see the full extent of the damage caused by water ingress to the roof spaces. This was a vital initial stage in the project which became urgent because of a significant fall of plaster from the South Aisle ceiling last summer and the resulting closure of that side of the building: we have since been able to re-open the whole of the building without risk to personal safety. I am delighted to say we had more people than ever attending our Christmas Tree Festival in early December and also a significant increase in the number of people coming to our Christmas services. None of this would have been possible without the work taking place and once again, I must express our thanks to the Friends of Tunstall Church who donated the funds to cover the work in full.

One thing that has become clear since the ceilings were taken out is that there is no water coming into the building through the roof itself. A large part of the problem with the ceilings appears to have been condensation and the fact that the ceilings are no longer there has potentially eased the situation through improved ventilation. While this is good news, there is still a great deal of work to be done to ensure the integrity of the structure and the North Side, being away from the sun, is the most urgent priority.

The roof timbers on the North Side are in generally poor condition and some will need replacing. We now have approximately £30,000 in available funds, including grants that have been awarded, which may be enough to cover the replacement of rainwater goods on that side of the building, as well as carrying out repairs to the parapets and flashings. However, we will require significantly more to replace the necessary roof timbers and as we wish to avoid duplicating the cost of scaffolding, the decision has been taken to delay the next stage of work until we have sufficient funds available to cover all the work required to the North side. It is hoped we can achieve this in time to begin work in the Spring of 2019. In the meantime, we will continue processing grant applications and organising fund-raising activities and will provide more updates as to progress.

Alan Pinnegar

Christmas Flowers in Tunstall church

I would like to pass on my thanks to the people who arranged the displays of flowers in church for Christmas. There have been so many favourable comments, and the arrangers, comprising 7 ladies and one young man, should be proud of their achievements.

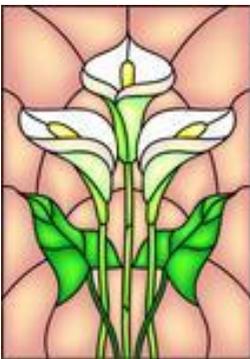


I would particularly like to thank those people who generously made a donation towards the considerable cost of these flowers. These donations were completely spontaneous but very welcome as there is no 'church' funding for the flowers that decorate our church week by week or on festival occasions meaning that, without them, the cost is often borne out by the arrangers themselves.

So, if you feel you would like to 'sponsor' a week or fortnight and help cover the cost of the flowers in church we would love to hear from you. Please contact Rosemary on 421710, email rjhorwood@btinternet.com or see her in church. I will place a list in church of the weeks we cover allowing for no flowers in Lent or Advent so you might spot a week/fortnight that appeals to you.

Thank you

Rosemary Horwood



Easter Lilies

I know Easter Sunday is not until April 1st but I will soon be taking orders for those who wish to donate an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one. These will be incorporated into the Easter arrangements for Easter Sunday and the week that follows.

I haven't checked the price yet with the florist, but hope that the £5 we have suggested in past years will cover the cost again this year. I have last year's list so will speak with those people again but new names are very welcome.

Rosemary 421710 rjhorwood@btinternet.com

Review of the Christmas Tree Festival, 2017



Despite the freezing cold and the snow at times, there were over 2,000 visitors to the Christmas Tree Festival indicating its popularity and helping to make it a huge success.

A total of 112 unique trees, from every sector of the community, and of all shapes and sizes and designs were on display and

highlighted the ingenuity, creativity and imagination of everyone who contributed a tree. To these people go our warmest thanks since without you there would be no Festival. For the second year running we had good media coverage on BBC SE Today and this has to be a real coup. It was also covered in the local paper and advertised in The Net and North Downs Ad. The result of this was that people came from far afield, as well as locally. It was also seen on TV in Tenerife causing the viewer to phone his sister, who hadn't seen the TV coverage, and tell her that she must visit this splendid event!

In the visitors' book there are many glowing comments including, 'Fab-U-Lous 10' echoing a judge's well-known catch-phrase on the 'Strictly' programme. Visitors remarked upon the friendliness of the reception they received as they came into Church. I was told, for example, 'There is a lovely, homely feeling when you come in here', and, 'What a wonderful use of the Church to bring people in smiling'.

Several hundred school children from 3 local schools visited and their ebullience was warmly captured on TV as they described their favourite trees and a particular ornament that had been made from recycled materials. For one little girl her day was made as she watched Fr Kevin stride down the aisle in his fabulous flowing cape and asked him if he was the Wizard from Harry Potter! By the end of the Festival, the memorial



trees were laden with messages which were later placed in three baskets, (only one in the first year of the Festival.) and blessed at a special service held after the Festival had ended. On the Thursday late night it was lovely to have 'Swale Sings' entertain us with seasonal songs/carols and on the Saturday to have the help of the Air Cadets in parking all the cars in the field despite the youngsters having frozen fingers and toes. We were most appreciative to have the support of both groups of people. Another 'spin-off' was the presence of a professional photographer who visited and made a cd depicting every tree. For next year he has offered to set up a 24 hour camera showing the CTF as it develops from a treeless Church to one where all the dressed trees are all in place.

This year our chosen charity was the lesser known Medical Detection Dogs which will be given a cheque for £1500. (Apparently it takes £13,000 to train just one dog.) It was good that charity members were present throughout the CTF to explain their work and allow people to meet and stroke one of their dogs. The Church Restoration Fund has been given a slightly smaller amount, following a Social Committee discussion.

There is no doubt that this event captures people's imagination and is very successful. However, the Festival takes an incredible amount of time in planning, organising and managing and, as it continues to grow by way of visitor numbers and sheer number of trees, so does the need for more help. The success of the Festival depends on teamwork and a massive 'thank you' must go to all the individuals who gave their time and energy to help run the event. This year a relatively small number of individuals, led by the Social Committee, contributed an inordinate amount of time to the Festival, often being on duty for hours on end. There is a myriad number of 'jobs' that needs to be done over 8 days including for example, setting up, taking down, 'meeting and greeting', serving refreshments, talking with visitors, selling raffle tickets and car parking. From this you can see that there is something for everyone depending upon one's strengths/skills, so next year, please, a heartfelt



plea, to get involved, if only for an hour or so on one of the rotas. Any offer of help would be much appreciated.

After four years the Festival would now appear to be an eagerly anticipated community event in the hectic run up to Christmas fulfilling the aims of bringing as many people as possible into our Church and also raising money for a chosen charity. As a result, the provisional date for the Festival this year has been set from **Thursday 6th – Sunday 9th December**. Already 21 new people have registered their interest in contributing a tree, together with 2 people who are keen to help. After an exhausting, but exhilarating number of days it is sometimes hard to keep up with people's enthusiasm.

On the day after the Festival had ended and we were returning the Church to its former state, a young man popped in and told me his mother had almost completed her tree for next, (this) year!

On that happy note may I wish you all a belated Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

Marylyn Atkins



Quiz Night

Peter Barton will be hosting a quiz night in aid of Church funds on **Saturday 17th February 2018** at 7.30pm. The quiz will be held in Tunstall School and will cost £5 per person. Teams should comprise of 4 to 6 members. Please bring your own food and drink. There will be a raffle and donations of raffle prizes will be gratefully received.

It would be very helpful to have two people to assist me with the marking and scoring so if you do not wish to take part in the quiz but are happy to help in this way, please let me know.

If you would like to enter a team or help with the marking, please let either Alan or me know. Alan's number is 471483 and mine is 479816.

Peter Barton

Rodmersham Society news and planned events

On **Friday 9th February** we will be holding our **Annual Beetle Drive** in the Village Hall ably organised and run by Anthony and Deidre Birch. All are welcome, especially children, and the tickets are available from Anthony or Deidre Tel: No.470384 or on the door.

On **Sunday 4th March**, by popular request, we will be holding another "**Tea Dance.**" This is expected to commence at 2.00pm and tickets will be available from Thelma North on 423368.

Graham Haggar

Tunstall Social Committee events and Dates for your diaries

BARN DANCE, SATURDAY 19th MAY

The Tunstall Social Committee are arranging a Barn Dance on Saturday 19th May in the Village Hall beginning at 19.00. Music and direction will be provided by The Hatted Hens. A sausage and chip supper will be provided and tea and coffee will be available. You are welcome to bring your own drinks for the evening. Tickets, which will be available from early/mid April, will cost £12. Any profit from the evening will go towards the Church Roof Fund.

Chair Based and Older Adult Exercise

New Venue – NORTON Village Hall

I wonder if anyone would like to join me in the above exercise class? We meet on a Wednesday morning from 11.30am. It is now in **NORTON Village Hall (ME13 OSW)** and is run by Jane Seyler who also leads the Medau classes. It is only £5.00 a session and there is plenty of parking.

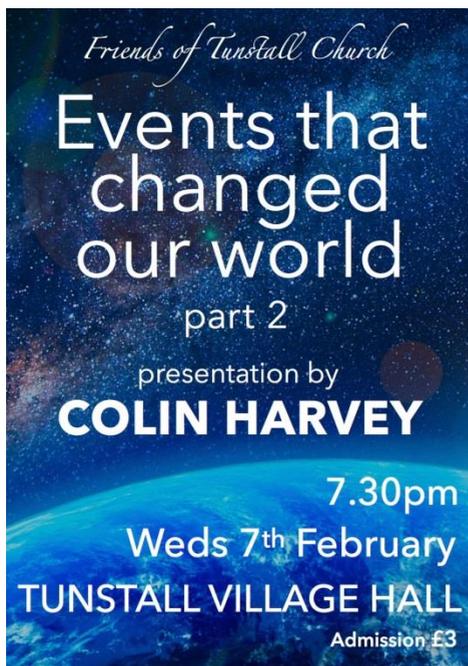
Even chair based exercise is beneficial and these classes are light-hearted and fun. It would be good to have more in the group. If you would be interested please contact Jane on (01795) 886267 or Email jane.seyler@btopenworld.com

Thank you

Sandra Vaughan

Friends of Tunstall Church

February 7th Events That Changed Our World – Colin Harvey



Colin Harvey stood in last year, at very short notice, when illness unfortunately meant a speaker could not come. His illustrated film presentation comprising excerpts from news films dating from the end of Queen Victoria's reign to the end of the Second World War was so enthusiastically received by our audience that we have invited Colin to return to take us in Part 2 from the 40s through the rest of the 20th Century.

Please recommend us to your friends to see if they would like to take in a talk or two and possibly become regulars.

David Prew - Chairman



The Sagas of Noggin the Nog
Rodmersham Village Hall
Friday 2nd March at 7.30pm

In the Lands of the North where the black rocks stand guard against the cold sea, in the dark night that is very long, the Men of the Northlands sit around their great log fires and they tell a tale ... The Sagas of Noggin The

Nog. These classic stories created by Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin are playfully retold in this wonderful piece of family theatre.

Accompanied by the brave and mighty Thor Nogson and the great, green bird Graculus, we go North on a journey of adventure and discovery to battle the fearsome Ice Dragon and the dastardly deeds of Noggin's wicked uncle, Nogbad the Bad. Expect silly Vikings, performing puppets, original film and live music.

This is a show which appeals to both adults and children. Whether you know the stories of Noggin or not, this is a show that should be seen by all.

Tickets from 01795 423700, Rodmersham Coffee Shop or on the door.