

## Message from the Rector

March 2018



The season of Lent is traditionally a time for Christians of self-denial and reflection, culminating in our observance of Holy Week. The purpose is not to engage in religious piety but to help us focus on what Jesus stood for and what his life and mission means to us now. It is also an opportunity to remind ourselves of the values we believe in and to put aside the things that threaten our ability to hold onto them.

As I write this, the news headlines are all about the arrest of the two men believed to be the surviving members of the IS group's execution cell, bizarrely known as 'The Beatles' because of their British accents.

The French journalist Nicholas Henin, who spent 10 months as an IS captive, was asked on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme if he understood the group's motives for carrying out their appalling acts of brutality. He replied, "For them, they were doing it for revenge, against all the grievances they can argue against the western world, which are largely fantasised, and this is why I am now looking for justice and not revenge." He also said that any attempt to deny them their civil rights would play into their hands as they claim victimisation by the West. "I will be extremely frustrated if they are not offered a fair trial and I don't think the local authorities in northern Syria or detention in Guantanamo Bay would be justice."

James Foley was an American journalist beheaded by the cell. His mother Diane said, "Their crimes are beyond imagination" but, like M Henin, she also said it is important the men should be "brought to fair trial" so that justice may be served. "It doesn't bring James back", she said, "but hopefully it protects others from this kind of crime."

There is nothing new, of course, in humankind's capacity to commit horrific acts of cruelty. As we look ahead to the events of Good Friday,

which this year is marked on 30<sup>th</sup> March, we are reminded of the crucifixion of Jesus which amounted to a long, agonising death by torture.

As he dined with his disciples at the Last Supper, knowing what lay ahead, there was no hint of bitterness as he told them that one of them would betray him. Instead he gave them a new commandment: 'Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.' And having foretold Peter's denial of him, he offered words of comfort to all his followers: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' (John 14: 27, NRSV)

Both Nicholas Henin and Diane Foley have ample cause in human terms to call for revenge against these men, assuming they are who the authorities believe they are.

That both instead urge justice by means of a fair trial says a great deal about the strength of the values they hold.

AP

### **Pastoral Visits**



Do you know of anyone who is feeling "low" perhaps as a result of illness or bereavement? If so and you think they would like a visit from one of our lay visitors please contact Barbara (424 952).

A friendly face can make all the difference.

### **Home Insurance**

Ecclesiastical has an interesting offer which could benefit your local parish church. To celebrate their 130th anniversary they will donate £130.00 to the church specified by the policy holder for any new home insurance policy taken out with them between now and 31st August, 2018.

Further details are available from [www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130)

*Alan Pinnegar*

## Services during March, 2018

<b>Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	
8.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9.00am	Parish Communion	Bredgar
9.30am	Parish Communion	Tunstall
10.30am	Family Service	Wormshill
11.15am	Parish Communion	Rodmersham
4.00pm	Cafe Tunstall	Tunstall
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Frinted
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall
<b>Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mothering Sunday</b>	
8.00am	Holy Communion	Tunstall
9.30am	Parade Service	Tunstall
10.30am	ExCiTe/Mothering Sunday	Bredgar
11.00am	Mothering Sunday	Wormshill
11.15am	Mothering Sunday	Rodmersham
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Milstead
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall
<b>Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent - Passiontide</b>	
8:00am	Holy Communion	Tunstall
9.00am	Holy Communion	Frinted
9.30am	Parish Communion	Tunstall
10.30am	Family Service	Milstead
10.30am	Parish Communion	Bredgar
11.15am	Morning prayer + baptism	Rodmersham
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall
<b>Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup></b>		
7.00pm	Holy Communion	Tunstall
<b>Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	
8.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
10.00am	United Benefice Service	Tunstall
6.30pm	Stainer's "Crucifixion"	Tunstall



<b>Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	
7.30pm	Benefice Communion	Frinsted
<b>Friday, 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	
12.00 noon	Stations of the Cross Parishes' Good Friday Walk	Tunstall
<b>Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Easter Saturday</b>	
7.00pm	Easter Vigil	Bicknor
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Day</b>	
8.00am	Holy Communion	Tunstall
9.00am	Parish Communion	Frinsted
9.30am	Parish Communion	Tunstall
10.30am	Parish Communion	Bredgar
10.30am	Communion/Easter Egg Hunt	Wormshill
11.15am	Parish Communion	Rodmersham
4.00pm	<del>Café Tunstall</del> (no meeting)	
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Milstead
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall

**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 4<sup>th</sup> March at Tunstall Church from 4pm - 5pm**  
**Children are welcome**

## Easter Lilies

I am 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.

Each lily will cost **£5** as in past years. I have last year's list so will speak with those people again but new names are very welcome.

Rosemary 421710

[rjhorwood@btinternet.com](mailto:rjhorwood@btinternet.com)

## *St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall*

The augmented church choir will perform

### **Stainer's "Crucifixion"**

*on*

### **Palm Sunday**

*(Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March)*

**6.30pm**

**All are welcome**

**There is no charge but there will be a retiring collection**



## **Passover Supper**



This will be held on **Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March** at Wormshill Village Hall, 7:30 for 7:45pm.

Tickets are available from Pat Tatchell, and cost £5.00 per person, under 16s free of charge. Contact Pat on 01795 471956 or email [tatch@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:tatch@blueyonder.co.uk)

Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

Before the supper there will be a reading of the Passion according to St. Mark in Wormshill Church at 7:00pm.

## Mothers' Union



We have two meetings in March. The first is our "Wave of Prayer". This will be held on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March** at 12.30 in my house 3 Woodstock Road. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. Members and guests are all welcome, for catering purposes I would like a rough idea of numbers.

Our normal Wednesday evening meeting will be on **21<sup>st</sup> March** and Alan will be leading us in a Lent Reflection.

March is also a busy month for meetings, the Diocesan Spring Council will be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March in Canterbury, our Archdeaconry meeting will be on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March in Maidstone and Pam will be having a meeting for representatives of local groups on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 in her house 17 Woodside Gardens. All members are welcome to attend these meetings. Transport can be provided to Maidstone and Canterbury.

*Sue Thomas*



## Christian Aid

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February I attended a meeting in Canterbury to discuss this year's Christian Aid week. Christian Aid week this year is from 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May and I will once again be asking for volunteers to help with our door to door collections. Christian Aid week has been very well supported by Tunstall and Rodmersham and I hope this will continue.

A special song has been written for this year's campaign and this can be downloaded from the website. We all sang this at the meeting; we also watched a very powerful and moving film.

*Sue Thomas*



## Sittingbourne Food Bank

We had to put a temporary hold on donations to Sittingbourne Food Bank a few weeks ago because of problems with storage. The issue has now been resolved and we are pleased to say they can now accept donations as normal.

Thank you all for your contributions, they are greatly appreciated.

Alan



## Women's World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

### All God's Creation is Very Good!

Program written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname

This year, the Women's World Day of Prayer, put together by the women of Suriname, was to be celebrated in Milstead Church. Unfortunately, due a fall of plaster from the ceiling, it has been found necessary to cancel the service and there will not be any celebration in our Benefice.

No Sittingbourne or other service is presently noted on the website ([www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)); the nearest are:

- Faversham Baptist Church, St Mary's Road, Faversham, ME13 8EH  
10.00 for 10.30 am
- St Nicholas Church, High Street, Strood, ME2 4TR Strood, 1.45pm.
- Holy Trinity Church, Heath Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, ME17 4PN. 7.00pm

## Tunstall Folk Dancers - Barn Dance

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March



**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March** is the day of the annual Barn Dance organised by the Tunstall Folk Dancers. This group meets regularly on Thursday afternoons in the village hall (newcomers always welcome), but

once a year they arrange an evening barn dance which is always a popular night out.

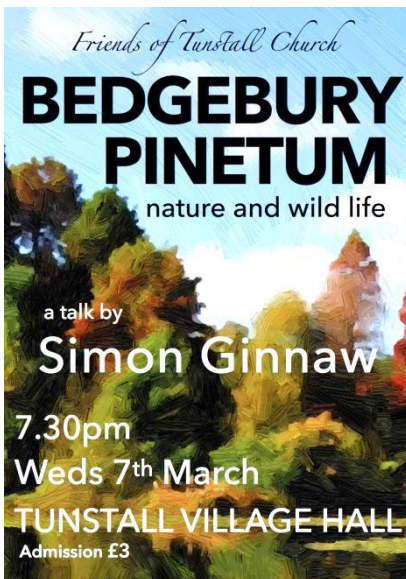
Our irrepressible caller, Alan Austen, will once again be our master of ceremonies. Last year he led the company into a circular mesmerising maze which seemed to have no exit but somehow ended up snaking merrily around the carpark outside. Alan called it a farandole. We called it good hilarious fun.

This year Alan returns with live group Fiddle and Faff (their instruments include a nickel harper - whatever that is). Together they will get your feet tapping or tripping, whether for a simple reel, a Gathering Peascod or a fling in the Dashing Whiter Sergeant.

Tickets are £9, to include an interval supper of sausage and chips. Please bring your own drinks. Do book early. Last year we had a full house.

Telephone Ann on 470313 or Pauline on 472218.

*Pauline Panton*



## Friends of Tunstall Church

Dear Friends,

Our Spring programme continues as usual on the first Wednesday of the month at **7.30pm** in Tunstall Village Hall.

### **March 7<sup>th</sup> Nature and Wild Life –Bedgebury Pinetum**

Our speaker, Simon Ginnaw, was given a pair of binoculars when he was six years old and his interest in birds has led him to a life in



conservation and wildlife education. Now an ornithological consultant he wishes to pass on his enthusiasm about birds, their ecology and behaviour to others. His presentation uses his own photographs and accompanied with recordings of birdsong.

Take a David Attenborough moment with the Friends.

*David Prew*

### **Rodmersham News**

**There's a Tea Dance being held in the Village Hall on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 2.00pm**



This event was held a couple of years ago and was a great success with dancing for all abilities – beginner to “strictly stars”. If it’s your first time, then a qualified teacher, Louise, is on hand to teach you the basic steps. If you don’t want to dance then just come to watch....

Included in the price is as much tea and cake you could wish for. Tickets are £5.



### **St Nicholas Church Rodmersham - Annual Coffee Morning**



There will be a coffee morning at St Nicholas Church on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April** from 10:30am to 1:00pm.

Plants, books, cakes, cards, ploughman’s lunches and a raffle.

Proceeds to St Nicholas Church.

## **BARN DANCE, SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MAY**



The Tunstall Social Committee are arranging a Barn Dance on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.