



We hear a lot about ‘threats to our democracy’: on the ‘Leave’ side of the Brexit debate, people say we’ve had a referendum and the government must act on it. ‘Remainers’, on the other hand, may argue that things have changed since 2016 and the public should have the final say.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has announced what it calls the ‘UK’s biggest analysis of inequality’. It suggests that the most serious threat to our democracy comes not from how, when or whether we leave the EU but from basic inequalities in pay and opportunities among our population. Indeed, according to the BBC website the IFS warns of risks to “centre-ground” politics from “stagnating pay and divides in health and education.” Such widening gaps, it says, are “making a mockery of democracy”.

The recent local council elections produced results that have shaken the main political parties to their core; as I write, opinion polls place the newly-formed Brexit Party comfortably ahead in the lead-up to elections to the European Parliament, leading to fears that the general frustration among the electorate may fuel a rise in populism as has been seen in other countries.

Politicians are not alone in incurring the scorn of ordinary people: many other institutions, including the church, have been subject to allegations of historic abuses and apparent willingness in some cases to cover them up. This has rightly led to enquiries and demands for decisive preventive measures.

As with politics though, the best interest of our communities will not be served by allowing disillusionment to lead to inaction. If we fail to stand up for our traditional values of reasonableness and inclusivity and if we allow the basic spiritual needs that each of us has, religious or not, something will come along to fill the void - evidence is seen in some of the atrocities that take place around the world at the hands of political and religious extremists.

‘Judeo-Christian values’ have been invoked falsely to promote fear of people from different cultures and backgrounds as a ‘threat to our way of



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life.’ Such views are not backed up in Scripture: on immigration, “*You are to have the same law for the foreigner and the native-born*” (Leviticus 24: 22); and on compassion for others: “*Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause*” (Isaiah 1: 17)

I hope and pray that our politicians, church leaders and other public figures will work to regenerate interest in our political, spiritual and social lives, locally and nationally, in a spirit of compassion and justice. That, surely, is what democracy is really about.

*Rev. Alan*

### **Tunstall Church Roof update**

I had hoped that by the time you read this, work would be underway to repair the roof to both sides of the main aisle, including the Hales chapel. However, there is a complication regarding the ecology survey which is likely to have caused a delay.

When work finally begins, it is expected to go on for around 8 weeks but the interior of the church will be unaffected, so there will be no disruption to services and other activities in church.

The building contractor will need to erect a small compound in the church car park, which will take up a couple of parking spaces. Temporary arrangements will be made to provide alternative parking for 2 cars nearby, to minimise inconvenience for members of the congregation.

The cost of the work will be covered by our own fundraising activities, plus grants from Friends of Kent Churches, Marshalls Charity, Garfield Weston, Swale Borough Council and Tunstall Parish Council, to all of whom we are very grateful. This is in addition to the substantial donation we received from the Friends of Tunstall Church to enable removal of the ceilings in October, 2017.

*Rev. Alan*



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## Ministry in Bredgar

For some weeks now, we have had Wi-Fi available in Bredgar Church. This has opened up new possibilities and Brian Evans, our administrator, is now based there on Monday and Thursday mornings.

We plan now to create much more of a benefice 'feel' and enable people to drop into the building as and when they wish to during the week: so, from the beginning of June, the church is to be kept open from morning until late afternoon/ early evening whenever possible. A sign indicating this will be positioned outside the main porch during times when the building is open.

From 7<sup>th</sup> June onwards I will be spending Fridays in Bredgar – I can't promise to be in church all day but I'll be using it as a base, so if you want to talk to me about anything, please feel free to call in casually or, if you prefer, call me first to make sure I'm there.

We will also be moving Morning Prayer on Fridays from Tunstall to Bredgar, starting at 9:15. All are welcome. Morning Prayer will continue at Tunstall on Tuesdays at the same time.

*Alan P*

## Entries in the Parish Registers

### Baptisms

May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Rose Clarke	Tunstall
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Alexandra Dowsett	Milstead
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Oscar Henley	Tunstall
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Arthur Bucknor	Milstead

### Funeral

May 15 <sup>th</sup>	George Payne	Wormshill
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### Café Tunstall

Join us once a month to enjoy good coffee and good company. **Next Meeting Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June** at Tunstall Church from 4.00pm to 5.00pm. **Children are welcome.**



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**Benefice Services during June, 2019**

**Please note new service days/times for Bredgar and Rodmersham**

**Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Easter 7**

	8.00am	<b>Holy Communion (said)</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>
	9.30am	<b>All-Age Communion</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>
	10.30am	<b>Family Service</b>	<b>Wormshill</b>
→	<u>11.15am</u>	<u><b>Parish Communion</b></u>	<u><b>Bredgar</b></u>
	4.00pm	<b>Café Tunstall</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>
	6.00pm	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Frinsted</b>
	6.30pm	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>

**Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> - Pentecost**

	8.00am	<b>Holy Communion (said)</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>
	9.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Frinsted</b>
	9.30am	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>
	10.30am	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Bredgar</b>
	10.30am	<b>Matins</b>	<b>Wormshill</b>
→	<u>11.15am</u>	<u><b>Parish Communion</b></u>	<u><b>Rodmersham</b></u>
	6.30pm	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>

**Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> - Trinity Sunday**

	8:00am	<b>Holy Communion (said)</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>
	9:00am	<b>Holy Communion (said)</b>	<b>Milstead</b>
	9.30am	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>
	10.30am	<b>Informal Communion</b>	<b>Bredgar</b>
	6.00pm	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Wormshill</b>
	6.30pm	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>**

	7.00pm	<b>Midweek Communion</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>
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## Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> after Trinity

8.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b> (said)	<b>Tunstall</b>
9.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b> (said)	<b>Wormshill</b>

### ***St John the Baptist:***

9.30am	<b>Patronal Communion</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>
10.30am	<b>Patronal ExCiTe all-age worship</b>	<b>Bredgar</b>

10.30am	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Frinsted</b>
→ 11.15am	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Rodmersham</b>
6.00pm	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Milstead</b>
6.30pm	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Tunstall</b>

## Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> after Trinity

8.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b> (said)	<b>Tunstall</b>
10.30am	<b>United Benefice Service</b>	<b>Wormshill</b>
6:30pm	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>Rodmersham</b>

## **Novena – 9 days of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost**



Since 2016 Canterbury Diocese has published special booklets containing prompts, short readings and artworks inviting personal prayer for each of the Novena. This year the Ascension falls on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> May and as usual, we will be holding

Morning Prayer every day during that time, with the exception of Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Morning Prayer will take place at Tunstall Church on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June, then on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>. Then on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Bredgar and finally at Tunstall on 8<sup>th</sup>. In each case Morning Prayer will begin at 9:15.

Novena booklets will be available at the back of each of our churches – please feel free to take one.

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## PEACE DAY PARADE

### Part of Sittingbourne Armed Forces Day

You may recall in the February magazine I wrote about the “Peace Day” parade being organised by the Historic Research Group Sittingbourne that will take place to mark the official signing of the peace treaty in 1919, and will form part of the Armed Forces Day celebration on 29<sup>th</sup> June.



The research by the volunteers at HRGS that has gone into collating all the information for every Parish amounts to quite literally, many thousands of hours. So, I’m sure you can understand that they have been, to say the least, disappointed at the apparent apathy shown by most of the Parishes in this Deanery, most of whom have not even responded to the request for members of the different parishes researched, to carry the banner for *their* church on the day. The plan is that, following the parade, the banners will be presented to the individual churches by Archdeacon Stephen for them to keep/display. (FOC!)

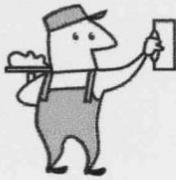
Can I please ask that if you haven’t already volunteered your services to HRGS, could you please give it serious consideration and either contact them direct, or speak to me as a matter of urgency.

I have waxed lyrical at the various planning meetings for this event about how supportive our Benefice was in raising money for the “There But Not There” Silhouettes last year, I do hope that we can generate a good response for this too. Please, if you are able to support the parade in any way, come and fly the flag for our Benefice.

After discussing it with Alan, we decided that as a result of the generosity from the Benefice, and the donation of 4 figures from Col Jackson at 2230 Squadron RAFAC, there was a residue of funds, so we are able to send a donation of £163 (+Gift Aid) to the local branch of the Royal British Legion.

With prayers and blessings.

Fr Kevin



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## Please note.....July Magazine *and* August/September magazine

Having spoken with Alan Pinnegar this week he has kindly agreed to allow me to put together the next two magazines in a slightly different order from last year when we followed the Bredgar format.



I am not available for most of August so will be unable to put together a September magazine during that time. He has therefore agreed that we will have a July magazine which I will put together in mid-June but then there will be a joint August/September magazine which I will collate in July.

I will send out my usual reminder just before the deadline of 12<sup>th</sup> each month but would ask you please to think about events that need flagging up that will be happening in September so that you can send that information to me in July! It might be useful to start putting dates for Christmas Fairs, Christmas Tree Festival etc. in the September issue but I will need the material in July. I know it's confusing but I think it will work. It also means that no one needs to think about the magazine in the summer holidays.

Thank you for your help.

*Rosemary*

### Deadline dates for magazines

June 12 <sup>th</sup>	items for July magazine
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	items for the August/September magazine

### Managing a Churchyard (or a garden) for Wildlife

In Milstead we manage the churchyard for the benefit of wildlife. For a number of years we have employed a mowing regime that provides two lengths of grass - very short and long. However, authoritative guidance (See 1,2 below) recommends four variants of grass length.

1. Very short grass mown monthly through the growing season. This shows churchyard care, but supports very limited flora. Our short grass is round the church, war memorial, recent graves and alongside the paths.

2. Short grass Mown with the mower set at 4" every other month in the growing season. This favours flora such as daisy, dandelion, & selfheal.

3. Long grass. Mown once, twice or three times a year favouring spring or summer flowers depending on the chosen management. Our current regime favours spring flowers. We have a great show of snowdrops, cowslips, primroses, wood anemone, bluebells and others. In mid-April, I identified 15 different native plants in flower.

4. Tussocky grass. Mown every other year this develops into a thick sward that can provide a home for small mammals.

This year we are introducing some minor modifications to the mowing regime. An area of 4" grass is to be created and an area along the edge furthest from the church is to be left as "tussocky grass".

There are also two areas which are flora rich and completely different – the bank alongside the road and that part of the new burial ground not yet occupied by graves. The roadside bank is fascinating; the flora changes as you proceed from the shady end near the village hall through the sunny area near the gate to the deep shade under the yew where little grows except ivy. This year both areas will be allowed to grow unmown throughout the growing season and studied to identify the changing flora and plan a suitable management regime for next year.

The above regime can, of course, also be applied in gardens.

1. *Wild Life in Church and Churchyard. Plants, animals and their management. Nigel Cooper 2nd edition, Church House Publishing, Church house, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ, 2001, ISBN 0 7151 7587 4. [www.chpublishing.co.uk](http://www.chpublishing.co.uk)*

2. *Churchyard and Burial Ground Action Pack. Caring for God's Acre, 11 Drovers House, The Auction Yard, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9BZ. Tel 01588 673041, [www.carinaforqodsacre.org.uk](http://www.carinaforqodsacre.org.uk) Charity reg. no. 1084504 (Easier to use than Ref 1)*

### **Are you interested in wildlife? Could you help with a churchyard survey?**

As recommended by the above publications, I am planning to start a detailed survey of the wildlife in Milstead churchyard. If anyone (in any of the villages in our Benefice) would like to be part of this, they would be VERY welcome.

Is anyone out there knowledgeable about small mammals, insects, invertebrates, mosses, or lichens either for identification or for techniques

for surveying? Even a little knowledge would be more than mine! I have some knowledge of birds, flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs, but more hands/eyes to help record is welcome and extra knowledge is always helpful.

I look forward to hearing from anyone interested either in participation or just being available to help with knowledge and advice.

*Alison Black, Tel: 01795 830283, email: alisoneblack@btopenworld.com*

## **Church of St Nicholas, Rodmersham Short Report on the Annual Church Meeting for 2019**

### **Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 after Morning Worship**

**Those present:** Mrs Deidre Birch, Mrs Dinah Bennett, Mr Peter Bennett, Lady Cleaver, Sir Anthony Cleaver, Mrs Barbara Fisher, Dr John Fisher, Mrs Lou Fosbraey, Mr Paul Fosbraey, Mr Ted Hobday, Mrs Vicki Lukehurst, Mrs Pam Pardoe, Mr Tony Pardoe, Mrs Sandra Payne and Mrs Barbara Wills.

**Apologies** were received from: Reverend Alan Pinnegar, Mr Anthony Birch, Mrs Vicki Lukehurst and Mrs Barbara Wills

The meeting opened with Prayer

### **Annual Vestry Meeting**

**Election of Churchwardens** - Jennie Cleaver and Vicki Lukehurst were duly elected.

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### **Annual Church Meeting**

Minutes of the last Annual Church Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were approved and await signature by Reverend Alan Pinnegar

**Presentation of Electoral Roll** - The Electoral Roll had been reviewed by the secretary and now included 29 persons.

To fulfil the requirements of the Data Protection Act the ER would not be on public display but would be available for inspection upon request.

**Election of Parochial Church Council** – Current members of the PCC were eligible to continue and prepared to do so. Dinah Bennett, Peter Bennett, Paul Fosbraey, Tony Pardoe and John Fisher were duly elected.

**Election of Sidespersons** –Mrs Bennett, Mr Bennett and Mrs Fisher agreed to continue and were re-elected.

**Presentations of Church Accounts** – The accounts had been presented at the last meeting of the Parochial Church Council that recommended their approval. The following comments were presented to accompany the accounts:

Total receipts at £29,433 were slightly higher than for 2017 while expenditure at £43,397 was considerably higher due to extensive repairs to the church fabric costing £27,849.

This covered repairs to the roof and the repair and reinstatement of the drainage gullies that carry rain water away to a soak away. It is hoped that this repair will reduce the damp problem along the inside of the south wall of the nave. The final outcome after payment of the Parish Share was a positive balance of some £12,000. The PCC was grateful as always for substantial financial support from the Rodmersham Society in meeting bills for the church fabric. The accounts were then adopted and a copy will shortly be posted in the church porch. Mary Longhurst was appointed to inspect the accounts.

**Churchwardens' report** – Vicki Lukehurst expressed the thanks of the Churchwardens to all who had worked so hard during the year including cleaners, flower arrangers, readers, the coffee rota, bell ringers and the churchyard gang as well as the Rodmersham Society for continued and generous financial support.

Various fund raising events were in hand for the remainder of the year including the coffee morning and St Nicholas Fair, while other possibilities were under consideration. She was especially grateful to Lou and Paul Fosbraey for a great deal of hard work behind the scenes in all manner of indispensable ways.

**Rodmersham Society** – The society had continued to run a programme of fund raising events and had planned a programme for 2109 but succession crisis was yet to be overcome.

**Vicars' Report** – In what was probably a unique event in the history of the parish, Alan Pinnegar's report was received by email from Australia and circulated at the meeting. Alan thanked everyone who had contributed to the life of the church throughout the calendar year -- including the membership of the Rodmersham Society for their generous financial support. He also announced that from June 2019 regular services at St Nicholas would move from the first and third Sundays in the month to the second and fourth Sundays.

Tony Pardoe was then duly elected as PCC treasurer and John Fisher as PCC secretary.

**Date of next PCC meeting – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

### **Rodmersham Bells**

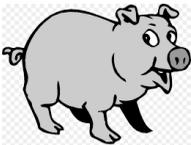
On Maundy Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April in a complete break with tradition and to show solidarity with Notre Dame the Rodmersham Band rang rounds and 180 called changes. The ringers were Ron Blandford, Anthony Birch, Djamila Eccleston, Jenny Fuller, Jim Attwood (c), Trevor Arnold and John Fisher.

### **Rodmersham Society**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June** – Strawberry Teas will be available at Rodmersham Church from 2pm until 5pm with a charge of £6 per person. Some neighbouring gardens will also be open to visit. Further details are available from Thelma North.



**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July** – the Hog Roast in the garden at Orsett House. We are as always grateful to Deidre and Anthony Birch for opening their garden for this event. Tickets at £12 are available from Deidre. This is an extremely popular event with numbers limited to 60 so tickets go very quickly. You have been warned!



*John Fisher*



## **Tunstall Church, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 2:00pm**

3 mile walk through the fields, followed by tea in the churchyard (or the Midwinter Room if wet). Full details will appear in the weekly newsletter nearer the time.

## **Mothers' Union**



The photograph shows Daniele cutting her cake surrounded by our branch members. She was very moved by the floral arrangement made by Margaret which we gave her as a farewell gift. She spoke to us and showed photographs of the visit made by several of the trustees

to the refugee camps in Uganda last year. The trustees took money with them and they were able to purchase mosquito nets, sewing equipment and various items needed in the camps.

Now our attention needs to turn to AFIA our 'Away From It All' holidays. Rachel and I have visited the venue in Pulborough, we are both, together with Emily, going on this holiday. Details of the families have all been received, sixteen in total. Thirteen will be accommodated on the week holiday in August and the others will be offered a caravan holiday or a day trip. Fundraising now needs to start in order to fund these holidays.

We will welcome Margaret Horwood to our June meeting. Margaret is a retiring trustee and was until April deputy president. She will talk about her Mothers' Union journey.

We always welcome new members. Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Midwinter Room.

*Sue Thomas*

## TUNSTALL CHURCH APCM 2019 held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Two new elected members of the PCC were welcomed to the meeting: Lou Fosbraey and Martin Thomas.

The **Electoral Roll** was revised this year. We have 16 new people applying, but regrettably with 4 congregation members passing away our total had decreased to 119.

**Church Roof:** We have fund raised sufficient funds for the external work on the roof to begin on 20<sup>th</sup> May, however, we have a complication from National England who inform us we are required to complete an ecology survey for possible bats nesting around the church site. The result of this may delay the start of the work.

**Churchyard Tidy:** The working party have started again to clear away the nettles and brambles that are growing in profusion, cutting back overhanging branches and mowing the grass areas, there is an additional need to clear the perimeter of the church to enable scaffolding to be erected - which is nearly completed.

**Sunday School:** The Sunday School has grown significantly under the leadership of our two excellent teachers, Trish and Natasha. The All-Age Communion service on the first Sunday of every month is really popular attracting new children and those children from the school with the new Head Teacher attending each of these services.

The **Church Wardens** gave thanks to so many members of the congregation who work so hard to make our church life so successful, too numerous to mention, but especially our treasurer Peter Barton and Pam Gray, our Planned Giving Officer for all the vital work they do, and the Social Committee who organise really interesting events, tirelessly raising funds for the church roof etc. A huge thank you everyone who helps in all sorts of ways.

*Patricia Richards, Church Warden*

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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

## Theatre for Children - Tunstall Village Hall

Curtain up on **EnSONG LOPEDIA of Animals**, a live theatre performance for children of all ages to take place on **Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> June** in Tunstall Village Hall.

This now well established annual theatre evening for children is arranged principally for our Brownie, Rainbow and Beaver groups at a special subsidised price of £3 but all local children are welcome.

EnSong Lopedia is a musical and alphabetical adventure, featuring twenty-six animal songs, one for each letter of the alphabet. Get to grips with fascinating facts about extraordinary echinoderms, distressed damselflies,

crazy corals, batty birds and amazing arachnids. Expect the unexpected. And expect it to rhyme.

This show has been touring the south east and earning glowing reports: 'a riot', 'genuinely clever' and 'lots of fun.'. One teacher reported 'It was fantastic for the children to be exposed to scientific facts, different music genres and obscure animals, all at the same time! My class were hooked; they cannot stop talking about it.'

The group leaders have been distributing tickets but I have just a few left. Parents are welcome to remain and enjoy the fun.

Ring me if you would like to come.      Pauline 01795 477218.

## **Tunstall Evening WI**

## **April and May Reports**

In April we welcomed Mary Smith as our speaker. Mary was the head teacher at Maidstone Girls Grammar School. During WWII three air shelters were built to accommodate all the girls and staff at the school. Two of the shelters were filled in but the one at the back of the school just had large blocks of concrete placed on the steps down to the entrance. During Mary's tenure it was decided to remove the blocks and behind them the air raid shelters were still there, just as they had been left. A discovery in the school archives found a diary left by the art teacher of the time, a Miss Keene, full of wonderful sketches of school life during this time. Miss Keene had a great sense of humour and gently made fun of some of the more bizarre edicts sent to the school by the authorities. Once retired Mary was asked to write a book and to include many of these sketches. The book, 'A Schoolgirl's War', is a good read and all profits help subsidise visits from junior school children for whom WWII is part of the curriculum. For anyone interested the book can be obtained from the school or from Waterstones in Maidstone.

The May meeting was our resolutions meeting. This year there were two to consider which will be voted on at the AGM where every WI will have a representative to vote on their behalf. The resolutions were 'Don't fear

the smear' and 'The decline of rural buses'. There was lots of discussion especially on the rural buses with a range of opinions being expressed and listened to. One of our members gave a short talk on her visit to Denman College, the college owned and run by the WI but courses are open to all. She came back full of enthusiasm for the course and for the college saying that everyone is so friendly it is a place that you can visit on your own and be made welcome.

We meet in Tunstall Village hall on the second Thursday of the month (except August) at 7:45 pm. Visitors and new members are always made welcome.



**A Date for your Diary**  
**Harvest Supper, 3 – 5.30 pm**  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

This year's Harvest Supper celebrations will take the form of an Afternoon Tea and is being held from 3 – 5.30 pm on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October in Tunstall Memorial Village Hall.

We are working on what form the Afternoon Tea will take, but perhaps I could suggest that if you have an interesting hat, you might want to dust it down. More details in due course.

*John Slate*

**Churchyard tidy up**

The churchyard work has now commenced and we will be working every Tuesday morning from 9:00am. Everyone is invited whether you could help with weeding, strimming or grass cutting. We usually work until lunchtime - or later. Coffee and yummy biscuits will be served around 11:00am. Please come and join us even if you can only spare an hour or two.

*Patricia Richards*

## News from Tunstall School



Well, the first article I get to write on behalf of Green T (or Green BA as we are officially known). I will try my best to sum up all of the wonderful learning that has been going on in this half of year three, in what is a rather short term that we seem to have raced through.

In English we've spent all term learning about Roald Dahl, before focussing on his classic tale Fantastic Mr. Fox. We've learnt all about Boggis and Bunce and Bean (one fat, one short and one lean) and done our best to do some Dahl-esque descriptions of our own. As for maths, we have had the small task of learning how to tell the time. You forget how tricky it can be until you have to teach it!

In art we looked at sculptures by Antony Gormley and tried to design bodies to scale; fair to say there were mixed results, but we all had a good go! We then sculpted our own mini figures, inspired by Gormley's local work in Margate- however, there were a few more mannequins opting to floss or dab, over Antony's more traditional poses.

R.E. has centred around the impact of Pentecost after Jesus' ascension. The children were very intrigued to hear that Pentecost is often described as the Church's birthday, and we delved into some very interesting discussions on the best way to celebrate this.

Along with SATs in the rest of the school, intense May Day preparations and organisation surrounding our upcoming trip to Shorne Country Park, it has been a 23-day term packed with things to do. They say time flies when you're having fun. With that logic, I'm sure my next turn for a newsletter entry will seem to come around far quicker than the time until it is due.

*Mr. Baker, Year 3 Class Teacher- Green T*

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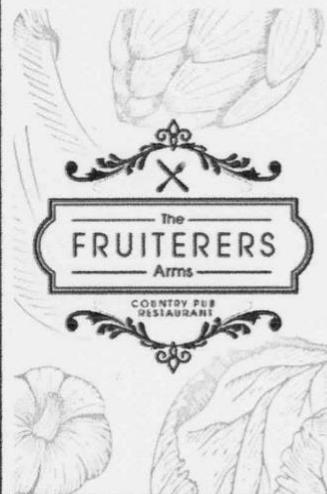
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**Jazz on  
Rodmersham Village  
Green**

**Sunday 9th June**

*This is a free event with  
all donations going to  
the Village Hall for  
refurbishment projects*

**Music from  
1pm – 4pm**



**Refreshments available on the day inc:**

Tea Coffee Hot Chocolate

Pimm's Strawberries & Cream Cakes

A poster for the LEAF Open Farm Sunday event. The background is a black and white photograph of a cherry orchard. At the top, there are two logos: LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) and Open Farm Sunday (www.farmsunday.org). The main text reads: LEAF Open Farm Sunday, 7th July 2019, At Hempstead Farm, 1.30 to 4.30pm. Below this, it says: Come and celebrate our cherry harvest—Entrance is free, Tractor and trailer rides in the Orchards, Static Farm Machinery Display, Refreshments Competitions and prizes to be won, Farm Produce for sale - Collections for local charity. At the bottom left is the Blackbird Farming logo, and at the bottom right is the address: Hempstead Lane, Sittingbourne, ME9 9BH, blackbirdfarming.co.uk.

   
**LEAF Open Farm Sunday**  
**7th July 2019**  
**At Hempstead Farm**  
**1.30 to 4.30pm**

Come and celebrate our cherry harvest—Entrance is free  
Tractor and trailer rides in the Orchards.  
Static Farm Machinery Display.  
Refreshments Competitions and prizes to be won.  
Farm Produce for sale - Collections for local charity

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## Nature notes, May 2019

I am writing these notes during the second week of May and the leaves are out on nearly everything by now. There has been a very good showing of bluebells this year as well as primroses, I love to see them every year and it always reminds me of when I lived at Oakwood Farm and there was always a brilliant carpet of blue in the wood opposite preceded by masses of primroses.

We visited Park Gate Down in early May to see the cowslips that grow there in their thousands as well as large numbers of early purple orchids. These are the first of several species of orchids that grow there and it really is one of my favourite places. On a more local note we have seen a pair of swallows around the Village; they were a little later than normal as were the swifts that I have just seen screaming round the old jam factory opposite the end of Northwood Drive. I love to see the swifts each year and it was always lovely to witness them whizzing past me when I was working up on a scaffold surrounding a church, almost within touching distance.

The blue tits that are rearing their young are busily toing and froing to the nest box that is on the side of the aviary and it will not be long now when the young leave the nest box.

The hedgehog continues to visit our garden; betraying its presence by the droppings that it leaves on our lawn.

Margaret heard a cuckoo when we were at Bough Beech near Sevenoaks during the first week in May and I saw a little owl on electric light wires near Rodmersham Church. I have seen them several times in that area now.

A mistle thrush is obviously in the process of feeding young near Tunstall House and house sparrows are busy collecting nesting material from our garden and taking it across the road to the oast opposite.

More next month- Richard and Margaret



### Friends of Tunstall Church

Don't forget our **Mamma Mia Greek style supper and music evening Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August** at Tunstall Village Hall.

The Friends' committee wishes you all a fine summer and look forward to seeing you again.

*David Prew*

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### Sittingbourne Football Club news

Our season is over and although it hasn't been very successful, the men's first team avoided relegation and we can look back with some pride at what's happened both on and off the field.

First of all, we became a limited company, though not for profit as we are limited by guarantee. This was a conscious decision by the Directors, all of whom are volunteers and believe that football can be a great outlet for people of all ages, so profit was never a motive and can never be whilst we have the “by guarantee” suffix.

We want to do all we can for the youth of Swale so we have consolidated our youth sides and now have a flourishing ladies and girls’ section and so can offer lots of footballing possibilities to all. While the girls’ teams already cater for most age groups, we hope to introduce additional younger boys’ teams too.

Of course, none of this can come to fruition without the generosity of our sponsors so we give a big thank you to all of them, and especially our chairman Maurice Dunk who so generously provides us with excellent facilities: all we offer in return is voluntary help around the ground and the facilities at Woodstock. We now have new dressing rooms, courtesy of Greg McHardy and his team.

We are also blessed with probably the best supporters in the league, spanning all ages which helps maintain a real family atmosphere.

Our men’s first team had a managerial change during the year with the appointment of Chris Lynch who had been Head of Dover Athletic Football academy: we are excited that for the new season there should be a genuine tie-up between all our teams which should offer more possibility for progression through to the first team than there has been in the past.

Looking further ahead we still hope that one day we will get a new ground that could be a stepping stone for progression up the football pyramid. We don’t necessarily want to progress too far but one or two steps further would open up more opportunities for the youngsters of Swale.

So, it is now time for me to take a break from my duties at the club that include PA announcer, programme editor, website editor and occasional radio pundit. It won’t be all rest though, as there is always lots of maintenance and improvement to do during the summer at the ground!

*Peter Pitts, Sittingbourne FC*