



On 30<sup>th</sup> June, being the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, we have a United Benefice Communion at 10:30 at Wormshill. We also have a combined Choral Evensong at 6.30pm at Rodmersham in celebration of the reopening of the lady chapel following restoration work. Evensong happens regularly around the benefice, so whether you're reading this before or after the event it presents an opportunity to say something about this ancient, traditional service.

Evensong normally takes place every week at Tunstall and once a month at Frinsted, Milstead and during BST at Wormshill. It offers a peaceful, meditative end to the weekend and even the prominent atheist Richard Dawkins is quoted as saying. "I have a certain love for Evensong"

The service begins with a time of self-reflection, bringing our shortcomings before God and receiving cleansing as Christ promised. As further preparation for worship we say the Lord's Prayer, including the familiar ending ('for thine is the kingdom...')

At that point the minister bids the people to praise God: they respond, "The Lord's Name be praised!" Together we read from the Old Testament Book of Psalms - a very human collection of hymns and prayers that capture every mood or situation, even in today's world. To acknowledge our New Testament perspective we end the chosen psalm with Christian words of praise.

The role of Evensong is to outline God's plan of salvation and we continue with a passage from the Old Testament. Viewing the world from a Christian standpoint, this can be hard to make sense of but its purpose is to show God preparing the way for the coming of Christ. It also enables us to empathise with the ancient Hebrews who could not have seen the world as we do.

We then sing the Magnificat – the Song Mary sang to her relative Elizabeth before Jesus was born, linking the Old and New Testaments and celebrating God coming to live among us, bringing his light into the world.

After this a passage from the New Testament is read, which tells us about Christ's life on earth, or the ways his Spirit worked among the first disciples. Then, with our minds focussed on Christ, we join the elderly priest Simeon in his hymn of praise with the Nunc Dimittis: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace." God had promised Simeon he would not die until he had personally seen the Saviour: now that he had, his life was complete, though we don't know how long he lived after that!

Having confessed our sins, journeyed from Old Testament to New and given thanks for the coming of Christ, we now stand and recite the Creed together, which summarises where we've got to. Traditionally we all face East.

In case our minds have started to drift, the minister calls us back with the words: 'The Lord be with you,' to which the congregation responds, 'and with thy spirit.' Then, curiously, we recite the Lord's Prayer a second time but without the words of praise at the end, so the prayer ends with 'deliver us from evil.' We continue with sung verses, responses, prayers and expressions of goodwill among minister and people. In this final section we say the Collect for the day – this aligns our Evening Prayer with morning Communion, so bringing all God's people together.

Evensong attracts a small but stable congregation: it usually lasts around 35 – 40 minutes and if you've never tried it I recommend coming along, at least once. We'd love to see you!

I hope you all have a relaxed and enjoyable summer.

Rev. Alan

*(In putting this together I have drawn some reflections from 'Evensong Explained' - W K Lowther Clarke [anglicanhistory.org](http://anglicanhistory.org))*

### **Café Tunstall**

Join us once a month to enjoy good coffee and good company. **Next Meeting Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> July** at Tunstall Church from 4.00pm to 5.00pm. **Children are welcome.**

## Services throughout the Benefice during July, 2019

### Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July

7.00pm	Midweek Communion	Tunstall
--------	-------------------	----------

### Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> July -5<sup>th</sup> after Trinity

8:00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9.00am	Holy Communion	Milstead
9.30am	Parish Communion	Tunstall
10.30am	St James - Patronal Communion	Bicknor
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Wormshill
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall

### Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> July - 6<sup>th</sup> after Trinity

8.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Wormshill
9.30am	Parish Communion	Tunstall
10.30am	Mary Magdalene - ExCiTe all age <i>lay led worship</i>	Bredgar
11.15am	Morning prayer	Rodmersham
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Milstead
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall



## PEACE DAY 1919 -2019

The **Tunstall Peace Day Celebrations** are fast approaching!

On **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm**, a children's tea party, together with some entertainment, will be at the village hall, recreating those street parties that were held back in 1919.

**The children's party is kindly sponsored by Tunstall Parish Council, and tickets are free of charge.**

From 6pm, there will be a hog roast, steel band and a licensed bar.

**Tickets for the evening are £15.00 per head, which includes food.**

**To book tickets for either event, please contact Pauline on 472218, Gordon on 477774 or Brian on 484182.**



## Tunstall Phil the Bag

The May Phil the Bag collection raised **£143.50** with a weight of 410 kg. Our thanks go to everyone who “Philled” bags.



As this was our final collection we can report that between May 2010 and May 2019 the total raised for the fabric fund is **£3,741.30**. Congratulations to all.

*Marilyn and Keith*

*This astonishing, final total is all credit to Marilyn and Keith who have encouraged us all to 'Phil the Bags' at least twice a year. Thank you both for this amazing total.*

## Rodmersham Ringers St Nicolas 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Tower day (Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May)

The Rodmersham ringers banded together with family support to open the church and tower to showcase their hobby. It was a day full of good cheer. Over 50 people of all ages attended and were treated to a feast of good food and entertainment.

Glynis (our latest recruit) tried her hand on the ringing simulator as did many of our visitors, with varying degrees of success. (This is a small wheel that connects to the computer but rung in a similar way to the real thing).

We believe this to be a tower first in the County

Our esteemed captain and trainer (Jim) spent his time escorting groups of people to the 3 tower sections.

The roof: To take in the vista

The belfry: To see bells in their rested and ringing positions

The ringing chamber: Where some had a go on back stroke

While all this was going on there was a little entertainment on the handbells, a display of ringing books, video of the centenary ring, model of the new mini training simulator ring of 6, cooked food, drinks, but above all buckets full of enthusiasm and good cheer

Thank you to all who attended and look out for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Open Day

*Trevor Arnold*

*Friends of Tunstall Church*

# MAMMA MIA

**Greek style supper  
and music with  
NICK BOSWORTH**

**7.00pm to 10.30**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August**

**TUNSTALL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Tickets only £12 from  
Pauline 472218**

**please bring your own drinks**

**Saturday August 31<sup>st</sup> Tunstall School Hall  
7.00pm till 10.30**

When All Is Said And Done Take a Chance On Us with a real Greek style supper and music with Nick "Thank You For The Music" Bosworth.

Come and enjoy the evening The Way Old Friends Do. I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do.

Money, Money, Money to Pauline 472218.

Mamma Mia Tunstall Style. See You There.

*David Prew*



## Tunstall Evening WI report - June



In June we welcomed Mrs Tsuyoko Page as our speaker. She has lived in the UK for a long time but as a young woman she trained in the art of Ikebana, Japanese flower arranging. Using just a few flowers and a little greenery she demonstrated eight different arrangements. The ladies of Tunstall Evening WI have never been so quiet as we watched the flower arrangements taking shape with amazement that a such lovely effect could be achieved with so few flowers.

As we have no formal meeting in August we have traditionally met up for a meal so numbers were taken of those interested to see if there are enough of us to go to The Woodstock Club. We need at least 20 of us but it is rarely a problem hitting that number when food is on offer!

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. The speaker for July is from The Air Ambulance.

*Jay Collins*

## Peter's Gardening Advice



As I write these notes, I am watching the rain falling so fast that it is causing my lawn to flood. In the years that I have lived here, I've never seen my lawn actually flood before. It has been reported that a month's supply of rain is predicted to fall today and that the temperatures are more the average for January or February rather than June. By the time you read this, the unusual rainfall should be a distant memory – the jet stream causing this chaos having moved on allowing us to once again get into the garden and get busy.

July, and the main task as always is watering. Yes, even after all that rain in June! Hanging basket and container plants are reliant on us for their water supply and in the warm days of July may need watering even twice a day. A

regular weekly application of a proprietary plant food will also help to keep them looking their best.

Regular dead heading of bedding and perennial plants will help to prevent seed production and encourage a longer flowering season. Perennials that have finished flowering such as hardy geraniums and delphiniums can be cut back hard and fed with a liquid plant food to encourage new growth and a further flush of flowers.

Early summer flowering shrubs such as Weigela and Philadelphus can be pruned once they have finished flowering. These flower on wood produced in the previous year. If they are pruned after flowering this gives sufficient time for them to grow and produce wood that will ripen to produce flowers the following year.

Deciduous magnolias can also be pruned at the end of July. This reduces the amount of bleeding suffered by the plants and allows any cut wood to harden sufficiently before the harsh winter weather sets in.

July is the traditional month for the propagation of perennials and biennials from seed. Campanulas, aquilegia and delphiniums can all be sown now. Foxgloves, sweet Williams and Canterbury bells can also be sown now to provide colour the following year.

Hardy annuals that are in the garden will start to produce seed pods and the seed can be collected from these now. Calendula, poppy and love in a mist are all reliable plants to collect seed from. Store the seed in brown paper bags in an airtight container until it is required.

Try taking cuttings of hanging basket and container plants. Take a soft, non-flowering tip cutting just over an inch long, stripping off the lower leaves and put around the edge of a pot filled with a half sand and half peat mix. Use the top of an old plastic lemonade bottle to create a mini propagator and place in a warm yet shady place. They should root in a couple of weeks and it's so satisfying to root plants that are particular favourites and to give these cuttings to your family and friends.

July is the last chance to apply a high nitrogen feed to your lawn. Nitrogen encourages lush green top growth; raise the height of cut on your mower to keep the sward longer as this is better at withstanding drought conditions.

Continue to hand weed beds and borders, letting weeds shrivel in the heat of the sun.

Make the most of the fine July weather (fingers crossed- it's still raining outside here!) as the shorter days are just around the corner – it's frightening to think that we are already more than half way through this year.  
Happy gardening.

*Peter Forster*



**A Date for your Diary**  
**Tunstall Harvest Supper, 3pm – 5.30pm**  
**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*