



Benefice of Tunstall and Bredgar

Rector: Rev. Alan Pinnegar, Tunstall Rectory, ME9 8DU

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Curate: Paula Jardine-Rose 01795 886165; curatepaulajr@gmail.com

(Paula is normally available on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays)

Readers: Pat Tatchell 01795 471956 John Vaughan 01795 425123

Administrator: Brian Evans 07783 662057

email: beneficetunstallandbredgar@gmail.com

Sunday 22nd November - Next before Advent Christ the King

In line with current laws, we are unable to conduct public worship in our church buildings until further notice. **We will of course continue with our live streamed services as we have been since March and we hope for an easing of restrictions before too long.**

There are implications for Advent and Christmas and we will keep you up to date with developments as they arise. Whatever happens, we will enable people to come together, whether in person or online: we will mark the season of Advent and we will celebrate Christmas!

This coming Sunday (22nd) we celebrate our Sunday School - its leaders, the families and children who participate and all the activities that take place during the year. Please join us online to celebrate this vital area of the life of our church communities!

We are still able to open our buildings for private prayer and 3 of our buildings are currently open from 10.00am until 5.00pm on particular days and subject to safety precautions: Tunstall Church is open every Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday Bredgar and Milstead are open on Wednesdays and Fridays respectively. Frinsted Church will be open during the day every Saturday, with the exception of 1st Saturday of the month.

In the meantime we do our best to keep in contact with people but inevitably some will fall through the cracks. Please let us know if you are aware of anyone who is lonely or fearful and who would appreciate a call - we encourage people to keep in touch with each other and we in the ministry team are very happy to contact people by phone, whether they are church members or not.

The church continues to pray for and to be active in our communities; in addition to our Sunday morning services, we have Morning Prayer online every weekday at 9:30am. Wednesday evening services will continue online at 7:00pm each week - these vary in style from week to week and if you would like to join us, please let the Vicar or the Administrator know and we'll send you the link.

Online Services

Morning Prayer is said online every week day at 9:30am.

Sunday mornings at 9:45 - Sunday School when available takes place online

Tuesday evenings at 9:00pm - Night Prayer (Compline)

Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm

Friday afternoons at 3:00pm - 'Tea at 3'

If you would like to join us for any of these, please email Alan Pinnegar or Brian Evans and we will send you the link.

The **Church of England Daily Office** for different times of the day can be accessed online at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Sunday Evening services

The services of Evensong that have been taking place in our churches around the benefice have had to be shelved until further notice

New regular online events

Tea at Three Every Friday 3pm, is a chance to get together online, as a group or in breakout groups to discuss a topic in fellowship during this new phase of lockdown – so grab a cuppa, and spend some time together. Any queries contact Paula - curatepaulajr@gmail.com.

Compline Every Tuesday at 9:00pm - a short service of night prayer. Sit back and let the words of prayer still you and comfort you for the night.

PLEASE NOTE: There is now a common recurring link for **both** the above so it can be used for all future sessions:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86817223068?pwd=bWlITEFmdkFoVm4wazBON2dQaHE4UT09> Meeting ID: 868 1722 3068 Passcode: Church

Other services

4.00pm **Cafe Tunstall** - we have been meeting at Tunstall Church: watch this space!

A Prayer for all those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick and lift up all who are brought low, that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord

Readings

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|--------------------------|--|
| Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 | |
| Ephesians 1: 15-23 | |
| Matthew 25: 31-46 | |
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The readings can be accessed via www.biblegateway.com: enter the passage in the following format: [e.g.] John 14: 1-6; from the drop-down box to the right select "New Revised Standard Version", then click <Search>.

Collect " Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet ".

Advent Windows - Not much time left to sign up!!

Do you fancy taking part in a community event this Christmas?

Due to the Covid restrictions we have had this year, it has been difficult for the community to come together, so we thought it would be great if the people of Bredgar village could take part in the real life Advent Windows.

This would work like a standard advent calendar, but those participating would decorate a window in their house to be seen from the path or road by those walking by. The window would have a number, 1 - 24 (also to be shown as part of the display) and the participants would need to be happy for their address to be listed or marked on the 'Advent Window Map'. One new window would then be revealed each day.

If you would like to take part or would like further information, please contact: Rev. Paula – 01795 886165 or curatepaulajr@gmail.com

Let us together bring a smile to people's faces and light the way to Christmas.

Thank you.

Rev. Paula - Curate of Tunstall and Bredgar Benefice.

Notices

Mothers' Union Advent Service

Each year we hold an Advent service in the Cathedral. This year it is not possible to use the Cathedra. The service will be streamed on youtube on 1st December at 11.00am. The preacher will be Sarah Pennington and copies of her address will be available. I will send this round to members when I receive it. Many thanks, Sue

Tunstall Church History on Video

A short video about the history of Tunstall Church has been produced by Sittingbourne Heritage Museum and can be accessed via the museum website www.Sittingbourne-museum.co.uk with a link to click on under "what's new on the internet?"

Food Bank

Swale Food Bank has been getting increasingly busy in the last few weeks, putting more and more pressure on our stock levels.. If you are able to donate food or household items, please either drop them off at Tunstall Church between 10.00am and 5.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Saturdays, Bredgar Church during the same hours on Wednesdays or if you come to the Sunday morning service.

Alternatively you can contact Alan or Kerry (aepinnegar@gmail.com; 01795 471483) and we will arrange to collect.

There are also drop-off points in Asda and Sainsbury's.

Cash donations are also gratefully received.

Huge thanks as always to our regular supporters - we literally couldn't do what we do without you!

VIRTUAL TUNSTALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2020

As I mentioned in the November Church magazine, the Tunstall Church Christmas Tree Festival this year has had to be cancelled because of the Coronavirus. Instead, we plan to hold a Virtual Christmas Tree Festival. We have asked all of our previous contributors to take part and we are hoping that many of them will do so.

Our good friend, Terry Mahoney of Photographic Services, has offered to arrange this for us. Those taking part will send photos of their trees to him and he will put them together in a virtual display that we can all admire.

If you wish to take part, please send a picture of your tree, making it clear who it is from, to info@photographicservices.co.uk preferably by Friday 27th November and certainly no later than Friday 4th December.

It is very likely that the viewing will be available on You Tube, but until the content of the display is approved by You Tube, we are unable to give you the link. However, the plan is that the viewing should be available on or about 12 December, at which point, we will advertise the link via all available social media, including the Benefice website, our Facebook page, the weekly newsletter and the good old word of mouth.

We will also be doing our best to decorate the Churchyard this year and we have arranged a working party which is due to meet at 11am on Saturday 12 December. If you wish to join us, then please do. If you have any spare battery-operated Christmas lights, then I am sure that we could make good use of them.

As you know, we normally support a local Charity during the Festival and this year we choose The Swale Stroke Group. It is unlikely that we will be able to raise much for them this year, so we have decided to support them again next year when, hopefully, things will be back to normal – whatever that is.

In the meantime, let's do our best to make this Christmas as joyful as possible.

John Slate

Tunstall Church Grand Christmas Raffle. The Christmas raffle will be taking place again this year. Two books of tickets will be distributed with each magazine. Further tickets can be obtained at us at 3 Woodstock Road or by telephoning 01795 422810 and we will deliver. Please try and sell as many tickets as possible to your friends and family. We also urgently need donations of items for inclusion in hampers. These can be delivered to the above address or can be collected. Martin and Sue Thomas

Holiday at Home': DailyHOPE, the Church's freephone line, offers hymns, the daily office, reflections and prayers. In addition to this there is now a new offering called 'Holiday at Home' - the intention is to enable those who don't access things online and who rarely leave their houses to be 'transported' on a holiday - with prayers of thanks for times past, a poem recollecting holidays and even a soundscape to evoke those memories of past holidays.

Since its launch at the beginning of May the DailyHOPE line has received more than 215,000 calls. That accounts for over 2.5 million minutes of listening to

prayers, hymns and reflections. The freephone line seems to have been a wonderful help and encouragement to tens of thousands.

DailyHOPE (0800 804 8044)

(Computer) Virus alert If you receive an email from anyone (Rev Alan for example) using an email address you do not recognise, please delete immediately

United Benefice Weekend Away 11th - 13th June

“Getting into Shape”

The date for the Benefice weekend away has now been changed for the third time due to the ongoing uncertainty with the Covid 19 pandemic. The previous planned date of 19th February 2020 seemed to be too close, now that we are facing more difficulties with rising numbers of those affected by the virus and the changing rules around lockdown criteria.

We were able to access a cancellation for June 2021 and felt that would provide a better opportunity for us all to look forward positively and hope that we could enjoy a break away in the beautiful Sussex countryside. The date for the weekend is now 11th – 13th June 2021 starting on Friday evening at 4pm and ending on Sunday evening at 4pm. I have contacted all those already booked to attend the event to confirm these details, but we still have places available if anyone else would like to join us.

Reverend Gordon Oliver is still able to lead the weekend for us, and provide some interesting and thought provoking sessions, based on our theme “Getting into Shape”. This title was chosen prior to any concerns about the virus, but feels even more appropriate now, as hopefully next year we will be moving forward and regaining some normality within our everyday lives. It would be a real blessing to be able to go away together, share fellowship and just enjoy each other’s company. For all of us I am sure the lack of social interaction has been very difficult in the last seven months.

If anyone requires more information and/or a booking form please ring me on 01795 428300. Tricia Longbottom

Church Finances

The church relies solely on donations and occasional fees in order to keep going and we are very grateful to all those who make donations to each of the churches

in our benefice. While many in our congregations give by Standing Order, we know that some like to make cash donations via the collection bag during a service.

During these times when our buildings are closed, we are losing some of our regular income through cash collections, wedding fees, etc.

We understand that the current situation is causing all kinds of difficulties for many people and we do not want to put pressure on anyone who has concerns over their finances during the lockdown, or indeed at any other time.

However, if you would like to and are in a position to make a donation, whatever the amount and whether regular or as a one-off, please contact the Treasurer of your local church and they will give you the bank details to enable you to set up a Standing Order or make a direct transfer. Thank you!

Tunstall: Peter Barton peterbartonfca@gmail.com; 01795 479816

Bredgar: Alice Quarry amquarry@yahoo.co.uk; 07957 338316

Milstead: Janice Hook 3j@jhook.co.uk; 01795 830292

Frinted: Maurice Sherreard 01622 884333

Rodmersham: Tony Pardoe rivendell.tonge@googlemail.com; 01795 472575

Wormshill: Ian Phillips dreyfs@yahoo.com; 01622 884425

General Information

Baptisms and Weddings are by arrangement. Please contact Rev Alan Pinnegar on 01795 471483 email: aepinnegar@gmail.com

Facebook: We now have one Facebook page to cover the whole benefice.

The page relating to Tunstall Church has been renamed as follows:

Benefice Tunstall & Bredgar: Bicknor Frinsted Milstead Rodmersham Wormshill.

Current users of the Tunstall page need take no action: for users of St Mary and the Holy Cross Church, Milstead; St Giles Church, Wormshill and Bredgar with Bicknor Churches, please 'Like' or 'Follow' the benefice page to receive regular updates

Benefice website: beneficeoftunstallandbredgar.org.uk

Parish Councils: Seven Parishes Website www.sevenparishes.co.uk