



## **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](mailto: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](mailto:beneficetunstallandbredgar@gmail.com)

## **Sunday 17th January - 2nd of Epiphany**

**Following the recent re-imposition of lockdown measures by the government, the law still allows us to host public worship services in our church buildings. However, in view of the continuing high infection rates we feel it would be unwise to do so for the time being.** We will review the situation when we move to Tier 3 or lower.

In the meantime of course, we will continue with our live streamed services as we have been since March and we hope for an easing of restrictions before too long.

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 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays; Bredgar on Wednesdays; Frinsted Church on Saturdays, with the exception of 1st Saturday of the month.

Milstead Church has been opening on Fridays but this is currently under review. All these opening times are subject to change in line with government regulations and local circumstances, so please keep an eye on this newsletter for updates

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>

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is now a common recurring link for both Compline and Tea at 3:

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

## 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

Psalm 139: 1-9	
1 Samuel 3: 1-10	
Revelation 5: 1-10	
John 1: 43-51	

The readings can be accessed via [www.biblegateway.com](http://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** “Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever”.

## Notices

### Tunstall Mothers' Union

I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and let's hope for a better New Year. Could I please remind you that subscriptions are due on 1st January. Please can I have a cheque for £29.00 payable to Tunstall Mothers' Union as soon as possible. I am delighted to inform you that our new Chaplain has been appointed. She is Revd. Dr Emma Pennington. Emma preached at our Advent service and has been invited to meet the Trustees by zoom in January. Sue Thomas

### Poetry Competition

The Rotary Club of Sittingbourne Invicta together with Rotary Radio UK have organised a poetry competition and are challenging us all to write a poem with the title: **“Do You Remember 2020?”**

The entry fee is £5 and further details plus an entry form are available at:

**<https://www.rotaryradiouk.org/competition>**

All money raised will be used to help disadvantaged children in the Borough of Swale so everyone can help by writing a poem and by sharing this news with family and friends.

There are prizes and the opportunity to see your work in print!

The closing date for entries is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 so thinking caps on and good luck!!

John Fisher ([jfisher1805@hotmail.com](mailto:jfisher1805@hotmail.com)) 01795 424952

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> 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!

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Milstead: Janice Hook [3j@jhook.co.uk](mailto:3j@jhook.co.uk); 01795 830292  
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Rodmersham: Tony Pardoe [rivendell.tonge@googlemail.com](mailto:rivendell.tonge@googlemail.com); 01795 472575  
Wormshill: Ian Phillips [dreyfs@yahoo.com](mailto:dreyfs@yahoo.com); 01622 884425

## General Information

**Scammers:** It seems that the scammers are out in force at the moment. A number of clergy and others have had their email addresses hacked and used to send out requests for money and assistance. If you receive an unusual email from any account, please do not respond - instead, contact the individual concerned directly using contact information that you know to be accurate.

**Baptisms and Weddings** are by arrangement. Please contact Rev Alan Pinnegar on 01795 471483 email: [aepinnegar@gmail.com](mailto:aepinnegar@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** *Benefice Tunstall & Bredgar: Bicknor Frinted Milstead Rodmersham Wormshill*

**Benefice website:** [beneficeoftunstallandbredgar.org.uk](http://beneficeoftunstallandbredgar.org.uk)

**Parish Councils: Seven Parishes Website** [www.sevenparishes.co.uk](http://www.sevenparishes.co.uk)