



## **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 21st February - 1st Sunday of Lent**

**We continue to review the situation as regards meeting in church - the signs are more encouraging with falling infection rates and the progress made with the vaccine programme and we hope for an easing of restrictions before too long.**

In the meantime, we will continue with our live streamed services as we have been since 22nd March 2020.

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>

## Lent Course

Sadly, Covid restrictions mean we will not be able to organise Lent lunches this year. We will, however, be running a Lent course on-line:-

**'Seven Words: Listening to Christ on the Cross'**

**Tuesday evenings at 7:45 from 23rd February - 23rd March;**

**and Thursday afternoons at 2:30 from 25th February - 25th March.**

All are welcome - we will send out the Zoom links every Monday during Lent. You can swap sessions from week to week if you wish.

## 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](mailto: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

## 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 25: 1-9	
Genesis 9: 8-17	
1 Peter 3: 18-22	
Mark 1: 9-15	

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, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord".

## Notices

### 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

### Simnel Cakes and Easter Chicks

Pat Hobday will be making a limited number of these with all proceeds going to Rwanda. Please contact Pat on 01622 884345.

## **February Church Magazine - Tunstall and Rodmersham**

Due to the current lockdown, the February Church Magazine for Tunstall and Rodmersham will **NOT** be distributed in the usual way. A limited number of magazines will be at the back of Tunstall Church from Thursday 21st January, so if you wish to collect a copy, please do so when the Church is open (10.00am - 5.00pm, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays). Thank you, John Slate

## **United Benefice Weekend Away 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

### **“Getting into Shape”**

The date for the Benefice weekend away has now been changed for the fifth time due to the ongoing uncertainty with the Covid 19 pandemic and a booking mistake by Ashburnham. Although Ashburnham intends to be open and operating by June 2021 when we were booked to go, the problem was aligning our guests with the vaccination programme. Although some people would have had both their first and second vaccination by the June date, due to the twelve weeks delay period the slightly younger would be too close or beyond the June date. The considerably younger would not have been offered a vaccination by that date but should be covered by the end of this summer.

We would have liked a date later this year and felt that would provide a better opportunity to keep us all safe and hoping that we could enjoy a break away together in the autumn. But we were not able to arrange a booking in October 2021 due to a mistake made in the number of en-suite rooms required. Therefore after much discussion the date for the weekend is now 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> October 2022, it will start on Friday evening at 4pm and end 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 has been asked if he can still lead the weekend for us, and provide some interesting and thoughtful sessions, based on our theme “Getting into Shape”. By next year we will hopefully be clear of any Covid issues and 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 year, let’s look forward to being in a more positive situation next year.

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

Tricia Longbottom

## To our Rwanda supporters

Please note that the Lawrence Barham Memorial Trust (LBMT) is now permanently closed down. No cheques, wills or legacies should be written to LBMT.

For those wishing to help the Bishop and people of Cyangugu Diocese, Cheques , vouchers, wills and legacies should be written to **Links International Barham Rwanda**.

Because of lockdown in Rwanda, income has been severely affected so if you are able to help please send any donations to Links International Barham Rwanda, PO Box 198, Littlehampton West Sussex BN16 3UE or to Rosewood, Canadia Road Battle , East Sussex TN33 0LR

(Extract from a letter from Right Rev Kenneth Barham, OBE to Bill Hobday)

## 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, 4 of our parishes now have an online donation facility:-

Tunstall: [Tunstall Church - Give A Little](#)

Bredgar: [Bredgar Church - Give A Little](#)

Milstead: [Milstead Church - Give A Little](#)

Wormshill: [St Giles Church Wormshill - Give A Little](#)

If you wish to make a donation to Frinsted or Rodmersham churches, please contact the Treasurer as follows:-

Frinsted: Maurice Sherreard 01622 884333

## 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.

There is also a scam where a caller purports to be from BT and asks you to log into a website so they can monitor your internet speed. What it actually does is enable them to take control of your computer remotely.

**Vaccines:** there has been some confusion over selecting a venue to receive a vaccine. If 'Westcliffe' comes up as an option, please note it's in Southend, not Margate!

**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 Frinsted 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)

**Vicar's day off:** Please note that starting from 12th February Alan is changing his day off to Friday. Paula will continue to be available on Fridays.