



# **Benefice of Tunstall and Bredgar**

**Rector:** Rev. Alan Pinnegar, 01795 471483; 07402 717325 [aepinnegar@gmail.com](mailto:aepinnegar@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest:** Rev. Karen Burgess, 07394 980673 [revburgess2021@gmail.com](mailto:revburgess2021@gmail.com)

**Licensed Readers:** Pat Tatchell 01795 471956; Clive Jacobs 07951 439943

**Administrator:** Charlotte Hayes [beneficetunstallandbredgar@gmail.com](mailto:beneficetunstallandbredgar@gmail.com)

## ***Services on 14th December 2025*** ***\*Third Sunday of Advent\****

**Tunstall** - 08:00am - Holy Communion (Traditional)

**Tunstall** - 09:45am - Communion

**Bredgar** - 10:00am - Communion

**Rodmersham** - 15:00pm - Lessons & Carols

**Milstead** - 16:30pm - Christingle

**Bredgar** - 18:30pm - Lessons & Carols

Please note: On **Friday 12th December at Frinsted** there will be a Carol Service. Everyone is welcome!

### **Readings for Sunday**

Psalm 146:4-10
Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10

**Collect:** God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. ***On occasion, the readings and/or Collect used may vary from those shown.***

## **Online services**

**Online - Wednesday 10th December at 7pm - Celtic Prayer**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86997690696?pwd=Q3BJTHhNZkhOQVNWZjdkYnhPMnprZz09> Meeting ID: 869 9769 0696; Passcode: Church

**Morning Prayer** is said online every weekday at **9:30am:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87809800088?pwd=eWxzbnpmUFpRcFM4dEFRTzB1ZGpSUT09> Meeting ID: 878 0980 0088; Passcode: Church

## **Church opening times**

Our churches are normally open on the following days, from 10:00 - 5:00:

- **Tunstall:** Every day from 10:00am until 5:00pm  
**'Open Office' has now moved** - Tuesdays from 6:00 until 7:00pm
  - **Bredgar:** - Wednesdays and Fridays
- Rev Alan is normally based at Bredgar church from 10:30 until 1:30 on Fridays. Please feel free to drop in but if you need to speak to Alan it's worth calling first: 07402 717325
- **Bicknor:** from 10:00am until 3:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays
- **Milstead:** Fridays from around 10am - 4pm in the winter months!

***We encourage members of our local communities to drop in to our church buildings from time to time when they are open!***

## **Thought for the Day - SFM 106.9**

Every Sunday a local minister offers a 'Thought for the Day' at 8:30am.

## **Notices**

**Tunstall Bereavement Cafe - Saturday 13th December -**

between 10:30am-12:30pm in the Midwinter Room - St John Baptist Church. The Cafe is a drop in centre offering support to those who have been bereaved. The focus is on helping through a difficult and lonely period in their lives and with the chance to engage over a cup of tea/coffee and meet others who have been through similar experiences. Come and join us, everyone is welcome!

**Mothers Union-** The Mothers Union will meet on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December in the Midwinter room at 10.15. This will be a social gathering with a Christmas quiz and seasonal refreshments. There will be a collection for the Food Bank. All are welcome.

**Christmas Flowers in Church** - If anyone would like to make a donation towards the flowers in church this Christmas. As you may know, the regular, weekly flowers are paid for by the person who is arranging them that particular week and we are happy to continue doing this. However, when it comes to Christmas, Easter and Harvest we do depend on the generosity of members of the congregation in helping to pay for the extra flowers for the arrangements. If you are happy to help with a small donation, please could you contact Rosemary. [rjhorwood@btinternet.com](mailto:rjhorwood@btinternet.com)

**Christmas Tree Festival** -We were delighted to welcome a record 2221 people to our Christmas Tree Festival. We displayed about 80 trees! As many of you know, our supported Charity this year was the KSS Air Ambulance and I know that many of you are familiar with the link to the Mayne family who we were delighted to welcome to our opening Reception along with the Baroness Lampard and Giles, a volunteer of the Charity. It was particularly touching that Isla Mayne took part in creating the Air Ambulance tree as she is a Young Ambassador for the Charity. We were delighted that our wonderful Church Choir entertained us with carols during the Reception and we very much enjoyed the fun and energetic performances of the Bredgar Community Choir on Saturday afternoon and the Sittingbourne Rock Choir on Sunday afternoon. We still have to account for a little more money, but our surplus this year is in the region of £3,000 which, in these very challenging times, is a great result. As always, the money will be shared between the Church and the Charity. These sort of events don't happen without a lot of hard work, so I would like to thank everybody who helped to make our Christmas Tree Festival so successful. Planning for next year begins in January and we already have 4 new organisations who wish to take part next year. More details will appear in the next Church magazine along with some pictures.

**Frinted Carol Service - Friday 12th December**, starting at 7:00pm, led by the Bredgar Community Choir

**Bredgar Carol Service - Join us for our Carol Service Sunday 14th December 2025 at 6.30pm - Bredgar Church.** Music led by Bredgar Community Choir and featuring Bredgar School. Refreshments will be served after the service, A collection will be taken in aid of the Red Cross helping people in crisis wherever and wherever they are. <http://www.redcross.org.uk/>

**Friends of Bredgar Church — Winter Warmer** - Join us on 8 February for the next fundraiser in support of our lovely church, St. John the Baptist. Enjoy a delicious two-course meal at Bredgar Village Hall with friends and neighbours.

**Tickets:**

- £16 per adult
- £5 for children aged 6–11
- Children under 6: Free

Doors open at 12:30pm **To book your tickets or reserve a table, please contact Paul Charman:** 07832 168789 or [paulcharman99@hotmail.com](mailto:paulcharman99@hotmail.com) - And here's another date for your diary:**Maytime Lunch - Sunday, 10 May.**

**Shoeboxes** - If anyone is buying shoes this Christmas and they come in a box. We will be happy to receive the box and store it for next year's appeal.

**Christmas Fair** - If families are sorting through children's cuddly toys this Christmas and they are in good condition I will happily store them for the fair next year.

## **Courses**

**Come and See (Exploring Reader Ministry)**

Saturday 7th February 2026, 10.45am-1pm

Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury CT1 1NQ

A session for anyone wanting to find out about the ministry of Readers as licensed lay ministers:

What is Reader ministry? (a brief presentation)

What does Reader ministry look like? (hearing from some Readers)

What does the training look like?

Question Time! (ask any question you like)

To book a place, please email Nigel Collins, Diocesan Lay Ministries Advisor

### **Food Bank**

We are extremely grateful for the donations of cash, food and household items - we couldn't offer this increasingly vital service to local people without your help. There are collection bins for food, etc at Tunstall and Bredgar churches and also at The Red Lion, Milstead and outside the Coffee Shop at Rodmersham. Cash may be donated either via Alan & Kerry (Tunstall Rectory) or direct to Swale Food Bank by clicking on the following link: <https://swale.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

### **Tunstall School Community Lunch**

Tunstall School are holding community lunches on the second Wednesday of each month **during term time only**. Please contact the school office if you would like to come along: 01795 472895. Lunch is served at 1pm, arrival from 12.45pm. The cost is £5 per person, payable in cash on the day.

### **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. We understand that the current economic situation has caused all kinds of difficulties for many people and we do not want to put pressure on anyone who has concerns over their finances. However, if you would like to and are in a position to make a donation, whether regular or as a one-off, 4 of our parishes now have an online donation facility, you can click on any link below:-

Tunstall:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/1f52bc3b-03b8-4a87-be9b-a4dc14b84>

Bredgar with Bicknor:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/3409e6a9-73c7-4015-8d89-2eb851773478>

Milstead:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/e4cba7ed-7e38-4e53-96f4-2bace2c7582e>

Wormshill:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/957a8e56-db6d-4df6-9167-6b72584473ea>

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

Frinsted: Tony Brown [tintinhaddock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tintinhaddock@yahoo.co.uk)

Rodmersham: Graham Haggar [graham.haggar@gmail.com](mailto:graham.haggar@gmail.com)

### ***Community***

**Scammers** - for advice on identifying and dealing with scammers and spoof emails, please consult our website

### ***General Information***

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

**Tunstall Midwinter Room Bookings** should be made through via email: [beneficetunstallandbredgar@gmail.com](mailto:beneficetunstallandbredgar@gmail.com)

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

**Facebook:** Benefice Tunstall & Bredgar: Bicknor Frinsted Milstead Rodmersham Wormshill.

**Ministers' availability:** Alan's day off is normally Thursday

### ***Safeguarding***

Each parish in the benefice has adopted the safeguarding policies of the Church of England. If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact one of our Parish Safeguarding Officers - contact details are in our website: <http://beneficeoftunstallandbredgar.org.uk/>, or the Diocesan Safeguarding team via the following link:- <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/safeguarding/>