

Tunstall Parish Council

Deer Population

In the previous edition of The Bulletin, it was announced that Tunstall Parish Council had written to the Forestry Commission to express some concern about the volume of deer around the village and the potential risk they pose to traffic and other road users. This was triggered by a very bad road traffic accident outside of Sudbourne where an individual on a motorbike very nearly lost his leg owing to injuries sustained when hitting a muntjac during the day. The very next day, a motorcyclist struck a fallow deer outside of Chillesford also sustaining injuries. In the latter case, the fallow was killed outright. In the former, the muntjac wandered away but badly damaged.

The Forestry Commission responded on their deer cull, via their Wildlife Ranger Manager for the East England Forest District which includes Tunstall Forest. Correspondence was also received from the Rendlesham Deer Association (RDA) who are a group of landowners/managers and deer stalkers, from around the peninsular, who have a shared interest in the management of the deer population.

Based upon the Forestry Commission cull returns for this District, they confirmed a steady increase year on year which may indicate an increasing population. They further confirmed that, generally, countrywide deer populations are increasing but as a general anecdotal observation the ranger felt that the large herds of fallow deer around Tunstall have reduced in the past 15-20 years. In his opinion, potentially there are generally more muntjac and certainly more Chinese Water deer- also Red deer are creeping into areas where the Forestry Commission would not have historically seen them. Tunstall Parish Council have been informed that crop damage to the harvestable trees in the forest is generally low. The Forestry Commission's aim for their culling efforts is to keep it low by maintaining the annual cull activities.

Interestingly, the annual cull numbers for 2019 – 2025 reveal that in total 116 deer were shot in 2019. This number increased each year to a total of 222 in 2025. A rise of 91%. In 2019, some 68 muntjac were culled. By 2025, this number had increased to 154. An increase of 226% or thereabouts.

A report titled 'Thermal Imaging Deer Drone Census', that Suffolk Coastal prepared for Forestry Commission England and dated February 2024 was forwarded. This made for interesting reading and covered an area from Wenhaston to the north, down to Shingle Street and westward to the north-west of Framlingham. The net survey area was circa 142.25km² and produced a total deer count of some 2957 across all species. A density of circa 17.2 per km² which was considered to be high. It stated that fallow deer were the only single species that showed a moderate level during the survey which was undertaken at a time in the year when the overall deer population is at its lowest.

Readers might also be interested to know that on Orfordness, a count by the National Trust recorded some 527 head of Chinese Water deer. An increase of 600% across a five year period until 2021. This being on an area totalling about 2194 acres.

Tunstall Grapevine

Let us know your email address and we will keep you informed of the latest news.

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Recycle your Christmas Tree

Got a real Christmas tree? Let us collect it in January and turn it into something good for the planet and the community!

We suggest a donation of £5 for each tree, and would ask that trees are available from 9am on 7 January.

Book your collection now by scanning the code on the image or via this link: <https://wkf.ms/4ocdoj5>

Cavra.org.uk

Diary dates

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 14 January at Tunstall Community Hall.

The Mobile Library

Tunstall Green:

Wednesday 7 January 10.25–10.50

Tunstall Common:

Friday 9 January 15:50-16:05

February 2026 Bulletin

Please send or give all material to the editor: Tiffany Pollock 688 816, tiffpollock@hotmail.co.uk by **15 January 2026**

Tunstall BULLETIN

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Progress on Saving our Church

While work out in the yard has gone quiet for a month or two now it's mid-winter, the Save Tunstall Church volunteers have had a good tidy up and have been busy planting bulbs for the spring which should be starting to push through shortly. We love this group and their can-do attitude - particularly because they are all so jolly as well! The penultimate service of the year was for Remembrance Sunday and was attended by 50 people. This was a very moving occasion, with tributes and readings by former and acting servicemen from Tunstall and ceremony provided by Suffolk Parade Marshall and Tunstall villager, Bruce Firth-Clark. We have had an army of people helping to decorate our church for these occasions with particular thanks to Carla for her beautiful poppy decoration.

Georgy and the Green Man team lent us the pub for a fundraising quiz on 13th November and regular masters Chris and Simon ran the quiz, which raised a massive £326.88 for church funds and left the teams reeling with a final round called 'Motorway Service Station or Cheese?'.



Some volunteers decorated the church for Christmas which means for the first time in several years, we had a tree where the decorations made it all the way to the top, as well as fresh greenery from the churchyard - and we enjoyed a tippie and mince pies once everything was done. This time, the main tree was also joined by our children's tree, (featuring decorations they made), and the Memory tree to remember loved ones. We also received a grant to buy bistro tables so we can start to have coffee mornings and other informal events.

Looking ahead

Our first services of the year will be at the regular time of 3pm on a Sunday. See page 3 for details of our January and February services.

For more information, or to get involved in any aspect of our church services, to join our growing gang of volunteers or be any part of the efforts to save the church for future generations, please contact the secretary, Sarah on 07900 657780 or st.michaels.tunstall@gmail.com





Hope for a New Year

I hope you had a happy Christmas and plenty of chances to enjoy the season. I also hope 2025 finished well for you, and that you have a very Happy 2026!

“Hope” often means what we *want* to happen, without being sure that it will. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a hope we could be certain about as we face the future?

Christmas gives us the beginning of that hope. God came into our world as a baby in a manger. And while that moment may not seem to change anything, 33 years later, through Jesus' death, God made it possible for anyone to face the future with real certainty—not by telling us exactly what will happen, but by showing us His love in the way we need most: through forgiveness and reconciliation.

The hope the Bible offers is the assurance that we will never be separated from God's love. In a letter to Christians in Rome, we read:

“... nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

These words remind us that if we are Christians; that is if:

- we have admitted our failings to God,
- we have asked Him for forgiveness, and if
- we are now trying to live with Jesus as our Lord,

then our “certain hope” is that whatever happens to us, we will never be separated from God's love to us in Jesus; in this life or in eternity!

If you would like to find out more, either come along to Grace Church, or contact me about joining one of our Hope Explored Courses!

Happy New Year!

DAVE RUSHBROOK

Minister, Grace Church Rendlesham
www.gracerendlesham.org

Tunstall Bowls Club

Short Mat Bowls



Join us on a Thursday afternoon 2-4pm for a friendly game of short mat bowls in Tunstall Community Hall. £5.00 per session, tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

Ideas of how we can make Tunstall prettier.

Tunstall Parish Council would like to invite suggestions from residents on how to might make our village prettier. What improvements might be made to give a greater sense of arrival as you pass through the village ?

If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please submit them via the Clerk for consideration by Tunstall Parish Council and we will endeavour to see if funds can be made available.

Activities

Coffee Cake and Chat

For all, including toddlers
Every Wednesday during school term time at Tunstall Chapel
9:30am -11:30 am

Friday Club

For primary school children.
Every Friday during school term time at Tunstall Chapel
6:30pm-7:30pm

Youth Group

Secondary school young people.
Every Friday during school term time at Tunstall Chapel
7:45pm-9:00pm

Weekly Morning Service

We meet every Sunday at 10.30am in Rendlesham Primary School, we look forward to seeing you there.

The Vicar's Voice

Each year on 6 January, the Christian calendar invites us to pause and celebrate Epiphany. A time often known for marking the end of the twelve days of Christmas. Epiphany – a word that means “a moment of sudden or great revelation”. Traditionally, Epiphany marks the visit of the Magi (wise men) and the revelation of Jesus to the nations. But it is also a season that encourages us to reflect on how God continues to reveal Himself in our own lives today.

Epiphany is not only about a star over Bethlehem, but about the countless ways that God's light breaks through our ordinary, run of the mill days. God reveals Himself through Scripture—those familiar passages that suddenly speak with fresh clarity, offering direction or comfort just when we need it. He reveals himself through nature—the beautiful morning light that softens a heavy heart, the winter stillness that calms and hushes our anxieties, the beauty of creation that reminds us we are held within a much larger story. And God reveals Himself through people—the timely word of encouragement, the unexpected act of kindness, the friend who listens when we can't quite find the right words ourselves.

These everyday epiphanies may often be small and quiet. They may come as “aha!” moments that interrupt the ordinary: a sudden sense of gratitude, a moment of understanding, a glimmer or a glimpse of hope. They do not always arrive in grand visions or miraculous signs, but more often they appear in the middle of our daily routines—on busy roads, around cluttered tables, during those hurried conversations in passing. Epiphany invites us to pay attention, and to notice those subtle sparks of God's presence that illuminate the path beneath our feet.

The Christmas story itself reminds us that God chooses to reveal Himself amid the helter-skelter of real life. The shepherds were caught up in the demands of night work, the Magi in the complexities of travel and uncertainty. Neither group was seeking perfection; both were simply responding to what God placed before them—a message, a star – an invitation. They teach us that revelation often happens while we are “in the middle of things.” God meets us where we are, not where we wish we had been.

So as we step into 2026, perhaps Epiphany can encourage us to slow down enough to notice the ways God is already at work—in the unexpected, the overlooked and in the beautifully ordinary.

A Blessing for 2026 May this new year be filled with many epiphany moments— moments of “aha!” clarity and gentle unfolding, born not of the extraordinary but of the everyday. May you find God in simple conversations, in the rhythm of your work and rest, in friendships that nourish and encounters that surprise. And may each small revelation guide you with light, reminding you that God is near, active, present, and joyfully at work in your life.

I wish you a Christmas full of joy, and a new year full of happiness, hope and lots of ‘aha!’ moments.

With my love and prayers,

Rev. Greg

Services at St Michael & All Angels Church

Our first services of the year will be at the regular time of 3pm on a Sunday.

Sunday 25th January: Candlemas

Join us for a short service, a mid-winter festival of light, originally a celebration of the light brought into the world after the birth of Jesus. It will feature a multitude of candles as we turn our back on the darker days and mid-winter with Spring creeping closer to the door. The nights are still long so we'll be filling the church with candlelight, with each of you attending the service holding and lighting a candle. This is a fun celebration for all the family and we'll also be making Christingles, (which are oranges decorated with sweets and candles) as part of the service.



Sunday 15th February: A Celebration of Love

This service is to rejoice about something which is almost exclusive to humans (and, recent research suggests, dogs, though they have to wait until later in the year for their moment), namely Love. Coinciding with Valentine's time of year, it's a celebration of all love - for our families, our other half, for our friends and all those we care about, and a chance to be glad that we lucky humans are capable of such a sentiment.

For more information, or to get involved in any aspect of our church services, to join our growing gang of volunteers or be any part of the efforts to save the church for future generations, please contact the secretary, Sarah on 07900 657780 or st.michaels.tunstall@gmail.com