

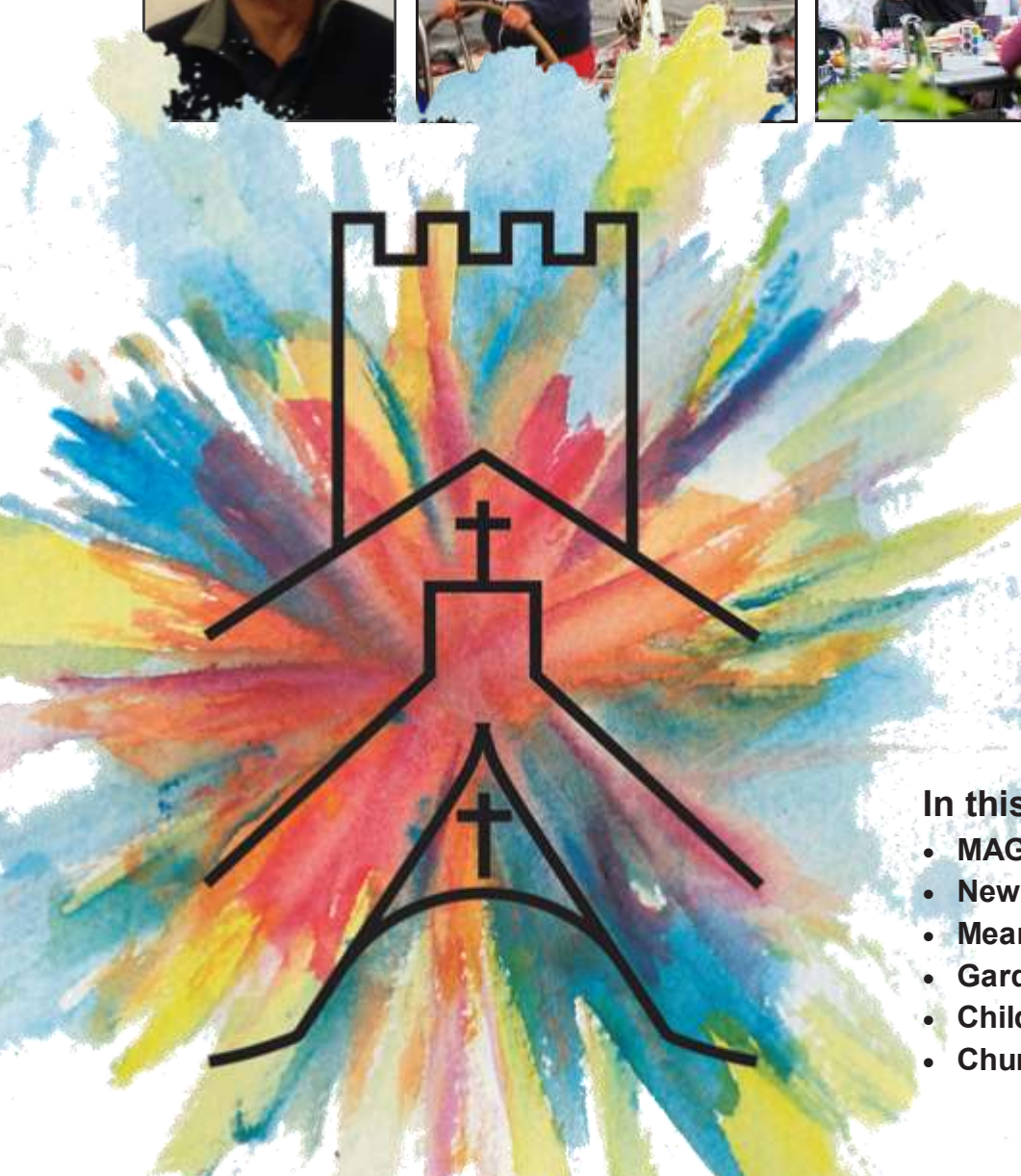


St Peter & St Paul • St Philip • St Andrew • St Saviour

# perspectives

**Issue 34 - Winter 2016**

Suggested Donation £1



## In this issue:

- MAG • Ted & Vera Simpkins •
- New Year and the New Creation •
- Meaning of Art • WWII •
- Garden • RSPB • Twixmas Food •
- Children's Pages • What's On •
- Church Service Times •





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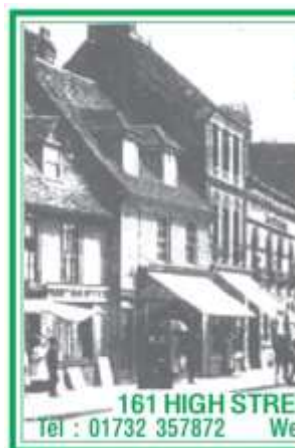
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3	Welcome from Mark Brown
4	My Faith and my Role in the Community
5	New Year, New Creation
5	Headway West Kent
6	MAG: The Lawrence Barham Memorial Trust
7	Book Reviews
8	"It is art, but what does it mean?"
9	Dynamic Dance
10	Town Twinning
11	Joseph
12-13	WWII POW Stalag IV
14-15	Children's Pages
16	RSPB
17	From the Potting Shed
18	Half Marathon
19	'Twixmas' food or Xmas leftovers
20	Diary: What's On
21	What's On Weekly; Coffee Break
22	Parish Sunday Services; Who's Who

If you have any comments or questions, would like to make any contribution to the next edition of Perspectives or would like to receive this magazine on a quarterly basis please contact the editorial team via:  
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Dear Friends

The gift of sight is one we often take for granted. There are increasing advances in medical science which enable us to retain good eyesight for longer as the years go by.



One prayer that I find striking is **"Open our eyes that we may see**

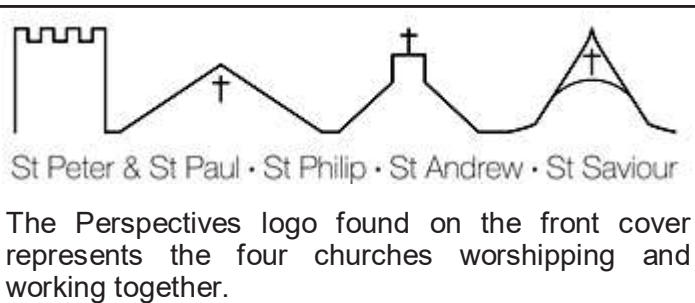
**wonderful things in your word"** (Psalm 119:18). This prayer suggests that something needs to happen for us to see God's ways and understand his paths. We need more than common sense and the ability to read! There is as it were a physical sight, which we all have to varying degrees, and spiritual sight. There is however no prayer like this which God is so keen to answer. It recognises that there is a sincerity and willingness to see something which is there, but it can only be revealed and shown when we are humble enough to ask.

Long sighted or short sighted, needing light to read or awaiting an operation for cataracts - however our physical sight is, one thing is clear as the days draw in and the hours of light recede. We are naturally blind and in the darkness when it comes to understanding for ourselves God's light and truth.

How good it would be to pray "Open my eyes Lord...". How good it is to know that God wants to answer this prayer. I am so glad that you are feeling able to read and engage with our Perspectives magazine – we have prayed that fresh light may emerge from its pages so that God's ways can be discerned. One ancient prayer of the Church which has stood the test of time is:

**Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray and in mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night for the love of your only Son our Saviour  
 Jesus Christ. Amen.**

With my warm greetings and prayers  
*The Reverend Canon Mark Brown*





# My Faith and my Role in the Community

## Ted and Vera Simpkins



**Ted and Vera Simpkins are active members of St Peter & St Paul's Church. Ted tells us something of their past and travels.**

### ***You are from the North West. Are you new to Kent?***

We came to Tonbridge relatively recently, in 2011, to be near our sons. Before that, since I retired in 1998, Vera and I sailed from Fleetwood, Lancashire, to the Western Isles for six months of the year, visiting the most beautiful and romantic places: Ardfert, Iona, Ghinga, Mull, Coll, Tyree, Eig. We only stopped in 2002 when we got fed up with the Scottish weather and sailed to Portugal, and the sun, until 2011.

### ***Tell us about your working lives.***

Vera was a nurse and then a midwife – which is how I met her. I visited my cousin who'd just had a baby, and I was asked to be godfather. Vera was at their house at the time. In those days midwives visited every day for about two weeks, and I was on leave and staying with my cousin, so we met every day... and married a year later. That was 57 years ago. As for me, I failed the 11+ three times and got nowhere much until I joined the Navy at 17 ½, and managed to pass all their exams to become a senior NEO and electronics engineer. I served on various ships and my final posting was in the Ghana navy, teaching radio and radar, as well as being responsible for radio and radar maintenance on their fleet. After the Navy I worked many years in engineering, including mainframe computers, and in business enterprises.

### ***Boats and sailing have been your passion...?***

I built my first boat, a GP14 dinghy, in around 1978. I progressed through various boats and eventually had a 36' sailing sloop which is the one we sailed between Lancashire and Scotland for the summer months.

### ***Have you always had a faith?***

In 1940 we were evacuated from Liverpool to Banks, near Southport, and sent to the local Methodist church. At that time, we got a lot of scripture but not much understanding! I attended until I joined the Navy but then lapsed, but always prayed because I knew that God was everywhere. In Portugal, years later, we met some retired missionaries who persuaded us to return, to a church, which we did when we moved to Tonbridge.

### ***You seem to have got absorbed into church life here. Tell us what you have joined and how you help around the parish.***

I'm a sidesman and I'm a church watcher, welcoming people and doing various admin tasks (I do what I'm told!).

### ***Thank you for your time.***

**Favourites** book: Hemingway - The Old Man and the Sea; food: cheese, roast meat.

# New Year, New Creation



We hope the new year will bring something new into our life – and into our life together. It feels like a moment of hope, a time when we can put the troubles of the past twelve months behind us and move forward. We make our resolutions in good faith.

Yet how soon they are broken and forgotten. How often things just go on as they did before. We hope for change but it does not come. And as we look at our lives we recognise how hard we find it to swap good patterns for bad.

Christian faith looks forward to a new creation, to a new work of God to renew all things. That will be a glorious day. It gives us good reason for hope, but it remains in the future and we do not know when it will dawn.

So what about today? What hope can I bring to *this* new year? First, the hope that springs from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The new creation may be in the future, but we see the first fruits of it in Jesus. It already breaks into our weary world. And second, the hope that this can change our lives. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5.17, NIV). In Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we can indeed be changed. For us, this new year can bring new things.

*Anthony Hammill*

## Headway West Kent

Headway West Kent is a charity working across all of West Kent including Tonbridge and supports adults affected by brain injury, either a result of an accident or illness such as stroke, meningitis, or tumour. Often what occurs in a split second can have consequences that last a life time.

We have a centre in Tunbridge Wells which is attended by people from across all of West Kent. We also provide support in the community via weekly drop-ins in Sevenoaks and Maidstone. The drop-ins are an opportunity to meet with others, gain support and advice. For those who want a one to one support to achieve a goal or acquire a new skill, we offer a buddy service.



Headway West Kent provides other opportunities through our diverse programme of activities and social events that take place during the day and evening. Acquired brain injury (ABI) is the largest cause of acquired disability in the working age population. Statistics on brain injuries shows that they have increased by 10% in the last 10 years. Every 90 seconds someone is admitted to hospital with a brain injury and commissioning figures for West Kent suggests that there are 8,000 adults living with the long term effects of brain injury. Headway West Kent provides the only service of its kind in West Kent and though affiliated to Headway UK, we are self funding.

*Jennifer Ewing*



[www.headwaywkent.org](http://www.headwaywkent.org)

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# The Lawrence Barham Memorial Trust Rwanda

## MISSION ACTION GROUP

I have been the MAG representatives for St Andrew's Church since July 2015. As such, it has been my pleasure to correspond with Right Reverend Bishop Ken Barham OBE who has worked tirelessly for the Lawrence Barham Memorial Trust over many years and who now resides in Battle since his "retirement".

The Trust relies totally on donations, and since 1985 it has been working in East Africa. The projects we specifically support are in Rwanda. The Trust promotes the Christian faith by helping to meet the needs of the people in their own culture, both spiritually and intellectually, but also in the physical sense.

To this end, the project to construct the new Peace Guest House Annexe was started in 2012. It is in a prime location overlooking Lake Kivu, with some 40 bedrooms, 34 ensuite, most of which have wonderful views. The total cost of the annexe building has now been fully met (£603,000). Therefore, out of a total for the entire project of some £800,000 just £34,440 is required for completion including landscaping, a new steel rod fence and also furniture for a building of this size.

It is envisaged that the Annexe with its

superb location will receive guests from all over the world, now that the country has recovered, and has become safe and well governed as well as beautiful. Cyangugu is a very popular tourist area now and growing fast. Hotel chains are building new hotels in Rwanda mainly in the capital Kigali. In addition, many international organisations are holding conferences and filling these hotels, with Kigali considered to be the fourth cleanest city in the world. We are planning the official opening, and we hope that the President, His Excellency, Paul Kagame, will be attending.

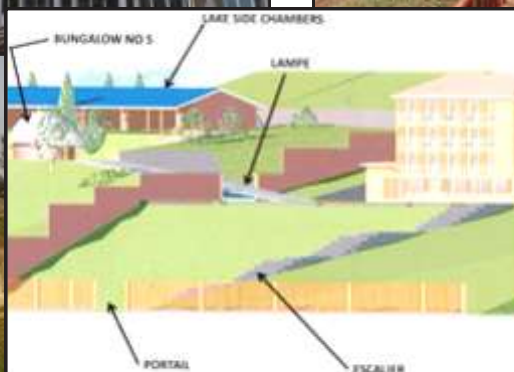
During recent years the Trust has also given support to the creation of a new maternity unit, part of the Health Centre, also in Cyangugu.

Fundraising continues, with Ken doing a 5 mile walk at Icklesham over the May bank holiday – quite an achievement, raising over £1,000. There will also be a silent auction and a lunch. The Guest of Honour will be the new High Commissioner for the Republic of Rwanda, Her Excellency Yamina Karitanyi.

The Anglican Church, one of many in Rwanda continues to grow steadily. The 700 seat cathedral is now considered too small! New churches are being built in rural areas and are always full, with Church schools flourishing. The Jill Barham Secondary School is preparing to have a university section. The

Health Centre and its new maternity unit is now a faith-based centre working jointly with the Ministry of Health and supporting three rural clinics.

*Susan Knight*





## The Book Thief Markus Zusak

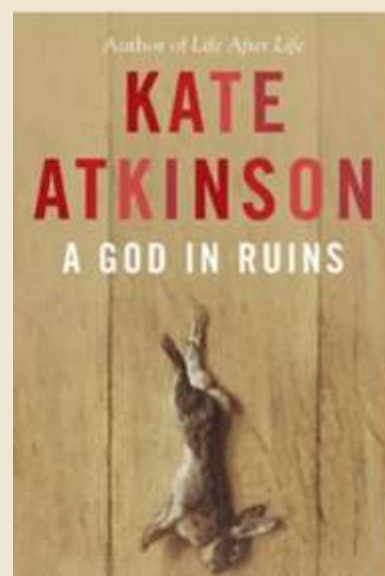
Set against the backdrop of Nazi Germany, *The Book Thief* tells the tale of Liesel Meminger, a young German girl who steals books and delights in the power of words in order to escape her reality. Narrated by Death, *The Book Thief* is an intriguing work of fiction. In spite of the novel's subject material, its tone is not depressing. Death's narration is beautifully considered and very human. Doing away with the image of the cloaked figure clutching a scythe, Death describes with affection the ways in which he is haunted by the lives of humans: Liesel Meminger being one such human.

The novel follows Liesel as she is taught how to read and write by her foster father, when she befriends a young boy, the neighbourhood wide notorious Rudy Steiner, and the period of The Fuhrer's rise to prominence.

From a historical standpoint, it is interesting to read about the effects of the rise of the Nazi police state within Germany. A sense of threat is maintained throughout as Liesel's foster family are sympathetic to the Jewish community of Liesel's town. Everything comes to a head when Liesel is made aware of their plan to house a Jew in their basement.

In all, *The Book Thief* is a story about human relationships and the enduring power of love at a time in history where society was governed by fear. As well as being thought-provoking, it is beautifully told and should be the next thing on your reading list.

*Ella Rawsthorne*



## A God in Ruins Kate Atkinson

*A God in Ruins* is the story of Teddy, a young fighter pilot in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. It describes the horrors, sadness and loneliness of war, as well as its exhilaration, joys and comradeship. Teddy manages to stay alive, unlike many of his comrades, and his ambitions for life after the war dwindle to "try to... live a good quiet life".

Most of the book is an account of that life. Of a quiet life lived in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the first part of the new millennium. A life in which technology, communications and relationships change beyond recognition. A life in which the virtues of stoicism and kind gentleness are overshadowed by the fight for rights and personal fulfilment.

Kate Atkinson combines past, present and future as her characters move back and forward in time, experiencing some of the great changes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Our affection for Teddy grows steadily throughout the book as we share his life and his memories. This sets us up to feel truly devastated by the poignant revelation near the end of the book.

This is a book that really touches our emotions. I laughed and cried and lived through Teddy.

*Judi Hammill*



# It's art, but what does it mean?

Tom Chaloner explains the language of art

For centuries the arts - visual, music or performing, have been used to help Christians understand and express their faith. The use of symbols, colour and attributes in paintings to identify figures or events is long established. In the catacombs of Rome, early Christians used various symbols such as Ichthus (fish), doves, and sheep. The practice of using symbols developed over the centuries and during the Renaissance, when the power and influence of the church and the use of the visual arts surged, some of the greatest religious paintings included dense symbolism. It is often cited that the use of symbols helped a largely uneducated and illiterate population to access scripture and, in cases, provide instruction. But symbols were used by the educated for purposes such as private devotion or to explore philosophical ideas.

Symbols are still used in contemporary Christian painting but not to the extent seen during Gothic and Renaissance times. Common symbols include pomegranates (eternal life), pears (marital faith), lemons (sour disposition), peacocks (eternal life and resurrection), owls (folly as they shun the light), and flowers galore. Lilies suggest purity and chastity, passion flowers different aspects of the crucifixion and daffodils eternal life. The rose has multiple meanings. White roses suggest purity, red martyrdom, yellow for papal benediction, a ring or

garland of roses identifies Mary and five roses grouped represent the five wounds of Christ. Pre-Raphaelite painting frequently revisits ideas behind symbolism but from a different social and educational context to the Old Masters. The 'Light of the World' by Holman Hunt (St Paul's Cathedral) includes an orchard of apple trees possibly representing the tree of knowledge in the Garden of Eden, fallen apples the fall of man, and brambles and ivy growing at the door indicating years of inactivity.

Below is John Everett Millais' painting Christ in the House of his Parents. Mary is kneeling and in customary blue while Joseph is in red. Friends and family were models for the figures depicted. Here we see symbolic references to Jacob's ladder where a white dove is perched, a carpenter's triangle on the wall (the holy trinity), a nail wound on Jesus' hand (pre-empting the cross), a young John the Baptist with a bowl of water and a flock of sheep. A single red flower recalls the blood and resurrection of Christ. This vivid and bright work was much criticised by eminent Victorians such as Charles Dickens largely because the figures and workshop are too real and not conforming to more idealised images. The painting rests in the Tate Britain. Happy Christmas!



John Everett Millais: Christ in the House of his Parents (c) Photographic Rights (c) Tate 2014  
[www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/millais-christ-in-the-house-of-his-parents-the-carpenters-shop-n03584](http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/millais-christ-in-the-house-of-his-parents-the-carpenters-shop-n03584)



Needing exercise in the new year?

Missing Strictly?

Try dancing!



As a dance teacher, it is hardly surprising that many conversations begin when someone asks 'could I talk to you about dance for my son or daughter'. What may surprise you is how the conversations often progress. After discussing what we offer for children, the parent often comments 'It sounds great - I wish I could join a class too'. 'Actually, you can – we do adult classes too!' I reply. Adult dancing has many benefits. It's a fun way to exercise, great for maintaining flexibility, engages the brain, increases stamina, it's very social, boosts confidence and best of all it's fun!

After changing shoes, a typical class will begin with a good warm up and stretches. Then, exercises may be learned and practised which help to develop a particular new step or skill. The most enjoyable part of the lesson for many is the dance performance. The music is from a wide variety of styles including popular Broadway/West End shows, movie soundtracks, chart songs and classical pieces. It's largely dependent on what the adults in the class feel like working on each term. Towards the end of the class the cool down prepares you to return home. It's not all work though, every class has periods of chat and banter allowing appropriate time for some rest between exercises and to build friendships.



Beyond the class, there are opportunities to perform in our yearly show in a theatre, and many adults also enjoy taking part in optional exam sessions. After years at school being forced to take academic exams, you'd think most adults would try to avoid the stresses associated with the dreaded word 'exam'. However, in reality there is a great sense of achievement in being judged on your performance, and receiving an award for it. The exam sessions are relaxed with friendly examiners.

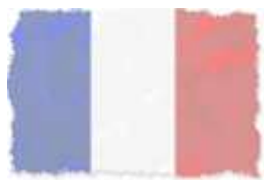
Many types of dance are available. At Dynamic Dance, we offer what are referred to as theatre styles of dance – Ballet, Tap, Modern Jazz, Funky Street and Musical Theatre. Mixed ability Ballet and Tap classes on Wednesday evenings cater for beginners through to competent dancers, whilst an advanced class in both subjects is available on Friday evenings. On a Thursday evening, we hold a mixed ability Modern Jazz class.

It can be daunting starting something new, especially as an adult. In reality, almost everyone who comes for a free taster session finds the atmosphere friendly and welcoming and joins the class. It takes a little courage to try anything new, but the benefits can last a lifetime – why not give it a go?

For details, visit [www.dynamic-dance.co.uk](http://www.dynamic-dance.co.uk), see 'Dynamic Dance Tonbridge' on Facebook or call 01732 357518

Andy Gibb





### Tonbridge Discovers Old Friend



***This year marks 100 years since the battle of the Somme. As the centenary approached, local research unearthed an amazing connection between Tonbridge and Thiepval, an agricultural village at the epicentre of the Western Front.***

The battle of the Somme was a 141 day offensive, now remembered as one of the bloodiest campaigns in British military history. This October, a group of Tonbridge residents visited the now quiet fields, to pay their respects and renew an old friendship.

In the aftermath of the First World War, it was clear that the reparations paid to France would be insufficient to lift the nation out of the turmoil it now faced. Cabinet ministers agreed that Britain owed France a debt of honour. Sir Winston Churchill, patron of the newly formed British League of Help, suggested towns from across the Kingdom be twinned with the towns in France worst affected by the War. In 1921, Tonbridge was twinned with Thiepval. In 1914, Thiepval boasted a chateau, an elegant house situated on the brow of the hill on which the village was built. By the end of the war, the chateau, as well as the town, was unrecognizable. It had been utterly demolished.

In 1921, Europe and much of the rest of the world was reeling from the worst economic depression of the century. As a result, any gift that could be spared would be relatively modest. Tonbridge raised funds, and pledged 100 francs to each family which had returned to the rubble to rebuild their lives. As the years passed, however, it was clear that Thiepval could never be restored to its former glory, and its strategic role in the battle of the Somme made it the favoured location for the famous memorial which now dominates the former battle ground. After the completion of the monument, (1932) and as Europe mobilized for war once more, the relationship drifted into the shadows, virtually forgotten for 70 years.

Then, in 2015, as the centenary of the Somme approached, amateur historian, Pam Mills rediscovered the story which had connected the towns 100 years before. In October this year, to mark the anniversary, a group of Tonbridge residents travelled to Thiepval to rekindle the embers of friendship. I was honoured to help mark the occasion, leading a short service at Thiepval chapel, translated into French by parishioner Derek Payne.

The service was attended by the town's Mayor, Monsieur Max Potie. Potie, like many of the town's 140 residents, is a farmer. He spoke, powerfully, of the generations of men and women who sought to transform the killing fields into land that could be cultivated once again.

It was a humbling occasion. The day served as a poignant symbol, that in the crucible of darkest tragedy, friendships can be formed.

*Simon Couper*



Massive shell crater and trench



## Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat



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## Christmas Crackers

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

- Claustrophobia!

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?

- The elf-abet!

**How long do reindeers' legs** have to be?

- Long enough to touch the ground!

What do snowmen wear on their heads?

- Ice Caps!

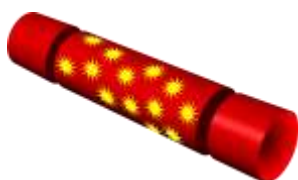
Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?

- Because he had low "elf" esteem!

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?

- They always drop their needles!

**Excavated by Arthur Mow**



## March Into 1066



A group representing King Harold's 7,000 Anglo-Saxon soldiers recreated the march taken in 1066 from York to Battle, passing through Tonbridge on 11th October on their way to the Battle of Hastings commemorations for the 950th Anniversary on 14th October.

*Photographs by Tessa Szczepanik*

*Apologies for a misprint in Dr John Ray's article on the battle in our September Perspectives. John's text said Harold had 7,000 soldiers but we misprinted this as 1,000.*

## CHRISTMAS AT STALAG IVB 1943

*Yorkshireman Eric Coling volunteered for the RAF in 1940, and after many missions he and the crew of his Lancaster were shot down over the Baltic in 1943. This is his account of one Christmas as a POW.*



My 1942 Christmas was in New York. My 1943 Christmas at Stalag IVB was going to be very different. There, to make Christmas Day different from any other day depended on a number of factors. Uppermost in every prisoner's mind was food. The food supplied by the Germans was a near starvation diet: black bread, with what appeared to be a sawdust component, ersatz cheese (a cheese substitute), lukewarm acorn coffee, and thin skilly (soup) of probably rotten vegetables.



Eric Coling

One very important factor therefore was the supply of Red Cross parcels. The first RAF prisoners arrived at IVB in the middle of August 1943, but the Germans delayed advising the Red Cross, and the first parcels did not arrive until 8 weeks later. By then numbers had increased considerably, and there was one parcel between two men. Numbers were increasing continually, and it was only on rare occasions that there was a parcel for each man. There was usually a ration of 50 cigarettes in each parcel. Cigarettes were the currency of the camp, and a huge variety of things could be bought with them, either from fellow prisoners or the guards. Parcels came from Britain, Canada and the USA. The most popular ones were those from Canada as they contained a better selection of food.

Usually each prisoner had a "mucker" with whom they shared equally what was going. Prisoners could be divided into "moderates", who rationed their food to set amounts each day, "bashers" who ate their parcel contents over a day or two, and "hoarders" who were prepared to save in case things got worse. Obviously, if we were going to have a good bash on Christmas Day some food had to be set aside for the occasion. I mucked in with Johnny Boyton, the mid-upper gunner, but Ray Moad the rear gunner was a basher. However, he stayed close with us and agreed to contribute and join in with us for Christmas Day.

Another problem was the heating. Each hut section, which housed at least 200 men, had a brick stove with an iron hot plate, but the coal ration was totally inadequate to warm the hut and there was no chance of boiling water. The Germans finally agreed to allow wood gathering parties, who were honour bound not to attempt an escape, to go out and gather wood from the nearby forest and this was set aside for use on Christmas Day.

Christmas Day finally arrived at IVB. There was still the customary early morning roll-count, and the Germans wanted to get it over as quickly as possible, as we did. We returned to our hut and surveyed the menu for the day: 2 tins of Bully



Christmas Day





Eric Coling

Beef, 2 tins of Canadian Spam, 2 packs of Canadian dry biscuits, prunes, plenty of Klim (powdered milk; "milk" spelt backwards!), Canadian butter, Canadian coffee, English tea and sugar, chocolate and Lucky Strike cigarettes. On the stove steaming was a Klim tin of my Christmas pudding made from ground biscuits, butter, and raisins from Canada, prunes and sugar from Britain with a tin of condensed milk to go over it. Surely it couldn't be right to have all this? What about tomorrow and the days ahead? Johnny must have had the same thoughts I was having because he asked me if I thought we should eat all this. I replied, "Let's wait and see. If we can't we'll carry something forward, but what is certain, when we go to sleep tonight for once we will neither be cold nor hungry. A Merry Christmas to us all and let tomorrow look after itself."

*Eric would spend another very tough Christmas in Stalag IVB because Red Cross parcels stopped following the allied invasion of France in June 1944. He was finally liberated by the Russian Army in April 1945 and returned safely to England in May. He married his sweetheart Winifred at St. Peter's Church in Harrogate in June that same year. Now 95, Eric is well, living in Harrogate, and amused that his fame has spread to Kent. Thanks to him and Christ Church Harrogate who originally featured his account in their parish magazine "Grapevine" in 2015.*



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The Birth Of Jesus Christ

This map shows the places mentioned in The Birth of Jesus Christ.



Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth. The Roman Emperor ordered everyone to go to the place where they were born to be counted. Joseph was born in Bethlehem and so they had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted.

Mary was expecting her baby to be born soon, so the journey was going to be very tiring. They had to walk about 90 miles. (Imagine walking from Tonbridge to Tunbridge Wells and back 10 times but not on the modern roads we know but over rough mountain paths.)

When they arrived in Bethlehem there was no room for them in the inn but when the baby was born he was wrapped in strips of cloth and laid in the manger.

There were shepherds out in the fields looking after their sheep and an angel appeared to them and told them that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem and he was “Christ the Lord!” and they would find him in Bethlehem wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger. Then a choir of angels appeared and sang praises to God: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased.” The shepherds went to Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus and worshipped Him.

When you have read the story of Joseph and Mary's journey to Bethlehem, find the words that are underlined in the Word Search.

B	M	I	L	E	S	J	S	B	W
D	E	H	B	R	H	X	Y	O	N
N	S	T	I	K	E	P	R	R	I
J	L	G	H	G	P	S	O	O	A
O	E	R	N	L	H	R	L	M	T
S	G	X	I	I	E	E	G	A	N
E	N	V	P	P	R	H	S	N	U
P	A	E	M	G	D	I	E	T	O
H	D	E	N	U	S	U	T	M	M
H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N	O	H

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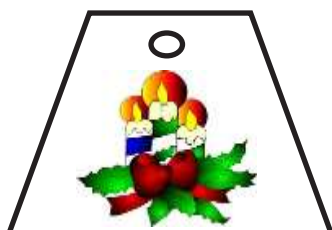


## Useful things you can make with Christmas cards when you take them down after Christmas.

Make Christmas gift tags for next Christmas.

You need:- A ruler, a pencil, a pair of scissors, a hole punch, and some coloured twine.

1. Choose a card which has a Christmas picture or decoration on it. Check that there are no words on the back of the card.
2. You can choose what shape you want to make for your tag. Use a ruler and pencil to make a shape but make sure that there will be room to punch a hole for the twine.
3. You can draw another shape for your tag.



You can make useful shopping list cards for your mother.

1. You need :- A ruler, a pencil, a pair of scissors,
2. Look at the back of the card which is usually plain.

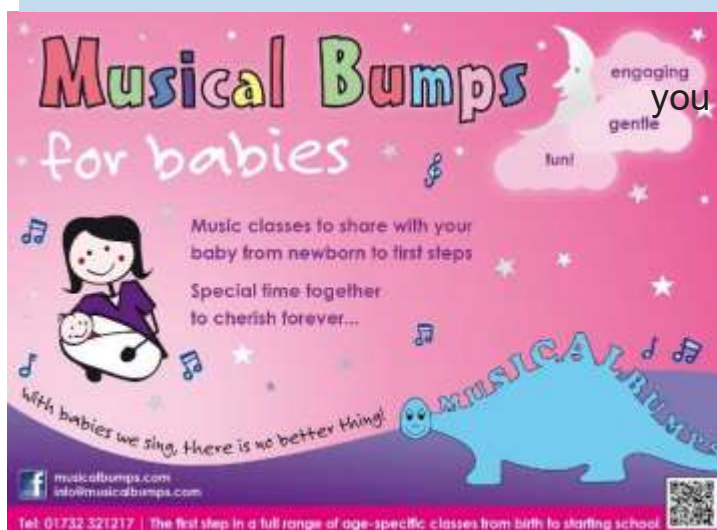
3. Use your ruler and pencil to draw a line the length of the card halfway across.
4. Cut along the line and you have 2 shopping cards.



How many words of 3 or more letters can you make from the word wheel?

Each word must include  
The letter in the centre.

7 words — Good  
11 words — Very good  
15 or more — Excellent



# RSPB

The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity with over 1 million members, inspiring everyone to give nature a home and working to protect all kinds of nature, including insects, birds and mammals. Part of a local network of over 150 groups, The Tonbridge Local Group, comprised of volunteers, meets frequently at St Philip's Church as a local point of contact for RSPB members and other nature enthusiasts. Martin Ellis, the RSPB's Tonbridge Local Group Leader, told us more.

Birds are a very visible part of nature and are a good indicator towards the state of nature as a whole. Kent consists of a wide variety of environments, including coastland, marshland and woodland. Wading and shore birds can be found in the Thames Estuary, and Broadwater Warren (set in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Beauty near to Tunbridge Wells) and Tudeley woodlands are good places to see the Dartford Warbler and Nightjar. We're fortunate that Kent is on a good migration route for birds making their way to Continental Europe, as can be seen from the observatory in Sandwich.



Dartford Warbler  
By Sylvia Gail.  
Hampshire

### What to see now ...

In Tudeley Woods, near Tunbridge Wells

In winter, hunting sparrowhawks dart through the reserve, and kestrels hover above the open fields seeking prey. Crossbills are often amongst the conifers along the heathland trail. Mistle-thrushes can be heard singing on milder January days, and song thrushes join in by February.

At Broadwater Warren, near Tunbridge Wells

Look out for crossbills feeding on the pine cones and alder seeds and flying over in a flock making distinctive 'chip, chip' calls. This is the best time to see lesser redpolls, siskins and mixed flocks of tits feeding in the silver birches and alders.

In warmer months you might see an adder, common lizard or slow worm warming itself in the sun and sometimes 'tropical' insects are blown over from the Continent.

The main RSPB Local Group meeting event is a talk from an expert on local nature as well as more exotic areas: Birding in Poland (Dec.), Nature in the Swiss Alps (Jan.), and Barn Owls in Kent (Feb.). We discuss relevant news items, give notices and field trip information, sell RSPB merchandise and bird food, and ensure there is time for refreshments, socialising and a raffle!

Everyone is welcome to attend. Indoor meetings are held regularly at St Philip's Church, Salisbury Road, Tonbridge, TN10 4PA. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm and refreshments are available during an interval. Admission costs are £3.50 for RSPB members, £4.50 for non-members and £2.50 for member concessions (pensioners and under 16s). Please visit the website for more information: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/tonbridge>

Gardens are a main resource for nature, so anything you do will make a difference. At the RSPB we're focusing on providing homes and habitats for nature:

1. Provide a home for nature - anywhere insects can over-winter and birds can make a nest e.g. a bug hotel or bird nest box.
2. Set aside a wild area of your garden - leave a pile of leaves, logs, or long grass for insects to enjoy.
3. Plant insect-friendly flowers – a long flowering season benefits the look of your garden as much as it benefits nature.

Whatever size or type of garden, you can attract birds and other wildlife by putting out a little food and water on a regular basis.

*Martin Ellis of the RSPB spoke to Natasha Stille*





### Views from the Potting Shed



Traditionally when the winter season arrives, we think the worst, with short dark cold days with heavy frosts and snowfall. Gardeners have tended to retreat indoors to peruse garden catalogues, clean neglected tools and plan for the coming spring. The seasons over the last 5 -10 years do seem to have changed, so whether you blame global warming, or believe that weather goes in cycles (which is what we use to say in past decades) it's now advisable to plan for the worst and hope for the best.



I've moved the snow shovels to the front of the shed and have moved tender outdoor plants that are in pots indoors or against the house wall or other sheltered positions. It's also advisable if you haven't already done so to walk around the garden staking or trimming back any unruly plants that could blow about in high winds and be damaged. Clearly if the weather is fine you can be out in the garden tidying up; I'm sure there are always leaves to find. Winter is a good time for spreading home-made compost on the garden as it can protect some of your tender plants and bulbs and will gradually be incorporated into your soil structure by the weather and insect/bacterial actions. I've been known to cut the grass on New Year's Day if the weather's fine, but raise the cutting height as you do not want to scalp the lawn at this time of year.

Evergreen trees and shrubs can be the backbone for gardens and are invaluable during winter, giving different green tints and forms, so now's the time to review your planting to see if you have any spaces that can be filled with these types of plants. Winter flowers will now be in bloom with Daphne giving off its sweet smell, with pansies and hellebores bobbing about in the breeze and snowdrops and primroses brightening up dull spots. It seems more spring flowers are responding to the warmer winters so it's likely that spring bulbs will be poking up through the soil. Some of my daffodils have bloomed in January and tulips in February.



Obviously Christmas is only a few weeks away and some of you may want to buy gifts for the gardener in your life so here are a few suggestions:- mug with a lid, gardening gloves, twine, hand cream, tools (best speak to the gardener first to ensure the right one), ornament, thermometer, gardening book or the useful standby- a gift voucher.



Thank you dear reader for asking after Mrs M who I haven't mentioned for a while. She's fine and I still keep the old girl active by letting her do the digging and high pruning as I think the bending and stretching is good for her flexibility. She did see me writing this article so I asked her if she could name the four seasons and after some thought she replied: salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar- sometimes I give up! Not to be out done she then asked me what flowers grow on our faces: tulips (your Christmas cracker jokes won't seem so bad now)!

From both of us have a Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Arthur Mow*

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## Tonbridge Half Marathon



October 9th was the perfect runners' day – bright, breezy and with an early nip in the air. Over 1,100 ran, ranging from those with several London Marathons to their name to newcomers from the 1-year old Beginners 2 Runners group – phenomenal progress. The regular runners appreciate the good organisation, the great atmosphere, the support – particularly the church bells ringing, the crowds and the oranges at Leigh. They get to know the hills, especially the hills towards the end where going down is as tough as climbing. Dozens of volunteers were huddled against the chilly morning. Two of them give their angle on the event:

### MARSHALS' PERSPECTIVES ON THE TONBRIDGE HALF MARATHON

Gordon Hill, bellringer at Tonbridge Parish Church, has been Head Marshal for the Tonbridge half marathon since it began. It involves huge numbers of hours of work which he does with good humour, a ready smile and many sheets of instructions to us lesser mortal marshals!

Since I stopped participating as a very poor runner, Gillie Bone and I, both fellow bellringers, have the marshalling position between Lower Hayesden and Brook Street. It is a privilege and delight to be cheering on nearly 1,300 runners in the final stage of the race with the winning post in sight further up the road. We love spotting faces we know, urging them on, clapping our appreciation of their run for charity and.... Having time for chatting!

This is a truly wonderful community event and long may it continue. Do consider volunteering as a marshal. Every year, Gordon has to phone round in the final week to persuade enough people to be marshals....without marshals, the event can't take place. I encourage you to take part!

*Helen*

But...

Marshalling is not always quite as easy as my wife implies. She has a good time chatting, waving encouragingly and so on. But I was marshalling at a T junction, where a side road joined the main road which the runners were on. Of course, there was a very nice lady doing the job described by Helen, but I was in the side road waving my arms at approaching cars to stop them colliding with the runners and asking them to turn round and go another way. They were sometimes a little annoyed at having their journey interrupted...

*Dick*

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<sup>1</sup>One Poll, 2014 The Good Care Group is registered with the Care Quality Commission in England and the Scottish Care Inspectorate in Scotland.



## Tasty left-over Yuletide treats

Following the delights of a Christmas dinner, the thought of heading back into the kitchen to do more than grab a cheeky mince pie can be daunting. Not least if the washing up is still left to do and everyone has dozed off on the sofas already. There are, of course, the traditional delights that many of us will be familiar with: sandwiches filled with turkey, stuffing and lashings of cranberry or curry crammed with slices of turkey. Who can turn down some boxing day grazing, but this year why not try something a little different?

We've collected two quick and easy recipes that will make you want to get right back in the kitchen, or, at least, not leave you dreading the sight of turkey.

### Charred sprout dip

#### Ingredients:

Leftover cooked sprouts  
Milk and thick yoghurt / crème fraîche  
Cider vinegar  
Salt

#### Method:

Take any leftover cooked sprouts, slice them in half lengthways and heat, cut face down on a griddle or heavy pan over a high heat. Re-cook the sprouts in this way until they are partly charred on the underside. Whilst still warm, blend the charred sprouts in a food processor or blender with enough warmed milk to form a thick puree. Mix your choice of crème fraîche or thick (e.g. Greek-style) yoghurt into the puree, creating a rich, creamy texture. Add a little at a time and stop when you have your preferred consistency. Finally season with a little cider vinegar, salt to taste and you could even push the boat out and add walnuts and bacon lardons.

*Recipe by Mike Knowlden of Blanch and Shock*



### Christmas pudding ice cream

A cheat's version of Rum and Raisin using leftover Christmas Pudding.

#### Ingredients:

125g leftover Christmas pudding, crumbled.  
150ml chilled ready made custard.  
150ml double cream, whipped.  
Liquor such as brandy, rum, whisky or Baileys.

#### Method:

Mix together the custard and whipped cream then stir in the crumbled Christmas pudding. Freeze in a large container and stir every half hour until it's the preferred texture.



If you would rather have a softer, creamier finish, add a little brandy, whisky or Baileys.

*Recipe by Love Food Hate Waste*  
[lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://lovefoodhatewaste.com)

Anna Couper

## December

Sun 4	Family Christingle services across the parish - 10am at St Andrew, St Saviour and St Peter & St Paul; 10.30am at St Philip. Celebrate Advent, learn about the meaning of Christingles and make one yourselves. All ages welcome.
Sun 4	Advent Praise, 6.30pm St Peter & St Paul
Sun 11	Carol Services: Traditional carols at St Saviour 4pm and carols followed by mince pies and mulled wine at St Philip, 5.30pm.
Wed 14	Jane Austen birthday lecture with Professor Richard Jenkyns of Oxford University. 2.30pm St Peter & St Paul Tickets £5 include refreshments, available at the door or from Mr Books/Sevenoaks Bookshop
Thurs 22	Christmas lunchtime concert, 12.30pm St Peter & St Paul. Includes short address and prayers and followed by lunch. Free - donations welcome.
	SEE BACK PAGE FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICE DETAILS

## January

Sun 22	Afternoon Church - young families worship together. Short story, lots of activities and chance to relax with refreshments. 3-4pm St Peter & St Paul. All welcome!
Sat 28	Supper and presentation at St Peter & St Paul on work in our partner Diocese of Kondoa. Look out for booking info and time (evening!) .

## February

Sun 26	Afternoon Church - young families worship together. 3-4pm St Peter & St Paul. All welcome!
Tues 28	Shrove Tuesday and pancake party - look out for details of time and place: <a href="http://www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk">www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk</a>

## March

Wed 1	Ash Wednesday. Start Lent with Holy Communion and distribution of ashes at St Peter & St Paul, 10am.
Fri 24, Sat 25	Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat, St Peter & St Paul. See page 11.
Sun 26	Mothering Sunday services at St Peter & St Paul, St Andrew & St Saviour, 10am and St Philip at 10.30am.
Mon 27-Fri 31	Experience Easter - follow the stages of the Easter story with a story and things to do at each stopping point. St Peter & St Paul. See website or contact the Parish office (01732 770962 x 24) for more details.

## Baptisms

10 July 2016	Harper Beatrice Jewell
11 September	Naomi Isabelle Delaney
11 September	Isaac Nicholas Delaney
18 September	Minnie Faye Florence Havell
21 September	Saiorese Claudine Annemarie Allworthy
25 September	Archie George Spicer
25 September	Eva-Mai Lorraine Gore
9 October	Henry Jack Alexander Hepden
16 October	Elliot Stephen Leach
16 October	Dexter Thomas Leach
16 October	Isabella Louise Peto
16 October	Melissa Sofia Cheesman

## Weddings

20 August 2016	Peter William Fox Jemma Joanne Ria Cousins
8 September	David Paul Williamson Donna Jane Parker
21 September	Robert Trevor Cormack Kate Elizabeth Langridge

## Deaths

26 July 2016	Jeanne Frances Dodson
29 July	Keith Robert Miller
1 August	Thomas Edward Williamson
6 August	Edward Knaggs
7 August	Albert Ray Wareham (Ray)
25 August	Sheila Kate Stubbs
30 August	Doris Tapsfield
9 September	Daphne Joy Hammond (Joy)
29 September	Dorothy Jean Wright
31 October	Susan Frances King



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<b>Monday</b>	<b>Merry Makers: needlecraft and quiet time</b> 10am, Upper Lounge <b>Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Seniors</b>	<b>Men's Forum</b> 8pm fortnightly. For more info contact Ray Tanner on 01732 351422	<b>Coffee Break</b> 10.30 - 11.30am <b>Keep Fit</b> 5.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Teddies</b> 9.30am, Upper Lounge (term time) <b>Beavers</b> at Ridgeway	<b>Stretch, Tone &amp; Relax Class</b> 1pm <b>Grapevine</b> Drink, chat and activities. 2.15pm to 4.15pm <b>Brownies</b> 6pm	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> 10am <b>Tiny Acorns</b> under-1s 10.30am -12pm, Upper Lounge (Term time) <b>Cubs</b> at Ridgeway	<b>Tots and Co.</b> 1.15pm - 2.45pm (term time) <b>Open Prayer</b> 8 - 9pm First Wednesday of month	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Stepping Stones (term time)</b> Bible Study, crèche available 10am <b>Afternoon Workshop (crafts)</b> 1.30pm Upper Lounge <b>1st Tonbridge Guides</b>	<b>Holy Moley club</b> Fun and games for children school years 3 - 6, 6pm - 7.30pm <b>Heavenly Hands</b> puppets, 8pm	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Rummikub Players</b> 10.00am -12.30pm, Upper Lounge. <b>Bell Ringers</b> at Parish Church 7.45pm <b>Scouts</b> at Ridgeway	<b>Women's Fellowship</b> 7.30pm - 9.30pm, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Parish Prayer</b> , 9am Lower Lounge <b>Coffee Shop</b> 10am - 12pm <b>Open Church</b> 10am - 4pm		<b>Connect</b> (Age 10 - 13), <b>Refresh</b> (14 - 18) from 5.30 pm fortnightly

You would be very welcome if you just came along to most of these. Some, such as Guiding and Scouting, would need a call first. The Parish Administrators (see p22) will put you in touch with group leaders.

## Coffee Break



Coffee Break has recently celebrated its 5th birthday and meets at St Saviour's Church every Monday morning @ 10.30am (apart from bank holidays). Coffee, tea, biscuits and sweets are served free of charge.

At Coffee Break we pause for a short thought of the day at 10.50am to bring and share God's love in the midst of a troubled world. We also share concerns and discuss current issues. Coffee break is a place to feel safe, to ask questions without being judged and to find all the gifts that we are to each other.

At least twice a year we are joined by pupils from Hilden Oaks School who entertain us with their singing. At Christmas time we sing carols and enjoy festive food and drink.

So, if you are free on a Monday morning, please come and join us for coffee and fellowship.

*Alison Wise*



## St Peter & St Paul Church Lane, TN9 1HD

### Sundays:

8am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays of month)  
10am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 4th Sundays) and Sunday Club for ages 4-11 each week in term time  
6.30pm Evening Service

Wednesdays: 10am Holy Communion

## St Philip's Salisbury Road, TN10 4PB

### Sundays:

9am Holy Communion (1st Sunday of month)  
10.30am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 3rd Sundays) and Sunday Club each week in term time

## St Andrew's Hadlow Road, TN10 4LS

### Sundays:


10am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 2nd Sunday of month)

## St Saviour's Dry Hill Park Crescent, TN10 3BJ

### Sundays:


8am Holy Communion (2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays of month)  
10am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 1st Sunday and informal service on 3rd Sunday)

CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
<b>Parish Administration</b> The Coach House Office, Church Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1HD	<b>770962</b>
<b>Vicar</b> The Rev'd Canon Mark Brown	<b>770962</b>
<b>Associate Vicar</b> The Rev'd Anthony Hammill	<b>07743661252</b>
<b>Curate</b> The Rev'd Simon Couper	<b>355200</b>
<b>Churchwardens</b> Patricia King Ray Tanner	<b>01732 366179</b> <b>01732 351422</b>
<b>Vicar's PA</b> Yolanda Roberts	<b>770962 ext 25</b>
<b>Parish Administrator</b> Jane Higgs	<b>770962 ext 20</b>
<b>St Philip's Administrator</b> Jane Mata	<b>352416</b>
<b>Youth and Children's Minister</b> Andy Page	<b>770962 ext 22</b>
<b>Parish Treasurer</b>	<b>770962</b>
<b>PCC Secretary</b> Sally Musson	<b>838411</b>
<b>Perspectives Team</b> Jane Mata (Chair), Tessa Szczepanik (Editor), Anna Couper (Sub-editor), Dick Longley, Margaret Brandham & Aneta Van Bodegom (Composition & Design), Barry Stagg (Advertising)	<b>770962</b>




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# Join us this Christmas in Tonbridge Parish



*He came  
and dwelt  
among us  
John 1: 14*

Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4pm	Traditional Lessons & Carols	St Saviour
	5.30pm	Carol Service, mince pies & mulled wine	St Philip
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6.30pm	Carol Service	St Peter & St Paul
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	12.30pm	Lunchtime Christmas Concert	St Peter & St Paul
Christmas Eve	4pm	Family Carol Service	St Peter & St Paul
	4pm	Children's Nativity Service	St Saviour
	11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Day	8am	Holy Communion (from Book of Common Prayer)	St Peter & St Paul
	10am	Christmas Family Service	St Peter & St Paul
	10am	Christmas Family Communion	St Andrew
	10am	Christmas Family Communion	St Saviour
	10am	Family Service with Holy Communion	St Philip

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