

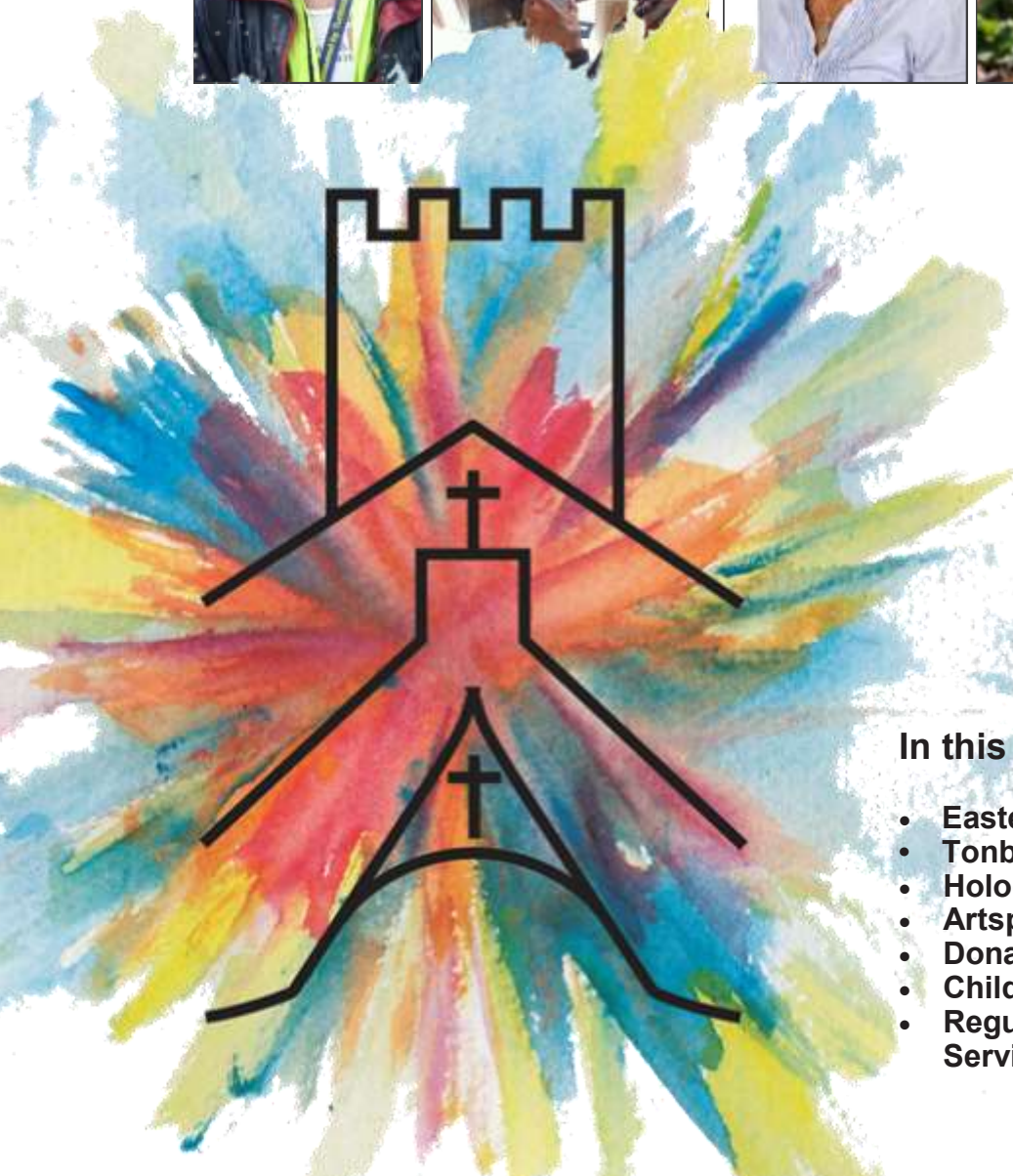


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perspectives

Issue 35 - Spring 2017

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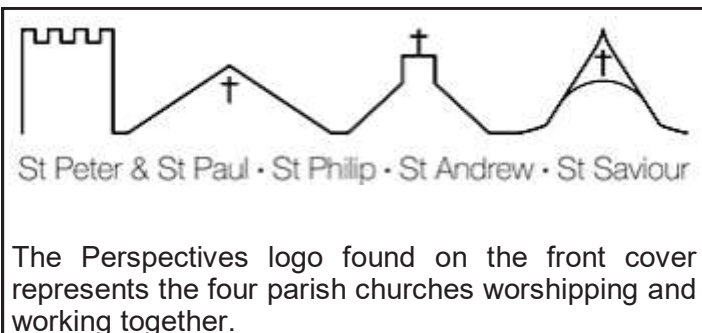
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If you have any comments or questions, would like to make any contribution to the next edition of Perspectives or would like to receive this magazine on a quarterly basis please contact the editorial team via:
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 or Perspectives Editorial Team,
 The Coach House, Church Street,
 Tonbridge, TN9 1HD
 tel.no: 01732 770962 extension 25.



Dear Friends,

I received this picture (*below*) the other day on a card - what a striking and vivid portrayal of natural beauty and life that is all around us. The butterfly for me always reminds me of change or transformation - from a caterpillar to a complete change of shape with such delicacy and beauty. It is a sign of new life from life. Someone once said that permanent change is here to stay(!). They were, I think, referring to the inevitability of change in the progress of our world socially and politically. There is, however, one change – the change from life to new life or from an ordinary life to an extraordinary one that has us in the driving seat! It is how we change – not by accommodating to the circumstances around us, although that might be part of it, but how God changes us. He wants to bring a sense of the butterfly's beauty to all of us – his beauty, his colours, his change – but it will need our invitation and permission. Easter, our celebration of Christ's life, is this sort of life and change. It is there to change and renew us. I hope what you read, see and reflect upon in our Perspectives magazine will aid this process.



The Revd Canon Mark Brown
Vicar and Rural Dean of Tonbridge



Harenet Delaney

Harenet is Slade School's efficient smiling Office Manager. She lives with her husband Jonathan and children Isaac (7) and Naomi (5), moving to Tonbridge 5 years ago after living in London and Reading.

Joining the local church 4 years ago, I help with Holiday Club and I am now the parish's Safeguarding Officer for both children and vulnerable adults, ensuring that all of us in the church and the wider community share the responsibility to protect our church members and developing a safeguarding culture for all.

My previous Headteacher said many live in a lovely bubble surrounded by lovely people, but we should be aware that although other people's mind-sets are different from ours, they are still God's children. Please speak to me if you want to know more - I would love to know your thoughts.

My mother and I went to church weekly and I didn't question my faith until my father died when I was 16 and my mother a few months later. In those dark times I knew that God loved me and that I was never alone. I prayed that he would help me with all my troubles and I am still praying now!

Life is one big balancing act, especially having had children and I remember being given Stephen Covey's "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" at 11 and the beautiful 'Take Time poem' on my fridge helps too. As a family, we enjoy eating together, cycling, films (The Sound of Music is my favourite!), visiting National Trust places, board games (such as Jonathan's hilarious charades for Christmas) and quiz nights. I like dancing to music and reading romance novels.

There is little consistency in the way I spell my name: is it Harenet or Harrinet or even Harnet? I remember my teacher asked me to write my name and I wrote Haremet, which I thought was fine until she said it, and then I told her that wasn't it - she wasn't impressed! She probably asked my mother and my mother said she didn't know. The alphabet or script in Eritrea where I am from is very different and the Eritrean pronunciation of my name very different too. It means liberation.



Photo left: Harenet's signature in Tigrinya script



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Jonathan Leeson

Jonathan's ministry as an evangelist has been recognised by the George Muller Charitable Trust, formerly the Latin Link South East Area Representative, and a recently appointed Billy Graham Rapid Response Team voluntary chaplain. He has also run in three Tonbridge Half Marathons.

"My wife Erica was converted to Christ at a Billy Graham rally in 1967 at Earl's Court, and I similarly via 'Britain's Billy Graham', Eric Hutchings, in Hove Town Hall in 1974. We met Billy's son Franklin in 2015 and grandson Will during a reception at the House of Lords last October.

Earlier in 2016 we became grandparents, celebrated our Ruby Wedding Anniversary and joined Tonbridge Parish Church. I started half-marathon running in 2008, aged 54, after a friend and subsequent running partner trained me up over six months, believing that 'I could do it!' I enjoy running the steep hills in Cowden, between my house in South Tonbridge and Penshurst, and the 10-11 miles between the disused railway stations of Hartfield and Groombridge."

Jonathan was looking forward to running in the Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon on 19th February.



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...and I didn't speak up because...

THEY CAME FIRST for the Communists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.

THEN THEY CAME for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.

THEN THEY CAME for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.

THEN THEY CAME for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.

THEN THEY CAME for me,
and by that time no one was left to speak up.

Martin Niemöller

These words are from part of the New England Holocaust Memorial in Boston, Massachusetts (*photo below*). The Memorial is designed around six illuminated glass towers, each reaching 54 feet high. The number six was chosen to represent the six main Nazi death camps and the six years from 1939-1945 when the most deadly phase of the "Final Solution" took place. In addition, millions of numbers are etched in the glass, representing the infamous tattoos inflicted on many of the victims' arms.

The Memorial was inspired by a group of Holocaust survivors who found new lives in the Boston area and was built to foster reflection on the impact of bigotry and the outcomes of evil during World War II and to this day.

One person who did "speak up" against great odds was:



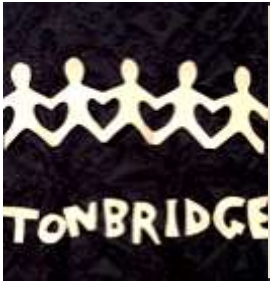
**Dietrich Bonhoeffer
(1906-1945)**

He was a German Lutheran pastor known for his staunch resistance to the Nazi dictatorship, including vocal opposition to Hitler's euthanasia programme and genocidal persecution of the Jews. He was arrested in April 1943 by the Gestapo and, following imprisonment, was transferred to a Nazi concentration camp. After being associated with the plot to assassinate Hitler, he was quickly tried, along with other accused plotters, and was then executed by hanging on 9 April, just a month before VE Day on 8 May 1945.

Central to Bonhoeffer's theology is Christ, in whom God and the world are reconciled. He argued that Christians should not retreat from the world but act within it.

Thousands of men and women across our broken world "speak out" against evil regimes, war, cruelty, poverty, hunger. Jesus said: "love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 19:19). If our neighbour is next door or anywhere in our global village, what a difference that would make if we were to follow his commandment.

David Heyes



TONBRIDGE WELCOMES REFUGEES

Vital community support for refugees

The images and stories of refugees struggling to cope in freezing conditions across southern Europe have been difficult to watch and hear in recent weeks. We have all grown used to reading about the scale of the global refugee crisis, but the individual stories are far harder to take in: men, women and children, forced to flee unimaginable horrors in their homelands, and now facing another battle for survival.

With so many people affected, it can be hard to know what to do. Back in 2015, a group of us in Tonbridge & Malling got together to think this over, reluctant to do nothing at all. We resolved to do whatever we could, at a local level, to help those fleeing war. While we might not be able to solve the global crisis, what we could do, we agreed, was make sure that any refugee who did come to our area got a warm welcome, and access to the support they needed to adjust to life over here.

More than a year later, our group is going strong. Tonbridge Welcomes Refugees and our sister-group Tunbridge Wells Welcomes Refugees are supporting a number of Syrian families locally, as well as young asylum seekers of various nationalities. We offer a range of support: English lessons, orientation, contact with home, transport to medical appointments, and – most importantly of all – shoulders to cry on and friends with whom to laugh. While local authorities provide some measure of financial and integration support, the community welcome – as groups like ours are demonstrating up and down the country – makes all the difference as individuals try to rebuild their lives.

Our work is possible thanks entirely to our wonderful volunteers, who give up their time and demonstrate enormous compassion. As we begin 2017, we have several ambitious plans to expand: we want to offer English lessons to more people, seeing language as key to integrating here. We want to offer mentoring to young people.

We want to find landlords willing to rent their properties to refugees, so that we can bring more families to safety. And we want to help the local community – our community – to understand more about what it means to be a refugee.

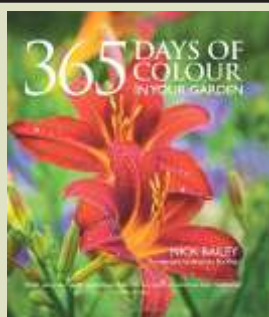
To achieve these things, we need the following:

- 1. Houses.** The government's scheme to help Syrian refugees is dependent on private landlords, willing to rent to refugees. Landlords are paid rent by the council, and have the benefit of long-term tenants. If you are a landlord in Kent who has a flat or house you would like to rent, please get in touch at info@tonbridgewelcomesrefugees.co.uk. You will change lives.
- 2. Volunteers and donations.** As we continue to expand, we would love to hear from anyone interested in offering time, skills or funds to support our work. You can find us at www.tonbridgewelcomesrefugees.co.uk, or at www.facebook.com/tonbridgewelcomesrefugees. Or email us directly at info@tonbridgewelcomesrefugees.co.uk.

We would love to hear from you.

Fiona O'Brien





365 Days of Colour in your garden

Nick Bailey

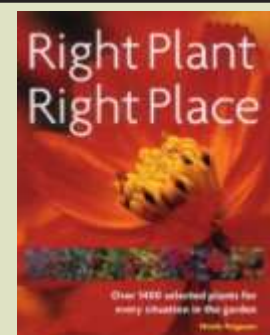
Head Gardener at Chelsea Physic Garden, Nick Bailey has appeared regularly on Gardener's World and Radio Kent's Gardening programme.

If, like me, you struggle at times during the year to fill your garden with colour, then this "bright, glossy and inspirational" book is right for you or a loved one. It is beautifully written and illustrated with a wealth of information on plants to inspire the beginner and experienced gardener alike. Hardcover price £25 but cheaper online.

Barry Stagg

Right Plant, Right Place

Nicola Ferguson



How often have you chosen something stunning at a garden centre, only for it to sulk and decline in your garden? Or show Rottweiler tendencies and force your other plants to submit while it forms a monoculture?

Right Plant, Right Place has been in print with many updates for 30 years - full of good sense in helping you plan, grouping plants and trees by the conditions they like, by purpose and by appearance. The way to fewer mistakes and a more harmonious garden.

Jane Mata

Easter arts & crafts inspiration

If you feel the need to 'get crafting' this Easter, there is plenty of inspiration online. Here are three of our favourites:

Everything Etsy: Crafters can find a huge selection of 'how to' instructions for making and decorating, with colourful canvas eggs, personalised Easter candles and Easter card templates to name a few.
www.everythingetsy.com/2012/02/101-handmade-easter-craft-ideas

Pinterest: The visually-inspiring boards showcase plenty of ideas, including this one about Easter arts and crafts for children. uk.pinterest.com/mickell/kids-arts-crafts-easter

Mumsnet: There are plenty of ideas for Easter bonnets including designs for more contemporary ones like the one below. www.mumsnet.com/easter/easter-bonnet-ideas



There is also a good selection of recipes to make for family and friends, including Spicy Easter Biscuits and Chocolate Easter Nests, through to Easter lunch ideas such as Passover Lamb Stew.
www.mumsnet.com/easter/easter-recipes

Natasha Stille

artspring gallery From vision to reality: Art Gallery in Tonbridge



Tonbridge meant it was the right place and the right time to open our artist-run gallery”.

The mix of art on display includes paintings, drawings, jewellery, glassware, pottery, ceramics and sculpture – a whole range of contemporary art is on show and for sale. A frequent change of the display ensures a continuously fresh look and plenty of reasons to make it somewhere to visit again and again.

As well as the artists in the Collective, occasionally a guest artist is invited to display his or her work for a period of two months. Recently a selection of minimalist animal sculptures by Michael Glasspool was on show.

The gallery has an events programme and so far there have been demonstrations by Mike Evans, one of the potters and Carole Robson, a watercolour artist and much more is planned for the future, especially during the summer. They have also collaborated with other businesses at the north end of the High Street to open late until 8pm on the ‘First Thursday’ of each month when customers can browse and shop in peace while enjoying a free glass of Prosecco.

Members of the Collective take it in turns to steward so there is always an artist on hand to talk about the work. Artspring Gallery is a great place to just wander in and browse. With Mother’s Day and Easter coming up it could be just the place to find a present that is a bit different, unique in fact.

Jill Goldsworthy

It has been a cry for a long time among local artists that Tonbridge as a town did not have a space where they could regularly display their art. Taking inspiration from visiting other towns where galleries had been set up by artists’ cooperatives, a group of four decided to investigate the possibility of setting one up themselves. They invited others to join them. This resulted in a group of 18 artists who call themselves Tonbridge Art Collective. The next step was to find suitable premises. After much searching an empty shop was found at 167 High Street and, after a lot of hard work transforming the space, the Artspring Gallery opened its doors last July, helping to raise the profile at the north end of the High Street.

The immediate response from visitors was overwhelming with comments such as: ‘This is just what Tonbridge needs’; ‘A gem on the High Street’ and ‘Fantastic, fresh, well organised, professional, elegant and vibrant’. Local MP Tom Tugendhat, who officially opened the gallery also gave his endorsement to what he called a fantastic new enterprise for the community to enjoy.

Chairman, Hildegard Pax, says: “We have all been delighted by our first six months, especially in the run-up to Christmas. We wanted a permanent showcase for our work and decided that the up and coming trend in





Jane Austen

1775 - 1817

2017 marks the bicentenary of the death of one of Britain's best-loved authors, Jane Austen, at the early age of 41. She died in Winchester on July 18th, 1817, from an undiagnosed illness, possibly Addison's Disease or cancer. Her sixth and last novel, *Persuasion*, was completed in August 1816, and she was at work on a seventh, *Sanditon*, until two months before her death; sadly, it was never to be completed. She was not a huge bestseller in her lifetime, but 200 years later, she is read and loved all over the world. She speaks to all of us.

What is it that makes her novels so special, and why are they still so enjoyable today? Her themes, of love and loneliness, of a young woman's position in an uncertain world, of secret romances, of marrying money, of families and relationships, are as strong today as they were 200 years ago. But it is Jane Austen's skill at depicting them through needle-sharp characterisation that is so witty and satisfying, from Lady Catherine to Miss Bates. Because her characters reveal the truth about themselves through their speech, they could be alive today.

Jane Austen spent most of her short life in Hampshire, but her antecedents were in Kent, first in Horsmonden and then in Tonbridge. Tonbridge and our church are key in the Austen story.

Jane Austen's great-grandmother, Elizabeth Weller, was born and brought up in some comfort in a large house in Bordyke. Elizabeth married John Austen from Horsmonden where she bore seven children. John died leaving her in debt. She took six of her children to Sevenoaks School where the boys were educated in return for her work as a housekeeper. Three of the children returned to Tonbridge; one of whom was Jane Austen's grandfather, William, who is buried in the North Aisle. William's tomb is now splendidly visible under glass! Jane's father, George, was born and brought up in Tonbridge and educated at Tonbridge School. We know Elizabeth is buried in St Peter & St Paul but we don't know exactly where; however, due to the re-ordering of the Church, the ledger stone of Elizabeth's younger sister, Sarah, is now visible so Elizabeth is most likely to be found within the church itself.

More of the history of the Austens can be found in Margaret Wilson's excellent book 'Jane Austen's Family and Tonbridge' also there is a circular walk around the Austen-associated buildings. We celebrate Jane Austen's birthday each year in our church. Last December the Chair of the Jane Austen Society, Professor Richard Jenkyns (below) gave the address. Sir Sherard Cooper-Coles, President of the Jane Austen Society, gave the address two years ago. The Jane Austen Society of North America has been key in promoting the Austen connections to Tonbridge.

The Kent Branch of the Jane Austen Society holds meetings every year at the beautiful houses that Jane and the Austens knew. Our Summer Event with picnics and musical entertainment will be held at Court Lodge in Lamberhurst in early June. For details of this, and about joining the Branch, please contact Vivian Branson on 07785-760995 or vivian.branson1@btinternet.com.

Jill Webster



Trump's 100 days, a faith perspective

Donald Trump is now well into his first 100 days in office. Anthony Hammill reflects on how Donald Trump got there, what this means and what we might expect.

We had plenty of surprises in 2016. Somewhere near the top of the list for most of us was Donald Trump's election as President of the United States. And while the U.S. can seem far away, we know their actions can impact on us.

So how did this happen? All through the campaign opinion formers thought Trump would lose. Yet he won. Here are a few thoughts:

- There is a great divide in American society that is reflected in politics. You can track it by geography, by wealth, by social values, and it seems to be getting deeper and wider.
- American political structures are not functioning well in this new setting. In this case, both parties fielded candidates who struggled to reach across the divide.
- People have begun to talk about a "post-truth" world. If there is no anchor for goodness and truth then people will not honour it or perhaps care about it as much as they once did.
- There is increasing distrust of the people who have been running things: politicians, business leaders, high finance and others. The economic crisis and the struggle to recover from it have led many to feel left out or left behind.



Put these and other factors together and you begin to see how such a surprising candidate could win. Can we say any more through the eyes of faith?

Christians have always known the dangers and failures of earthly politics which is easily directed after the wrong ends. As St Augustine famously put it: "Two *cities*, then, have been created by two loves: that is, the *earthly* by love of self extending even to contempt of God, and the *heavenly* by love of God extending to contempt of self." The two cities overlap, but in the earthly we are inclined to love, to care about, the wrong things that lead us off track – and rulers and politicians may be especially tempted. Is that what is happening here?

But Christians also trust that God is ultimately in charge. That doesn't make all rulers good – but it does set them a standard of goodness against which they can be tested. Time will show whether Donald Trump is a good President, whether he can guide America and the world in helpful directions.

Do we know what he will do? I'm not sure that we do. That is part of the surprise.

What can we do? We can pray, of course, that he will fulfil his office well. We can protest if he gets things wrong. But perhaps we should also notice how many of the factors that led to Trump are also alive in our own country. What can we do in our own setting to heal our own divisions and to stand up for truth in politics and the public realm?

Augustine, *The City of God against the Pagans*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998, p. 632.

Anthony Hammill

MISSION ACTION GROUP

Kondoa, Tanzania

**David Farquharson and team
have been to see our partners**

The diocese of Rochester has for 15 years now had links with the diocese of Kondoa, a huge area in Tanzania. Our parish has also had links with Bishop Given at the cathedral in Kondoa as they are one of our mission partners. We have been involved in raising the necessary funds to build a kindergarten there. This is now well under way and fast nearing completion of the first block. We planned a visit to

maintain our links, check on the progress of the site and what the next stage is and to get involved in a real way.

So, on 2nd November, the 6 of us (Hilary and Peter Ruxton, Wendy and David Balcombe, Pam Tanner and David Farquharson) and 12 large and very full suitcases set off for Kilimanjaro. The cases were crammed full of gifts from a lot of very kind people and once we'd got these through customs at Kilimanjaro (that's another story), we met up with our driver John, and after staying 2 nights in Arusha, we set off on the 6 hour drive to Kondoa, stopping off first at a bookshop to buy Swahili/English bibles and dictionaries. Half the journey was on nice, newly built flat roads, the other half was not! Nothing quite prepares you for the red earth dirt roads of Africa.



Dry riverbed Kondoa



Cathedral at Kondoa.

We arrived at the cathedral late afternoon, spent time with Bishop Given and were then taken to our lodgings. Most of our meals were at the cathedral site, but some were at the bishop's house. During our stay we attended several services, one of these being over five hours long and attended by many dignitaries. We visited the new kindergarten site, the partly built new Mothers Union building and the market. We taught in the current kindergarten classes (I use the term 'taught' loosely), helped out with the bible school teaching English, and had a meeting with the kindergarten committee. We visited an outlying village, Rofati, where we met with Masai Christians who fed and entertained us, and generally spent time at the cathedral meeting and eating with the people. Fortunately

many spoke English better than we spoke Swahili. At the end of our stay we attended an evening service where we sang, in Swahili, to the congregation and they gave us all gifts of shirts and dresses they'd made especially for us.

Finally we joined a safari at Tarangire National Park. During our 2 night stay we saw just about every animal and bird imaginable, from lions to cheetahs, splendid starlings (that IS their name) to vultures. A perfect ending to an amazing trip.



Massai church at Rofati.

David Farquharson

Mothering Sunday

How do you think it started? And why do we do it? Test your ideas against these possibilities

- a) A festival dreamed up for commercial reasons?
 - b) Special day created by Woodrow Wilson in the USA?
 - c) An annual pilgrimage to mother church?
 - d) 4th Sunday in Lent set aside for families to visit their mums?
- a) NO It feels like it, but not originally!
 - b) YES (USA) Prompted by Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, in 1914 he decreed second Sunday of May to be Mothers Day. But NO for UK.
 - c) YES In previous centuries people travelled back once a year to Mother Church where they were baptised, which also usually meant seeing their mother
 - d) YES Mother Church day had all but died out by the 20th century and was reinvigorated by CONSTANCE PENSWICK SMITH



Quiet street in Newark where Constance attended school

So who was Constance Penswick Smith?

An enterprising lady, born in 1878, one of 7 children of the vicar of Coddington, near Newark, Notts. Four of her brothers became clergymen. Constance worked 2 years in Germany as a governess then as a medical dispenser in Nottingham. In 1913 she read of Anna Jarvis's campaign for Mothers Day in America. Feeling that this would not have the Christian roots and family devotion that should make the day special, she set about a long process to re establish the original Christian celebration.

Initially, many thought the old custom had lapsed too long to be revived. But with a colleague Ellen Porter she wrote plays and hymns, produced Christian cards for children to give, and circulated articles. By 1930 the tradition was re established and employers, particularly of domestic staff, voluntarily gave their employees the day off to visit their mothers and attend their local churches.

Constance herself never married and never personally benefitted from her work, but thanks to her the fourth Sunday of Lent is firmly linked with this reminder and opportunity to thank and treat our mums.



Join us on Mothering Sunday

Sunday 26th March 2017

British Summer Time begins - clocks forward!

Mothering Sunday Services across the Parish, with a small posy or gift

St Peter & St Paul	10am	Morning Service with Children's Groups
St Saviour	10am	Morning Service
St Andrew	10am	Holy Communion
St Philip	10.30am	Morning Service with Children's Groups

A Walk in the Spring

If you go for a walk in the park and woods you can look for these flowers.



snowdrops



daffodils



primroses



primulas



crocuses

At Easter time we remember the most important things about Jesus. On Good Friday Jesus was nailed to a cross of wood and left to die. His body was then taken by one of his friends and put in a tomb and a heavy stone was rolled over the entrance. On Easter Sunday some women went to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty.

In the word search there are 14 words which are mentioned on page 14 or page 15.

B	R	I	S	E	N	C	R	O	S	S	I
F	R	I	D	A	Y	T	O	M	B	J	S
N	A	I	L	E	D	I	E	D	K	E	P
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Experience Easter



It's easy to be attracted to the beauty and wonder of the Christmas story but the Easter story is one that many find harder to approach. Maybe we are unwilling to engage with the sorrow, the unpleasantness, the suffering. Maybe we're afraid of the awkward questions that will be raised. Yet sorrow and difficulties are a part of our world. Life does raise awkward questions. And the end of that "difficult" story is the ultimate joyous triumph.

For a few days this March Tonbridge Parish Church will be transformed with imaginative scenes which will take us on a journey through the sights, sounds, events and emotions of the first Easter week. What will we find? Who will we meet?

Experience Easter doesn't try to explain the mysteries of the Easter story - it takes us on journey in which we are invited to experience the sorrow, mystery and joy of Easter for ourselves in a way that is personal. It offers a quiet space in a busy world. Local schoolchildren and others groups are invited in throughout the week. It will be open to the public on Saturday 1st April, 10am - 2pm.

There is no need to step back from the Easter story. At the heart of it is the story of that same Jesus who lay as a baby in the Christmas manger now grown to an adult full of love and strength. A man who shared our hopes and dreams, our friendship, betrayal and suffering. A man who set his face resolutely towards certain death that we might have life. A man who was fully human yet also fully God. That's a mystery worth thinking about, surely?

Morwenna Fernandez

Bank Holiday — Things to do

Kent Life Lock Lane, Sandling ME14 3AU
Tel: 01622 763936 www.kentlife.org.uk
Special extras for bank holidays:

Spring into Easter

Sat 1st - Mon 17th April 10am-6pm
Bottle feed lambs and goat kids, meet calves, chicks and piglets or identify fertilised eggs in the hatchery. Tractor rides, Paint-a-Pot studio, variety of shows in the Big Top.
Easter Bunny's visit: Fri 14th - Mon 17th April.

May Day Celebrations

Mon 1st May 10am-5pm Includes Morris dancing and maypole dancing, nominations for the May Day Parade to crown the Queen, Princesses, new May King & Prince!

See Chase & Marshall from Paw Patrol

Sun 14th May 10am-5pm

Sheepstakes! May Half Term

Sat 27th May - Sunday 4th June 10am-6pm Sheep show, sheep shearing demos, meet a sheep dog or watch shows in the Big Top.

MUM2MUM MARKET Sun 14th May 10am-12pm
Angel Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge TN9 1SF
Entry £2 (kids are free)
+ FREE goody bag for first 100 people
Contact: westkent@mum2mummarket.co.uk

Canterbury Cathedral Gardens

Sat 27 May (11-5); Sun 28 May (2-5). Open for charity.
5 very special gardens: £5 (children free).
Home-made teas on Green Court.

Leeds Castle

ME17 1PL (10am-6pm)
Tel: 01622 765400

www.leeds-castle.com Prices online.

Easter Quest and Walking Theatre's **Easter Adventures with Robin Hoodie and Maid Marion**
Sat 1st - Mon 17th April.

Motors by the Moat Sat 6th - Sun 7th May with hundreds of vintage, high performance and classic cars from around the world.

Grand Medieval Joust Sat 27th - Mon 29th May 10am-6pm. Enjoy living history encampments, firepower and trebuchet demonstrations and mounted skill at arms displays.

Spa Valley Railway

Tunbridge Wells TN2 5QY Tel: 01892 537715 www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk Prices online.

Easter Specials Fri 14th - Mon 17th April (spot the Easter Bunny to try to win a free family ticket).

Bank holiday kids 4 a quid Sat 29th April - Monday 1st May

A Day out with Thomas Sat 13th - Sun 21st May

Views from the Potting Shed

Many professional gardeners begin the gardening year in autumn but I have always found this strange. Spring brings hope and expectation as flowers and buds springing forth with a profusion of blossoms, together with longer and warmer days. It certainly lifts my spirits for the months and tasks to come and is surely the start of the gardening year. William Wordsworth's famous poem certainly describes the joy of spring: "a host of golden daffodils ... fluttering and dancing in the breeze", conjuring up a magnificent sight that I am sure we can all imagine.



As many of you will know, Mrs M. handles all the digging in our vegetable plot but she is now slowing down and we have therefore decided to adopt the "No dig" method of gardening. It's not exactly rocket science, as nature has been doing this since creation with leaves dropping to the ground and plants dying and decomposing to build up a leaf litter (I'm sure we have all walked through woodlands and felt the springiness underfoot that has built up over centuries).

In established flower beds it's always been difficult to dig without damaging established plants, bulbs and their roots, so it has always been necessary to mulch around the plants either letting a layer of compost sit on top of the soil or lightly hoeing it in. The "No Dig" method really extends this system to the vegetable plot, which traditionally has been single or double dug. Well-rotted compost is spread on top of the soil with the intention of encouraging worms, bacteria and fungi to "feed" and breakdown the nutrients so that they penetrate the top layer of the soil. The actions of the rain and frost also help this process and the compost also acts as mulch, suppressing weeds and helping to retain moisture. More compost is applied each autumn/winter, gradually building up a finer tilth in the top layer as the years go by.



Mrs. M. and I have redesigned our vegetable plots so that they are two arm widths wide (about 6 feet), allowing us to reach halfway across from either side without having to step on the soil. We cleared the plot of weeds during January whenever the soil was dry enough, working off any over indulgence from Christmas (it's amazing how weeds grow even in low temperatures), and then covered the soil with black polythene for a month to suppress any further weed growth. The polythene had the benefit of encouraging worms underneath it and in February we applied a good depth of compost and reapplied the black

polythene again

to suppress weed growth but also hopefully to absorb any sunlight and heat up the soil. We plan to keep some of the polythene in place making slits in it to plant potatoes through and hopefully avoid the need to earth up the spuds.

We hope to start planting the rest of our vegetables as spring progresses and will keep you informed as it develops.

Happy gardening!

Arthur Mow

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LONDON MARATHON

Who to look out for – and beating the 2-hour barrier!

However fast the world's best complete this year's Virgin Money London Marathon, they will never match the pace recently set by St Alban's Striders.

Passing a baton, a team of men from the club ran circuits of a 400m track for 26.2 miles until the final runner crossed the line in 1hr 56.51.

A team of women also combined to run 2hr 14.39, to edge Paula Radcliffe's world record.



Kenenisa Bekele
Voice of America

Running a sub-two hour marathon has often been dismissed, but the dream may soon be a reality. Kenyan Dennis Kimetto is the current men's record holder with the 2hr 02.57 he set in Berlin in 2014, a time which compatriot Eliud Kipchoge fell eight seconds short of in London last year. In fact the world record has been broken seven times in the past decade.

While any runner will tell you that taking three minutes off your best time is easier said than done, it is worth noting that as recently as 1984 the record stood a full five minutes slower. With improved knowledge of distance running and training techniques, elite runners have sped up. St Alban's' celebrated their achievements, but the bigger picture fuels analysts with hope the achievement is not far away for an individual.

Both Kimetto and Kipchoge will be absent for this year's event on April 23, which could be a battle between Ethiopians Kenenisa Bekele, the 5,000m and 10,000m world record holder and Feyisa Lilesa, the Olympic marathon silver medallist.

The women's race will see Olympic champion Jemima Sumgong, of Kenya, take on compatriot Vivian Cheruiyot and Ethiopian Tirunesh Dibaba – both multiple track champions.



Jemima Sumgong
Wigglesworth / Associated Press

Will Mata

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- Improved sense of wellbeing from higher quality of life at home
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- Fewer hospital admissions

- Ameliorated decline in function in people with dementia
- Enabling couples to stay securely together, and all loved ones to keep in touch with friends, family and community

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Our expert care advisers are happy to discuss how we can help you - please contact us for more information and friendly advice.

01732 441098 www.thegoodcaregroup.com/mos kentenquiries@thegoodcaregroup.com @goodcaregroup

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

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Saturday 25 March Matinee 2.30 pm

Saturday 25 March Evening 7.30 pm

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What's On? And From the Parish Registers

March

Wed 1	Ash Wednesday. Start Lent with Holy Communion and distribution of ashes at St Peter & St Paul, 10am.
Fri 3	Women's World day of Prayer 10.45am St Mary's Hadlow
Fri 24, Sat 25	Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat, St Peter & St Paul. See page 19.
Sat 25	Women's Breakfast 9-10.45am Rose & Crown
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.

Weddings

25 November 2016	Martin Roy Sowman and Chelsea Anne Fox
2 December	David George Buckingham and Rebecca Lucy Padgham
7 January 2017	Keith Alan Jenner and Sharma Leach William John Towner and Sian Louise Furnell

Baptisms

6 November 2016	James Barry Graham Meyer
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Deaths

9 October 2016	Dennis Simpson
9 October	Edith Joan Newman Hazel Whitmore
19 October	Dennis Arthur Boyden
1 November	Barbara Mary Prescott
7 November	Donald Kenneth Gale Webster
15 November	Lorraine Wickenden
17 November	Pamela Anne Maud Clifford
23 November	Jean Elizabeth Benson
10 December	Janet Patricia Watts
17 December	Grace Elizabeth Helen Pugh
5 January 2017	Gladys Woodward

April

Sat 1	Experience Easter, 10am—2pm, St Peter & St Paul. Follow stages of the Easter journey. Lots to do! Free!
	See back page for services and events in Easter Week.
Sat 22-29	Oast Theatre, London Road: A Fine Bright Day Today, 8pm (Sunday 3pm). £10 01732 363849 www.oasttheatre.com

May

Mon 1	Tonbridge Triathlon, starting at Tonbridge School; see tonbridgetriathlon@gmail.com for route, timings and entries.
Sat 6	London Handel Players: Telemann and his Contemporaries: 7.30pm St Peter & St Paul. £22.50; concessions £5. Box office 001732 838698 or tmc.org.uk
Sat 20-27	Oast Theatre: Going Green 8pm (Sunday 3pm). £10 01732 363849 www.oasttheatre.com
Sat 20	Tonbridge Philharmonic orchestral concert: Borodin, Norris, Smetana. 7.30pm St Peter & St Paul. £15 on the door or boxoffice@tonphil.org.uk

June/July

Sat 24 June-Sat Jul1	Oast Theatre: Murder, Margaret and Me 8pm (Sunday 3pm). £10 01732 363849 www.oasttheatre.com
Sun 16 July	SUNDAY FUN DAY—Longmead Stadium with dog show, craft fair, family activities, football, cake competition and loyal performers. Free to participate: only pay for food and drink and craft fair items. Run for the town by Tonbridge Churches Together www.tonbridge-funday.co.uk



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	St Peter & St Paul	St Philip's	St Saviour's
Daily	Coffee Shop 10am to 12pm Monday to Saturday		
Monday	Merry Makers: needlecraft and quiet time 10am, Upper Lounge Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Seniors	Men's Forum 8pm fortnightly. For more info contact Ray Tanner on 01732 351422	Coffee Break 10.30 - 11.30am Keep Fit 5.30pm
Tuesday	Teddies 9.30am, Upper Lounge (term time) Beavers at Ridgeway	Stretch, Tone & Relax Class 1pm Grapevine Drink, chat and activities. 2.15pm to 4.15pm Brownies 6pm	
Wednesday	Holy Communion 10am Tiny Acorns under-1s 10.30am -12pm, Upper Lounge (Term time) Cubs at Ridgeway	Tots and Co. 1.15pm - 2.45pm (term time) Open Prayer 8 - 9pm First Wednesday of month	
Thursday	Stepping Stones (term time) Bible Study, crèche available 10am Afternoon Workshop (crafts) 1.30pm Upper Lounge 1st Tonbridge Guides	Holy Moley club Fun and games for children ages 7 - 10, 5pm - 6.30pm Heavenly Hands puppets, 8pm	
Friday	Rummikub Players 10.00am -12.30pm, Upper Lounge. Bell Ringers at Parish Church 7.45pm Scouts at Ridgeway	Women's Fellowship 7.30pm - 9.30pm, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month	
Saturday	Parish Prayer , 9am Lower Lounge Coffee Shop 10am - 12pm Open Church 10am - 4pm		Connect (Age 10 - 13), Refresh (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.

Afternoon Church:
Families with young
children

3pm
St Peter & St Paul.



All welcome to our monthly afternoon services, which have been designed specifically for young families. Our intention is to help all ages worship and encounter God through activities, music and Bible teaching, so that parents and children will grow together in their faith.

Tea and cake for adults!

Dates: Sundays 2 April, 30 April, 28 May, 25 June – all at St Peter & St Paul, 3-4pm.



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 4PA

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)



Spring
Women's
Breakfast

Being all you can be

Anna Couper

What barriers are holding you back?

25th March 2017 9-10.30am

£7.50 includes breakfast—all welcome

Market Suite, Rose and Crown

Contact Sara Thomson

Tel. 01732 356430

Email: sara@sjthomson.plus.com

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CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Parish Administration The Coach House Office, Church Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1HD	770962
Vicar The Rev'd Mark Brown	770962
Associate Vicar The Rev'd Anthony Hammill	07743661252
Curate The Rev'd Simon Couper	355200
Churchwardens Patricia King Ray Tanner	01732 366179 01732 351422
Vicar's PA Yolanda Roberts	770962 ext 25
Parish Administrator Jane Higgs	770962 ext 24
St Philip's Administrator Jane Mata	352416
Youth and Children's Minister Andy Page	770962 ext 22
Parish Treasurer currently vacant	770962
PCC Secretary Sally Musson	838411
Perspectives Team Jane Mata (Chair), Tessa Szczepanik (Editor), Anna Couper (Sub-editor), Dick Longley, Margaret Brandham & Aneta Van Bodegom (Composition & Design), Barry Stagg (Advertising)	770962

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Holy Week and Easter Services in Tonbridge Parish

Do join us



Thursday 13 April Maundy Thursday	8pm	Supper with informal Holy Communion	St Philip
Friday 14 April Good Friday	10 – 11am	Easter Families, Food and Fun	St Saviour
	12-3pm	Three Hours at the Cross: reflective service with readings, prayer, music and times of silence. Free to come and go between 12-3pm.	St Peter & St Paul
Sunday 16 April Easter Day	5.45am	Easter Sunrise Service	St Peter & St Paul
	8am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	St Peter & St Paul
	10am	All-age Easter Service	St Peter & St Paul
	10am	Holy Communion	St Andrew
	10am	Holy Communion	St Saviour
	10.30am	All-age service with Holy Communion	St Philip
	6.30pm	Evening service with Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul

St Peter & St Paul: Church Lane, Tonbridge TN9 1HD

St Andrew: Hadlow Road, Tonbridge TN10 4LS

St Philip: Salisbury Road, TN10 4PA

St Saviour: Dry Hill Park Crescent, TN10 3BJ

Contact: Parish Office 01732 770962 x 24

www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

