

perspectives

Issue 38 - Winter 2017
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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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The Coach House, Church Street,
Tonbridge, TN9 1HD
tel.no: 01732 770962 extension 25.

Dear Friends,

The Christmas Party!

It's party time!

Christmas is here!



The festivals, of which Christmas is one of many within the Christian year, include feast time, festival time and party time.

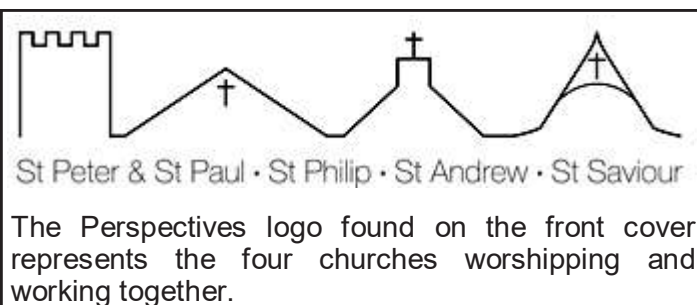
This is not a vicar's letter about what or what not to do at the office party, nor a recipe for success for your clan gathering or family Christmas lunch. It is a reflection upon the nature of the Christian faith.

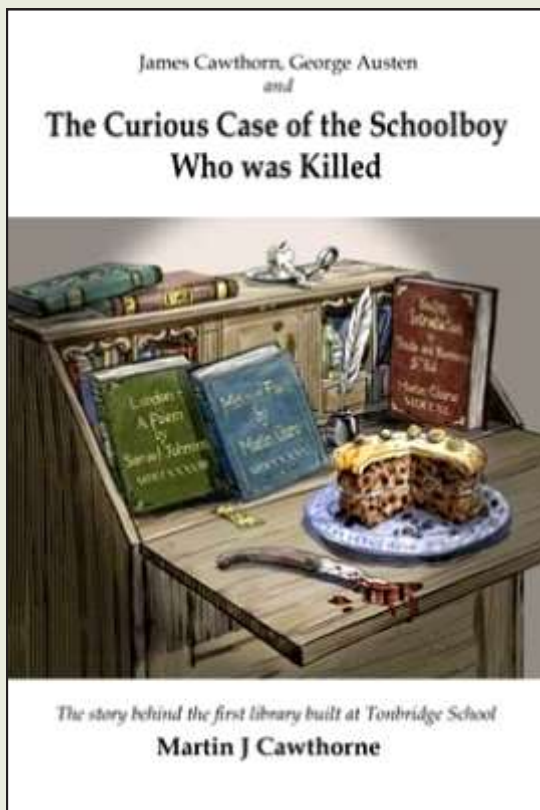
Its founder, Jesus, attended parties frequently. He was often criticized for going to so many in the homes of so-called partygoers. His teaching often referred to banquets, feasts and weddings. His first miracle is on record as ordering extra wine so that the last dance went with a real swing!

Often people don't think about the Christian faith, seeing it as anti-life, anti-fun. The party reminds us that something of the life that Jesus brings is positive, enriching and life as it should be. Why not visit church this Christmas? Discover its real meaning and discover the one who makes a party for our lives.

Yours in Christ,

The Revd Canon Mark Brown
Vicar and Area Dean of Tonbridge





James Cawthorn, George Austen and The Curious Case of the Schoolboy who was killed.

The story behind the first library built at Tonbridge School
Martin J Cawthorne

Jane Austen could have been born in Tonbridge had a horse not stumbled and killed its rider on Quarry Hill in 1761. Sadly for Jane's father, George Austen, the death of the rider, James Cawthorn Headmaster of Tonbridge School, meant the end to George's tenure as Usher (Deputy Head) at the School. Subsequently George had to move to the living of the Parish of Steventon in Hampshire, which is where his family was born and raised.

Martin Cawthorne, a distant relative of James Cawthorn, has written a meticulously researched book, which reveals a network of family and literary connections. Hitherto James Cawthorn has been known as the Headmaster who caused the death of a pupil by locking him in a cupboard. His descendent has written this book to clear his name and explain that the construction of the School's first library was James Cawthorn's true legacy. On the way he lays

a couple of ghosts to rest and reveals a taste for detailed historical research and analysis. We should be grateful for the painstaking record keeping of institutions such as the Skinners' Company in the eighteenth century, and the foresight which kept these records safe for posterity.

Cawthorne draws together threads of evidence to uncover the conception and financing of the School's first Library, well-known to Tonbridge residents as the building through whose window the Christmas tree lights shine out every winter.

The ten chapters of the book cover separate, overlapping topics, rather than creating a continuous narrative, but the cumulative effect is an illuminating glimpse of mid-eighteenth century life in London, Tonbridge and Oxford. I was fascinated and enlightened by reading it.

'Hardback copies of the book are on sale in the Tonbridge School shop, or available through the publishers website, with all profits going to the school bursary fund www.tonbridge-school.co.uk/news/article/date/2016/11/new-book-about-tonbridge-school. A limited number of paperbacks have also been printed and are available through most good book shops.

David Robins

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BUTTERFLY SUMMER - correction

Francesca Fernandez reviewed Butterfly Summer on this page in the last issue. We are sorry that we used the wrong illustration - a similar title, but a different author. Francesca's review was Butterfly Summer by Anne Marie Conway (pictured), not the book that we showed, which was The Butterfly Summer by Harriet Evans. Apologies for the confusion.



CUE FOR APPLAUSERETAKE.....ACTION!

All part of a surprise day at “Strictly” for parishioner Heather Seaman

Thanks to my husband submitting my name to join the audience of the 2017 launch of Strictly, my daughter and I queued excitedly at Elstree Studios in the early morning drizzle on Tuesday 5th September, to secure our places at the recording of the forthcoming show.

We were instructed to return at 3:30pm ‘in glamorous attire’ (I don’t possess such!). Standing in a marquee prior to entering the studio at 7pm, waiting was made slightly easier, as I love people watching and was mesmerised by the amazing outfits and hairdos around me.

After 3 recordings of the professionals’ group dance, watching make-up artists flitting around to brush powder on the dancers’ noses, & hairdressers quiffing curls, I began to wish I had waited to watch the performance in the comfort of my own home. Naïve perhaps, but added to this was disillusion as I watched Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman read every word and joke on the autocue and we were prompted to clap and give standing ovations at random moments. Incredible to think that this smooth-running TV show transpired from such seemingly disjointed performances. But the sense of anticipation and enjoyment was massive by the final take of the big group dance!

It was a great experience, for the pleasure of seeing Darcy Bussell, closer than watching her dance on stage with the Royal Ballet, and seeing Rev Richard Coles wholeheartedly throwing himself into the spirit of fun with all the other contestants. The support given by his dog-collared friends in the front row was surely a witness that all clergy aren’t starched and Christians are all human!

Heather Seaman



Photos from the show: courtesy of BBC/Guy Levy.



In November 2016 over 28,000 shoe boxes, filled with gifts, arrived at the old Homebase site in Tonbridge. Each one had been filled by a caring individual for a needy person. On arrival at what was by then a processing centre of Operation Christmas Child, these boxes were checked and packed by 500 volunteers, ready for Swaziland and Eastern Europe.

This exercise has been repeated this November but why is this so significant? How can a simple shoebox be of such encouragement, not only to the child (who might be unable to go to school, or might be unwell, or might lack fun in their life), but also to the volunteers who work so hard to enable it all to happen? Many who help with this process find it addictive! They love checking each box to ensure it satisfies customs regulations and is safe for a child. One or two donors may have wanted to fill a box but lacked the resources to fill it, so the processing centre gives the volunteers an opportunity to pop in an extra present, such as a knitted hat or tennis ball.

What an opportunity to share the love of Jesus!

Madeleine McClintock

Disability with Ability Clubs

The club was started in 1993 by volunteers from the churches in Tonbridge, for people, from all walks of life, who have physical disabilities. It is now based at Tonbridge Baptist Church but does not evangelise its members.

A normal day will start at 10.30 a.m. with board games or Boccia, a form of indoor bowling, followed by lunch and then an afternoon activity. That will range from a team quiz to visiting music groups, ten-pin bowling or a talk by a visiting speaker.

Occasional outings are organised to local places of interest and a visit to the coast in the summer.

Both Tuesday and Thursday clubs are very friendly and members enjoy being with each other, particularly if they live alone. The club closes at 3.30 p.m.

If you are interested in more information of membership or willing to be a helper please contact one of the following: Tuesday Club leader Malcolm Barth (01732 773018) or Thursday Club leader Janet Fairweather (01622 871575).

David Turner



GLEN GOODALL

has many roles in the local community – you might have met him at cardiac clinic, Hospice in the Weald or at a concert, and noticed the Welsh tones in his voice.

"I am actually Shropshire born, I am English by 8 miles, but as for Doreen (*Glen's wife*), her father's farm was on Offa's Dyke with the kitchen in Wales and the living room in England. We met at a church youth group in Shrewsbury."

How did you make your way to Kent?

After the RAF I worked in residential care for Dr Barnardo's. The home where I worked in Shropshire was closing and Doreen & I transferred to a Barnardo's in Kent, Knotley School. Later I worked with people with physical disabilities with the Shaftesbury group. I became Head of Care at Coney Hill, Bromley and then turned to training. I had to travel a lot but managed to introduce C&G and NVQs to recognise the needs and skills of these dedicated carers. We moved between Hildenborough, Penge and Tonbridge in this time.

You've worked with people all your life – any highlights?

It was rewarding to work with care staff who, having no previous qualifications, were able to gain a qualification through the NVQ system. It was great to see their sense of pride and joy on achieving their award.

You have diversified since you retired...

Just before I retired I went back to singing, with the Orpheus Male Voice Choir and then the Tunbridge Wells Choral Society. I helped with training at Carers First, and since a bypass in 2005, I've helped with the Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Cardiac Group. We run a 6 week exercise and education group to help recovery, and – another highlight – we were team of the year in 2016.

Losing Doreen in 2014, and experiencing the care at the Hospice in the Weald, led me to become an ambassador for the Hospice. I give presentations at events of all sizes, and the choir has raised funds. It's great to be with 1000 volunteers – we need £7m pa, and just 16% comes from government funding.

You can see Glen's story at
www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/hospice-voices.

Have you always had a faith?

We both did. We were privileged to have a Christian



upbringing, but I decided for myself aged about 12. Personally I don't feel tied to any one denomination, the important thing is we make that commitment to believe and trust. Doreen's faith was a blessing and an inspiration.

Finally tell us some of your favourite things...

River cruises, all music (there's such a lot locally), Shrewsbury Town and Liverpool FC. My favourite Bible verse: Proverbs 3, 5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Thank you for your time

Lost buildings of Tonbridge

A priory under the station car park... a town hall and market place in the middle of the High Street... we feature some former landmarks that were once a familiar part of Tonbridge

The Priory

For any medieval visitor to Tonbridge the Priory would have been, along with the castle and the Parish Church, one of the most imposing buildings in the vicinity of Tonbridge. It stood in the area between Vale Road and Priory Road, now occupied by a railway yard and a car park.

The Priory was established in 1124. There were a full range of buildings including a church, chapter house, dormitory, refectory and library. It provided a centre for a community of Augustinian canons who served in the surrounding area. Much of the Priory was destroyed by fire in 1337, but was rebuilt with support from the Archbishop of Canterbury.



Buildings on the Priory site are shown in this 1838 map of south Tonbridge. Present-day roads and the railway (dashed) have been superimposed. Reproduced with the permission of Kent Libraries & Archives – Tonbridge Library.



The remains of the Augustinian Priory, from a print of 1735. Tonbridge castle and parish church can be seen in the background.

Fosse Bank House

Visitors to Tonbridge in the time of Jane Austen would have seen Fosse Bank House (named after the defensive bank and ditch or “fosse” that once protected Tonbridge).

This was built c1740 by Dr Francis Austen, an attorney of Sevenoaks. It stood on the west side of the upper High Street where the office building of 182 High Street now stands. From 1892 to 1938 Tonbridge Ladies College was based there. The grounds to the rear of the premises were extensive and included, at the bottom near the Fosse itself, an ornamental pond, supplied by a natural water spring and surrounded by trees.

The 18th century building to the left (180 High Street) was given a new façade. It still stands today, however, it is sadly empty and in a state of decay.



Fosse Bank House, taken from an early 19th century picture, superimposed on a current photograph.

The Town Hall and High Street

With the advent of the motor car it became clear that the narrowness of Tonbridge High Street was likely to prove a problem. Between 1892 and 1912 the High Street was widened from the south end to the Big Bridge in stages, involving demolition of all properties on one side of the street.

Buildings that we might now view as quaint and attractive were then seen as “mean property and small unattractive cottages”.

Further up the high street stood the 1798 Town



A mid 19th century picture of the Town Hall, superimposed on a current photograph.

Hall (in front of the current position of Natwest, approximately opposite the Rose and Crown). It was demolished in 1901.

In 1962 a further swathe of historical buildings between The Chequers Inn and the Big Bridge were demolished. This area now accommodates several bus stops. Displaced businesses included Angells Jewellers, Whites the outfitters and Rasmussen’s optician’s.

There are so many more lost buildings (Cage Green Windmill, Peach Hall and Barden Park House to mention just a few) that could be written about if only time and space would allow. Fortunately, Tonbridge is still home to many old and interesting buildings. We can still climb the winding medieval steps of the church tower or stand in the hall of the 13th century castle gatehouse. Let’s do our best to protect and appreciate them.

Morwenna Fernandez

Historical images used by kind permission of Tonbridge History Society.



An early 20th century photograph of the buildings from Chequers to the Big Bridge, superimposed on a current photograph.

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A winter stroll or a challenging trail? Two options.....

In Tonbridge we are lucky to have a variety of winter walks to choose from. One of our favourites for a quick stroll is a circuit around Barden Lake and then up to the Leigh Barrier and back. The Lake forms part of Haysden Country Park situated in Lower Haysden Lane (just off Brook Street), a Pay & Display car park is available together with a children's play area, toilets, seating, picnic tables and refreshments. The country park was established by TMBC after the gravel workings cease in 1988 and covers approximately 161 acres including a variety of habitats including the river Medway, freshwater lakes, grassland, marsh and woodland.

The advantage of a winter walk is that the majority of leaves have fallen giving you a different vista although going at different times of the year allows you to see the changing seasons. The lakes tend to have ducks and geese on them all year round but during the winter you may be able to see migratory birds coming from colder regions (the refreshment concession sells wild bird food). There are signs and maps around the park giving details of the wildlife and points of interest and various leaflets are usually available opposite the toilets.

For a longer walk and one we often take, particularly over the Christmas and New Year period is to park the car by Tonbridge swimming pool, walk around the Racecourse Sportsground and join the path to Barden Lake walking alongside the river. If you are feeling particularly energetic this longer route is also part of Regional Cycling route 12 which allows you to cycle as far as Penshurst Place.

Barry Stagg

Walking in Kent, Sussex and Surrey

All three counties abound with superb walking opportunities. The church Men's Group looked for local opportunities to practice on long-distance paths and hills during training for last year's Three Peaks Challenge.



In East Sussex the South Downs provides some great walks on the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head but also behind the coast by looping round Friston Forest. East Kent includes superb stretches of the Viking Trail, where I recommend Hythe to Dover, Dover to Sandwich and the coast of Thanet from Ramsgate round to Reculver. Closer to home we did the Greensand Ridge from Edenbridge to Shipbourne and enjoyed an alternative route back to Tonbridge via the Eden Valley walk.

This year we have been walking the Pilgrims Way, originally a pilgrimage from either London or

Winchester to the shrine of Thomas á Beckett in Canterbury Cathedral. Much of the original route is now under tarmac where the old Way has become a highway, so we followed the parallel route along the North Downs Way by using the Pilgrims Way in sections but often following the top of the ridge rather than the old Way's lower slopes. Splitting the route into day-long sections, we are walking it in reverse and completed sections include Lenham to Chartham, Aylesford to Lenham, Dunton Green to Aylesford, Reigate Hill to Dunton Green (this section is a bit long at over 20 miles), Newlands Corner (near Guildford) to Reigate Hill and Farnham to Newlands Corner.

The walking has been excellent, with views south over the Surrey Hills, Ashdown Forest and the Weald of Kent. Much of the route however is in the trees, but the trail is in good condition, well signposted and not too hilly. There are some pilgrim sites worth a visit en route, notably the churches at St. Martha's Hill and Merstham, and sitting next to the carving near Lenham.



Les Naylor

Coping with Christmas

Christmas is when we mark the birth of Jesus. It's the most celebrated holiday in the Christian calendar, a joyous time which many of us spend with family and friends, and celebrate through the giving and receiving of gifts... isn't it?

The additional food, drink, presents, entertaining and socialising associated with the modern-day festive season can lead to over-indulgence and trigger feelings of stress and anxiety for some. An 'inspection' from the in-laws, battling to find the 'perfect present', and scaling-up lunch for visiting relatives can be quite overwhelming.

It's no wonder, when you take a look at a typical family's Christmas 'to-do' list:



- > selecting, buying, wrapping and giving presents
- > locating, unpacking, and purchasing new Christmas trees and decorations for the house
- > children's Christmas lists, advent calendars, carol concerts, grotto visits, and nativity plays
- > buying, writing and posting/delivering cards for friends, colleagues, and family members
- > tidy and clean the house, refresh towels and bedding for visitors
- > shopping for, preparing, and cooking Christmas lunch (breakfast, and dinner)

Sure, most things are fun to do but isn't it all getting a bit too much?

Excessive eating and drinking can lead to unhealthy habits, weight gain and stress on our bodies. The British Heart Foundation warns that Brits will collectively put on over 19.5m stone by New Year, the equivalent of 9,874 London double decker buses.

Financial strain - almost half of us will overspend in the pursuit of the perfect Christmas says TSB, with a third borrowing to meet the season's costs. Different surveys suggest the average total Christmas spend could be anywhere between £750 and £1,500 per adult, and more than 11 million of us could still be feeling the financial implications up to a year later.

Remembering what we're marking at Christmas, is a good way to stay focused and avoid falling into the pitfalls of modern-day over-indulgence.



Telling the Christmas story is central to Christmas, and Nativity plays began in churches where they were used to illustrate the Christmas story as told in the Bible.

Inexpensive family activities such as making Advent wreaths with fir branches and candles, visiting carol concerts and attending church services together are good ways to spend time together as well as being rewarding and 'Christmassy'.

'Buy Nothing Christmas' is a movement concerned with the commercialisation of Christmas and encouraging people to spend time with their families instead of excessive gift-giving. Father Christmas remains an important part of today's celebrations, but preparing home-made gifts or limiting the number, or spend, of gifts to friends and family can be a way to keep the financial implications in check.

However you plan to spend Christmas this year, I hope it brings you and your loved ones health, happiness and spiritual fulfilment.

Natasha Stille



Supporting Persecuted Churches around the World

The Mission Action Group is a committee of the Parochial Church Council, responsible for distributing the Parish Tithe on a quarterly basis. 70% of the Tithe goes to our seven Mission Partners — many have been featured in previous editions of Perspectives. The remaining 30% of the Tithe is distributed between several Christian Charities — local, national and international, including 4 charities specifically set up to help the persecuted Christian church. Release International, Open Doors and

Barnabas Fund operate world-wide, FRRME in the Middle East.

Release International is very active in Pakistan, Kenya and Nigeria; showing God's compassion by providing for the needs of families of Christians who are being persecuted or have been imprisoned or killed. Release supports persecuted pastors and their families, and offers leadership and theological training. The Bible tells us that the apostle Paul was once a persecutor of the early church — until God turned his life around — transforming him into a mighty preacher and church-planter. Release also helps persecuted churches bring the good news of the gospel — even to those who persecute them. It provides Bibles and Christian literature in local languages to build up the church, to encourage evangelism and disciple new believers in Christ.

Open Doors works in over 50 countries, supplying Bibles, training church leaders, providing practical support and emergency relief, and supporting Christians who suffer for their faith. In the UK and Ireland Open Doors works to raise awareness of global persecution, mobilising prayer, support and action among Christians. Open Doors is very active in Iraq, Syria, Iran, Kazakhstan, and helps the Rohingya refugees.

Barnabas Fund do very similar supportive work but aim the majority of their aid at Christians living in Muslim environments. Using the money to fund projects which have been developed by local Christians in their own communities, countries or regions, they act as equal partners with the persecuted Church. They are currently helping Christians in Bangladesh and Pakistan, and refugees from South Sudan, Iraq and Syria.

The Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME) works to bridge the sectarian divide through interfaith dialogue and by providing emergency relief to those who have been driven apart by war. In partnership with the Syrian Orthodox and Armenian churches, FRRME is feeding about 33,000 people in Christian families every month in Northern Iraq and offering food and water to tens of thousands of Internally Displaced Persons across 17 camps, including hot food for 7,000 people twice a day in Debaga Camp (the largest in the region). It is one of the few humanitarian agencies giving aid to Khazir Camp on the outskirts of Mosul, Islamic State's de facto capital in Iraq. In addition to food relief they are funding three schools in the region.



Levels of persecution : Extreme



Very High



High



St George's Baghdad was founded in 1864 – it remains the only Anglican church in Iraq. It stopped functioning after the first Gulf War until Canon Andrew White began conducting services there in 1998. From then on there was a steady increase in the number of Iraqis who attended the church.

Father Faiz Jerjees has been working at St George's since 2006 and is now leading the congregation. Surrounded by blast walls and guarded by 35 soldiers, all worshippers are frisked on the way in. A bus collects most members and brings them to the church, hoping to avoid kidnap. These are, however, preventative measures; the reality of violence remains. The congregation takes enormous risks, simply by going there to worship.

More than 200 million Christians in at least 60 countries are denied fundamental human rights solely because of their faith. In Tonbridge, prayers of thanks are often given because we are free to worship and gather together in church. Our appreciation is demonstrated practically by financial support of Christian Charities that serve the Persecuted Church, and by our prayers. If you would like to know more about these or other charities that support persecuted churches try Googling 'persecuted church charities'.



Jenny Hancox, MAG Chair.

St George's Church, Baghdad

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Angels in the Christmas Story

An angel appears to the priest Zacharias and tells him that his wife Elizabeth will have a baby and that they are to name the baby John. The angel also explains that the baby has been sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah.

A young woman, promised to be married to a carpenter named Joseph, is visited by the angel Gabriel who tells her that she will have a son - Jesus. Gabriel tells her that her child will be the Son of God.

An angel appears to Joseph in a dream, encouraging him to marry Mary as planned, telling him that her child would be Jesus, the Saviour.

Shepherds watching their flocks in the fields near Bethlehem are visited by angels on the night of Jesus' birth. First an angel tells them that the Saviour has been born; then the sky is filled with more angels proclaiming God's glory.

An angel appears to Joseph in a dream, warning him to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt because King Herod plans to have the child killed.

Once again an angel appears to Joseph in a dream, advising him to return with Mary and the child Jesus to their homeland of Israel, as King Herod is now dead.



Saint Gabriel stained glass window in the cloisters of Chester Cathedral

S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	J
L	E	A	R	S	I	B	H	A	E
H	K	U	R	U	O	I	V	A	S
J	O	S	E	P	H	C	W	Q	U
D	O	R	E	H	M	A	R	Y	S
Z	A	C	H	A	R	I	A	S	V
F	H	T	E	B	A	Z	I	L	E
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Read "Angels in the Christmas Story" and then find the underlined words in the Word Search.

TOTS & CO. 40th Birthday Celebrations



Tots & Co, a toddler group at St Philip's Church (formerly Mums & Toddlers at Cage Green Church) celebrated its 40th Birthday in October. Each week we've made ruby red anniversary crafts to celebrate, including decorating 40th Birthday Tea Party invitations sent to previous leaders & helpers.

At the party we welcomed several leaders, helpers and families from the past and enjoyed red themed cakes & biscuits. It was lovely for leaders to be reunited after many years and to meet up with previous families again. We also had a fun time making an autumn leaf wreath, bouncing balls in the autumn wind on a parachute & singing songs together.

We were especially excited to be joined by Linda Beesley who set up the original group in 1977 when a group of young mums who regularly met together outgrew the homes in which they met. Mums & Toddlers was born and how wonderful to now be celebrating 40 years.

Tots & Co aims to be a place where under 5's can have fun in our new outside space with safe water play & outdoor activities, learn gross motor skills with our ride-on toys, explore their senses during our craft sessions, and learn about sharing toys and how to



Ready for tea

make friendships by playing alongside their peers. Amongst all the noise and boundless energy, we also offer a cup of tea to the mum who's not sat down all day, a welcoming smile to the nervous newcomer, a listening ear to those facing difficulties and a place to build friendships which encourage and support one another. Tots & Co also welcomes dads, grandparents and childminders.

If you have an under 5 in your care we'd love to welcome you to one of our groups in the Parish. You can be assured of a warm welcome with lots of fun,

support when you need it, as well as a great opportunity to make new friendships. Why not pop along? It could be the start of a lifelong friendship.

St Philip's Church:

Tots & Co, Wednesdays in term time, 1:15 - 2:45pm

Tonbridge Parish Church:

Teddies, Tuesdays in term time, 9:30 - 11am

Tiny Acorns, for babes under 1, Wednesdays all year, 10:30am - 12pm



Enjoying Games



Candles alight

Liz Wood



Christmas Traditions around the World

Can you match the tradition to the country?

1. An extra place is laid for an unexpected guest at the Christmas table, reminding them that Mary and Joseph were looking for shelter. They also put hay under the tablecloth.

a

Russia

b

Inuit

2. No presents, but a trip to a Genna match, a hockey like game played only at Christmas

c

Venezuela

3. Christians decorate their homes with mango or banana leaves. Some people light small clay lamps or use red poinsettia flowers as decoration.

d

India

4. Games like arm wrestling, ear pulling, finger pulling and dog racing are played.

e

Poland

5. Children put their shoes in the window for 13 days before Christmas. Yule lads, the sons of vicious trolls, leave a gift in the shoes each night.

6. Christmas is not celebrated until January 7th, but Babushka brings gifts for children on New Year's Day.

7. Children in the capital city traditionally roller skate to early morning church services on 16th and 24th.

f

Iceland

g

Ethiopia

Answers: 1=e; 2=g; 3=d; 4=b; 5=f; 6=a; 7=c

Views from the Potting Shed

Well the autumn colours have now gone, the clocks have gone back and we are into the winter season. Some gardeners are like hedgehogs since both tend to hibernate when winter comes along, only emerging into the garden if we have one of those sunny winter days. Clearly things slow down in the garden over the winter period but it's not an excuse to stay indoors. We all know that gardening helps to keep us fit and a recent poll showed it was good for our wellbeing, with happiness levels increasing (Mrs M says she is always happy when I'm in the garden) and anxiety levels reducing. A Gardeners World TV programme some months ago featured a young 97 year old who had been gardening since he was a young child and it has kept him fit and mentally alert with a passion for growing vegetables.



Wandering around the garden well wrapped up in the crisp winter air you can carry on tidying up, tying in any plants likely to damage by strong winds and spreading compost on the soil. I'm originally from Croydon and back in the long-distant past they had a huge parks department and always pruned their roses in December, so I stick by this rule unless we are plunged into the mini ice-age we get occasionally. Winter is a great time for pondering what has gone right and wrong over the previous year and planning what's to be done in the coming season, when garden books and brochures are a great excuse for sitting by the fire with a mince pie and glass of port in hand.



Boys in the snow



Winter Colour

Obviously spring bulbs will be pushing up through the soil and some will already be in bloom, advising that spring is not that far away. As mentioned in previous articles, I have a Camellia that is about 20 years old that comes into flower about 2 weeks before Christmas although last Christmas for the first time ever it was late, not flowering until the end of February - such are the vagaries of our weather and climate. As I write it is, however, loaded with flower buds, so hopefully we will have a good show this year.

As we get into February and March, if you have cloches then set them out to help warm the soil and give you a head start when you come to plant seeds and seedlings. Look at your old seed packets: are they still in date or do you need to buy fresh seeds? Getting down to the garden centre over the winter months means you miss the usual spring rush and probably have a greater choice of varieties, you may even pick up a bargain if they are selling off old stocks of plants, garden ornament's etc.

To end on a seasonal note, why does Father Christmas have three gardens?... So that he can Ho Ho Ho! (Sorry, it was the best I could do!)

Have a jolly Christmas and a Happy New Gardening Year!

Arthur Mow

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Fitness fun with Tonbridge Junior Parkrun

New to Tonbridge, the Junior Parkrun held their first run on Sunday 23rd July (2017) at Tonbridge Farm Sportsground and now has over 100 regular runners, aged 4-14 who have fun running a 2km timed race around the field.

It's free to join, registration is online at: www.parkrun.org.uk/register/

Once you register you need to print and bring your barcode. At the finish line give it to one of the marshalls to get your official timed results.

For those of you new to running I can't recommend it enough. Parkrun is so supportive of all its runners and it is a safe and welcoming environment. Every runner is encouraged no matter how fast or slow you go. All runners were beginners at some point and you will be encouraged and cheered on until you cross the line. Don't worry about coming last as there will be a 'tail-runner' at the back possibly wearing a funny tail and headband (I was a unicorn one week) so you will never be running on your own. I hope to see some of you young readers there!

For older runners or those wanting to run further there is a 5km Tonbridge Parkrun on a Saturday, starting at 9am on the field near Tonbridge Swimming pool.

Tonbridge Junior Parkrun

When: Every Sunday.

8.45am warm-up.

9.00am start.

Distance: 2km (2 laps of the field).

Where: Tonbridge Farm Sportsground (Longmead)

Equipment: wear comfy trainers and don't forget to bring your barcode to get an official time.

Cost: free.


Charli Stockdale



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Festive Feast with a twist

Why not give your Christmas Dinner an international flavour with some of these recipes?

STARTER:

Uszka or 'little ear' dumplings (Poland) www.wischik.com/damon/recipe/uszka

Ingredients:

Dough ingredients (Knead; stiffer than for noodles): 6oz plain flour; 1 egg; pinch of salt.

Stuffing: Fry the mushrooms, a finely chopped small onion & butter.

Blend in 1 tablespoon of breadcrumbs & 1 egg. Season.

Method:

- 1 Roll dough out thinly, cut into 4cm squares.
- 2 Place some stuffing on each, fold over diagonally, press firmly together.
- 3 Throw into boiling salted water.
- 4 They are ready when they come to the surface.
- 5 Serve in a bowl of barszcz (beetroot soup). Homemade barszcz is great, but a packet of instant soup is usually perfect!



TO SERVE WITH YOUR TURKEY:

Whisky Gravy (Scotland) www.deliciousmagazine.co.uk/recipes/whisky-gravy/

Ingredients:

2 tbsp plain flour

Small handful fresh thyme

1 fresh bay leaf

50ml whisky

500ml fresh turkey/chicken stock

Method:

- 1 While the turkey rests, spoon all but 2 tbsp of the fat from the roasting tin and discard.
- 2 Place the tin over a low heat, stir the flour into the remaining fat and cook for 2 minutes, stirring and scraping to incorporate the remains from the bottom of the tin.
- 3 Stir in the herbs and whisky and cook for 2-3 minutes.
- 4 Gradually add the stock, stirring, until smooth.
- 5 Add the juices from the rested turkey, season, and strain into a jug to serve.



AFTER-DINNER TREAT:

Kaju Katli or cashew sweets (India) simpleindianrecipes.com/Home/KajuKatli.aspx

Preparation time: 6 hours (including soaking time). Cooking time: 10 minutes. Serves: 4.

Ingredients:

100 grams cashew nuts

Sugar (same quantity as the cashew paste)

1 tsp Ghee or butter

A pinch of Cardamom powder

Method:

- 1 Soak the cashews in water for 6-8 hrs. Remove them from the water and grind to a smooth paste. Do not add water while grinding.
- 2 Measure the quantity of paste and use an equal quantity of sugar (e.g. 1/4 cup of cashew paste with 1/4 cup of sugar).
- 3 Take a heavy bottomed pan or a non-stick pan and melt the sugar. Add the cashew paste and cook for few minutes. Add the ghee or butter.
- 4 When it starts leaving the sides of the pan, add the cardamom powder and mix well.
- 5 Knead it into a smooth ball, similar to dough.
- 6 Flatten the dough texture with a rolling pin.
- 7 Cut it into any desired shape, traditionally a diamond shape.



Recipes researched by Tessa Szczepanik

December

Sun 3 Dec	Christingle services for the whole family—10am at St Andrew, St Saviour and St Peter & St Paul; 10.30am St Philip.
Sun 10	Traditional lessons and carols 4pm St Peter & St Paul Carol service with mulled wine and mince pies
Wed 13	Jane Austen birthday talk by writer and professor John Mullan: Jane Austen's tricks! 2.30pm Tickets £6.including tea, from Susan Adams 161 High St
Thurs 21	Lunchtime Christmas Concert, 12.30pm, St Peter & St Paul
Sun 24	Holy Communion 8am St Peter & St Paul; Whole parish morning service 10am at St Peter & St Paul (no other morning services) Other Christmas eve services—back page
Mon 25	Holy Communion 8am St Peter & St Paul Christmas Day services at 10am (see back page)

January

Sat 13	Tonbridge Music Club - Castalian Quartet & Amy Harman, bassoon 7.30pm St Peter & St Paul. Tickets £20 from Eventbrite or 01732 838698
Sun 14	Tonbridge Farmer's Market, 9.30 - 1.30 every second Sunday of the month, Botany Car Park.
Sat 27	Supper with a Tanzanian flavour, presentations by those who were in Kondoa last August, and an update on progress with the kindergarten. 6.30pm St Peter & St Paul. Booking: 01732 700962

February

Wed 14	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion, 10am St Peter & St Paul
Sat 17	Tonbridge Philharmonic: Copeland, Barber & Shostakovich, 7.30pm Tonbridge School Chapel. Tickets £16 online from School Box Office, or by telephone 01732 304241
Sun 18	Pet service 3pm St Philip, Salisbury Road. Thanksgiving for our pets. All pets to be contained or restrained please!
Sun 25	Evening service with prayer for healing, 6.30pm St Peter & St Paul

March

Sun 11	Mothering Sunday services at normal service times (see times on p22)
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Baptisms

26 Apr	Wayne Christopher Alan Sleek
18 Jun	Tamsin Elowen McAuliffe
18 Jun	Aidan John Mark Woods
02 Jul	Harvey Nigel Levitt
09 Jul	Malcolm Nicodemo Goldsmith
30 Jul	Arlo Albert Sampson
03 Sep	Amelia Alice Groves
10 Sep	Frederick Stewart Rolls
30 Sep	Abbie-Rose Moore

Weddings

13 May	Edward John Checkley & Michelle Diane Cooper
27 May	David John Chadwick & Carly Anne Johnston
29 Jul	Daniel Stephen Wood & Emily Angela Charman
05 Aug	James Robert Booth & Faye Hamilton
19 Aug	James Henry Chandler & Jemma Laura Burr
02 Sep	Tyrone Shubert & Sarah Louise Hoey
19 Oct	Reece Anthony Hollamby & Harriet Ruth Shore

Deaths

08 May	Clara Bella Snelgrove
22 May	Doreen Winifred Fennel Way
28 May	Peter John Evans
28 May	Charlotte Elizabeth Osburn
16 Jun	Pauline Crowhurst
23 Jun	Doris Palmer
18 Jul	Emily Chatfield
19 Jul	Molly Amy Yale
27 Aug	Alice Thorpe
29 Aug	Thomas Page
30 Aug	Joyce Hammond
31 Aug	Poppy Daphne Heather Turner
14 Sep	Anthony Reed
07 Oct	Stephen Jezzard
09 Oct	John Mason Barber
16 Oct	Barbara Pinnington



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	St Peter & St Paul	St Philip	St Saviour
Daily	Coffee Shop 10am to 12pm Monday to Saturday		
Monday	Merry Makers: needlecraft and quiet time 10am, Upper Lounge Prayer for young people 9.30am main church 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 For pre-school children and their carers, 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	
Wednesday	Holy Communion 10am Tiny Acorns under-1s 10.30am -12pm, Upper Lounge Cubs at Ridgeway	Tots and Co. For toddlers and their carers, 1.15pm - 2.45pm (term time) Open Prayer 8 - 9pm First Wednesday of month	
Thursday	Stepping Stones (term time) Bible Study, crèche available 10am Knitting & Natter , 2nd Thursday monthly, 10am - 12pm. Afternoon Workshop (crafts) 1.30pm Upper Lounge 1st Tonbridge Guides	Holy Moley club Fun and games for children ages 7 - 10, 5pm - 6.30pm	
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 5.30pm fortnightly	

For more details, please contact the Church Office 01732 770962.
 Some groups do not meet during school holidays. Check our website tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk



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)

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Vicar's PA Yolanda Roberts	770962 X25
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Join us in Tonbridge Parish this Christmas

THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER

12.30pm Lunchtime Music and Carols *St Peter & St Paul*

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

4pm Family Carol Service *St Peter & St Paul*

4pm Children's Nativity Service *St Saviour*

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion *St Peter & St Paul*

CHRISTMAS DAY

8am Holy Communion *St Peter & St Paul*

10am Family Service *St Peter & St Paul*

10am Family Communion *St Andrew*

10am Family Communion *St Philip*

10am Family Service *St Saviour*

St Peter & St Paul, Church Lane, TN9 4HD; St Saviour, Dry Hill Park Cres, TN10 3BJ

St Andrew, Hadlow Road, TN10 4LS; St Philip, Salisbury Road, TN10 4PA

Parish Office: 01732 770962 x 24

