



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

perspectives

Issue 43 - Spring 2019

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In this issue:

- Mission Action: Japan
- 4art in Tonbridge •
- St Andrew's Church • Deacon Harle •
- April Fools' Day • Redemption •
- Sailing • Children's Pages •
- What's On • Regular & Easter Church Service Times •



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3	Welcome from Mark Brown
4	My Faith & My Role in the Community: Deacon Harle
5	A Thought on: Good Shepherd
6 - 7	Mission Action: the Gelsthrope family in Japan
8	Book Reviews
9	4art: Arts exhibition in Tonbridge
10-11	St Andrew's Church
12	Home for Good
13	Redemption
14-15	Children's Pages
16	Your Community
17	From the Potting Shed
18	Sailing
19	April Fools' Day
20	Diary: What's On
21	What's On Weekly
21	Women's Fellowship
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,

Happy Easter!

Chocolate or Christ?

Before I receive lots of letters or emails, or I am stopped in the street ("Oh! There's the vicar who does not like chocolate!")

let me be clear. The two are not mutually exclusive. You can be a Christian and like chocolate!

I'm reminded of an amusing experience of being a minister on Easter Day. The memory of it has stayed with me.

The church where I was preaching and presiding over Holy Communion was packed with adults and young children. So far, so good. Their custom was to give each child an Easter egg at the Communion rail after the bread for Communion. The observable difference on children's faces as they received their Cadbury's cream egg after their bread and wine was memorable. Lovely to bring a smile to a child's face – chocolate is an easy way.

Lest we forget, Easter is His feast, His rising, His victory, His presence with us to sweeten and savour our life with the true life.

This can bring a sincere natural smile to all who accept and follow Christ or seek to receive His risen life.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev'd Canon Mark Brown
Vicar



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

The logo found on the front cover represents the four churches worshipping and working together.



Deacon Harle

Parish member Deacon Harle will be known to many of us as the cheerful presence and founder of north Tonbridge optometrists Osborne Harle

How long have you had the business on Martin Hardie Way? Was it an ambition to have your own family business?

My wife and I took on the optometry practice in Martin Hardie Way about 15 years ago. We were already living in Tonbridge and at the time I was commuting to London working in an ophthalmic specialist research centre. The practice in Tonbridge has been a real blessing; it's a privilege to be able to care for the community that you also live in.

Do you specialise in any particular aspect of eye care?

I have led on community ophthalmology in West Kent for a few years, and we offer these NHS services from our practice in Tonbridge and also from clinics in the eye department at Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury. I support the South East area NHS England team one day a week as well as work with the General Optical Council.

What are the joys and tribulations of being an optometrist?

It's a pleasure to really make a difference to people's lives. Helping people preserve and make the most of one of their most precious of senses is very rewarding. It's always difficult when, despite great care and dedication, people sadly lose sight. Offering support through a sight loss journey can be heart-breaking for patients and clinicians alike.

Any special memories of your work?

I once had a call from an elderly patient saying they were poorly at home and asked if I could come round to help. I went that evening ready to offer some immediate eye care, but in fact the poor chap just needed someone to help change his bedsheets.

Tell us about your family, and/or your interests outside work?

Nikki, my wife, is a director of Osborne Harle and oversees the running of our practice as well as being mum to our grown-up daughter Emily, and our teenage son James. My mother-in-law is often at our house too!

I have a busy mind and struggle to switch off sometimes. I take a yoga class once a week and exercise with friends (usually with a very non-competitive game of tennis) to try to help. I was part of the local Round Table club for many years. Now I am too old for this but still catch up with ex-members in the Tonbridge 41 club.

I scuba dive (yes really!), typically in the cold dark lakes in and around Kent. I find the quiet stillness deep underwater an escape.

Has your faith ever been a help to you?

My work life is all about busy evidence-based practice. Sometimes it's difficult to remember what's really important in life. To take a step away from all that, and instead have a simple faith can feel liberating.

Where would you go for an ideal holiday?

I love the Caribbean; the colour, the heat, the smells and the passion. Barbados beckons.....

Your favourite book and meal?

Book: Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy from my childhood. Douglas Adams was a genius.
Meal: My wife was brought up in Singapore – she brings the food of South East Asia to our home.

Thank you for your time.



Judy and I visited Rome last October to celebrate a Big Birthday. We had a wonderful time in this beautiful city and like many others we included a visit to the Vatican Museum in our list of things to do.

Overall we were somewhat overwhelmed by the sheer weight of numbers allowed in at any one time. For example the Sistine Chapel was a heaving mass of people.

However in a little alcove away from the crowds was this beautiful little statue entitled **"The Good Shepherd"**. It was created by Rudolf Marschall and commissioned by Austrian Emperor Franz Josef I as a gift to Pope Leo XII on his Jubilee in 1887.

It made a particular impact on me because just before our trip to Rome I had been involved in an event for primary schools in our church entitled "The Sayings of Jesus". My task was to talk to the children about Jesus saying to his listeners: "I am the Good Shepherd".

I wish I had seen this beautiful creation beforehand, as it portrayed so perfectly what Jesus was trying to convey to his followers, that he could be 'the Good Shepherd' to those who wish to follow him.

Richard Roberts



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The Gelsthorpe Family in Japan

Celia Grew tells us about St Saviour's church's latest mission partners, the Gelsthorpe family in Japan



St Saviour's church has had 2 mission partners: the Numardi family in Togo and the Peterson family in Laos, who have now returned to their homeland. We support them in prayer as Associate Mission Partners.

A small group convened at St Saviour's last year to consider the way forward in respect of new mission partners. We were in communication with Overseas Mission Fellowship (OMF), as the congregation were keen to maintain a link with a specific partner. Between us it was decided that Japan would be a beneficial link for us, a developed country but with a low percentage of Christians.

There appears to be a fear of identifying as a Christian because of what this might mean for one's career. Many Japanese come to faith while living abroad and face challenges when returning home with the gospel.

OMF were able to suggest families in need of church and financial support. This had a good resonance with our fellowship, as we have 2 people from Japan who are members of our congregation. OMF came to St Saviour's the year prior to our decision to give us a presentation on their work in Japan and answer any questions from the congregation.

We chose the Gelsthorpe family - Mark and Sarah - who have 3 children, Grace 12, Isaac 10 and Caleb 8 - members of Emmanuel Church in Canterbury. In 2014 Mark completed the Cornhill training scheme and joined OMF who sent them to Japan. They had 2 years of language study and now work at an OMF centre in Grace Church in the small city of Hanamaki in Tohoku, north Japan. That's on the same island as Tokyo and about 120 miles north of Fukushima, where the tsunami-affected power station is located.

They are involved in different kinds of evangelical events, including English for beginners and a Sunday fun club, which has a bible reading at the end of each session. A portion of their time is spent with learning the very difficult Japanese language. They work under the guidance of 2 more experienced missionary couples. Meeting many people, they play football, teach at an orphanage and meet local mums. When they talk to Japanese people about British culture, they have a natural opportunity to talk about Jesus.

Despite strong Christianity growth in neighbouring Korea and China, Japan remains resistant to the Gospel. In a city of 100,000 people only 100-200 are Christians.

The Gelsthorpe family plans to return to the UK to visit home and will come and see us too.



Below is a letter from them to us all, explaining a bit more about home and church:

What kind of atmosphere would you like there to be at our church? A welcoming, open or friendly atmosphere? Somewhere with good coffee? We work in a five year old church plant in Hanamaki – rural, northern Japan – and our prayer is that we will have a church that feels like home.

Hanamaki Grace Church (right) has a head start because we meet in a normal house where our senior missionary couple live. The lounge becomes the worship room and the dining room behind is used for bible study, prayer, English teaching and eating lunch together on a Sunday.

We are a family of five with three kids aged eight to twelve and we moved to Japan from the UK to work as missionaries with OMF four years ago. We have lots of opportunities to meet people through sports, school and community events, but what are best ways of engaging with Japanese people, so that we can share the gospel with them? One ministry, which attracts both children and adults, is teaching English. But our passion is that church is not just a classroom, but also a place to find rest, healing and forgiveness. So we always include a time to chat together over a drink and a gospel talk. We also hold a day of open church once a week, where people can relax, talk, study and drink coffee. Or, in fact, use the space in any way they like.

What does the word 'home' mean to some of our neighbours?

Mrs Sasaki is an older lady who lives on her own as she sadly lost her husband and daughter some years ago. But she doesn't feel alone. In fact, she regularly cleans a four foot wooden altar in her home, kneels down and prays before a picture of her dead husband. She feels the comfort of their protection but also the pressure to honour them in everything she does.



Naoto had to go into a mental hospital some years ago. He now finds it hard to get back into the workplace due to the stigma in Japan surrounding those with mental health problems. He hasn't told his parents that he's visited church as they are involved in a Buddhist sect.

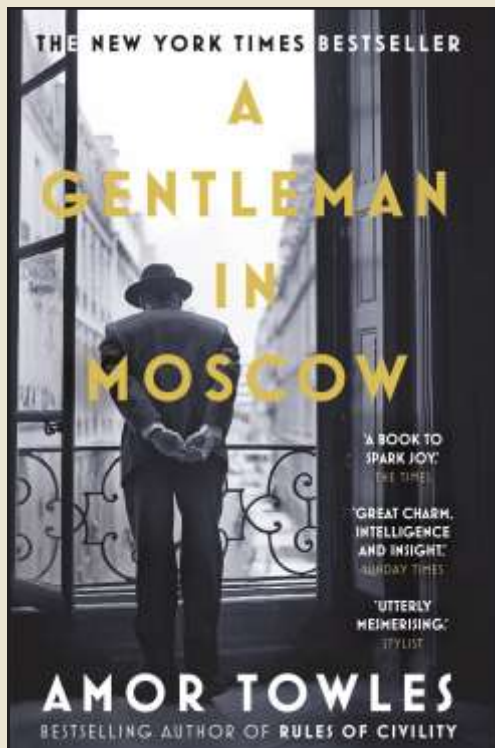
Tomoko's son no longer goes to school and doesn't often come out of his room. She worries about his future and how he will get back into education.

Will you join us in praying for these lost people in Hanamaki? Please pray that they will find a home and a family among God's people in the church. Please pray that they will believe in Jesus and so know real forgiveness, healing and a new life.

The Gelsthorpe family



Photo: Hanamaki view from Emmanji-kanon by Oisa ([flickr.com/photos/oisa/1491268684/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/oisa/1491268684/))



A Gentleman in Moscow *Amor Towles*

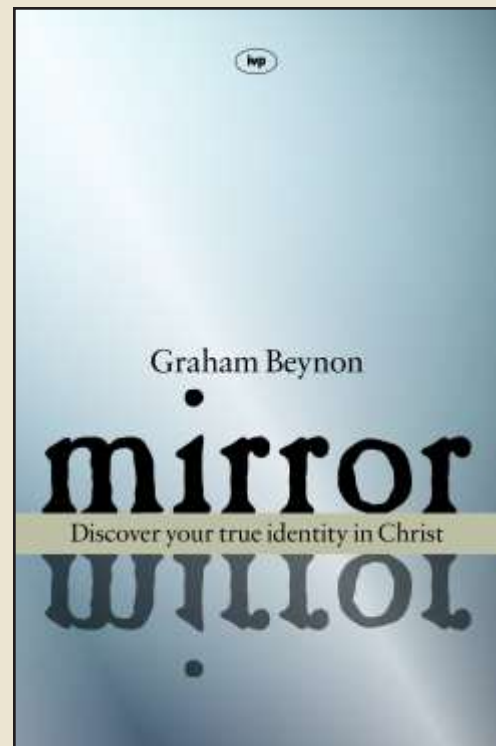
The story of Count Alexander Rostov: he is a Russian aristocrat who in 1922 is sentenced by a Bolshevik tribunal to house arrest inside the luxury Metropol Hotel in Moscow. If he steps outside at any time he will be shot. He escaped the death sentence because of his past history as a war hero. Count Rostov has to live in a small attic room and the book tells us about his day to day life in the hotel, and how he builds relationships with all sorts of people, both young and old, and from all levels of society. Despite his house arrest he remains cheerful, charming and witty. He triumphs in the face of adversity and makes the most of a difficult situation. He is clever, fiercely loyal and quite ingenious. He loves poetry and this is reflected in some of the writing.

It is very easy to transport yourself to the Metropol and become absorbed in the life of Count Rostov. The historical background is that of post-revolutionary Russia and the harsh effects it had on the ordinary people. It also presents an insight into the effect of Revolution on the aristocrats, the lifestyle, and the whole infrastructure and architecture of the city.

Count Rostov is a charming man and while reading this book it is a delight to be in his company. I was sad to leave him when I finished the book.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone.

Juliet Roberts



Mirror *Graham Beynon*

What do you think about yourself? What is your self-image like? Do you sometimes feel on top of the world because you have just been given a compliment or because of a particular achievement? Do you sometimes feel down because of your appearance, lack of achievement or what others think about you?

If any of this strikes a chord with you, then this book is for you.

If we use measures of the world to define ourselves then our self-image is distorted and unstable. It is so easy to compare ourselves with others and there is usually someone who is doing better than us.

In *Mirror* Beynon recommends that we should not use the *Mirror of the world*; instead, we should use the *Mirror of God's Word*. This makes a massive difference: our self-image becomes stable and true; it depends on God and the Bible rather than on me and my performance.

Mirror shows us the difference between these two different ways of looking at ourselves. It also points us to God and different aspects of the Christian faith, showing us how living God's way can give us a right view of our self-image.

Patricia King

Art exhibition with a difference in Tonbridge

An unusual venue will be the location for an art exhibition in Tonbridge from 1st - 15th March 2019.

The 4Art group of four local artists will be showing a range of contemporary work, based on their findings at R Allen Ltd, 18 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge.

Local residents will know this address as the motor engineers run by Duncan Welch, whose family have owned the business for 71 years. Duncan is now heading for retirement and R Allen Ltd will cease trading at the end of March, the buildings will be demolished and the riverside site developed.

The premises were used originally as a repairers for horse-drawn carriages from 1896-1938. Horses were stabled on the ground floor and the carriages were winched to the floor above – the winch is still there. Roy Allen then started the motor engineers, handing it over to the Welch family in 1947.

As well as the main building, there are workshops and outbuildings used for storage, where little has been thrown away over the years and this has been the inspiration for the 4Art artists – machinery, tools, spare parts and paraphernalia reflecting the progress of the car through the decades.



Jill Goldsworthy



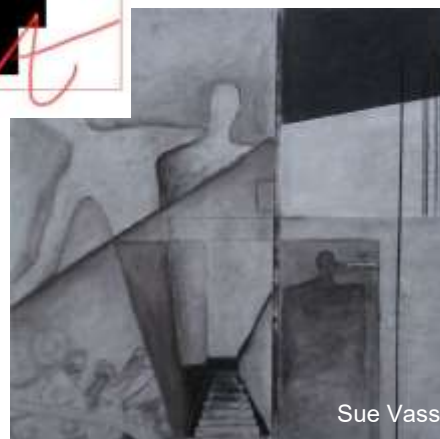
Margaret Barrett



The 4Art group: Sue Vass, Marilyn Garwood, Jill Goldsworthy and Margaret Barrett, have spent the past two years exploring this historic site. From the sketches and drawings they have made has emerged a wide range of contemporary art that will now be displayed just before the site is demolished.



Marilyn Garwood



Sue Vass

Paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures reflect the atmosphere and history of a remarkable business and buildings that have stood the test of time. They have named the exhibition **Duncan's Place.**

4Art are most grateful to Duncan Welch for allowing them the freedom to visit his workshop and stage their exhibition in one of the outbuildings.

Duncan says: *"It has been a pleasure to welcome the artists and to see what has come from their observation of the machinery and tools that I have been using for many years. I wish them well for the exhibition and hope that many visitors will come and have a look at the artwork they have produced"*.

The exhibition will open on 1st March with Meet The Artists from 6-8pm then daily until 15th March from 11am-4pm. Free entry.
R Allen Ltd, 18 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge, TN9 2EX
For more information see our website:
4artkent.wordpress.com

A rescue, a conversion, and a chapel transported from
BRIGHTON THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF ST ANDREW'S
church

St Andrew's Church, the small green building next to orchards on the Hadlow Road, owes its existence to the gratitude of a landowner to farm workers who rescued his daughter.

Dismantled, moved, rebuilt

Its story starts in 1908 when Albert Edward Peter, owner of Great Fish Hall on the north of the town, moved from there to the coast on account of his wife's health. He came across a disused chapel in Brighton. Albert Peter bought it, and had it dismantled, transported, and re-assembled in his orchard as a place of worship for his farm workers.

Why?

Since 1900, he had owned the Hall, and the estate including a lake with an island, a park, Little Fish Hall (a farmhouse) and 300 acres of agricultural land.

4-year-old rescued

In 1901, Albert Peter's daughter Gertrude, 4, fell through the ice while skating on the lake. She was rescued unconscious, with hypothermia, but recovered with treatment and "much prayer". It was out of gratitude for this rescue that Albert Peter set up the building as a free church: The Fish Hall Mission Church. Now the estate workers, and anyone else, had a permanent place to worship. We know that Albert Peter worshipped there himself – his great grandson Julian Brown has his diaries, which include a moving testimony of when he turned to the Lord.

Albert Peter sold the estate in 1916, with the exception of the church and the land it stood on, which was retained by the family. Plaques around the church record the ministers in those early years.



Outdoor services and concerts

By the early 20th century there was a history of worship on the estate, with outdoor services for the workers in the summer, and services in the lodge of the Great Hall in the winter.

The Tonbridge Free Press refers to "services conducted in a tent in the grounds of Fish Hall. They became very popular of a summer evening and the novelty of the meeting place proved an attraction for many..... in winter time, Tonbridge Baptist Church brought over parties to give musical evenings and lantern lectures".

Bomb Damage

In 1944 the building was seriously damaged by shock waves from a flying bomb which landed in the orchard; the church had to be closed for repairs.

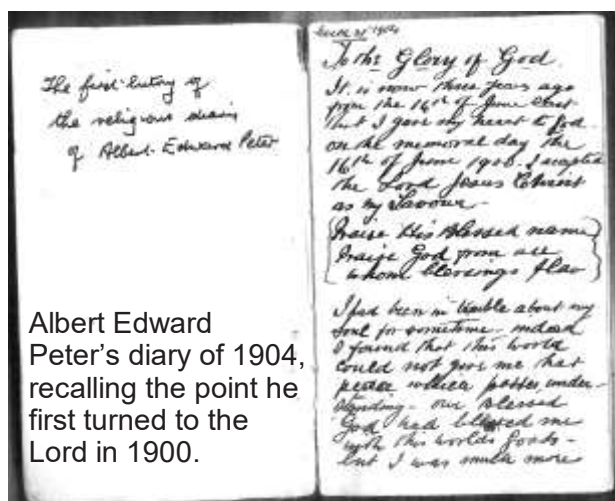
1947 was a significant year for St Andrew's; it was reopened, and its status changed from a Free Church to an Anglican church, in the parish of St Mary's Hadlow. The church was dedicated by the Bishop of Rochester, Rt. Rev'd Dr Chavasse. Its place in Hadlow was short-lived, however; parish boundaries were redrawn in 1948 and St Andrew's (then still known as Fish Hall Mission Church) became part of the parish of St Peter & St Paul Tonbridge in 1954.

Centenary

The church's reputation as a warm, welcoming and friendly place, reaching out to the surrounding area, has continued. 2011 saw its centenary celebrations with patron Julian Brown present.

See our inner back page for service times and look out for open days and events!

Drawn from *The History of St Andrew's (Fish Hall)* by Licensed Reader Terry Collins.



Albert Edward Peter's diary of 1904, recalling the point he first turned to the Lord in 1900.



Tonbridge Free Press, 1947: Bishop Chavasse the Bishop of Rochester rededicates the church after bomb damage



Church centenary: Julian Brown, Great-Grandson of Albert Peter, with the Venerable Clive Mansell in May 2011 (photo: Tonbridge Courier)

(Left) St Andrew's (then still called Fish Hall) Sunday School in the 1960-70s

Church - Where You'll Never Grow Out Of Care



As a care-experienced child, now adult, I know the value of welcome in a church, who are family, and indeed, the counter-cultural way I found welcome, purpose and home. I was 28 years old when I found out just exactly what the church's role is meant to be.

As I sit and write this it has been ten years since I invited Jesus into my life, and it might sound crazy, but it truly was and is the best thing I have ever done. What many didn't know at that point was the extent of the pain I carried, having experienced such a chaotic childhood. My childhood featured foster care, and this was a no-go area of exploration in my life. I'd grown up in and out of care, never experiencing love as you should, and tried many times to find love in all the wrong places.



When I aged out of the care system, I had no one and nowhere I was able to consider home. It was a very chaotic time in my life.

Thankfully, it was not long after that I started going out with, got engaged to, and then married a Christian. He did the church thing and I didn't. I sometimes went along and would listen to talks on love, acceptance and being you. I would sit there and in my mind I would respond: 'If You are love, why do I have scars? If You are kind, why did I experience such trauma?' If... if... if...

Yet in the church I found something – not necessarily answers, but comfort. Not a removal of my history, but a chance for a future. Not a life without any

problems, but a chance to live with hope and love and a place to belong.

Ten years on I continue to try and live in this way, and now I also have the privilege of seeking to bring this hope, love and belonging to others who are in the position I was. I work for the charity Home for

Good and we are asking the Church to be part of the response to the needs of children who are in care today, by exploring fostering or adoption and by welcoming and supporting families who care for vulnerable children.

We want to ensure every child and young person has a safe and stable home where they are loved and nurtured. A place where they belong.

⁵ A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

⁶ God sets the lonely in families.

Psalms 68:5-6

You can find out more about Home for Good at www.homeforgood.org.uk or call our team on 0300 001 0995. Find out about our work in Tonbridge and across Kent at www.homeforgood.org.uk/kent.

Together we can find a home for every child who needs one.

Billy-Jo O'Leary

 **home for good**

Together we can find a home for every child who needs one.

homeforgood.org.uk



REDEMPTION

If you think neatness is beauty, just look at a tree.
I don't mean the sort in a posh country garden,
carefully clipped to resemble a poodle,
Nor those that stand in rows in an orchard,
superbly symmetric
and perfectly pruned for production of fruit,
But a large Silver Birch, growing untended
-- save by the fingers of Almighty God --
in a quiet garden in front of a Kentish oast.

It is the epitome of untidiness:
Some of its branches thrust outward and upward,
every twig straining heavenward in a paeon of praise,
While others hang downward, writhing in agony,
each tortured knot telling its own tragic tale
of a further attempt, futile and forlorn,
to alter its course for the better.
And some there are that hardly grew at all,
surviving only in part, stunted and snapped,
the fruit of their grapple with growth
-- perhaps blasted by a gale while in their heady prime
or starved of sap amid some hapless winter --
long fallen lifeless to the ground,
and swept up by the gardener.
Not one of its branches is straight, but all are straggled and strained
in the furious fight for freedom and space,
the quarrelsome quest, lifelong yet life-giving,
for a plentiful share of the light and the air.

Every inch of its bark may be calloused or cracked,
But, seen as a whole, the tree stands majestic,
unrivalled in its beauty,
A beauty which the absence of any part, however small or shambolic,
would irrevocably diminish,
A beauty at present without a hint of green,
yet with countless pregnant pin-points
poised to burst forth in glorious unison
at the trumpet-call of Spring.

If you think neatness is beauty,
Please pause for a moment to look at this tree.

*I wrote this on a local quiet day
some years ago. Some people
have read it as applying to their
lives. Others see it as applying to
a family, still others to the whole
of humanity.*

George Gilbert-Smith

Anniversaries

(April - June 2019)

Whose anniversary is it?

Fill in the names of whose anniversary it is. Use the list of names to help you. Answers p18.

Leonardo Da Vinci
Daniel Defoe
The Duke of Wellington
Nelson Mandela

Judy Garland
Queen Victoria
William Shakespeare
Treaty of Versailles

The telegraph: Samuel F B Morse
The Transcontinental railroad



1) April 23rd - (supposedly) The 455th anniversary of the birth of one of the greatest writers in the English language.....

2) April 25th - Robinson Crusoe was first published 300 years ago in 1719 by

3) May 1st 1769 - 250th anniversary of the birth of

4) May 2nd - 500 years since the death of artist

5) May 10th - 150 years (sesquicentennial) of the completion of

6) May 10th - 25th anniversary of becoming the president of South Africa in 1994.

7) May 24th - 200th anniversary of her birth.

8) May 24th - 175th anniversary of the birth of

The first message was sent by the inventor (name) and said "What hath God wrought?" (Numbers 23:23)

9) June 22nd - 50th anniversary of the death of the actressin 1969.

10) June 28th - 100th anniversary of the signing of the

Charli Stockdale



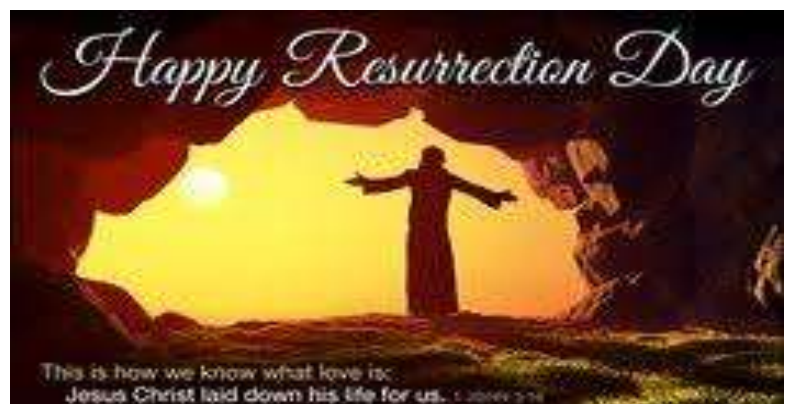


The words in capital letters can be found in the Word Search

On Good FRIDAY we remember that JESUS DIED on the CROSS and was buried in a tomb in the garden. On EASTER SUNDAY we remember that when the DISCIPLES went to the tomb, they found that Jesus was not in the tomb. Jesus had RISEN from the dead. He APPEARED to his disciples in the garden and MANY times in DIFFERENT places.

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

Come and Celebrate
Easter with us on
Easter Sunday



Sunday Funday

Sunday 14 July 2019

Longmead Stadium TN10 3JW

Summer fete
Dog show
Craft fair
Family Activities
Local performers

Free Event*

www.tonbridge-funday.co.uk
*Excludes food and drink or purchase of craft fair items

In times of need, family matters

*Let our family,
care for your family*



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Funeral Directors

Views from the Potting Shed



Bears wake from hibernation in spring, as the air and soil begin to warm up from the sun's penetrating rays, with longer daylight and a smell of anticipation in the air. Gardeners are similar creatures, although we tend to venture from our comfy armchairs rather than a snug den. I suspect our senses intensify as we gaze at our surroundings and see spring flowers blooming, buds swelling, blossom bursting forth and bird and insect activity increasing. So, now's the time to get out in your gardens if you haven't already done so, as there's plenty to do. Initial work includes tidying up winter debris, checking the trellis is sturdy, getting on top of weeds before they get too much of a hold, cutting the lawn on a higher setting, and repositioning

any pots you moved for winter protection. Check your shrubs and remove stems that are rubbing against neighbouring stems and remember the 3 "D's": removing dead, damaged and diseased stems.

Spring is the time for seed sowing for both flowers and your vegetables. Full instruction will be given on the packets but stagger your sowing so as to give a prolonged flowering/vegetable season. Bedding plants will also be coming into shops and garden centres but do not be too eager to plant them out, wait until the risk of frost has passed as plants are not cheap and the last thing you want is frost damage.



I noticed from my kitchen window the other day that half my rockery had disappeared, not from light-fingered visitors but from neighbouring plants that have gradually sneaked up and outgrown their space, blotting out the view. Now's the time to take action by moving or cutting back any plants that have encroached spoiling any views that you may have: but take care in case you have birds nesting, as the last thing you want to do is disturb them, and cutting back may mean you lose this year's flowers.

Our clocks move forward one hour on 31st March for summer time, giving us more daylight gardening time. In fact, this may be the last time you have to adjust your clocks as it's proposed by the EU/UK that we stay on summer

time all year, although its introduction has been delayed for further consultation so watch this space.

It's always nice to hear of other gardeners' problems and solutions and I find Radio Kent's Sunday Gardening "phone in" programme between 8-11am very informative and entertaining. They have two gardening experts who alternate every other Sunday and are a wealth of knowledge so why not give it a listen? Alternatively if you cannot catch the programme live you can always go to their website and catch up on previous programmes.

Whatever you do this spring, enjoy your gardening.

Arthur Mow



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Tonbridge Town Sailing Club

Not everybody in Tonbridge is aware of Tonbridge Town Sailing Club. Formed over 40 years ago this thriving small dinghy sailing club is based in Haysden Country Park on the edge of the town and has been serving the local community for all that time.

The club started when a disused gravel pit became available, owned by T&MBC. In the early days the clubhouse was no more than a caravan. However, through the kind generosity of many local people, including founder club member and Tonbridge Parish Church stalwart, Ray Tanner, Tonbridge Town Sailing Club has grown. Over the years more permanent facilities have been erected and services such as water and electricity provided.

The club is in a unique location and within the Leigh flood relief scheme. As a consequence, the club has to move all its boats and equipment out at the end of November due to the risk of flooding when the Medway flood barrier is closed. In March, it's all put back ready for sailing again. The start of the new sailing season is kicked off with an annual "Fitting Out" social event.

Haysden Lake is not the biggest or most exciting bit of inland water but it does offer a safe environment in which to learn to sail. Tonbridge Town Sailing Club is an accredited RYA dinghy sailing training centre. Currently 12 Adults and 12 Juniors are taught each year by the volunteer, RYA qualified, instructors. Despite the lake's

size the club has helped develop some top sailors that have gone on to sail at an international level with team GB.

One of the club's members and instructor, Bob Elliott received a prestigious long-term commitment award from the RYA, presented by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal in London in November. Bob's commitment to sailing at Tonbridge has been, among other things, his relentless efforts over decades to train juniors and run a monthly junior club for those who want to improve their sailing skills.

As well as training courses and social events, members also race (not too seriously!) on most Sunday mornings. There are usually two races, the first starting at 10.00am. Throughout the year the club also opens its doors to local Scout, Guide and Brownie groups and has an annual open day in May for anyone to have a ride in a sailing dinghy.

The Club's facilities are not luxurious but the members are welcoming and offer teas and coffee to sailors and visitors on Saturday afternoons and all day Sunday. Tonbridge Town Sailing Club has very much become a family orientated club serving local people. One of the highlights of the year is a week's sailing regatta (at the beginning of the school summer holidays) in the beautiful Chichester harbour. This trip involves some effort as the camping facilities are primitive (No loos or showers!) and the logistics of transporting children, boats, caravans, tents, porta

potty, bikes etc the 90 miles remains a challenge. However, the rewards are enormous with great camaraderie shared with another local club (Bough Beech SC) and the regular sailing trips to the various pubs and beach.

Jane Minster (TTSC Social Secretary and Commodore's wife!)



Quiz Answers p14

- 1) William Shakespeare
- 2) Daniel Defoe
- 3) The Duke of Wellington
- 4) Leonardo Da Vinci
- 5) The Transcontinental railroad
- 6) Nelson Mandela
- 7) Queen Victoria
- 8) The telegraph / Samuel F.B Morse
- 9) Judy Garland
- 10) Treaty of Versailles

April Fool!

Love it or loathe it, playing pranks before noon on April Fools' Day is a long-standing tradition in the UK. Even as far back as 1698, it was reported that "Yesterday being the first of April, several persons were sent to the Tower Ditch to see the Lions washed."

Over the years there have been some memorable April Fools' Day hoaxes by the BBC.

One of the most famous hoaxes must be the "spaghetti harvest" episode of Panorama which aired on the BBC in 1957. The show informed viewers that Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop due to a very mild winter and the decrease of the "dreaded spaghetti weevil". Footage showed Swiss workers harvesting strands of spaghetti from trees. Huge numbers of viewers were taken in. Many called the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this the BBC drily suggested that they should "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best".



In 1965 the BBC ran reports suggesting that new technology had been developed which would allow scents to be transmitted via the screen. Viewers were told that first coffee beans and then onions had been placed into the "smellovision" machine and for the best results they should "stand six feet away from your set and sniff". Calls came in from across the country to confirm that viewers could smell these scents, a few even claimed that the onions made their eyes water.

In 1976, an interview with the distinguished astronomer Patrick Moore was aired on BBC Radio 2. He told listeners that at precisely 9:47am the planets Jupiter and Pluto would be in a rare alignment that would briefly diminish the earth's gravity and that if you leapt into the air at that exact moment, you would experience a strange floating sensation. Not only did hundreds of people jump but many called in to say that they had felt it!



In 2008 the BBC claimed their camera crews had managed to capture ground-breaking new footage of Adélie penguins flying. The video clip soon became one of the most viewed videos on the internet. The presenter explained that these penguins took to the air and flew thousands of miles to South America rainforests where they "spend the winter basking in the tropical sun". A subsequent video was released explaining how the special effects had been achieved.

Morwenna Fernandez

Alex TRIGG: Organ concert

Thursday April 4th

1pm

St Peter & St Paul

An outstanding concert of classics from across the centuries. Lasting around 45 minutes, there will be a short interval with refreshments, but no lunch on this occasion. All welcome to this musical treat - free - no need to book

Performer and director Alex Trigg started his musical career as a chorister at Kings College Cambridge. He has performed in festivals around the world as well as with several local orchestras, as a violinist, oboist, percussionist, and keyboard player.

My friend's husband was a very good cook who liked to experiment with international dishes. He asked her to pick up some exotic ingredients for him on her supermarket shop, including something called Lirpa Loof. She spent some time searching for it in the aisles and it was only after she had gone to the help desk to enquire about it that she realised it was actually April Fool spelt backwards!

Morwenna Fernandez

I always remember the time when my father used to bring in a morning cup of tea for me in bed. This was an attempt to tempt a reluctant teenager to appear from under the bedclothes to face the cold bedroom (no central heating in those days) and face a journey by walking and steam train to school. I never really sat up to receive it, and on April 1st one year, to my dismay, it was a cold cup of water!

Jean Bowring

March

Sat 2 - Fri 15	4 Art at car repair workshop, Lyons Cresc., daily 11am-4pm (see page 9)
Wed 6	Ash Wednesday: Holy Communion (with optional signing with ash) 10am St Peter & St Paul
Sat 9	Modern Slavery workshop to raise awareness and show how we can act to free slaves in our society. Upper Lounge, St Peter & St Paul 4 - 6pm
Sun 17	Whole Parish service with Bishop David Atkinson 10am St Peter & St Paul (no morning services at our other churches today)
Tues 19	'Doing Shalom' - talk and discussion with David Atkinson on living in harmony with God and His creation 7.30 for 8pm St Saviour's Church
Sat 30	Tonbridge Philharmonic: Brahms' Requiem, 7.30pm Tonbridge School Chapel £16 boxoffice@tonphil.org.uk
Sun 31	Mothering Sunday - special services at normal times around the parish

April

Mon 1	Grenfell Hope: Gaby Doherty brings personal experience of the impact of the fire. Featuring testimony and commentary on the community that experienced it, and the stories of hope that followed in its wake. Refreshments from 7.30pm for 8pm start at St Peter and St Paul .
Fri 12 And Wed 17	FEAST lunch at St Philips for families with school age children on low income/benefits. Good fun and food; book via feast.org or 07736062586
Thurs 18	Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday, 8pm at St Saviour's church.
Fri 19 Sun 21	See back cover for Good Friday and Easter Day services
Sat 27 Apr - Sat 4 May	Oast Theatre: The Pitmen Painters by Lee Hall; 8pm; Sundays at 3pm 01732 363849 www.oasttheatre.com

May

Sat 18	Tonbridge Philharmonic: Orchestral concert: Rimsky-Korsakov & Tchaikovsky. 7.30pm St Peter & St Paul boxoffice@tonphil.org.uk
Sat 18 - Sat 25	Oast Theatre: Nunsense by Dan Goggin. 8pm; Sundays at 3pm 01732 363849 www.oasttheatre.com

Baptisms

02-Dec-18	Rosie Lindy Baker
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Deaths

15-Oct-18	Audrey Gladys Woodhams
23-Oct-18	Raymond Martin
24-Nov-18	Rosemary Hillier Overell
24-Nov-18	Thelma Elizabeth Train
28-Nov-18	John Henry Cook
01-Dec-18	Edward John Morgan
03-Dec-18	Phyllis Piper
07-Dec-18	Valerie Rosemary Brace
08-Dec-18	June Margaret Maslen
14-Dec-18	Beverley Alan Hope
24-Dec-18	Ruby May Veness
25-Dec-18	Richard Anthony Abrey
05-Jan-19	John Cooke
08-Jan-19	Freda Phyllis Shear
10-Jan-19	Caroline Jane Charlton
21-Jan-19	Peter John Dartnell



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FOR HOME & GARDEN

St Peter & St Paul		St Philip	St Saviour
Daily	Coffee Lounge 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 information 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		
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 Fridays of the month	
Saturday	Parish Prayer 9am, Lower Lounge Coffee Lounge 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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Curate The Rev'd Wendy Carr	355200
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Vicar's PA Yolanda Roberts	770962 X25
Parish Administrator Jane Higgs	770962 X24
St Philip's Administrator Jane Mata	352416
Youth and Children's Minister Andy Page	770962 X22
Parish Treasurer Ray Tanner	770962
PCC Secretary Sally Musson	838411
Perspectives Team Jane Mata (Chair), Tessa Szczepanik (Editor), Dick Longley, Margaret Brandham & Aneta Van Bodegom (Composition & Design), Barry Stagg (Advertising)	770962



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GOOD FRIDAY: 19th April

10-11am	Family, Food and Fun	St Saviour
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Between 12 noon-3pm
The Seven Last Words **St Peter & St Paul**

EASTER DAY: 21st April

5.45am Sunrise Service St Peter & St Paul

8am Holy Communion St Peter & St Paul

**10am Family Service St Peter & St Paul, St Andrew*
& St Saviour***

10.30am Family Service St Philip*

6.30pm Evening Service St Peter & St Paul

*Holy Communion



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