

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

perspectives

Issue 47- Spring 2020
Suggested Donation £1



In this issue:

- Helen Longley • Lent •
- Tonbridge Philharmonic Society •
- St Philip's Golden Jubilee •
- Tonbridge Counselling Service •
- What's On Weekly •
- Church Services & Information •



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| | |
|-------|---|
| 3 | Welcome from Mark Brown |
| 4 | My Faith & My Role in the Community: Helen Longley |
| 5 | Tonbridge Philharmonic Society |
| 6 | St Philip's Golden Jubilee |
| 7 | Lent: Space for You and God |
| 8 - 9 | MAG: 2019 Update |
| 10 | Tonbridge Counselling Service |
| 11 | Woodland Walk |
| 12 | What's on Weekly |
| 13 | Diary: What's On this Season |
| 14 | Parish Sunday Services; Who's Who in the Parish |

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,
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 Tonbridge, TN9 1HD
 tel.no: 01732 770962 extension 24



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

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



Dear Friends,

I recall an intriguing title for a book: **The God of Surprises**. It is a lovely positive title, and reflects an important truth which the Christian faith proclaims: God has good things in store for us! His love is surprising, and rightly understood, should bring colour to an otherwise monochrome existence.

If surprises speak of the good things in life, it is also worth remembering that nothing takes God by surprise. However, wars, tragedies, tensions or difficulties at home or abroad often do not come as expected and can take us completely by surprise.

Worth holding onto is the fact that when these times do occur, and they will, rest assured that nothing takes our loving and caring God by surprise. How should we allow this truth to embed and be lived out in our lives?

Can I commend the wonderful Psalm 46 to you?

***God is our refuge and strength
 an ever-present help
 in time of trouble.***

It speaks of wars, and rumours of wars, and much dislocation and trouble around. The Psalm then advocates stopping and being still, and allowing the space to bring its own message that he is there. It is the complete opposite of our natural reaction to panic and worry.

God does not come naturally to most people; I have found we all need help discovering him. So let him surprise you, knowing that nothing takes him by surprise, and that in being still we may know in fact that He is God. (Psalm 46).

The Rev'd Canon Mark Brown

Vicar of Tonbridge



**Energetic saver of the world's resources,
passionate worker for justice and
fairness, director and gardener,**

HELEN LONGLEY

**is a caring and creative lady.
You might know her from FEAST
lunches, Teddies toddler group,
preaching, taking funerals, as a chaplain
at Rochester cathedral, or as the director
that brought you Joseph, Passion Plays
and "Do You Hear the People Sing!"**

Q: How would you introduce yourself?

A Blitz baby, born in London in November 1940, when the bombing raids were at their fiercest, Mum not knowing whether she would ever see my Dad again, a naval officer facing daily danger on the high seas. I have been married to Dick for 58 years with four wonderful children and 15 beloved grandchildren. Blessed with so much family love and joy and the delight of dear friends, I've never had to experience what my parents went through. What drives me to passionate action on behalf of the vulnerable - especially children - and our beautiful but damaged earth, is my faith as a disciple of Jesus and to honour the sacrifices of those who gave us peace in the UK.

Q: You have a very active faith. What inspired you in the first place?

At the age of 13 I was a bell ringer, standing on a box to reach the bell rope! Our vicar insisted every bell ringer attended evening service. That act of worship was beautiful and reflective. I felt drawn to become confirmed. I still pray the confirmation prayer: 'defend this thy child with thy heavenly grace, that she may continue thine forever'.

Q: Would you like to share some of the passionate action which your faith has inspired you to pursue?

I was inspired to become a teacher when we lived in the States, where our four children were born and Dick was a teaching assistant at Rutgers university. I was involved in a programme led by Martin Luther King to help children in ghettos. That's when I realised how important teaching was and how imperative it was to 'speak for those who cannot speak for themselves'. That's what I believe Jesus calls us to - to witness his compassionate love in words and action. Many years later I had the

privilege of directing the Tonbridge Passion Plays, taking the greatest story in the world beyond church walls and sharing a journey with people of all ages and talents.

Q: You spoke earlier about the vulnerable - especially children - and our beautiful damaged earth.

Every day we see devastating scenes of innocent children suffering and our beautiful earth being repeatedly destroyed. I often feel overwhelmed and helpless. But as a passionate Christian I believe God calls us to love him and love our global neighbours in nurturing the gifts of beauty he has given us and caring for the most vulnerable. So whether it's FEAST for kids here in Tonbridge, TWR, an active member of the Rochester Anti-Modern Slavery Group (*see below*), going on a rally urging MPs to reunite child refugees with their families in the UK, welcoming bees by sowing wild flower seeds, growing herbs for healing... all kinds of things! I just try to do what I can where I live and thank God for all he has given me.

Thank you for your time, Helen.

WALK THE WAY OF WILBERFORCE

Saturday March 14, 9.30am onwards

The Rochester Anti-Modern Slavery Group invite you to a walk from Keston church to Downe, pausing at Wilberforce's oak; to learn more about historical and modern slavery, and enjoying the countryside and a picnic if you have time. Bishop Simon will offer a prayer and blessing at about 9.30 before we start walking. Length of walk - about 5 miles; families and dogs welcome. Contact Helen Longley if you would like to know more: helenlongley@btinternet.com

75 years of making music in Tonbridge

Tonbridge Philharmonic Society

is a large group of 165+ local musicians, who come together each week to enjoy singing or playing their instruments together. The orchestra meets on Monday evenings, and the choir meets on Wednesday evenings.

Each season, Tonbridge Philharmonic Society holds six musical events in local Tonbridge churches. There are three choral concerts, where the orchestra accompanies the choir, two orchestral concerts where our instrumentalists are given a chance to 'spread their wings' and explore the wonderful repertoire of symphonies and concertos, and one very popular Family Carols event which takes place each Christmas at the beautiful Chapel of St. Augustine, Tonbridge School.

Currently half way through the 74th season, the next combined choral and orchestral concert on **Saturday 28th March** will include delicious music by Camille Saint-Saëns and Gabriel Fauré, with Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem* forming the highlight of the programme. The concert will take place at the Chapel of St. Augustine, Tonbridge School. The combined forces will be conducted by new Music Director, **Benjamin Westerman** (right) who joined the society in January 2020.

On **Saturday 16th May**, Tonbridge Philharmonic will be back at St. Peter & St. Paul's Parish Church where the orchestra will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's birth with a performance of his *Symphony No. 7*. We are also

Visit www.tonphil.org.uk for further details about Tonbridge Philharmonic Society.

To purchase tickets for Tonbridge Philharmonic Society concerts in advance please visit www.tonphil.org/tickets or phone our Box Office: 07778 034396

If you are interested in joining Tonbridge Philharmonic Society, please email either our Choral Chair Stewart Dearsley (chchair@tonphil.org.uk) or our Orchestral Chair Steve Minton (orchchair@tonphil.org.uk).

Photos: top Tonbridge Philharmonic Orchestra, May 2019 by Hannah Elizabeth
bottom Benjamin Westerman by PP Houtmorteis.

delighted to welcome Tunbridge Wells International Music Competition winner from 2018, Double Bassist Toby Hughes, who will perform Nino Rota's *Divertimento Concertante for Double Bass*.

Philippa Burbidge



TONBRIDGE
Philharmonic
SOCIETY



In the words of our members:

"For me, music in general is incredibly uplifting, and to be part of the TPS and of the local music scene in general is really important. Playing or singing music gives me great enjoyment, calms me down when I've had a tough day, and performing in a concert as part of a large choir and orchestra is both thrilling and extremely satisfying."

*Steve Minton
Cello and Orchestral Chair*

"I have really enjoyed playing horn in Tonbridge Philharmonic Orchestra for many years, and can say that the standard of recent concerts has been the best ever. This season I am looking forward to playing in my favourite Beethoven symphony, number 7, in our orchestral concert in May."

Wendy Balcombe, Horn

"How lucky we are in Tonbridge to have the Tonbridge Philharmonic! For singers, instrumentalists and audience alike, it offers the chance to enjoy

music making of an excellent standard. As a flautist of some 30 years in the Phil I have performed in so many pieces both familiar and new to me and my flute playing has developed to meet the challenges. I also enjoy having the chance to sing with the choir whenever I can."

Alison Aries, Flute

St Philip's Golden jubilee

On 26th April 1970 there was a buzz of excitement in the air at the newly completed "Cage Green Church Hall" (now known as St Philip's Church) as the community gathered to welcome the Right Rev'd David Say, Bishop of Rochester, for the dedication ceremony. Right from the start the new Hall was to provide activities for all ages as well as regular services.

The Vicar at the time, the Rev'd Canon Bewes, remarked that this day was the culmination of "years of patient waiting, praying and working".

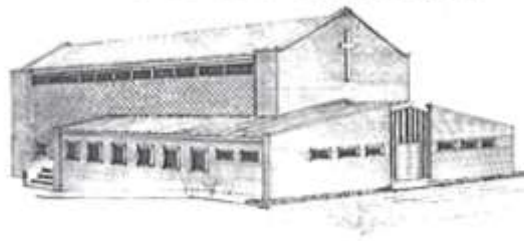
As the Bishop pointed out during the service "this special place was only made possible by the gifts and labour of many, many people". Here we will take a short look at some of those people. Sadly, there is not enough room to mention every contribution. More information can be found by consulting the Parish Church Records.

The story begins with a hopeful vision and a generous gift. In the mid-1950s housing was rapidly being developed around Cage Green. For some time, Tonbridge Parish Church had been giving prayerful consideration to making spiritual provision for this new community. Miss Burt, for 38 years Headmistress of Newlands School in St Mary's Road, generously offered a simple wooden building which had formerly housed the school for use by the parish.



However, the proffered building was situated on the other side of Tonbridge. Not daunted, an Ecumenical Work Camp was organised in August 1956. Twenty-five young Christians were invited, representing 13 countries, to stay and work together. These were led by Wolf Muller, a young German Curate from the Parish Church and included Father Philip Koutoufas, a Greek Orthodox Deacon, and Tesfaye Alemore, an Ethiopian. Local parishioners worked to prepare the Hall and to provide hospitality to the young guests.

NEW CAGE GREEN CHURCH HALL



In spite of inclement English weather and language barriers, the old school hut was soon successfully moved to the Cage Green site under the supervision of Mr Webb the architect. It would serve the community for around thirteen years.

Mention must be made of Mr George Glew, whose strong faith was a driving force in the establishment of the new church, and eventually led him to

ordination. The congregation continued to grow and in 1963 ambitious plans were made to build a new large church and hall. However, these had to be shelved as funds were not available within the Diocese at the time.

In 1969 another application was made to erect a multi-purpose Hall which would have a total cost of £20,000. Of this the Diocese would provide half and the rest would be raised locally. The community worked hard and dug deep to raise the money and the new Hall opened free of debt.



In conclusion I think we can do no better than to add our own "Amen" to the prayer first made at the dedication service in 1970 and repeated at the silver jubilee in 1995:

"O God our Heavenly Father, make the door of this church wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, and a Father's care, and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and uncharitableness.

Here may the tempted find strength, and the sorrowing receive comfort; here may the lonely find fellowship, and the careless be brought to repentance; and here may all Thy children renew their strength in Thee, and go on their way rejoicing; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Morwenna Fernandez

See page 11 for details of St Philip's 50th birthday celebrations, and page 14 for regular events at the church.



Lent

Space for you and God

The great statesmanlike pianist Artur Schnabel is famous for saying "Playing the piano is easy, it is just the silences that are hard!" Whether you tickle the ivories or play the piano regularly, my point is not to aid music practice, but to give a prompt about life itself.

The notes, the tune, the noise, the melody, and the composition we make on our life's journey, needs time, space, and reflection. We need to find the meaning and purpose behind the activities, between life's busy round of work, rest and play. This is where Lent comes in:

A time to reflect, stop, and listen;
to give meaning to the notes of life.

This is, of course, the hardest thing to do, which is why the discipline of Lent is not a moment in time, a good bit of the day, or a good week or a good holiday - but a good slab of time, six weeks, to press home meaning. In this time, discipline and change can take place.

This year, during Lent we will have five evenings of reflection: Tuesdays from 3rd March, 7.45 for 8pm at St Philip's church. There will be the sounds of scripture, there will be lovely tunes of guided reflective prayer. Each week we will strike some contemporary chords where "playing the silences" is especially needed.

The specific areas: Money makes the World go Round; Relationships; Living and Sharing Food; Health; Thank God for Sport.

The Christian faith has a view on each of these; a good view, a positive view. But, unless we find time to stop and reflect, the notes of life will be sharp and shrill; a series of disconnected sounds that don't thrill us or those around us.

If we are too busy to pray, we are too busy! One day we will have to stop, and it might not be on our own terms. If we have never really asked God into the pleasures and pains of life (and all the stages in between), then we might never know what life can be about. Finding meaning and finding God in these areas can be a blessing to us all.

Lent: a space for you to find God in all you do. Stop, reflect, and journey with us through our season of

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12 verse 2

Lent.

"**A Faith Worth Living and Sharing**" is just one way of keeping life as tuneful as it should be with God.

Mark Brown

"A Faith Worth Living and Sharing"

Tuesdays 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 March, refreshments from 7.45 for 8pm start,

St Philip's Church, Salisbury Road TN10 4PA

Have you ever wondered what Tonbridge parish church does to help people outside the parish? Quite a lot – in fact we are committed to giving 10% of our income to assist in other areas. In Tonbridge parish we have a Mission Action Group who has the responsibility of deciding how and where funding should go. Sometimes our funding is spontaneous, when there is a sudden need.

We also give regular support to:



Preventing human trafficking, rescuing, and campaigning for reform.

2019: In Cambodia, Uganda and Ethiopia, 88 children reintegrated into families. Many more were served at Lighthouse centres.

440 children at risk met through outreach with many follow ups; 32,000 attended events and wellbeing clubs. In the UK, 16 investigations are going on into human trafficking.



www.hopeforjustice.org

MISSION ACTION GROUP



**OMF International:
SE Asia**

Bringing the gospel to people of East Asia. Our partners the Gelsthorpe family work in Japan, where Christianity is a tiny, resisted faith.



2019: In addition to Christian ministry, the Gelsthorpes ran English classes, cooking classes, kids' clubs, and an open house café. The church in Hanamaki meets in a house and plans are underway to raise money to build a formal church building.

The Gelsthorpes spent part of 2019 back in the UK on home assignment. They returned to Hanamaki in January 2020.

www.omf.org

The Lawrence Barham Memorial Trust (LBMT)

Supporting the work of the Anglican church in East Africa

2019: a delegation from the Rwanda government visited our project in Cyangugu, staying at the Annexe of the Peace Guest House and visiting the new Health Centre at Shagasha. They are pleased with progress!

Before patients can be treated there, all that remains is the building of the block of toilets. Currently 9 pastors' houses are needed as the parishes continue to grow and new churches are being built.

Finally... an important date for all our diaries
The Coffee Morning at the Powdermills Hotel, Battle on **Friday, 13 March**.

www.lbmt.org.uk



Trains pastors, equips students and leaders, distributes books

2019: the Africa Bible Commentary revision project is underway, improving on the guides available in a number of translations.

In Burkina Faso, despite security issues and economic hardship, 57 pastors were able to travel and meet together for a Preaching Seminar. Most of the participants have no formal education, and could only speak the Gulmatche language. The West Africa co-ordinator is grateful that their first experience of using a local language went very well.

www.uk.langham.org



Sharing the gospel with children, working with 35 schools in the Tonbridge area.

In December, High Hopes performed "Deliveroops", a postman's journey through the nativity in the style of pantomime. Parish youth worker, Emily Speed, helped HH with the Fun Club at Cage Green Primary School for part of 2019.

2020 marks the 25th anniversary of High Hopes; a barn dance in aid of High Hopes was held at St Philip's on 31st January.

www.high-hopes.org

Anglican Diocese of Kondoa Tanzania

Supporting Bishop Given Gaula and his ministry in the Anglican Diocese of Kondoa in Tanzania.

2019: The St Peter & St Paul Academy opened to its first pupils, and building work has been completed on another classroom and a toilet block. Our young people made a memorable visit in August. Crops failed in 2019 due to drought. Across Rochester diocese, funding has been provided to Kondoa to buy food for distribution by the pastors among their communities.



kondoa.anglican.org



Amanda Hedger,
Counselling and Training Manager



TCS's home at Gilbert House



Why Counselling?

Sometimes circumstances and situations can seem to prevent us from living life as we would like to. For others, events that happened in the past, painful experiences in the present or fears about the future seem to prevent us from moving on and living life to the full. Someone coming to TCS may be experiencing depression and anxiety, bereavement and loss, addiction, trauma or be at a change point in their life.

Who are we?

We are a team of professionally trained counsellors and psychotherapists and we offer counselling to young people, adults and couples. Our counselling isn't free of charge but we do have a Bursary Fund for anyone who would struggle to pay the full amount. We can usually arrange counselling in weeks rather than months if we are the right counselling service for you.

Where are we?

We are tucked away in Gilbert House on River Walk, upstairs to the café "65mm Coffee", just opposite the castle. Our riverside location means we are central in the town and in easy walking distance from the station, buses and town parking.

What to expect?

Contact can be made by email or telephone. We will chat with you about your reasons for wanting counselling prior

to making an initial meeting. If we are the right service for your needs, counselling is then arranged with someone from our team of 11 counsellors and is usually weekly for one hour per session.

We believe that successful outcomes are dependent on a safe and trusting relationship and are committed to providing a non-judgemental service at a pace that suits you at your point of need.

What else do we do?

We have a full programme of training from beginners to professionally qualify through our accredited training courses. Our beginner courses are great for anyone who wants to improve self-awareness or listening skills and a great place to start for those who are considering counselling as a career development. We also visit organisations to equip teams to become mental health advocates in their schools, churches and work places, enhancing well-being in these communities. We also have short courses for counsellors and pastoral workers.

Getting in touch

If you are interested in finding out more about our counselling service or any of our training courses then please get in touch. Our website is www.tonbridgecounselling.co.uk. You can call us on 01732 605046.

**Woodland Walk: a local treasure!
Richard Dedman reports from the
group of volunteers that cares for
it.**

Woodland Walk was constructed in 1933 by Tonbridge Urban District Council (as it was then known), by men who were finding it hard to get employment between the wars.

The walk runs from the Shipbourne Road to Higham Lane and has a large variety of wildlife, including kingfishers, little egrets, nuthatches, treecreepers, and lots of common garden birds. I have been informed that a gentleman couldn't sleep one night and decided to go for a walk and encountered a small deer, but I cannot confirm that there are some in the woods. It could be, as they frequent the green up towards Shipbourne Common.

The pleasant walk is enjoyed by many members of the public. We have recently unveiled a bench in memory of one of our previous chairs, Maureen Roycroft, who was a great friend of the walk. It can be found just down from the Knight Road entrance.



I wonder how many of you can remember this view of the "Steamroller Park" which is the field just down from Turner Road. This is the name my children gave it. I found this photo on Facebook. Thank you to whoever posted it. It brought back memories.



Occasionally we have litter picks where we get a good response from people who enjoy the tranquillity of the walk, and as such wish to keep it clean and tidy.

We have four meetings a year:
12th March, 7.30pm at St Philip's;
4th June, this is a "Walk through" starting at Scotchers Field in Higham Lane;
3rd September and 10th December, both starting at 7.30pm at St Phillips.
All members of the public are welcome.

*Richard Dedman
Chairman of Woodland Walk Community
Management Group*

St Philip's 50th Birthday

Sunday 10th May 10.30am

A service of thanksgiving and celebration

Guest speaker the Bishop of Tonbridge

Bishop Simon Burton-Jones

All welcome!



What's On Weekly

| | 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 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 | Dance Mobility 1pm Brownies | |
| Wednesday | Holy Communion 10am Tiny Acorns under-1s 10.30am - 12pm, Upper Lounge Cubs at Ridgeway | 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 7.30 - 9.30pm, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month | |
| Saturday | Parish Prayer , 9am Lower Lounge Coffee Lounge 10am - 12pm Open Church 10am - 4pm | Open House Hospitality for all 10am - 12 noon | |
| Sunday | Refresh (14-18) 7.45 pm CONNECT term time | | |

For more details, please contact the Church Office 01732 770962 X24.

Some groups do not meet during school holidays. Check our website tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk



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March

3,10,17,24,31
LENT
evenings see
p.7

22 Mothering
Sunday—be
treated in all
our services!
Times p.14



23-27

**Experience
Easter St
Peter & St
Paul** for
schools and
public

28 **Tonbridge
Philharmonic**
7.30pm
Tonbridge
School

April

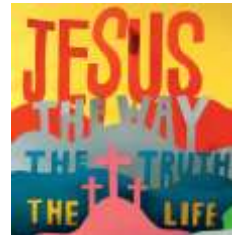
4&5
Parish
Away@Home
weekend

9
**Maundy
Thursday**

Holy
Communion
8pm St Peter
& St Paul

10 **Good
Friday** see
back page

12 **Easter Day**
see back page



May

10 **50 years
of St Philip's
celebration
service p.11**

16 Tonbridge
Phil 7.30pm
St Peter & St
Paul

21 **Ascension
Day** service
10am St Peter
& St Paul

21-31
**Thy Kingdom
Come**

See website
for Thy
Kingdom
Come prayer
and events

July 27-30:
**HOLIDAY
CLUB**



Enquiries to
parish office
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24

More details
www.
tonbridgeparish
church.org.uk

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(SOLLA). EQ Investors is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

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 4-13 each week in term time
6.30pm Evening Service (Holy Communion 2nd Sundays)

Wednesdays:

10am Holy Communion

St Philip

Salisbury Road, TN10 4PA

Sundays: 10.30am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 3rd Sundays) and Sunday Club in term time

St Andrew

Hadlow Road, TN10 4LS

Sundays:

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

St Saviour

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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| CONTACT | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Parish Administration The Coach House Office, Church Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1HD | 770962 |
| Vicar The Rev'd Canon Mark Brown | 770962 |
| Curate The Rev'd Wendy Carr | 770962 X32 |
| Churchwardens Mike Seaman Adam Calvert | 07793 369735 770962 |
| 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 Emily Speed (Assistant) | 770962 X22 |
| Parish Treasurer Les Naylor | 07736 309200 |
| Perspectives Team Jane Mata (Chair), Tessa Szczepanik (Editor), Dick Longley, Aneta Van Bodegom, Jean Bowring, Morwenna Fernandez, Barry Stagg (Advertising) | 770962 |

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Website: www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk



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FEAST (Families Eating and Sharing Together)

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Good Friday 10th April:

| | | |
|------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 10am | Step into Good Friday for the whole family | <i>St Saviour</i> |
| 12noon-3pm | Silence and Songs around the cross of Christ | <i>St Peter & St Paul</i> |

Easter Day 12th April:

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5.45am | Sunrise Service | <i>St Peter & St Paul</i> |
| 8am | Holy Communion | <i>St Peter & St Paul</i> |
| 10am | Easter Joy for all ages | <i>St Peter & St Paul</i> |
| 10am | Family Holy Communion | <i>St Andrew & St Saviour</i> |
| 10.30am | Family Holy Communion | <i>St Philip</i> |
| 6.30pm | Easter Celebration with Communion | <i>St Peter & St Paul</i> |

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