

18th FEBRUARY



“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

Matthew 7:7



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

From the Wardens

Recruitment of our new Vicar - what's happening & who's involved in the selection process

Find out more [here](#)

From the Associate Vicar

Lent and seeking the Kingdom of God

Read Wendy's message [here](#)

Youth, Children & Families Ministry

Pancakes, prayer and the regular goings-on

Get all the info [here](#)

Parish Family News

Stories, angels, stones and more - Parish life is alive in lockdown

Discover more [here](#)

18TH FEBRUARY

WARDENS

ADAM CALVERT & PAUL WHITE

Recruitment of our new Vicar

You probably won't be surprised to learn that the Church of England has a very formal process for the recruitment of vicars which is set out in Ecclesiastical Law. In some respects, this process has all the hallmarks of conventional recruitment, such as advertising the position, shortlisting applications and selection interviews. However, the key difference is that in this case we are trying to identify the person who is being called to serve in this Parish – hence it is based on prayer and reflection on the part of everyone involved.

Thank you for your responses to the questions which we sent out with the last newsletter. They are being collated so that we can build up a picture of the person whom you feel would be best suited to serve in the Parish. As well as our individual prayers, prayer meetings specifically about our choice of a new Vicar have now started and we would encourage you to join them.

We will update you about progress in the selection process. Meanwhile here is a brief outline of who and what is involved:

Selection panel

The Parish is one of three parties involved in the selection panel – the other two being the Patron (CPAS) and the Diocese. Each party has a slightly different role. A successful appointment is the result of collaboration and agreement between the three parties.

Parish Profile

Before advertising the position, the PCC prepares a detailed profile. Essentially, this is a document that describes the life of the Parish, our needs, our traditions, and who we are looking for as our next Vicar.

It has two crucial functions. Firstly, it gives prospective candidates enough information to help them discern if God is calling them to this position. Secondly, it is the framework which helps the selection panel decide which person they sense God is calling. We are currently preparing the profile and will publish it via our website following approval by the PCC.

Parish Representatives

Having issued the profile and advertisement, the day to day involvement of the Parish in the recruitment process will become the responsibility of two representatives. They will be working with CPAS and the Diocese to answer queries about the Parish, review and shortlist applications, conduct interviews and make the selection on behalf of us all. The PCC is currently considering who can best serve as our two representatives. We will let you know who our representatives are in due course.

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ASSOCIATE VICAR

REV'D WENDY CARR

**“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.” - Matthew 7:7**

We are now in the season of Lent, travelling together from Ash Wednesday through to Easter. This season is often associated with giving something up. I wonder how many of us use it as an opportune moment to kick start that much delayed post-Christmas diet by giving up chocolate or another of our favourite treats? Is this what Lent is about? Giving up what we enjoy and struggling through until we can have it again? Are there times where the focus becomes more on what we have given up rather than going deeper with God?

This Lent I would like to encourage us to think about this season being a refocusing of our minds on Jesus, taking the time to develop patterns which deepen our faith, deepening our relationship with Jesus. The Bible says, ‘seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,’ Matthew 6:33. Seeking is an action, a discipline, a looking out from ourselves, it is not inactive or passive.

When we meet a new friend or start a new relationship, we spend time getting to know them, setting aside other things in order to put them first - we invest time in the other. Relationships that thrive continue to make that a priority! So often our lives fill up with other things. Perhaps it is like that for you today, home-schooling or work, maybe something else. Is it that you are juggling so many balls at the moment that the idea of fitting something else in seems impossible? Or perhaps you are not time pressured but focusing on Jesus is feeling like a challenge? Jesus has already invested so much in us through giving up his life on the cross.

Maybe you are starting on a journey with Jesus, or perhaps you have known him for years but long to go deeper. May you know that Lent is not to be a season of burden, but instead a season in which to journey closer to Jesus, to refocus our minds from all that distracts us and enable us to lift our eyes to the one who longs to free us from all that burdens us. What will seeking God look like for you this Lent?

LEADERS & PREACHERS AT OUR 10AM ONLINE SERVICES

Date	Leader	Preacher	Date	Leader	Preacher
21st Feb	Sally Musson	Rev'd Anthony Hammill	14th Mar	Rev'd Wendy Carr	Ali Harber
28th Feb	Rev'd Wendy Carr	Rev'd Chris Wright	21st Mar	Sally Musson	Rev'd Wendy Carr
7th Mar	Andy Kirkpatrick	Rev'd Chris Wright	28th Mar	Rev'd Wendy Carr	Devon Francis

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YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY

A flipping success (and other non pancake related things)

Hello! As you heard in our previous News From The Parish, we had a virtual Pancake Party and it was great fun. It is still up on YouTube if you want to take a look and the activity sheet is available to download on the website.

In other news, you may have heard about the 'Prayer for the Nation' campaign. We have been joining in with primary and secondary school age prayer prompts on our Facebook page. There is a new one each week so head over there if you haven't already.



Also on the Facebook page is a weekly checklist of things to do and spot during your daily exercise.

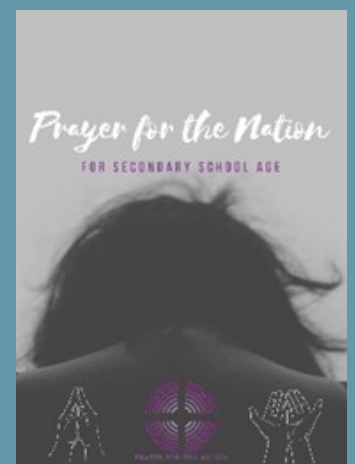
From spotting blue woolly hats to making a drumkit out of some sticks, there are fun things for all ages. Maybe have some healthy competition with your neighbours to see who can check off the whole list first!



So what's been going on in our regular groups? Grub has started its 8-session study on Women in the Bible. Lots of fun is being had at Refresh with an Indiana Jones virtual film night and a little craft session as well. Sunday Club is continuing to travel through the Gospels, and those in S.O.S. are coming up with great thoughts and ideas during the Christian Lifestyle series. We could learn a thing or two from them!

We know so many of you keep our youth and children in your prayers so here are some prayer points to focus on:

- Those waiting to hear about post A-level placements.
- Protection over the mental health of our young people during this lockdown.
- Those with friends and family who are unwell.
- Provision of resources and support to those who need it.
- More volunteers to join the different ministry teams.



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PARISH FAMILY NEWS

A POT POURRI OF NEWS

This is the place to share news and Sally is waiting, in hopeful anticipation, to receive news from you out there in the Parish.



Hopefully you are engaging with an activity for Lent – be it the National Church's #LiveLent campaign 'God's Story, Our Story' based on 'Living His Story' by Hannah Steel or the Parish initiative to undertake 40 Acts of Kindness or Prayer – one each day during Lent. A list of suggestions is available [here](#).

The Living Stones initiative is going well with six groups meeting regularly (in various ways but not in person!) for fellowship. It's never too late to join in. For more info click [here](#).

Remember those knitted angels? Dig those needles out again and knit some spring flowers for Easter - no specific pattern - whatever takes your fancy. We have ideas for them and will let you know more in the next newsletter.

Thank you for all the ongoing prayer for the staff team, the Churchwardens and the Parish at this time. A new prayer group has been established specifically to pray for the appointment process for a new Vicar. It will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. For further details and/or a Zoom invite please contact Melissa Lavin at melissa@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk.



Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of parishioners who have gone to be with the Lord including:

Don Bridger, 87, died on 25th January 2021

Maureen Goff, 100, died on 25th January 2021

David Moyler, 73, died on 31st January 2021

Also Denise Miller, 85, died on 6th February 2021. Latterly Denise had been living in Hertfordshire but was previously a longstanding and active member of the Parish.

For any further information on any of the above please contact Sally Musson in the first instance mussionsally@btinternet.com (01732 838411)

The World Day of Prayer (Friday 5th March) has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu. Although there can be no local in-church service this year, the Parish Wednesday Reflection on 3rd March will focus on this.

Margaret Pope has moved from Hawkhurst House Care Home to Birkin Lodge Tunbridge Wells. Doris Jones is now resident in Tonbridge House Care Home.