

perspectives

In this issue:

- Church Online
- Easter - Bigger Picture
- Kondoa, Tanzania
- Getting Outdoors
- Parish Information





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3	Welcome from Wendy Carr
4	My Faith and My Role in the Community: Jacqui Kidson
5	Our Church...Online
6 - 7	How Can You Get Outdoors?
8	Kith 'n' Kin
8	Tonbridge Canoe Club
9	Easter... the Bigger Picture
10	Easter Fun!
11	Mission Partner: High Hopes
12	Kondoa, Tanzania
13	Living Stones
14	Parish Information

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:

saintphilips@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
or Perspectives Editorial Team,
The Coach House, Church Street,
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

Easter is traditionally the season of new life, of birth and of growth. The phrase **'Spring has sprung'** implies there is a certain amount of energy involved in the coming of spring. Perhaps seeing the blossom on the trees, the bulbs emerging from the ground, the lambs bouncing round the fields and yellow chicks breaking out of their shells reinvigorates and re-energises you after a long winter. Spring cleaning certainly involves an energetic workout!



Yet in the Church year this season travels through some dark days before we awake excitedly early on Easter morning to celebrate the risen Christ. We cannot experience the risen Christ without first experiencing His death on the Cross.

Many people experienced very difficult times during this past year. It was just before Easter last year that the church buildings were closed for public worship for the first time. As I write this, we wait in hope for better news that may enable us to open again safely in time for Easter 2021.

We are all too aware that individual lives have been changed, sometimes very significantly and dramatically, through the effects of Covid-19: loss of a loved one, loss of employment, challenges in education and relationships, effects globally and on local businesses.

Christians often speak of the Hope that comes from trusting in Jesus Christ, where they share with Him the dark times of life and also find the strength, through Him, to see the Hope which lies before them.

My prayer this Easter time is that you experience the new life that Jesus can bring, that the strength you find in Him reinvigorates and re-energises you to enjoy this season of Easter and a Spring that has indeed sprung!

Blessings,

*The Rev'd Wendy Carr
Associate Vicar*



Jacqui Kidson

Working for Guides, Feast and Sunday Club makes Jacqui Kidson well known in town and church.

We asked her a bit about herself...

I am married to Robert, who is also a member of St Peter and St Paul. We have three adult children, a son and two daughters – Nicholas, Alexandra and Lucinda. Just to add to a noisy household, we have three cats and a Sprollie Jack dog named Flossie.

I moved to Tonbridge in 1980, having spent two years in the Philippines. Living and working overseas was a wonderful experience.

How and when did you become a Christian?

I became a Christian as a young teenager, having been introduced to my local church as a Brownie. The links between the church, at that point, and the uniformed groups were very strong. I attended all the requisite church parades, but as I approached young adulthood I felt a deep yearning to explore my Christian faith. After attending Confirmation classes I proudly wore my Ranger uniform at the Confirmation service.

In what ways did these years influence your life journey?

It was largely through my role as a young Sunday School teacher that I decided on a teaching career. A letter of introduction from my vicar helped secure my first teaching post in the Philippines. More recently my teaching skills were put to good use through my involvement in Beanstalk – a charity which supports literacy in school.

How and when did you become involved in Guiding locally and Feast Fresh?

I joined the 13th Tonbridge Guides in 1980 having moved to Higham Wood from abroad. We are still going strong although Zoom meetings have become the norm. I also support Young Leaders through a leadership programme in the Tonbridge guiding division. My connection with FEAST FRESH, evolved from FEAST, after COVID prohibited any further family lunches.

How do you like to relax?

I need to work at that! I enjoy walking, gardening, and reading. Sometimes I enjoy a craft challenge – particularly if I am helping Guides with a new craft activity. My children also introduced me, over lockdown, to a variety of podcasts, which gave me something to enjoy quietly.

Describe your house during lockdown?

Hectic! A week before the Summer lockdown my family decided to return to Hadlow. There was never a dull moment. We enjoyed the beautiful Hadlow countryside, quiz evenings, themed suppers and countless table tennis tournaments. During that period, Robert and I also undertook food deliveries on behalf of FEAST. Zoom helped me communicate with all of my church friends and church related activities and online church services were extremely effective in keeping us in touch with the church family and our faith.

Thank you for your time!

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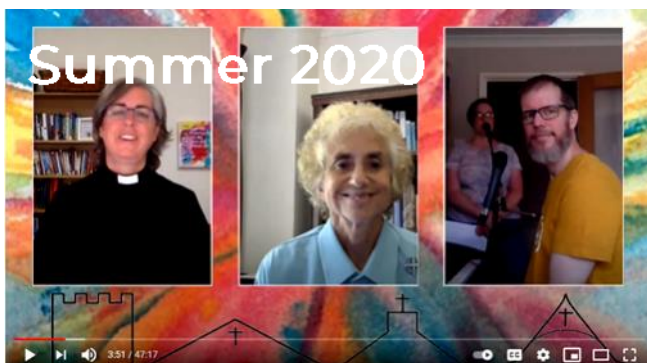
What is an ONLINE SERVICE?

NOT just a repeat of what would have been in church!
Here's a look at how our YouTube services have evolved
from a sudden beginning 12 months ago,
and where we hope to go next.



Sunday Service - 22nd March 2020

Sudden lockdown! A pared-down service filmed in church, from the balcony, brings a slight feel of normality.



No access to churches! We move into people's gardens, studies and living rooms. Suddenly it's all more intimate. But the message gets through. All credit to the audio-visual team, blending all this together for a seamless YouTube broadcast!

Spring and Summer: services include interviews around the town; stories, animations, prayers outdoors; music from families, groups and soloists. Words are added on screen for the hymns.

July: Services in church resume, but YouTube viewings hold up.

September 2020: Major setback when an overloaded computer crashes on a Friday...

Can the service be put together? The team manages, and a new computer supports 4 cameras, bringing a sense of closeness and belonging to viewers who are housebound or scattered around the world.



Tier 4 restrictions, and a restaged multimedia Nativity service from across several homes!



What's next?

Thanks to Andy Gibb (pictured left) and the team, YouTube services will continue, bringing an element of real church and real life, some fun, togetherness, meaning and direction.

Join our growing following and experience an **ONLINE SERVICE** from the comfort of your own home without any pressure to sing or say anything at all! You will receive a warm welcome from the team!

Services on YouTube **TonParishChuchYT**
Sundays at 10:00am and 6.30pm
Wednesdays at 10:00am

See page 14 for YouTube Sunday Club for 4-11 years.

The days are lengthening, How Can you



Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers

welcomes new members this Spring

Members of Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers are preparing to stride out again when lockdown restrictions are eased. The Group will offer circular routes of around 5-6 miles each Sunday, often with

additional mid-week walks. The pace is moderate, about two miles an hour, allowing for hills, stiles and gates to be negotiated, as well as a half-way (bring your own) refreshment break.

During a year of stop-start rambling in 2020, the Group reformatted its walks (within Ramblers and government guidelines) by limiting each group of walkers to a maximum of nine. For popular walks, we had several groups starting at intervals, from the same location. The Kent countryside is always a bonus on our walks, which are usually within Tonbridge and Malling or neighbouring areas.

Neil Whittall (*pictured right*) leads the group and is supported by members who plan and lead walks, ensuring a variety of locations and terrain.

Neil says "Feedback from members who walked with us in 2020 was very positive, thus confirming the benefits, for both mental and physical health, of getting out into the beautiful countryside, where we are fortunate to live".

We're always pleased to hear from potential new members who'd like to try a walk with us.

You can find out more at
www.tonbridgeandmalligramblers.org.uk
or by emailing
info@tonbridgeandmalligramblers.org.uk



... and run by our own Parish:

Men's Walking Group



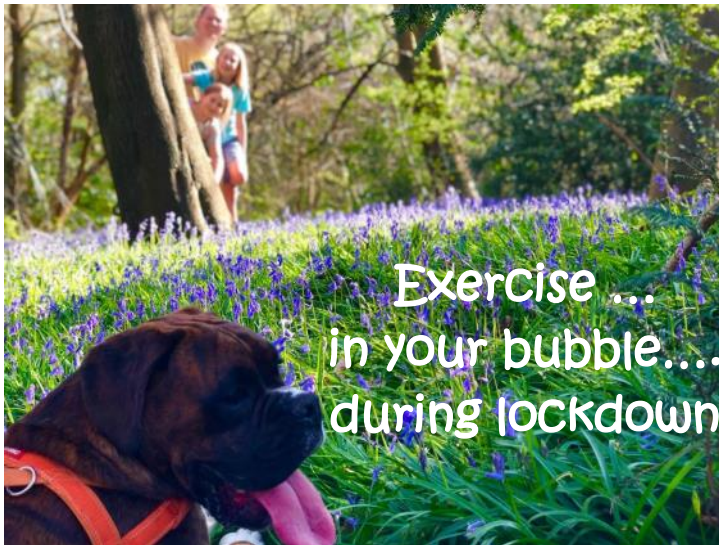
"Walking with the other guys has proved a real bonus" says Les Naylor. "The group started four years ago as a way of training to do the Three Peaks Challenge, which we completed in 2018. Since then we have walked the Pilgrims Way, from Winchester to Canterbury, and the Wealdway, from Gravesend to Eastbourne, in stages of 10 to 15 miles over a number of Saturdays. We have also had weekends away in the Yorkshire Dales and the Brecon Beacons.

In 'normal' times we meet on the first Saturday of the month and do a 5 to 6 hour walk. In the current lockdown, we are just walking in pairs each week, on shorter walks. The group has provided a great means of meeting up with non-church-goers, who share our enjoyment of walking. As we get to know them, we have opportunity not only to enjoy nature, but to talk about our faith and some of life's challenges".

If you wish to join us, or know of someone who is keen to get out there for regular walks, please contact: les@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk



the trees are budding... get outdoors ?



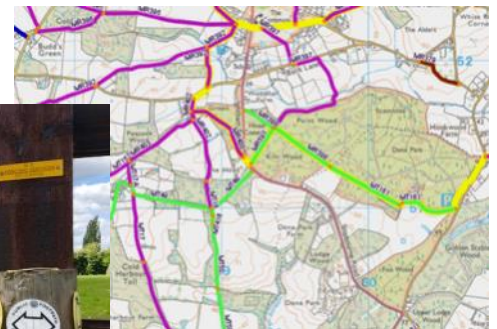
So how did we keep our little family positive and exercised? We were exploring our beautiful local countryside, thanks to the genius KCC footpaths website (Public Rights of Way Map - Kent). We managed to create loads of walks & bike rides to appreciate what's on our doorstep.

You could say we had a little adventure every time we went out and we were amazed by the beautiful nature around us. Now we are really looking forward to the end of the lockdown/restrictions to be able to venture to new areas, using this great planning tool.

Aneta van Bodegom

This sentence wouldn't have made any sense to us before Spring 2020... And yet - a year on and we all experienced the unthinkable - we were wearing face masks, kept all sorts of 'distances', cancelled our holidays and stopped planning our lives...

It is good to hear some positive stories to offset the tough reality. And to look at some beautiful photos of nature, which just continues regardless.



HEALTH WALKS IN TONBRIDGE & MALLING

Health Walks

Starting as soon as we can, short walks of 60-90 minutes for ANYONE! We will be running these from St Philip's church on Saturday mornings, in conjunction with TMBC as part of their Health Walks series.

When our popular Open House can reopen, you'll also be able to have a coffee on your return!

Please contact

saintphilips@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

to check starting date, times, and booking details for walks, and see www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/community-and-living/walking/health-walks for other walks in the series.





Kith 'n' Kin is a Community Interest Company (CIC) set up to support parents and carers whose child is violent and abusive to them. You may not have heard about this problem before.

Many parents and siblings suffer daily trauma, in silence, not knowing where to turn to for help, afraid of being judged and of the consequences. This silence can lead to lack of safety, social isolation, shame and mental health difficulties.

Kith 'n' Kin offers a two part programme of support, for parents, facilitated by qualified therapists. Initially tackling isolation by **bringing together these parents** to share experiences, support each other, learn de-escalation techniques, self-care and alternative parenting approaches, while having opportunities to **meet and talk** to helpful agencies, such as Police services, Domestic Abuse Charities, or CAMHS. Parents experience an increase in well-being, reduction in stress and an improvement in their relationship with their child.

This leaves parents in a good position to embark on the second part of the programme, the Non Violent Resistance parenting programme, an approach developed by an Israeli family therapist, Haim Omer. He was inspired to help families where an aggressive or abusive young person did not want to have individual therapy, and parents were left unsupported. His model is based on the courageous and peaceful struggle against oppression and injustice, demonstrated by Ghandi and Mandela.

They achieved great things without resorting to violence. Non Violent Resistance parenting focuses on **re-building the parent child relationship, learning self-care, building a strong support network** for families and clear communication about what is acceptable. One of the NVR mottos is "Connection before Correction".

Starting locally, Kith 'n' Kin hopes to expand to offer wider regional support, developing in an organic way with contacts in schools, doctors' surgeries, youth groups, social services etc.

You may be familiar with the old fashioned phrase Kith and Kin meaning close friends/neighbours and family. We chose this name to express the value of solidarity between family and community, expressed in the African saying **'It takes a village to raise a child'**. If you would like to support us, or if you would like our support, we look forward to hearing from you.

Helen Genty (07815442408)
Frances Friswell (07904061977)
www.kithnkin.org

Tonbridge Canoe Club



For many of us the best thing about living in and around Tonbridge is the river. Have you ever thought about just how different our town and the surrounding area might look from on the water rather than walking around?

Tonbridge Canoe Club has been based in the middle of the town since 1977. During the summer you can see us every Saturday morning messing around in front of the Castle or paddling up towards the Leigh Barrier or disappearing under Cannon Lane Bridge out into the countryside.

The club caters for all sorts of paddlers, from those who just enjoy an occasional paddle in the company of others to the tourer's who get out and about all over the country in normal times and the racers, both fast and not so fast, who enjoy

keeping fit and competing in marathons and sprint events.

We run training courses during the summer, April to September, aiming to take a complete novice to being a safe and competent paddler capable of getting out on the river safely. During 2020, between lockdowns, we trained some 60 plus novices from 12 to 79 years of age!

When the spring comes and hopefully we are all able to get out and about, why not come and find us or contact our membership secretary at: **membership@tonbridgecanoeclub.org.uk** You too could find the enjoyment of escaping the world and messing about on the river in our lovely garden town.

Rob Passmore



THE BIGGER PICTURE

I have a photograph of my son's first Easter. It shows a 3-week-old baby in a car seat placed beneath a large wooden Cross adorned with fresh flowers.

A picture of serenity and new life - the baby sleeping beneath the bright spring colours of freshly cut flowers. However, this captured moment only tells part of the story. I am sure many families will treasure those picture-perfect moments, but if you expand the frame a couple of hours either way the story is something quite different! Now the picture includes the struggle of getting a new-born ready to leave the house, the sleepless nights and the colic.

The Cross in this picture also showed only part of its story; this Cross was heavy, was wooden with splinters, this Cross had been carried by several people a few days before on Good Friday for a solemn procession through the high-street. This Cross had stood bare and alone on Easter Saturday before being decorated by many hands representing new life in flowers. The Cross represents the events that had happened at Calvary some 2000 years before.

This past year from Easter to Easter we have experienced life like never before. We have each had a Covid journey experience. The pandemic has shaped many individual stories within the bigger picture of the whole world's experience.

Some stories we have seen and shared, and others have been very personal.

On that first Easter the Bible tells us of the experiences of some who were with Jesus, some who had walked through His 3-year ministry with Him, seen Him perform miracles, seen Him be put to trial, seen Him die, the suffering of His own mother who loved Him dearly and the cold rejection of those who hated Him.

We can only see part of the picture, we can only sense part of the emotions felt. Still, these accounts invite us into an event which changed the world, an event which changed individual lives and still does daily, an event which shows us how much God loved this broken world and still does, an event which tells us that God loves each of us so much that He sent His only Son to die for us.

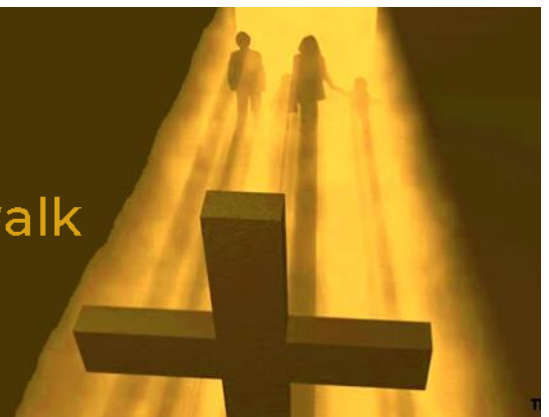
When I think back to that first Easter for my son, I am reminded that the Jesus, who rose again that first Easter, whose new life was represented on that Cross in flowers, knew of our struggles, knew of the realities of life and longed to walk with this little individual and his family through them all.

This is an invitation for all, an invitation into something so amazing, so life changing from a God who longs to transform lives.

Rev'd Wendy Carr

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said:

**I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk
in darkness, but will have
the light of life.**



EASTER FUN!

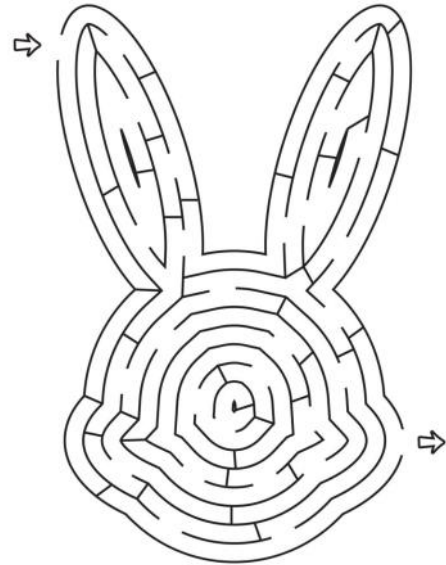
Here are some fun Easter themed activities for you to have a go at and challenges to test your memory.

Can you find the 6 Easter words hidden in the grid?

B	u	r	A	l	y	d	E
u	m	o	t	i	S	n	g
n	D	n	E	d	r	a	g
n	r	u	n	w	e	L	O
y	a	D	n	u	s	S	t
K	p	c	o	f	a	D	h
i	h	g	B	E	g	i	y
X	e	n	v	m	l	u	p

Answers at bottom of page

Can you make it through the maze?

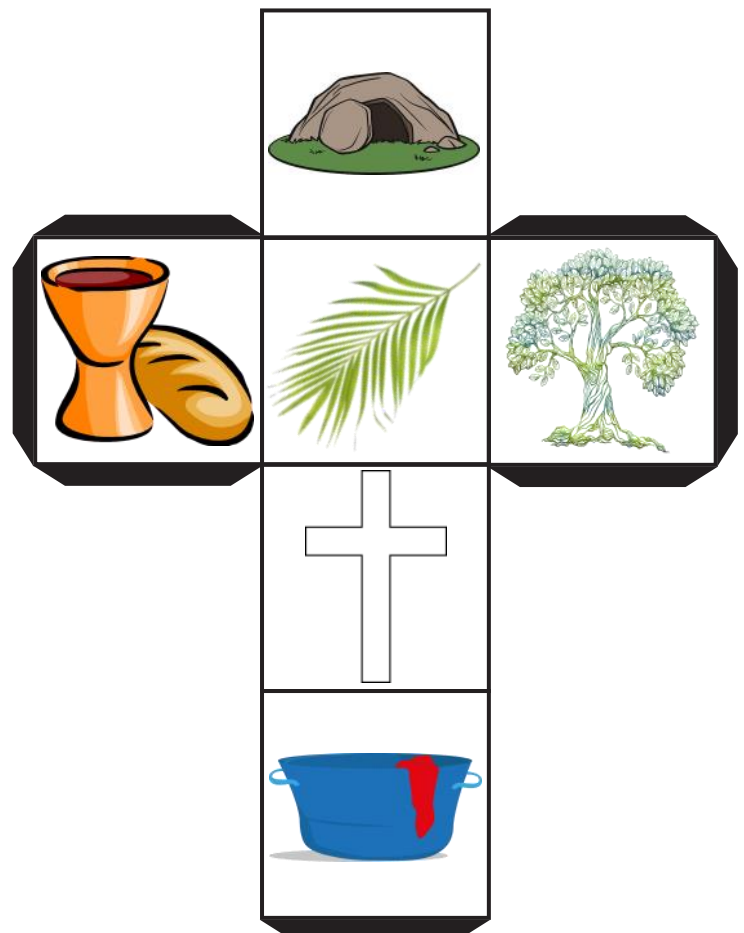


EASTER STORY CUBE

The pictures on this cross represent different parts of the Easter story. Why not cut out the cross, make it into a cube and try rolling it and telling a different part of the story. Below are some clues to where you can find what each picture refers to.

- Bread & wine - Mark 14:12-25
- Palm branch - Matthew 21:1-11
- Cross - John 19:15-18
- Olive tree - Luke 22:39-46
- Empty tomb - Mark 16:1-8
- Basin & towel - John 13:1-17

Contact:
Youth & Children's Minister
Andy Page
Tel: 01732 770962 ext: 22



Wordsearch answers: Bonnet, Bunny, Egg, Garden, Island, Sunday

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50 start school in Kondoa, Tanzania

From the initial vision of a Pre-Primary and Primary School in Kondoa in 1999, the project has come a long way!

Funding from St. Peter & St. Paul Parish, Tonbridge began in 2013, with the fence built and first bricks made in 2014. Bishop James Longstaff, from Rochester Diocese, joined Bishop Given Gaula, of Kondoa, to lay the foundation stones in August, 2016. The School was officially opened in October 2018, with lessons for the thirty pupils commencing in early 2019. That year seventeen young people and leaders from our Tonbridge Parish visited to teach our Holiday Club themes to the Kondoa School children.

The School consists of six classrooms, an administration block, a Head-Teacher's House and an unfinished dormitory block. There are three English-speaking teachers, Head-Teacher

The town where 80% are Muslim ... the school will accept pupils of all faiths, rich or poor...

Conjester Benjamin, Teachers Careem and Emabrenda; plus a Swahili Teacher, Melina.

The School is part of the Anglican Diocese of Kondoa, and is unique in that it is English and Swahili-speaking.

There is a Christian ethos, in a town where 80% are Muslim; yet the School will accept pupils of all faiths, rich or poor.

The Government Registration of the School met an unfortunate administration delay, but was finally achieved in early 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic began. Mercifully, the School has been able to function for most of 2020, with pupil numbers rising to about fifty. The financial impact of the COVID crisis on the poor Kondoa community has, however, been far greater. Many cannot afford the £300 per year school fee. An appeal has therefore been launched to support the School by providing half the school fee for



St. Peter & St. Paul Pre-Primary & Primary School, Kondoa (looking East) - School buildings on the left (in yellow + brown roof), Head-Teacher's house in the centre (silver roof), and future dormitories on the right (brown roof)



Kondoa School: Pupils, Teachers and Youth Team from St. Peter & St. Paul's, Tonbridge - August 2019

each child in 2021.

With target numbers of sixty Standard One Primary and thirty Pre-Primary pupils, £13,500 needs to be raised. Happily, we were able to send a first instalment of £7,000 (enough for 45 pupils) before Christmas and have hopes of raising the remainder required. Thank you all for your continued, generous support!

Many cannot afford the £300 per year school fee

Bishop Given has begun construction of the Anglican Cathedral of Kondoa, St. Paul's, which will affirm the Christian mission and out-reach of the school.

Peter Ruxton



Living Stones

Since the start of the pandemic, last March, we have been contacting many people across the parish with phone calls and other support. The purpose has been to combat the isolation of lockdown and separation from community. To follow up on these connections, we are inviting anyone interested, to join a Living Stones group. These are usually six people

meeting every couple of weeks, for about half an hour, on zoom or shared phone calls. The idea is to stay connected, grow in faith, and share in the life of the parish.

If you would like to join a Living Stones group, do contact the Parish Office by email:

helpc19@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

or contact Jane Higgs at the Parish Office:
01732 770662 Ext 24

John Schluter

You may not see too many around Tonbridge (in Kent we seem to prefer hedges), but you will probably have come across stone walls round fields in other parts of the country. The stones look anything, but living. A passage in the New Testament refers to members of the church as 'Living Stones', being built together into a new spiritual house. It may sound like a contradiction in terms, but it pictures people being connected, people in community for a shared purpose.

Unable in recent months to meet together, in our building, it has been an opportune time to be thinking about being Living Stones!

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Youth, Children and Families

Sunday Club (ages 4-11)
SOS (11-14)
GRUB and Refresh (14-18)
Meeting weekly on Zoom - see Facebook page:
@ycfTonParishChurch

Get Involved

Men and Women's ministry
Under 1's and carers: Tiny Acorns
Preschool and carers: Teddies
Prayer gatherings; Home Groups
Living Stones

Plus hospitality, when we can open, at:
Open House (Saturdays, St Philip)
Coffee Lounge (Daily, St Peter & St Paul)
Coffee Break (Mondays, St Saviour)
Craft groups (St Peter & St Paul)

Are the groups online? Or in person?
Contact parish office 01732 770962 ext 24,
and see website for details

Website and social media:

www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

Facebook: @TonParishChurch

YouTube: www.bit.ly/TonParishChurchYT

Services

Regular weekly online services on our
YouTube channel
www.bit.ly/TonParishChurchYT

Sundays at 10am
Sundays at 6.30pm
Wednesday reflection 10am

Easter services on back page;
see website for any additional events

RECEIVE

perspectives

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Parish Administration

The Coach House Office, Church Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1HD (01732) 770962 ext 25

Associate Vicar

The Rev'd Wendy Carr 770962 ext 32

Churchwardens

Adam Calvert 07793 369735
Paul White 770962

PA & Finance Yolanda Roberts 770962 ext 25

Parish Administrator Jane Higgs 770962 ext 24

St Philip's Administrator Jane Mata 352416

Youth and Children's Minister

Andy Page 770962 ext 22
Emily Speed (Assistant)

Parish Treasurer Les Naylor 07736 309200

Licensed Lay Reader Sally Musson 838411

Perspectives Team

John Schluter (Chair), Jane Mata, Olivia Brown (Advertising), Judy Adam, Dick Longley, Aneta Van Bodegom, Jean Bowring, Morwenna Fernandez, Kerry Reichenmiller, Jenny Macpherson, Tom James 770962 ext 24

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Musical Bumps
Tonbridge & Sevenoaks

Our weekday classes for 0-4 years are usually held at the Parish Church.

At the time of writing, we are having fun with the full timetable taking place via zoom online!

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

New families are always welcome to trial a class

margaret.lewin@musicalbumps.com
07736 244142

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US

YouTube: TonParishChurchYT



Maundy Thursday 1st April: 7.30pm

Good Friday 2nd April: 3pm

Easter Day 4th April: 10am Easter Day service

6.30pm Evening Reflection

Website: www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk