

# perspectives

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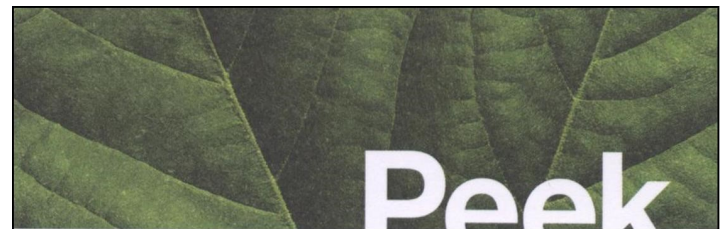
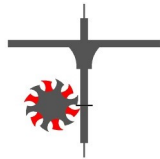
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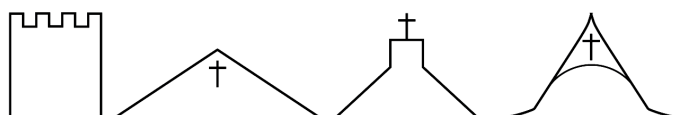
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If you have any comments or questions, would like to make any contribution to the next edition of Perspectives or would like to receive this magazine on a quarterly basis please contact the editorial team via:

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 The Coach House, Church Street,  
 Tonbridge, TN9 1HD  
 tel.no: 01732 770962 extension 24



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

The Perspectives logo on the front cover represents the four churches united in sharing God's love.

Dear Friends

As restrictions are lifted and we begin to live in a new normal, many will welcome the re-opening of theatres. Actors rehearsing their scripts, dancers limbering up, singers warming up their vocal cords, all before the curtains open to reveal the stage as music fills the air and the performing arts begin to heal!



With a sense of anticipation and excitement, and I am sure many tears of joy, they will welcome audiences back. How many of us look forward to going, to soak up the amazing atmosphere created for our pleasure?

September will bring new beginnings for many, not just for theatres: new terms, a new school or university, a change of roles. Perhaps we all feel the need to limber up, warm up and step out again where we have been restricted for so long. Are you raring to go or is it with some trepidation you peek around the curtain to the wider world outside?

While the wonderful world of the theatre is a performance we are invited to watch, our lives are to be lived as participators, interacting with others, sharing the highs and lows of life together. We see this lived out in our communities and families, through relationship and community.

Our churches' aim is to reflect this whole life participation as we welcome people to be a part of the family of Christ. We are alive and active in our town, in our church buildings and beyond.

We look forward to joining with you as the curtain is pulled back and we limber up for life in the new normal.

Blessings

*The Rev'd Wendy Carr*  
 Associate Vicar



## The Ruxtons

*Peter and Hilary Ruxton have been living and working as members of our parish for the last 18 years. Read on to discover more of their life together*

### *Tell us a little about yourselves?*

The 'Ruxtons' came to Tonbridge as a family of four – we are now just two – but we soon move to the West Country to become seven! Both Will and Sarah, our children, live in Cheltenham with their partners, Eliza and Tim. Plus, we have a new granddaughter, Imogen, via Sarah and Tim. We are African at heart – the magnetic pull of our family is too strong – we move to the Cotswolds in October this year.

Hilary and I were teenage sweethearts! We met in the youth group of our parents' United Reformed Church, Brighthelm, in Brighton. We then went our separate ways: Hilary to Nottingham and then on to The Bahamas to teach – going west; and Peter, to Leeds University and then Australia as an Exploration Geologist – going both west and east (depending on which way round you go)! We re-met in Cairns, Australia, on the Great Barrier Reef. After a frenetic international relationship,

we married in the UK, but were soon living firstly in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, then moving to Australia: Kalgoorlie (adding Will), Darwin (adding Sarah) and finally Brisbane.

We returned to the UK with two young children, residing briefly in Saltdean and then Otford, before settling for 18 years in Tonbridge – commutable to London and near a wide range of schooling options.

### *What led you to St. Peter & St. Paul, Tonbridge?*

Hilary and I were re-Confirmed Anglicans together on Easter Day 1990 in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, and have since dedicated our lives to our faith and Christian journey, together. Naturally, when we came to Tonbridge, it was to the Anglican Church we turned. We joined in at St. Peter & St. Paul at a difficult time spiritually. The Parish went into interregnum and Mark Brown and family arrived to re-build.

I picked up a copy of 'Perspectives' the other day and realised that it was Issue 51. Now my maths is not the best, but with four issues a year, that means that the 'Perspectives' magazine is now over ten years old! It is a huge achievement to have kept this Parish Outreach magazine going for so long – well done to all involved!

I remember the early days. We were a small band led by our Editor-in-Chief David Heyes, who did a fantastic job, not only rounding us up, ensuring a good standard of copy, but also in encouraging folk to write interesting articles.

Many good people have been involved over the years, with quite a few tasks and challenges to be met to ready each edition.

My role was Distribution. Our vision was to deliver one copy of the magazine through every door in the wider Parish at least once a year. This way we could ensure that all in the Parish knew that somebody cared and that God is there for them too.

I got to know the streets of north Tonbridge very well as Hilary and I delivered most of the ~2,000 magazines for the first year or two.

'Perspectives' is an immense outreach to the community, so well done to all those involved in 'carrying the baton' today!

May God richly bless you for your hard work and service!!

*Peter Ruxton*

**'PERSPECTIVES'**  
**10 Years Old!!!**

## *Tell us a little about your Church life?*

Initially Peter was on the PCC and a Deputy Warden, before trying to encourage young people via 'Soul Survivor' to lead and excel in the music group. Hilary's focus was always with the young people, and she quickly helped regenerate the Sunday School, then supported SOS and more recently Refresh. She was asked to take on a three-year stint as Church Warden, bringing a different style to the job, the focus on relationship, people-first, mixed with strong encouragement and compassion.

One of our greatest joys has been the growing relationship with our Brothers and Sisters in Kondo, Tanzania. To be able to empathize and build relationships with those who have nothing materially, yet many things spiritually, has changed our lives. We were immensely privileged to have been able to help introduce a number of young people to Kondo through three trips over the years. The links we have built as a Parish with Kondo will never die, but will carry on into the next life; indeed, the eternal link is already established.

Latterly, our faiths have deepened, principally through the Diocesan "Closer" journey with Susanne Carlsson, but also through Parish-organised 'Quiet Days'. We both now journey with the 'Mystics', Peter more formally through an MA in Christian Spirituality at Sarum College, Salisbury.

## *Tell us about Hilary's artistic talents?*

Hilary was born creative, spontaneous and lively – very much like her mother Norma – a mantle that has been taken on by our daughter Sarah (very much from the Wadman gene-pool, not the Ruxton-side!). Hilary began working with stained glass some eight to nine years ago, learning and working through Adult Education in Tonbridge.

She entered the International Stevens Competition in London winning her first commissioned piece, but has also designed and built pieces for homes and businesses, as well as fixing damaged stained-glass windows in our churches!

## *How do you relax?*

For Peter, bird watching, Sky sports, a good movie, a mellow glass of Rioja, and hovering (with intent) over a BBQ.

For Hilary, a hot bath with bubbles (both scented and quaffable), walks in nature, good Film dramas and swimming laps.

*Thank you for your time.*

## The Gulf Stream

A Glass Installation for the  
Proton Beam Therapy Unit  
University College Hospital London



*This Glass Art work was finally installed last week in the Waiting Room for patients as they undergo treatment for complex cancers - especially children.*

This Glass Project began early in 2019, after winning the commission through an International Glass Competition organised by the Worshipful Company of Glaziers in London.

It was my first commercial commission in stained glass, So a very deep plunge into very deep water!

The challenge has been so much more than designing and making glass: hospital site visits, liaising with construction at the NHS, finding and accessing large kilns to take kilos of fused glass, sourcing and transporting large amounts of glass safely, managing a budget, tapping into professional glass advice – and all through the isolation of lockdown.

When the task overwhelmed me all I could say was, 'I can't do this Lord, but You Can – here I am – show me and equip me.'

The most unexpected highlight of almost 3 years' work has been the profound joy in the gift of creativity, quietly working in the home studio, praying and meditating over the construction and ideas – many times it has been the most beautiful place of peace, solitude, trust and growth.

I eagerly await feedback from the Radiography Department at the London hospital as families and patients going through the toughest moments of their lives, sit and wait alongside The Gulf Stream – a Journey in Nature with a message of Hope. May God pour on them an abundance of peace and healing hope.  
Amen!

*Hilary Ruxton*



In the “olden days” (that means pre-Covid!) when out and about with my Brownie unit or when dashing out the office to get to meetings on time, I would often hear, ‘Oh, I used to be a Brownie, I loved it!’ The good news is that Brownies, along with all the other sections of Girlguiding, is still thriving in Tonbridge and girls (and leaders) still love it, so why not come and join the fun?!

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK, with over 320,000 members supported by over 80,000 amazing volunteers. We give girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build great friendships, gain valuable life skills, build their confidence and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities.

In Tonbridge we have active Rainbow (5-7yrs), Brownie (7-10yrs), Guide (10-14yrs) & Ranger (14-18yrs) units. Although we often meet in the various church buildings within the town, we are open to girls and leaders of all faiths or none, from all backgrounds and all abilities.

We know that the lives of girls now are very different from those of earlier generations, and we have changed as their lives have changed. The uniforms are no longer long skirts and wide-brimmed hats! In the last 18 months units have even taken to the virtual world of Zoom, and needless to say, the girls were often more clued-up than their leaders, my Brownies frequently reminding me how to adjust the settings.



All sections in Tonbridge were able to keep going throughout all the lockdowns. Girls continued to



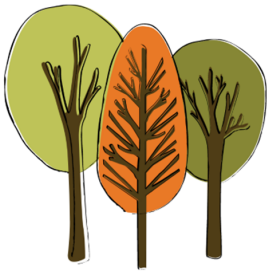
complete badges, challenges and awards. We’ve had virtual sleep-overs, Zoom breakfasts, socially-distanced BBQ’s, many different ways of meeting, which were all the more important during the pandemic. Promise celebrations were held virtually, badge activities were shared, and we celebrated with two volunteer leaders who completed their Leadership Qualification.

As the new term comes around, how Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers will be able to meet safely remains unclear but one of the oldest Brownie units in the Town – 6<sup>th</sup> Tonbridge – is re-opening after a short pause with new leaders. The many other units across Tonbridge will no doubt be encouraging their girls to plan an exciting and fun term of meetings in whatever format is possible.

If you would like to be part of the fun of Girlguiding, or have a daughter the right age to join one of our sections, please visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk).

Below is a table of all the different units meeting in the Tonbridge area; do look online or contact the Perspectives magazine who can put you in touch with a local volunteer who would be happy to answer any questions. *Clare Norman*

3 <sup>rd</sup> Town Rainbow Unit	Christchurch, High St	Tue
3 <sup>rd</sup> Guide Unit	Christchurch, High St	Tue
1 <sup>st</sup> Brownie Unit	Christchurch, High St	Tue
11 <sup>th</sup> Brownie Unit	Fisher Hall, Lyons Crescent	Mon
2 <sup>nd</sup> Town Rainbow Unit	Fisher Hall, Lyons Crescent	Mon
12 <sup>th</sup> Guide Unit	Methodist Ch., Higham Lane	Mon
13 <sup>th</sup> Guide Unit	Methodist Ch., Higham Lane	Thurs
13 <sup>th</sup> Brownie Unit	Methodist Ch., Higham Lane	Thurs
12 <sup>th</sup> R.G.U. Ranger Unit	Methodist Ch., Higham Lane	Thurs
1 <sup>st</sup> N <sup>th</sup> Distr. Rainbow Unit	Methodist Ch., Higham Lane	Wed
7 <sup>th</sup> Brownie Unit	St. Philip’s Church	Tue
8 <sup>th</sup> Guide Unit	The Brent Hall, TN10 3TL	Fri
2 <sup>nd</sup> Brownie Unit	Tonbridge Parish Church	Mon
1 <sup>st</sup> Town Rainbow Unit	Tonbridge Parish Church	Mon
1 <sup>st</sup> Guide Unit	Tonbridge Parish Church	Thurs
4 <sup>th</sup> Brownie Unit	Tonbridge Parish Church	Tue
6 <sup>th</sup> Brownie Unit	Tonbridge Parish Church	Wed



# AUTUMN DAYS

Activities to keep you warm as the weather turns, along with the leaves, over the coming months

## Colour Hunting

Can you find leaves that match the colours below?  
When you've found one stick it on to the page



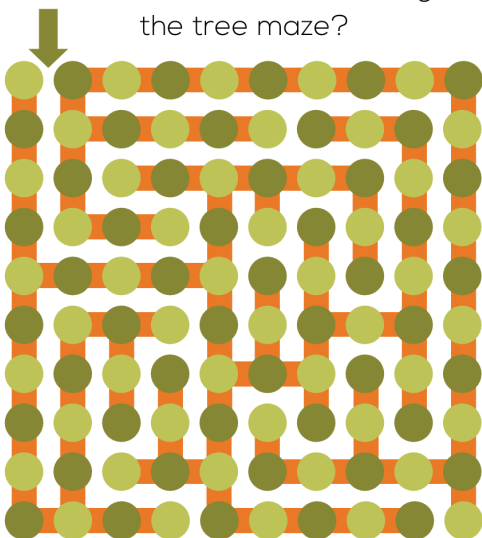
## Vegetable Hide-and-Seek

Can you find the 9 vegetables hidden in this grid? Answers at the bottom of the page.



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

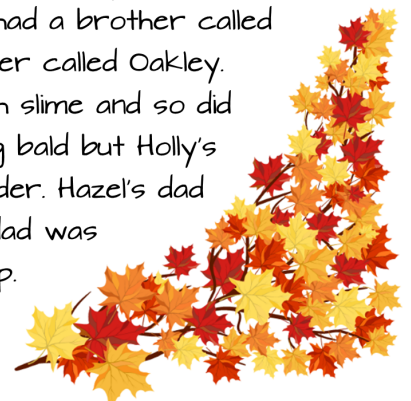
Can you find your way through the tree maze?



## Seeing the wood for the trees

The names of some British trees are hidden in the following paragraph but how many can you find? The answers will be issued on our YCF Ministry Facebook page in October (see contacts page)

Holly and Hazel were best friends. Holly liked pineapples and Hazel didn't, but they both liked maple syrup on pancakes. Holly had a brother called Ash and Hazel had a brother called Oakley. Their brothers played with slime and so did they. Hazel's dad was going bald but Holly's dad was already much balder. Hazel's dad was a welder and Holly's dad was helmsman for a cargo ship.



Vegetables: Aubergine, Beans, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Garlic, Pumpkin, Spinach

These past months have been some of the hardest for our Mission Partners. Life has changed and will never be the same again. But despite the challenges and constraints, their resilience and determination to facilitate the mission of God have led to some remarkable achievements.

We look below at some of the recent developments of those working on the frontline locally and across the world, supported by Tonbridge Parish Church.



Photo: Mike broadcasts the Bubble Worship

## High Hopes

High Hopes has links with 35+ schools in the Tonbridge area. In normal times they lead assemblies on a weekly basis in rotation. Their aim is to introduce children to the person of Jesus Christ and His life-changing teaching.

As was the case with many organisations working with the schools, the pandemic prevented in-school visits. With the help of Tonbridge Parish Church, High Hopes purchased new equipment to enable the production of videos to share in class groups as 'bubble worship'. All material is now accessible via the High Hopes YouTube Channel and has been well received by schools. New schools not previously visited have requested to access the video material for bubble worships and teaching on the recovery curriculum using unchanging Christian truths.

[www.high-hopes.org](http://www.high-hopes.org)

# MISSION ACTION GROUP



## Bishop Given and the Diocese of Kondoa, Tanzania

In this amazing photograph taken in July 2021, Bishop Given and his team celebrate the ordination of eight new clergy, seven of whom have recently graduated from the Kondoa Bible College with a Provincial Certificate in Theology.

A number of these new Pastors were sponsored by folk from the Rochester Diocese. The photo is taken in front of the growing new Kondoa Cathedral – the Cathedral of St. Paul the Evangelist to the

Gentiles. Progress has been phenomenal, with the two-storey building standing out like a beacon for Christianity in the community of Kondoa.

The St. Peter & St. Paul Primary School continues from strength to strength. Principal Conjester has been overseeing the expansion of the school to over a hundred pupils, with a waiting list of a further thirty young hopefuls. Bishop Given and Conjester recently expressed their huge thanks to Tonbridge Parish Church for providing the half-school fee for the year to help parents, pupils and the school to ease through the crisis of the pandemic.

[Kondoa.anglican.org](http://Kondoa.anglican.org)





## The Langham Partnership

The Langham Partnership equips Christian leaders from around the world to receive formal theological training and serve the church in their home nations. It also trains pastors to preach and teach the Bible and works with local leaders to develop, publish, and distribute biblical resources and books that equip the local churches.

In recent months the use of new technology in training has led to a great increase in the reach of the seminars and preaching clubs, even to countries previously closed off. Now more than **80 countries** across **5 continents** are reached. In the past year alone 84 Scholars from 44 nations were supported to gain their theological PhDs. Currently Scholars from Egypt, El Salvador, Myanmar, Pakistan, Taiwan, and Japan are studying for PhDs. This would not be possible without the support of library grant scheme, which enables more than 2 million students to access books and resources per year.

[www.uk.langham.org](http://www.uk.langham.org).

## Bishop Barham Trust

*Bishop Ken Barham writes:*

Let me try and describe the situation in our parish of Nyabigoma, Cyangugu Diocese in Rwanda. The heavy rains of a few months ago caused a massive landslide, which smashed through the school buildings. Nyabigoma was a 'plant' from the parish of Bweyeye. It is in the South of the country, and close to the border with Burundi.

When I took over the Diocese of Cyangugu in 1992, Bweyeye was one of the only three churches that made up the diocese. The pastor there now, Pastor Thomas, was ordained by me in 1995. It was then a three hour journey as we fought our way over rocks and dodgy bridges from Cyangugu town to Bweyeye. In the past 18 months the Government has built a tarmac road through the forest and all the way to the border.

The school at Nyabigoma has now been rebuilt, and the children are back in class - a source of great joy in the parish. We have been able to pay John, the contractor, just over half of the bill for the rebuilding. We are grateful to those who have helped us with donations to cope with the emergency. **Thank you!** We greatly value your support and your partnership in the gospel in Cyangugu Diocese.



## Overseas Mission Fellowship: the Gelsthorpe family, Japan

We live in rural northern Japan where we run a small Japanese church. Sometimes people ask us, "What do you do all day as a missionary?"

Among other ideas we have grand projects like community cafes, Christian Basics Courses, English classes, and video games events. God, in his kindness, uses all of these to build and strengthen relationships, but often he surprises us with what he uses to bring people together.



Last year we bought a table tennis table. So we often asked people, "Do you *takyu*?" (Do you play table tennis?)

Sometimes a middle-aged man, whilst cutting a serve into the far corner, would talk about what it means to join a church; an older lady would show her skill with backhand whilst getting to know one of our teenagers better; children pour out hundreds of balls and laugh as they bounce them in handfuls off the table.

How encouraging that the work of the church - that is building and growing gospel-centred relationships - can be done whilst playing a game. Did we expect to see God growing his church whilst we get surprisingly good at table tennis? No, but we have learned something important: **God can use simple, unexpected things to grow his church.**

*Mark Gelsthorpe (OMF missionary)*



# Music in Tonbridge

Music has always had an important place in worship in the churches, and Tonbridge has a rich musical tradition. The treasure chest of stories and images found in Scripture and the personal experiences of their faith have inspired many of the greatest composers.

Since July we have been particularly joyful at being able to sing again in church, even behind our masks! Here we look at how some of the many wonderful musical organisations in our town have adapted since March 2020.

## Tonbridge Philharmonic Society

If you are a regular of Tonbridge Philharmonic's brilliant concerts you may have wondered what they have been doing since the world shut down! Behind the scenes much has been happening, and much has been learnt: from Zoom concerts and choir rehearsals, where you couldn't hear anyone else, through coffee mornings online raising money for a local food bank, to orchestra rehearsals in a freezing tent that challenged fingers and strings.

After 18 months as Musical Director (MD) of the Society, Ben Westerman has recently moved to Berlin. We are pleased to announce that we have now appointed a new MD, Naomi Butcher. Naomi comes to us with a wide range of experience, not least as current Conducting Fellow at the Guildhall School of Music. From September both choir and orchestra will be back rehearsing under Naomi's direction, ready for our first concert in November.

There are plans to celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, followed by our usual November concert and Family Carols in December. When we stand to sing *Once in Royal David's City* (an alternative carol may be chosen!) we will all, members, friends and families, be thankful that we are there and can still fill that wonderful, vaulted roof with our music.

Save the date! Concert on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 21!  
Tickets and other details available at [www.tonphil.org.uk](http://www.tonphil.org.uk).

We are also looking for new members.  
Contact Joanna Mace at [secretary@tonphil.org.uk](mailto:secretary@tonphil.org.uk)

## Tonbridge Music Club

TMC's mission to bring live musical events to the people of Tonbridge proved tricky last season, with all concerts from March 2020 being cancelled. However, this proved a creative stimulus to find new ways to keep the music going.

The team introduced a monthly online series, '*Totally Tonbridge*', which drew on the richness and musical calibre of professional artists and talented young performers in our area, who unstintingly contributed to create recorded performances, articles and interviews. This proved a great success and kept our musical spirits high!

We're excited to be planning live concerts again, starting on 9<sup>th</sup> October, with the fabulous early music vocal ensemble *Stile Antico*, performing '*Toward The Dawn*', a programme particularly appropriate for our time as we look forward with new hope.

This season, we're also welcoming the acclaimed *Atéa Wind Quintet* for a family concert, *Tristan Gurney and Friends* in a programme of wonderful Italian masterpieces, and the young, dynamic *Van Kuijk String Quartet*. We also have our *Coffee Concerts* on Sundays.

Excitingly, TMC is broadening the mix with its first ever jazz evening, '*All That Jazz*' with the *Ben Cox Jazz Band*, and a '*Totally Toddler!*' concert for little ones with *Jessie Grimes (clarinet) and Charis Hanning (piano)*.

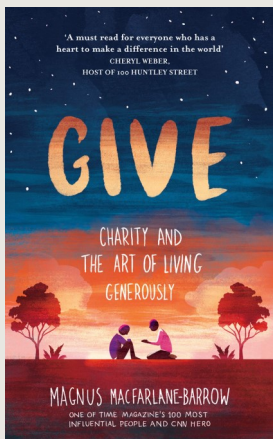
Full details of dates, artists and programmes, etc. will shortly be available on our website [www.tmc.org.uk](http://www.tmc.org.uk)



## Bacchus Invites you...!

We invite you to an evening of music at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Tonbridge, on Saturday 16th October at 7.30pm. Join us in blowing away those cobwebs with sparkling ballet music from Holst and a moving trumpet concerto from Richard Rodney-Bennett.

Tickets at the door or call Brittens Music 01892 526659 or at [www.bacchuswind.org.uk](http://www.bacchuswind.org.uk)



## Give: Charity and the Art of Living Generously

Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow

An emotive, yet challenging examination of the nature of charity

"Why do you do this?" It's a great question and one which we should probably all ask ourselves more often. The charity Mary's Meals provides midday meals at school for children in some of the poorest places on Earth, a straightforward yet practical way of supporting children not just with nutrition for today but also hope for the future.

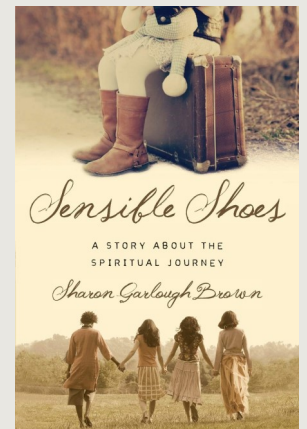
Almost 30 years after he became one of the founders of Mary's Meals Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow has a wealth of experience in the charity sector.

This book will make you think about the role of philanthropy and generosity in our lives and about how we can maintain genuine motives and core mission in the face of cynicism, exhaustion or overwhelming need.

Can a charity grow into a major organisation whilst still retaining the authentic, transformative power of personal giving?

## Sensible Shoes

Sharon Garlough Brown



A captivating novel based on the lives of four very different women

A moving story of four very different women in different life situations who begin as disparate strangers but develop strong bonds of friendship when they meet at a retreat centre. The characters are very believable and relatable. Hannah is a minister who is so busy taking care of everyone else that she doesn't realize how close to burn-out she is. Meg, widowed young, is now left alone as her daughter flies the nest. Charissa is a high-achieving student who needs to keep up her perfect image. She feels as if she could hardly have less in common with Mara, a woman who has experienced a lifetime of rejection and is now struggling in a difficult marriage.

Can each one find the courage and support to face the issues that they have been hiding, even from themselves?

This book gently invites you to encounter your own issues and to join in the spiritual journey to healing and fullness of life.

Morwenna Fernandes



# How Prayer was answered in Canterbury



**I**t started with a prayer. Bertha (*photo: top left*) the new Kentish Queen born in 539 AD had moved to Canterbury from Francia to marry the pagan King Ethelbert. She was a Christian and her father made it a condition of the marriage that his daughter could take her faith with her and also her Bishop who became her chaplain. The King agreed that she could have her freedom to do so, and out of love for her he had a chapel commissioned where she could pray. It was called Martin of Tours (*photo top right&bottom*) after the Saint who influenced her home town.

Bertha prayed for 17 years for the conversion of her husband and the Anglo Saxon people. Her prayers were answered in an unexpected way and the church of St Martin's, built on the site of the original chapel, is close to Canterbury Cathedral.

Soon after that, in 596, Augustine was sent to England by Pope Gregory the Great to convert the pagan Anglo Saxons. He arrived unexpectedly, possibly at Richborough, where he waited until arrangements could be made for him to have an audience with the king. It had been expected that Augustine would make his base in London or York, but he proceeded to meet the King in Canterbury and this was chosen instead. This city was well placed politically and was the closest to the East coast giving a good connection with the rest of Europe. The timing was perfect for the Christian message to spread outwards from Canterbury to the rest of England.

There had been Celtic missions, led by Aiden from the North with Irish and Scottish monasteries as a result. This model was predominantly rural and monastic.

Saint Augustine's Roman mission was the first of its kind from the South and his focus was on cities and urban areas. He also sought to bring together the northern and southern approaches, combining active ministry with contemplative prayer, and reach all people, both in cities and the countryside

After initial doubts, King Ethelbert received the Christian message and it is thought that he was baptised by Augustine in the chapel. This was a crucial step to Augustine's success. The King gave his support by giving him the chapel as his base and gifts that enabled the creation of a school and library at the Abbey which for 1000 years was a centre for learning and spirituality.

By December 597, thousands of Anglo Saxons were converted; there was a mass baptism on Christmas Day and the Christian message spread outwards throughout England. Canterbury and its historical sites of the Cathedral, where Augustine was the first Archbishop, St Martin's chapel and St Augustine's Abbey, the original burial place of Anglo Saxon Kings, are now classed as a world heritage site.

Timing for success is crucial: Queen Bertha prayed for 17 years for her husband to believe the

Christian message; Augustine arrived at just the right time for the message to be received and spread throughout England.



The Church of St Martin of Tours in Canterbury is not only the oldest Christian church in Britain, but also claimed to be the oldest in the entire English-speaking world...

**This should encourage us not to give up praying and to trust God's timing to be perfect.**

*Melissa Lavin/  
Jean Bowring*

# Heritage Open Day

St. Peter & St. Paul  
St. Saviour

Saturday 11th September 2021  
10am-4pm

Tonbridge Parish Church has a long history dating back to Saxon times. Doors will open on Saturday 11th September to mark the

**Heritage Open Days 2021 Festival**  
celebrating history, culture and architecture in the UK.

Read about our history at [www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk/ourstory](http://www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk/ourstory) and come along and explore our beautiful church buildings – at the heart of a town which quietly revels in a fascinating mix of architecture.

Contact the Parish office for more information:  
[parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk)

# Coming soon Alpha Online!

**Starting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
7.45pm**

Following on from last year's successful online courses, we are offering Alpha Online again this Autumn!



Join others in a friendly and informal way to explore questions around life and the Christian faith.

The online programme includes short film clips and small group discussions. Contact the Parish office for more information and to book your space:

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## Services

### In church every Sunday

8am Holy Communion, St. Saviour  
 10am Sunday Worship, St. Peter & St. Paul\*  
 5pm Simply Jesus, St. Peter & St. Paul\*\*  
 \*Also available on our YouTube channel  
 \*\*Holy Communion first Sunday of the month

Services will resume in the Autumn at St. Saviour, St. Philip and St. Andrew. Please check our website for details.

### Online

YouTube channel:  
[www.bit.ly/TonParishChurchYT](http://www.bit.ly/TonParishChurchYT)

10am Sunday Worship, St. Peter & St. Paul  
 6:30pm *Compline with a thought for the day*  
 10am Wednesday Reflection & Prayer

### Outdoors!

3pm Sunday Worship in the Wild at St. Peter & St. Paul: in the Autumn - one Sunday per month. See back page & Facebook for more information

## Get Involved

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

## Youth, Children and Families

Worship in the Wild (ages 4-11)  
 Sunday Club (age 4-11) and SOS (11-14) return in the Autumn!  
 GRUB and Refresh (14-18) meeting weekly in person.

Please see Facebook page for more details: @ycfTonParishChurch

Please check our website regularly for announcements on services, new activities and events

<b>Parish Administration</b> The Coach House Office, Church Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1HD	<b>(01732)</b> 770962 ext. 25	<b>Youth and Children's Minister</b> Andy Page	770962 ext. 22
<b>Associate Vicar</b> The Rev'd Wendy Carr	770962 ext. 32	<b>Parish Treasurer</b> Ray Tanner	351 422
<b>Churchwardens</b> Adam Calvert / Paul White	770962	<b>Licensed Lay Minister</b> Sally Musson	07713 352017
<b>PA &amp; Finance</b> Yolanda Roberts	770962 ext. 25	<b>Perspectives Team</b> John Schluter (Chair), Kerry Reichenmiller, Olivia Brown (Advertising), Aneta Van Bodegom, Jean Bowring, Morwenna Fernandez, Jenny Macpherson, Tom James	770962 ext. 24  Perspectives @tonbridgeparish church.org.uk
<b>Parish Administrator</b> Jane Higgs	770962 ext. 24		

# In times of need, family matters

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Monday to Saturday  
10am - 5pm

**Musical Bumps  
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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](mailto:margaret.lewin@musicalbumps.com)  
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St Peter & St Paul • St Philip • St Andrew • St Saviour

TONBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH PRESENTS

# WORSHIP *in the* WILD

Join us in the churchyard of St Peter & St Paul on Church Lane from 3pm to 3:45pm. Games, activities, and good news in the great outdoors! All families welcome!

SEPT 26TH - GENEROSITY

OCT 24TH - WISDOM

NOV 28TH - PATIENCE

DEC 24TH - NATIVITY IN THE WILD

