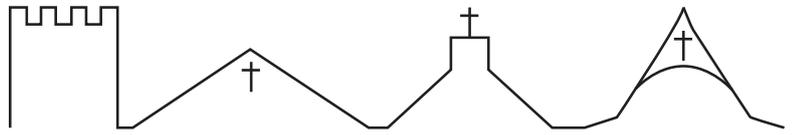




THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



St Peter & St Paul · St Philip · St Andrew · St Saviour

perspectives

In this issue:

- Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
- Welcoming Guests from Ukraine
- Summer Fun on a Shoestring!
- Finances in an Uncertain World



Issue 55 - Summer 2022
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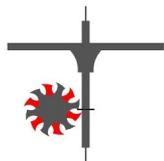


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Her Majesty the Queen, Coronation Day, 2 June 1953

"When I spoke to you last... I asked you all ... to pray for me on the day of my Coronation - to pray that God would give me wisdom and strength to carry out the promises that I should then be making... I have been uplifted and sustained by the knowledge that your thoughts and prayers were with me."

Prayer for Her Majesty the Queen – June 2022

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the reign of your servant Elizabeth our Queen, and for the example of loving and faithful service which she has shown among us. Help us to follow her example of dedication and to commit our lives to you and to one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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: perspectives@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our latest edition of Perspectives. In this edition we are pleased to share a little bit more about our new five-year vision launched in May. As Christians in our churches, we long to live out our faith in the risen Lord Jesus and in doing so be a blessing to the town we love and care about. We aren't perfect, but we hope to make a difference for the good of our town and for the glory of the God of the Bible!



One way we are already bringing our vision to life is by opening our buildings to serve others in the community. Open House recently reopened on a Saturday morning at St Philip's church with 25 guests from local community families joining us for activities, games and refreshments. Why not come along to the next one... details on Page 7? Another of our activities is our Holiday Club for Primary age children, which will take place over the weekend of 16-17 July. With games, Bible stories, songs and crafts, there's plenty to keep everyone busy... more information on the back cover!

Recent celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee have provided a welcome focus across the nation. There has been an endless catalogue of terrible news in recent weeks and months – war in Ukraine, another school shooting in the USA, and the impact of inflation as food and fuel prices rise. In addition, for many it has been difficult to find their way back to a 'new normal' in life after the disruptions of two years living under changing Covid restrictions. Even the most resilient among us have struggled at times with all of this.

Beyond the Jubilee, we all need a longer-term foundation for stability in our lives and hope for the future. The Queen has often said that she looks to her Christian faith for this. The old hymn writer puts the Christian life wonderfully in the line 'Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow... Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.' All of us who are Christians at Tonbridge Parish Church can testify to that in our lives, broken and messy as we all still are! We would love you to find more of the present help and future hope that can be found in Jesus – do come and visit any of our churches to find out more; we'd love to see you anytime!



The Rev'd Ben Thorndike Vicar



@TonParishChurch



www.bit.ly/TomParishChurchYT



peterpaulton



@peterpaulton

My Faith and My Role in the Community

Steve and Alison Minton have lived in Tonbridge for 20 years, and are leading members of St. Philip's, one of the four churches in our Parish.

Tell us a little about yourselves

We've been happily married for 22 years, and have lived in Tonbridge for 20 years. We have two lovely daughters – Lucy, who is 18 and in her first year at university (studying Theology), and Hannah who is 16 and is just finishing her GCSE's. We usually attend St Philip's church. Steve works for Natwest Markets as an IT Manager, and Alison is the Academic Registrar for St Augustine's College of Theology based in West Malling.



How did your Christian faith develop?

Both of us went to Church as children and teenagers. Steve sang in his Church choir and Alison was very involved in her Church youth group. We drifted away from the Church during our twenties, although we had enough residual faith still keen to be married in church. That was in March 2000 (at All Saints, Crowborough). Once the children arrived Alison felt a strong calling to return to church and started attending St Philip's. Following an Alpha course and having joined a home group, she regained active faith shortly afterwards. A couple of years after that Stephen attended the Christianity Explored course, being run in the parish at that time. He was fortunate to end up in a home group with Gary Townsend and Peter Goodridge (as well as Jeremy and Patricia King), which brought him back to faith too.

What involvement do you have with the church community and with the wider community?

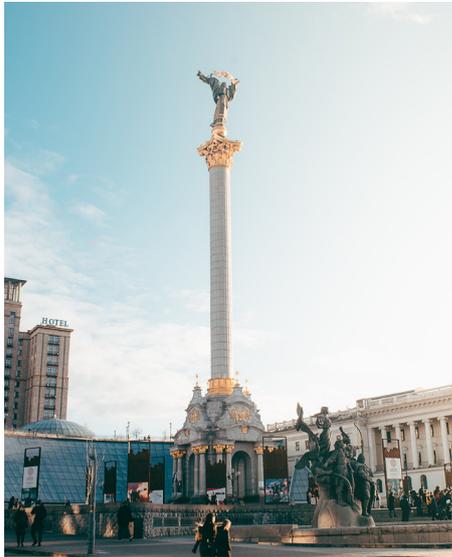
As I am sure most in the parish are aware, we are involved in the sung worship, particularly at St Philip's. However, thanks to the pandemic we became much more involved with parish-wide worship. At the start of the first lockdown we were broadcasting live from our lounge, and continued to do this until we were able to return to our church buildings. It was a real privilege to lead sung worship from our front room, to provide an opportunity to raise our voices in praise together despite being physically separated from each other. In addition, Alison is part of the St Philip's leadership team as well as being a member of the PCC. She also attends the book club on a Monday morning. Steve is the leader of the 'cello section of the Tonbridge Philharmonic Society as well as their Digital officer. Steve can also sometimes be found at PlanetJJs, the board game café in Tonbridge, learning how to play a new board game. We're both involved in a home group too.

How do you like to relax?

What with church, orchestra, work and family life there isn't a huge amount of time to relax! We enjoy playing board games as a family and listening to music. We both read a lot although our tastes are very different. Alison prefers a crime novel whereas Steve is more often reading Science Fiction or Popular Science.



Numerous homes around Tonbridge have been opened to those who have fled Ukraine in recent months. Every family's experience has been different, and here is the beginning of the story from one host, whose visitors arrived in the middle of May.



We had been communicating on WhatsApp for three weeks before I sat and waited outside the arrivals gate of the Eurostar at St Pancras International to meet them for the first time. I knew they would be exhausted. They had travelled by train from Krakow with four changes, one in the early hours of the morning. Suddenly there they were, each with a

suitcase, a rucksack and a bag, looking lost and anxious. They didn't recognise me at first. I stood directly in front of the mother, looked her in the eyes as she spoke frantically into her phone and pointed at me. "I am Doreen" (1) I said and then repeated it again. Slowly recognition: "You are Doreen," and the relief spread across her face. "You are Doreen" she repeated, and I nodded. She then spoke into her phone with a more relaxed voice, and I heard the word "Doreen" repeated in amongst the garbled Ukrainian.

It wasn't until we reached the underground gates that the enormity of the situation hit me. I explained who they were, they showed their passports open at the visa stamp, staff smiled and gates opened, again at the other end, and at Charing Cross. We were ushered on to the train under the protection of the guard. I had a ticket; they did not. I lived here; they were refugees. There must be a war on I thought, and tears welled up. I had to stop the emotion quickly. They were being brave: I had to be in control too. The family have been here a month, absolutely determined to make their exodus work. Mum has been working full time for two weeks now, packing food, dealing with unpleasant smells and heavy loads; a 45-hour week with a 40-minute walk either end. In her home country she is a translator for an international insurance company. She still has her job; she is on furlough. The two girls were able to start school the week they arrived.

At home they Hoover, wash up, clear their things away. They get food from the community larder. Nothing



is wasted, every left-over eaten the next day. They got clothes, shoes, bags and sanitary products from the Ukraine Relief Centre in Tunbridge Wells. Never a complaint. Tears well up during down time, or when a bomb went off behind their apartment block back home, where Dad and Maxy the dog and Diana the cat are. They video call Dad regularly.

Endless form filling, another 3-week wait for a bank account, a trip to Croydon to take their fingerprints and photograph, another form for a National Insurance number, always being nice, never assuming, always grateful.

What do they ask for? A chance to live like everyone else, to be accepted and respected. I have discovered their weakness for Nutella. I bought them each a big pot today and wrote their names on the lids in indelible ink. It is eaten with a spoon and a smile. It made me think of Christopher Robin and Pooh.

Written by Doreen (name has been changed to protect confidentiality) (1)

For more information contact helenlongley@btinternet.com



Tonbridge Parish Church - Vision 2022 - 2027

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish"
(Proverbs 29:18).*

Vision motivates and encourages. Vision gives a sense of direction and understanding. Tonbridge Parish Church has just launched a new five-year vision for 2022-2027. Something that communicates to the community who we are and what we think is important, and helps us as churches understand how we might get there!

'Living Jesus, Loving Tonbridge' – we long to live out our faith in the risen Lord Jesus, and in doing so be a blessing to the town we love and care about. With nine different ways we might go about doing that – T O N B R I D G E – the new vision will root us as Christians in the place and time in which God has put us.

T Teaching & Discipling with God's Word

O Opportunities to show love practically

N Networking with other Churches

B Being accessible for all

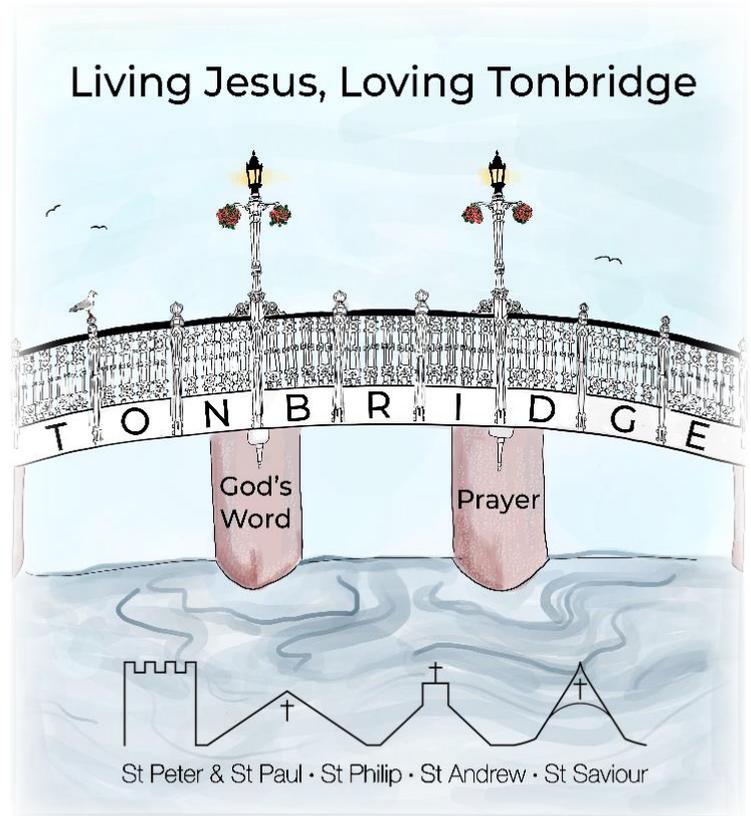
R Raising up leaders

I Inspired worship together

D Deep pastoral care

G Going out to the world

E Every word spoken for Jesus



Some of these are about reaching out to others with the good news of God's love and forgiveness found in Jesus – what we might call evangelism – that we might each have a restored relationship with the God of the universe when we turn and trust in Jesus.

Some are about helping those who are trusting in Jesus grow in Him – what we might call discipleship – ready for the day Jesus returns to make all things new again (what a great day that will be for all who are trusting in Jesus, especially as we are all so aware of the brokenness in the world at this time of post-Covid and of present-war in Ukraine).

Some of these are about what we do when we gather as God's people together – what we might call our church life together – things you might expect if you visited us on a Sunday morning (or evening)!

If you are interested to find out more, do come along and join with us on a Sunday morning at one of our churches, we'd love to meet you!

Our service times can be found on page 14 of this magazine or on our website: www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk.

Parish Coffee Lounge

St Peter & St Paul Church, Church Lane, TN9 1DA
Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday
from 10am-12noon.

Tea, coffee, homemade cakes and scones, and a warm welcome!



Coffee Break

St Saviour Church, Dry Hill Park Crescent, TN10 3BJ
Every Monday from 10:30am-11:30am.
Coffee and friendship with a thought for the day.



Thriving year-round group for under-1s and their parents/carers. New people are always welcome and there's no charge for joining us - just turn up and have fun!

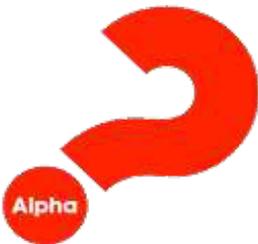
Wednesdays, 10.30am-12pm in the upper foyer at St Peter & St Paul.



Preschool children and their parents/carers; baby area, toys, craft, singing time and story time, with specials at Easter and Christmas.

Tuesdays, 9:30-11am during term time, upstairs at St Peter & St Paul. £1 for one child or £1.50 for two or more children; new people always welcome.

Contact the parish office for more information:
parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk



Join us this Autumn for Alpha!
Wednesday evenings in October/
November 2022, 7:45pm at
St. Peter & St. Paul Parish Church

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

The programme includes some light refreshments each evening, short film clips and small group discussions.

For more information on the course content visit www.alpha.org or contact the parish office to book your space:

parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

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2022

A year of Jubilee

The year 2022 marks the Platinum Jubilee for Her Majesty the Queen, a celebration of an extraordinary 70 years of service to the nation. As we have taken time to celebrate this very special anniversary let us acknowledge the importance of the Queen's faith in supporting and inspiring her throughout her remarkable reign. The Queen's Christian faith is well-known and it is clear that it has played a central role in her lifetime of service from the beginning. In her first Christmas broadcast in 1952 the Queen requested the people of the Commonwealth to pray for her as she prepared to dedicate herself to their service in her Coronation vows. More recently, in her 2014 Christmas broadcast, she described Jesus as 'an anchor in my life'.

The concept of Jubilee has a very special meaning in the Bible. The Jubilee Year is linked to the concept of sabbath – regular Holy times ordained by God "the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy" (Exodus 20:11). Every 50th year, counting from Israel's entry into the Promised Land, a special Jubilee or "liberty" year was to be proclaimed on the annual feast day known as the Day of Atonement. This was to be an entire year of festival, a time of restoration and renewed recognition of our complete dependence upon God.

Three strands of restoration were specified for the Jubilee celebration: restoration of personal liberty, restitution of property, and a return to a more simple life, trusting in God's provision. Ancestral lands that had been sold were to be returned and any who, compelled by poverty, had sold themselves as slaves, were to be given their liberty (Leviticus 25:10). The land itself was also to be allowed respite. There should be neither sowing nor reaping, the community was expected to live on what the fields and the vineyards produced "of themselves," and no attempt should be made to store up the products of the land (Leviticus 25:11). All this should be done in recognition that all ultimately belongs to God.

Jesus marked the start of his public ministry by quoting a section of Scripture related to the Jubilee. Quoting from Isaiah 61:1-2 he proclaimed, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." (Luke 4:18 - 19). The spirit of Jubilee is challenging but also joyful and transformative.

I will leave you with a quote from the Queen's Christmas 2002 broadcast: "I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and tough times. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right; to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God. I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel."

Morwenna Fernandez

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



In the first week of June, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations provided a unique opportunity for us to say a collective Thank You to Her Majesty in recognition of her 70 years of steadfast service to the nation. Her dignity, Christian faith, and sense of humour (whoever would have thought of Paddington Bear taking tea at Buckingham Palace?) have often stood in contrast to the ebb and flow of domestic and international politics. She is a world figure, whose wisdom and integrity have provided a sense of stability throughout the years of her reign.



St. Andrews



St. Peter & Paul



St. Andrews



St. Philips

This was a moment to pause and celebrate! From the magnificent Trooping of the Colour on Thursday 2nd June, anniversary of the Queen's coronation in 1953, with the fly-past of the Royal Air Force, to the lighting of the beacons – including ours at Tonbridge Castle – on Thursday evening, the following days were something of a non-stop party across the country.



These were not only families coming together, but especially communities. In Tonbridge there were many street parties and celebrations, and we were glad to be able to mark the occasion in the four churches across our parish.

Holiday Club 2022

16th & 17th July

More info on back cover

The Summer is here so it's

Party Time!

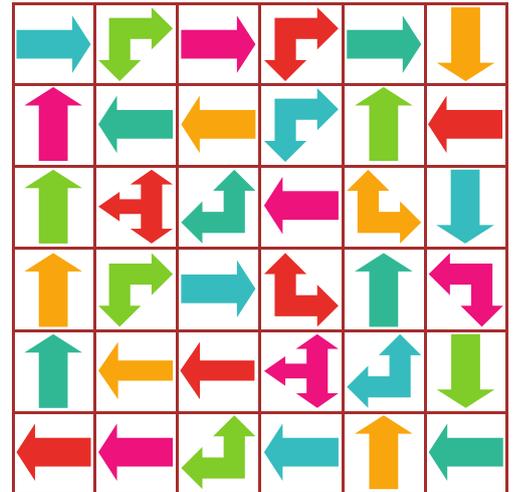
We're so excited our Holiday Club is returning in-person after 3 years, and in honour of that we've put together some classic activities for you to enjoy! More details about Holiday Club can be found on the back cover and to find the latest news and information 'like' and 'follow' our Facebook page - @TonbridgeParishChurchHolidayClub



Can you find the right path?

Follow the arrows from the start and see if you can find the path that leads you to the finish. Be careful not to get stuck going in circles!

START



FINISH

Play a game of Bunting & Balloons

See who can get from 1 to 100 fastest! Roll a dice, move your counter, float up the balloons and slide down the bunting.

100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
80	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Spot the Difference

Can you spot the 7 differences between these 2 pictures? Circle all the ones you find.



SUMMER BAND CONCERTS LIVE OPEN-AIR MUSIC

Come along and enjoy the artistic gifts of local musicians for free in the beautiful setting of the lawn at the Castle!

26th June 2022: 3-5pm Second Wind Concert Band
17th July 2022: 11.30am West Kent Youth Orchestra (local musicians aged 10 to 18) 3pm Bodiam Concert Band
31st July: 3-5pm Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band
7th August: 3-5pm East Grinstead Concert Band
21st August: 3-5pm East Sussex Concert Band
27th August: 3-5pm West Kent Big Band

For more details call Tonbridge Castle 01732 770929



Photo by Julie Clarke on Unsplash

TONBRIDGE CASTLE

ARTISAN MARKET

Held every 4th Sunday of the month from April to October (26th June, 24th July and 28th August).

A wide variety of local produce and products in our indoor and outdoor stalls, plus food and drink too.

TREE OF HOPE

Saturday 25th June - 12 Noon - 4 pm

- Music and entertainment
- Food and drink
- Small businesses
- Family friendly

SUMMER MARKET

Saturday 16th July 10am – 4pm

AT THE ANGEL CENTRE

Local crafters and businesses – to raise funds for new Children's Hospice, Hospice in the Weald.

DRAGON BOAT RACES 2022

Sunday 4th September 9am – 5pm On the river by the Medway Bridge.

GET OUT TO THE PARK

Come and explore the local wildlife at Haysden Country Park. A Local Nature Reserve, it covers an area of about 65 hectares and includes a range of natural habitats such as river, grassland, freshwater lakes, marshland and woodland. It's a great place to spot birds, butterflies and dragonflies!

Facilities: car park, toilet, play area, café.

The park is open every day of the year from 7.30am and gates do not close until 8pm or later during the summer months.



THE RACECOURSE

Get out in the fresh air and enjoy the green open space at the centre of Tonbridge! Facilities:

- large children's play area with picnic tables
- crazy golf course (small fee to hire equipment)
- a skate park for skaters and BMX
- an outdoor gym
- a ball court
- two outdoor table tennis tables
- toilets by the entrance to the sportsground

Mini golf equipment, and the bowling green and the tennis courts can be hired from the kiosk by the play area which also provides refreshments. The much beloved miniature railway track operated by Tonbridge Model Engineering Society operates during the summer months. Tudor Cycle Route 12 (formerly the Tonbridge to Penshurst cycle route) links the sportsground to Haysden Country Park and Penshurst Place.

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Finances in an Uncertain World

There has been much media attention on our rising inflation, and we are all well aware of things starting to cost more. We look at how we can cope better with the rising cost of living, and then consider how we might invest for positive social and sustainable impact. Cost of living crisis: three tips to keep your finances under control. According to the ONS (Office for National Statistics), more than 75% of adults in the UK have seen their cost of living increase over the past month. It's more important than ever to take steps to get your personal finances in order.

Keep control of your spending: As Mr. Micawber famously said in David Copperfield, Charles Dickens' novel:

"Annual income £20, annual expenditure £19-19s-6d, result happiness.

Annual income £20, annual expenditure £20- 0s -6d, result misery."

Budgeting is a simple tool you can use to manage your finances as it allows you to track your spending and allocate your income to your expenses. Make sure you include everything in your budget and remember to re-calculate it regularly to reflect any changes.

Have a contingency plan: If you are able to do so, it is wise to build up an emergency pot of cash that you can fall back on should you face any unexpected costs. If you can manage it, try to hold several month's expenditure in cash deposits for use in case of need.

Shop around for the best deals: Start with the big items, such as ensuring you're on a competitive mortgage rate, which can save you hundreds of pounds each month. Once you've tackled this, look at things that have crept up in price, such as broadband, TV subs, insurances, or your gym. Shop around for the best deals. Don't let your memberships roll over without having a good look at what's out there. Here is a useful link if you would like some practical help: www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/everyday-money/budgeting/budget-planner



Investing for positive social and sustainable impact

Many people now want to use their money to make a difference in society and the environment. It can go by many names, but whether it's termed green, ethical, ESG (environmental, social & governance) or sustainable investing, the aim is generally the same – to run a profitable business while making the world a better place. It's clear this is a fast-growing market.

Ethical investing used to focus on excluding specific companies and sectors – like tobacco or arms. Today though, most strategies have evolved to include companies that have best in class ESG scores in a particular sector. Impact investing goes a step further by investing in companies whose products and services generate social and environmental impact as well as financial returns. Tackling global climate change is becoming increasingly important, and low emissions businesses will be better prepared for climate change transition risk. But no investment is included based on its environmental or social credentials alone – it must also aim to deliver an attractive return for investors. Demand is being driven by this combination and an increasing number of people who prefer to invest in line with their personal values. There are now quite a few companies offering the option of investing in this way.

With thanks to Andrew Meade, of EQ Investors, who have a 10-year track record in providing investment advice to firms and individuals. Contact: andrew.meade@eqinvestors.co.uk



Parish Information & Contacts

SERVICES

St Peter & St Paul

Church Lane, TN9 1DA

Sundays

8am Holy Communion
10.45am Morning Service* (Holy Communion on 1st Sunday of the month) and children's groups (school years R-5 and 6-9)
6pm Evening Service (Holy Communion on 4th Sunday of the month).

*Also available online on our YouTube channel

Wednesdays

10.30am Holy Communion (First and Third Wednesday of the month).

St Philip

Salisbury Road, TN10 4PA

Sundays

10.45am Morning Service (Holy Communion on 2nd Sunday of the month) and children's groups (school years R-5 and 6-9).

St Andrew

Hadlow Road, TN10 4LS

Sundays

9.15am Morning Service (Holy Communion on 3rd Sunday of the month).

St Saviour

Dry Hill Park Crescent, TN10 3BJ

Sundays

9.15am Morning Service (Holy Communion on 4th Sunday of the month).

Youth, Children & Families

- Worship in the Wild on the last Sunday of every month, 3.00pm in the churchyard at St Peter & St Paul. All families welcome.
- Looking ahead: Bookings now open for Holiday Club on the weekend of 16th and 17th July. See back cover.
- Sunday Club (school years R-5) and SOS (school years 6-9) every Sunday at 10.45am St Peter & St Paul and 10.45am St Philip.
- Refresh (school years 10-13) meets weekly on Sunday evenings. More information can be found on our website or by emailing ycoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

Contact	
Parish Administration Parish Office, Tonbridge Parish Church, Church Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1DA	(01732) 770962 ext. 23 parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Vicar The Rev'd Ben Thorndike	(01732) 770962 ext. 23
Associate Vicar The Rev'd Wendy Carr	(01732) 770962 ext. 32
Youth & Children's Minister Andy Page	(01732) 770962 ext. 22
Licensed Lay Minister Sally Musson	07713 352 017
Parish Administrator & Vicar's PA Jane Higgs	(01732) 770962 ext. 24
Church Family Administrator Jane Thorndike	(01732) 770962 ext. 24
Churchwardens David Balcombe & Paul White	(01732) 770962 ext. 24
Parish Treasurer Paul Jagger	(01732) 770962 ext. 25
Finance Manager Yolanda Roberts	(01732) 770962 ext. 25
Perspectives Team John Schluter (Chair), Morwenna Fernandez, Patricia Osborn, Jenny Macpherson, Tom James	perspectives@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

Parish Office Hours: 10am-1pm, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

GET INVOLVED!

There is a vast range of groups and activities across the Parish:

- Men and Women's Ministry
- Tiny Acorns for parents and carers with under 1's
- Teddies for parents and carers with preschool children
- Prayer Gatherings
- Home Groups
- Health Walks
- Stepping Stones Bible Study for women

Visit our website www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk to find out more or complete the online form on our Contact Us page: www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk/contactus



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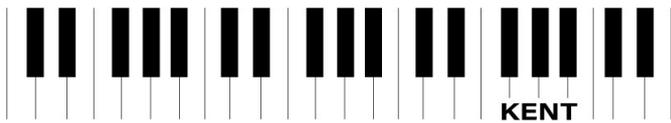
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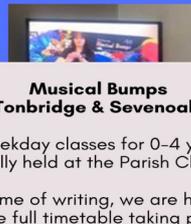
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Tonbridge & Sevenoaks**

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







Tonbridge Parish Church
presents

PARTY TIME!
Holiday Club 2022
for Primary - aged children

Sat 16th July **Sun 17th July**
10AM - 2:30pm *10:45AM - 2pm*

AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, TONBRIDGE

GAMES

STORIES

SONGS

CRAFTS

**BOOKING FORMS AVAILABLE FROM OUR
CHURCHES OR OUR WEBSITE:**

www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

FIND US ON FACEBOOK: @TonbridgeParishChurchHolidayClub

