

JULY/AUGUST 2022

News from the parish



Dear church family

SUMMER HEAT!

I am writing this on the hottest day in recorded history in the UK... apparently! Expecting higher tomorrow. I wonder what other records will be broken this summer in the programme of sporting events across the globe. Here's one record from Acts 2:41 – as the Apostle Peter preaches to the gathered crowd a message of forgiveness from God for all who will turn and trust in the Lord Jesus, “*about three thousand were added to their number that day.*” Three thousand people became Christians that day. What a day that would be for Tonbridge! Three thousand people who committed their lives to Jesus, and who committed to follow Jesus with their lives – to live transformed lives for Jesus.

On that note, a reminder of the summer read we recommended last month:

<https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/respectable-sins>

This book encourages us to consider some things we think are ok or unimportant in the Christian life, but which the Bible challenges us on if we are seeking to live for Jesus. Of course, we all know that things like stealing or murder are sins. But what about discontentment or unthankfulness?! **This book – ‘Respectable Sins’ (by Jerry Bridges)** – both encourages and challenges us in some of those areas. The sub-title is simply ‘Confronting the sins we tolerate.’ As we seek to live for Jesus (our vision statement ‘Living Jesus, Loving Tonbridge’), how great if God’s Spirit did His work in some of those areas we are not even aware we need His help with to be changed more and more into the likeness of Jesus!

A book written by a particular Christian for a particular group of Christians, but I am sure whatever label we might give ourselves as Christians, and whether or not we agree with everything in it, this book will be both a great challenge and encouragement for each of us.

So, with all that in mind, can I commend this book as a SUMMER READ for each of us across our churches who would like to (you can purchase using the link above). Perhaps read it at home, on holiday, in a lunch break, travelling to work, or wherever you would like. **We also have a DISCUSSION EVENING planned for Monday 19 September for those who have read the book to share and discuss thoughts and reflections.** “*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*” (Ephesians 5:1-2)

Ben Thorndike, Vicar

**Youth & Children
Families
MINISTRY**

• **Holiday Club** was great and we had a number of families join us who aren't regular members of the Parish. We continue to pray for all the children & young people present who heard the good news of God's love & forgiveness in Christ and we'd love for you to join us in this.

- From 31st July to 28th Aug **Summer Services** at St Peter & St Paul will be slightly different from the norm, but we'll still be having a group for those of Sunday Club & S.O.S. age, and at St Philip we'll be having activities for children (and others) to enjoy during the services as we remain together. If you can be part of this please do **let us know**.
- **Worship in the Wild** is happening on 31st July & 28th Aug - come and join us for some 'quiet' and have your 'eyes open' as we continue to explore ways to pray and engage with God in the churchyard at St P&P from 3pm.
- We're told to 'pray continually' (1 Thes 5:17); here's how you can pray for our children, young people, families & team:
 - for rest & safety for all those taking time off
 - for those receiving A-level results on 18th Aug and GCSE results on 25th Aug
 - that plans for the Autumn term would come together

Parish family news & activities coming up in 2022...



- **The Bishop of Kondoia and his wife Lilian are visiting us on 12th and 13th August.**

We are planning

a **Cheese and Wine evening on Friday 12th August** at St. Peter and St. Paul's, with Questions from Ben and Answers from Bishop Given and Lilian.

* Please speak to David or Wendy Balcombe if you can help.



On **Saturday 13th August**, we are having at St. Philip's a **brunch for the young people**, please speak to Andy Page, 10.30-11.30am.

Plus a **simple buffet lunch for all**, to meet the Bishop informally, 12.00-2.00pm.

* Please put these dates in your diary. If you can help in anyway with setting up and/or providing a salad, for Saturday please contact Pam or Ray Tanner.

We would love to see you all, to meet these inspiring people.

- **Midweek Holy Communion** at St Peter & St Paul on Wednesday 3rd August, 10:30am with Rev'd Deryck Charnock and Wednesday 17th August, 10:30am with Rev'd Wendy Carr.
- **Open House hosted at St Philip's** takes a break from opening during August but behind the scenes we are working towards opening every Saturday morning (10-12) from 10th September. Please pray, please offer a helping hand, please invite others!
- **Next Music Bash**—save the date for later afternoon on Saturday 17th September! All who enjoy singing & playing an instrument are very welcome!
- **Respectable Sins**—save the date for evening of Monday 19th September—see Ben's para on page 1!
- **Quiz Night hosted at St Peter & St Paul**—save the date for evening of Friday 23rd September—planning for this evening is just starting – full details for booking will be out later in August!
- **Bishop Ken**- save the date for a Coffee Morning hosted by St Andrew with a visit by Bishop Ken Barham—morning of Saturday 1st October—all will be very welcome!
- **Autumn Alpha 2022** will be run in person, hosted at St Peter & St Paul this time around! Running for 5 weeks from 12th October & then 5 weeks from 11th January 2023! Please pray about who you could invite to bring along on those evenings which will include hospitality! Full details for booking will be out later in August!

**** NEWS FROM 4th SEPTEMBER ONWARDS will arrive weekly & only in the form of an e-mail! However a few paper copies will be available to collect from our churches, so if you are unable to attend services, please ask someone to collect for you, or if you are aware of others unable to return to services, please ensure they receive copies over Autumn weeks! The postal mailing ceases with this edition! ****

Please remember in prayer, families & friends recently bereaved:

Peter Burgess 88 died on 29 June 2022; George Gainsford 77 died on 3 July 2022;
Stewart Robertson 89 died on 8 July 2022; Cecil 'John' Heritage 96 died on 18 July 2022

The months ahead – July & August services



SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES & PREACHERS

| Sunday | St Peter & St Paul 8am Holy Communion | St Peter & St Paul 10:45am Service* | St Peter & St Paul 6pm Evening Service |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 24th July / Mark 4: 35-41 | Rev'd Wendy Carr | Andy Kirkpatrick | David Balcombe John 1: 19-34 |
| 31st July / Psalms 136 | Rev'd Deryck Charnock | Sally Musson | John Schluter John 2: 1-11 |
| 7th August / Psalms 23 | Rev'd Wendy Carr | Rev'd Wendy Carr (HC) | Helen Longley John 2: 12-25 |
| 14th August / Psalms 46 | Rev'd Wendy Carr | Rev'd Ben Thorndike | Yolanda Roberts John 3: 1-15 |
| 21st August / Psalms 33 | Rev'd Ben Thorndike | Rev'd Ben Thorndike | Felicity Layton John 4: 1-42 |
| 28th August / Psalms 51 | Rev'd Ben Thorndike | Sally Musson | Helen Longley John 4: 43-54 |
| 4th September/ Psalms 4 | Rev'd Ben Thorndike | Andy Page (HC) | Rev'd Ben Thorndike |

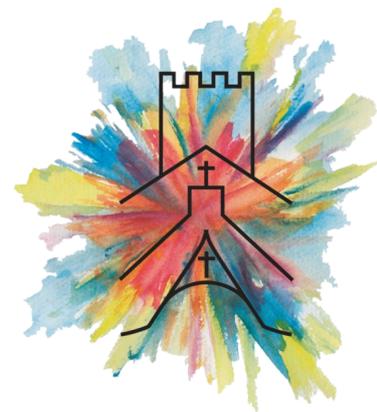
| Sunday | St Philip 10:45am Service | St Andrew 9:15am Service | St Saviour 9:15am Service |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 24th July / Mark 4: 35-41 | Rev'd Wendy Carr | George Gilbert-Smith | Sally Musson (HC) |
| 31st July / Psalms 136 | Rev'd Wendy Carr | Sally Musson | Brian Buck |
| 7th August / Psalms 23 | Andy Kirkpatrick | Robin Dunn | Sally Musson |
| 14th August / Psalms 46 | Sally Musson (HC) | Rev'd Ben Thorndike | Rev'd Wendy Carr |
| 21st August / Psalms 33 | Rev'd Wendy Carr | George Gilbert-Smith | Rev'd Deryck Charnock |
| 28th August / Psalms 51 | Rev'd Ben Thorndike | Mark Crawshay-Williams | Rev'd Ben Thorndike |
| 4th September/ Psalms 4 | Norman Whitfield | Rev'd Ben Thorndike | Sally Musson |

(HC) Holy Communion Service

* also livestreamed on our YouTube channel

GIFT DAY, Sunday 16th October—we are excited to think more about our growing ministry in the years ahead and how we can support this financially together—more details early in September

Groups & Activities continuing in 2022



GROUPS & ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE PARISH—MOST TERM TIME ONLY OR TAKING SUMMER BREAK

| Day | Group | Meet at... | Contact |
|------------------|--|---|--|
| Saturday | Health Walks (Sept) | 10am from St Philip | Sandra Stagg sandra_stagg@hotmail.com Rev'd Wendy Carr wendy@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk |
| | Open House (Sept) | 10am St Philip | |
| Sunday | Children's Groups R-Y9 Refresh Y10-13 <i>meet later</i> | 10:45am St Peter & St Paul and St Philip | Andy Page andy@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk |
| Monday | Book Club (Sept) | 10am St Peter & St Paul | Patricia King patricia_smart@yahoo.com Alison Wise a.wise.7@btinternet.com Ray Tanner raytanner_1@btinternet.com |
| | Coffee Break inc Thought for the Day | 10:30am St Saviour | |
| | Men's Fellowship (Sept) (2nd & 4th Monday) | 7:45pm St Philip | |
| Tuesday | Teddies Toddler Group (term time only) | 9:30am St Peter & St Paul | Patricia King patricia_smart@yahoo.com |
| Wednesday | Tiny Acorns under 1s (all year round) | 10:30am St Peter & St Paul | Sara Thomson sarajthomson44@gmail.com |
| Thursday | Stepping Stones Bible Study (term time only) | 10am St Peter & St Paul | Josephine Sinclair josephinedb@yahoo.co.uk |
| Friday | Women's Fellowship (2nd & 4th Friday) (Sept) | 7:30pm St Philip | Marion Evans marionevans244@gmail.com |
| Various | Home Groups for all Christians who are part of our Parish family in any of our 4 churches | Various | John Schluter jes@cafeafrika.org |

REGULAR OPPORTUNITIES TO PRAY WITH OTHERS:

- **Church Family Prayers** over Zoom (873 2048 1612), every Friday at 9.30am for 15-20 minutes. We gather to pray together for ministry over the weekend ahead, and other things happening in the life of the church and the world and would love you to join us.
- **Saturday Morning Prayers** alternate in person on 1st & 3rd Saturdays at P&P with Zoom gatherings on 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturdays each month!
- **Wednesday Evening Prayers** monthly at St Philip's, 7.30pm on 1st Wednesdays of the month!

Any queries, please contact the Parish Office.