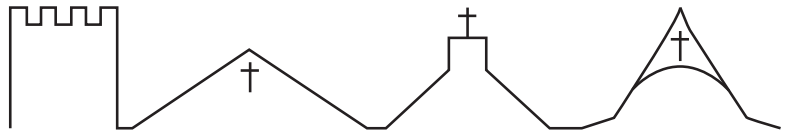




THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

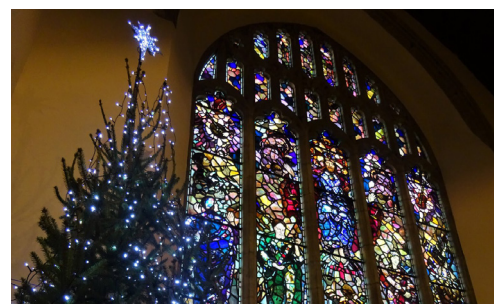


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# perspectives

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- A Diamond Wedding
- Warm Spaces / Open House
- Families Eating and Sharing Together
- The Gate of The Year



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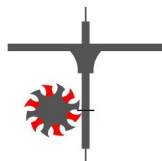
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2022 has been a turbulent year, and the coming weeks and months promise to continue in that way, with possible strike action in different sectors. Life is not easy for many, and the disruptions may test our patience. All the more important, therefore, to remember how much we have for which we can be thankful. The Bible says: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Christmas is a great moment to remind ourselves of that!

We would like to take this opportunity to send all our subscribers and readers our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**Perspectives Editorial Team**

Dear Friends

'Yea, Lord, we greet Thee'  
Christmas 2022 at Tonbridge  
Parish Church

Christmas is one of the busiest times in the life of the church family! It's mid-November as I write, and we have already firmed up a number of Christmas services and events in the calendar. Do take a look at the back page for more details – I am particularly excited about the free donkey rides on Christmas Eve at our nativity event!



But why all this busy-ness?

The first verse of a favourite Carol reminds us that the things we remember at this time of year aren't just made-up stories. They actually happened in space and time and human history – 'Once in royal David's city.' If we'd been there then, we'd have seen it too.

And the last verse of another Carol reminds us who that baby was, and why He's worth remembering:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing!

Jesus' claim is that He is God himself, born as one of us, in order to save us.

That's a big claim! With big implications for all of us, whether or not we choose to believe Him. Why not take the time to look into it some more this Christmas? We'd love to welcome you to any of the churches in our parish and hope all our services will be helpful for those who just want to think more about these things.

But – if that claim is true – then surely there's only way to respond – and not just by remembering that baby.

O come, let us adore him! Will you?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben".

**Ben Thorndike**  
Vicar, Tonbridge Parish Church

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](mailto:perspectives@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk)



## A Diamond Wedding and Sixty Years in Tonbridge



Wedding Day - 15<sup>th</sup> September 1962

On September 15th, 2022, Richard and Judy Roberts celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They were married in Cheshire, but their first home was at the south end of Tonbridge in Deakin Leas. Richard was working in London in property management, and Judy was a State Registered Nurse at the Cottage Hospital in Tonbridge.

Living at the south end of town, St Stephen's church was their nearest, but Richard had been involved in youth work up in London and was encouraged to get involved in Cleopas - the Youth Group at St Peter and St Paul. So it was, that in early 1963, they joined the church and became involved in parish life. The Vicar then was Canon Cecil Bewes - the first of 6 incumbents in their time, up to and including Ben. Two died in office - Charles Searle Barnes, and Michael Perry, whose poem you can find framed in the St. Nicholas Chapel in the Parish church, when he knew he was dying.

The church was very different then. The creche was in the Vicarage sitting room, and children's church was in the South Aisle - now transformed into the Lower Lounge. There was no family service, but it was soon introduced in addition to matins. They even remember a curate throwing darts at a picture of the bishop because at that time curates were not allowed to marry! A small congregation met in the scout hut at Cage Green, but St. Philip's was not yet there. Judy remembers standing and singing in the foundations as they started the new building. They moved to Old Hadlow Road in 1969 - by which time two sons, David (1963) and Jonathan (1966), had appeared. Judy took to delivering the Parish Magazine locally as a great way to meet the new neighbours.

In the 1970's, the then curate Graham Dow started Home Groups, and Richard and Judy were asked to host one. It is



Four Generations of the Roberts Family at their Diamond Anniversary

still going today, though not with all the same members! They have been fully involved in Parish life throughout. Richard served on the PCC from 1966, was Church Warden first in 1971, and again in early 2000s. He was also on the committee which supervised the construction of the Church Centre in the late 70s / early 80s. When he retired from being Church Warden, he helped out with Sunday and Holiday Clubs for 10 years. Judy has worked in the café at the Church Centre on a Monday almost since it opened - her cheese scones are the stuff of legend. They have always

kept an eye out for the lonely and the bereaved, and love nothing better than entertaining at home, especially for a Sunday lunch (Author's note - Mum is a very good cook- never turn down an invitation!).

Outside church life, they enjoy holidays, walking, golf, bird watching, crosswords, and watching sport (especially golf!). They have also loved looking after, and now enjoying, their five grandchildren - Amy, Lucy, Matt, Hannah, and Elliot - with great grandson Toby a recent addition.

After 60 years married, and 60 years in the parish, they are an example of Christian care and hospitality. But as they themselves say, their faith in God through Jesus, and the love and support from the church family have greatly enhanced those years, with lifelong friendships and myriad happy memories.

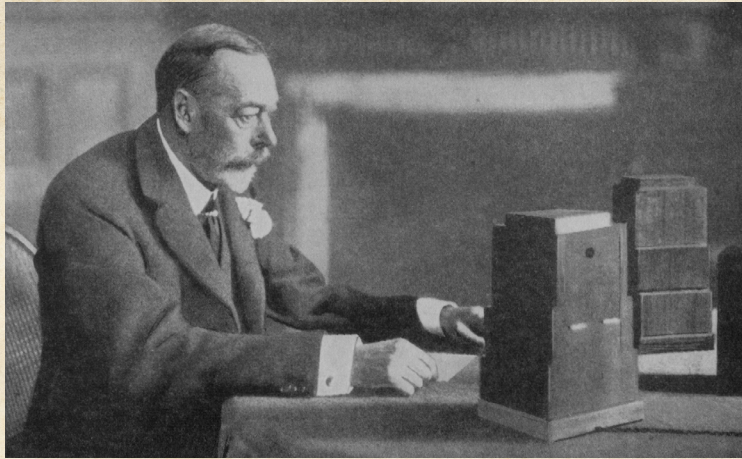


60 years on...

David Roberts



# The Gate of the Dear



George V records the 1934 Christmas broadcast

Listening to the royal Christmas message has become a tradition for many. The first broadcast in 1932 was scripted by Rudyard Kipling and was read on live radio by King George V. It reached a vast audience of around 20 million globally.

Over the years the Christmas message has enabled our Monarch to deliver their personal message directly to the public. Since their inception, the broadcasts have capitalised on advances in technology, moving from radio to television, and now to podcast on-line. The messages themselves have provided a strong thread of continuity - an annual moment of reflection for the Royal Family, our nation and the wider world. They have evolved to become an opportunity for the Sovereign to honour the trials of the year and celebrate its positives, framing them within the Christmas message of hope and unity.

In the wake of the Great Depression in the 1930s, King George V sought to encourage the nation to work together in peace and goodwill, and aim for "prosperity without self-seeking". George VI's first speech in 1937 noted the "shadows of enmity and of fear" hanging over parts of the world. After the outbreak of war in 1939, he spoke of Christmas as a festival of peace and lamented, "it is the tragedy of this time that there are powerful countries whose whole direction and policy are based on aggression and the suppression of all that we hold dear for mankind."



George VI records the 1939 Christmas broadcast

He concluded with these now well-known words of encouragement written by Minnie Louise Haskin:

*"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."*

Throughout WWII the broadcasts gave the King a podium that recognised the difficulties of people's struggles, the sacrifices made, whilst urging them to persist with courage. In the challenging post-war days of austerity, the King continued to reassure the nation, saying, "We cannot expect the world, so grievously wounded, to recover quickly ... its convalescence can certainly be hastened by our continued endurance and goodwill".

Following her father's death, Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952 at the age of 25, and 1957 saw the first televised message. From 1959 the broadcasts were pre-recorded so that all the Commonwealth could watch it on Christmas Day. Queen Elizabeth's speeches subsequently became more personal in tone, with clear references to the importance of her faith. In the aftermath of 9/11, the Queen spoke of the importance of faith as a source of strength in troubled times. In her 50th Christmas broadcast in 2002, following the death of her sister and mother, she spoke of reliance on twin pillars: the message of hope in the Christian gospel and public support.



Queen Elizabeth II in the first televised Christmas broadcast in 1957

In 2015, a year marred by disasters and terrorist attacks, the Queen encouraged her audience to find hope in "moments of darkness" and quoted the Gospel of John, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." This year Charles III will become the fourth monarch to take part in the tradition begun by his great-grandfather, King George V. Let us pray for God's blessing on him as he strives to carry on their work.

**Morwenna Fernandes**



# Our Community - Warm Spaces



## Open House

During 2019 a group of us met to ascertain how we might reach the community surrounding us at St. Philip's Church in Salisbury Road, North Tonbridge. Conscious of having a wonderful resource in the form of this accessible building in the middle of a community bereft of local indoor meeting places, restaurants, or cafés, we decided to open our doors and sought to create a welcoming space on Saturday mornings from 10am-12 noon.

We were eagerly planning Open House's first Birthday as lockdown began. Sadly, the doors closed. During lockdown, some of our volunteers trained online to provide Health Walks through the One You initiative, and as soon as the rules allowed, a group gathered each week to walk and chat together. Coping with loneliness and social isolation was an issue for many through Covid. Once lockdown restrictions lifted, we gradually re-opened the doors, and from September this year, we were pleased to be able to re-establish Open House every Saturday morning.

Open House offers a friendly space for all ages. There are refreshments - including homemade cakes, scones and other savoury treats available each week, with toys and games for all, including table football and table tennis. In the summer, we planted our own herb garden - accessible for all - and have also partnered with the Royal Horticultural Society. We have had opportunities for bike repairs, crafting and are looking forward to partnering with other agencies in the months to come.

*We are committed to our community and all are welcome to enjoy the company and warmth within Open House*

*We volunteer not because we have to but because we want to share the love of Jesus*

Our aim is to respond to the needs of the community, offering a warm and friendly space to all, while continuing to run the Health Walks. We have links with FEAST (see Page 11) and our volunteers have completed Mental Health First Aid training with others training on the Money Matters Course.

## Warm Spaces

2022 has brought new challenges to our communities due to the cost-of-living crisis. When the Parish of St Peter & St Paul looked at how we could respond to an initiative called Warm Spaces, we realised we could provide a warm space across the parish throughout the week: St Peter & St Paul's coffee shop (Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings), Teddies (toddler group) on Tuesday mornings, & Tiny Acorns (for parents/carers & babies under 1) (Wednesday mornings), and St Andrews Church offering refreshments (Friday mornings). All are places where people can come for a warm space for a couple of hours. Open House on Saturdays has also extended opening until 1.30pm to provide a lunchtime soup and a roll.



We look forward to welcoming many people this winter; do please come along and join us! Look up the Warm Spaces information on our website [www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk) under the Community Engagement tab.

**Rev'd Wendy Carr**





# O come let us adore him!

Surely, one of the most joyful parts of Christmas is that moment when voices are raised together to sing the beautiful words of Christmas carols. The magnificent soaring of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, the contemplative hush of Silent Night, the childhood memories of Little Donkey or Away in a Manger: all bring precious memories, a shared moment of communion and a joyful message of hope for all into our sometimes dark and difficult world.

You are warmly invited to join our carol services this year; everybody is welcome. Why not come and bring a friend?

## **SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DEC - 6PM: CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT AT TONBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH**

A beautiful traditional service of carols and readings in the setting of our medieval parish church. Join us as we take part in advent, the Church's season of expectation and preparation before the festival of Christmas.

## **SAT 17<sup>TH</sup> DEC - 4PM: ALL AGE CHRISTINGLE AT ST PHILIP'S**

A special family - friendly service based around the symbol of the Christingle which is linked to the work of the Children's Society. The Christingle was created as a simple way to explain to children the wonderful good news of the gift of Jesus. Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning: the orange represents the world, the red ribbon wrapped around it symbolises the love and blood of Christ, the sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creation and the lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

*Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."*

*Luke 2:10*

## **SAT 24<sup>TH</sup> DEC - 2PM - 5PM: ALL AGE NATIVITY (OUTDOORS) AT TONBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH**



An informal, interactive, retelling of the Christmas story in an outdoor setting, great for younger children and their grown-ups! Complete with animals! 3.30pm Outdoor Nativity. Look out for more info on the Tonbridge Parish Church Facebook page.

## **SAT 24<sup>TH</sup> DEC: 11.30PM MIDNIGHT COMMUNION AT TONBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH**

For those willing and able to stay up to midnight, join us in stepping outside our usual pattern of daytime services. This very special service begins late on Christmas Eve, bringing light into the darkness as we rejoice in the very first moments of Christmas.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY: 8AM HOLY COMMUNION AT TONBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH**

A quieter, more traditional service with Holy Communion to start the day.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY: 10AM - ALL AGE SERVICES AT ALL FOUR CHURCH BUILDINGS: TONBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH, ST PHILIP'S, ST SAVIOUR'S AND ST ANDREW'S**

A welcoming, family-friendly service to celebrate Christmas together as a community. Join us for seasonal music, uplifting carols and a Christmas message of hope and joy.



**Morwenna Fernandes**



# The Power of Prayer

*"In everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God"*  
(Philippians 4 v.6)

Those who pray regularly may wonder what all the fuss is about and why don't people just get on with it. But think about those who have never prayed earnestly, or who find making time a challenge, with busy families, caring responsibilities, or demands of work which leave few spare moments. Others may feel their prayers are not answered so have given up praying.

Most of us do not realise how powerful prayer can be, or we have never considered that prayer is a precious gift, both to us, and to others for whom we pray. As one person told me, knowing that others prayed for her gave her courage and confidence to keep going.



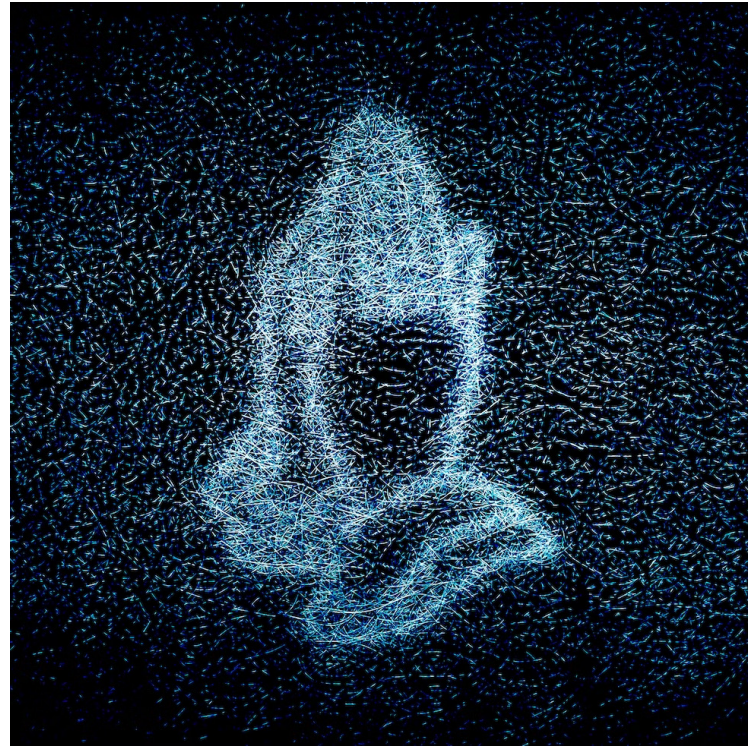
Prayer can be seen as our daily conversation with God, who wants to illuminate our daily path. We may wonder whether our Creator notices the needs of individuals since we are so microscopic - well wonder no longer because he does! (Selwyn Hughes: *Everyday with Jesus*). Prayer is simply talking to God, as a Father, Friend, or Counsellor. Asking is just part of prayer, believing that God hears and answers. They say that faith is trust in action, so we pray trusting

that God will act. Praying allows us to make that interior journey, to experience God's presence, to thank Him for his faithfulness and for the hope we have in Him.



Another church member wrote to us: "How fortunate that God offers so many ways to communicate with Him. All are needful. My favourite is contemplative: to prepare myself to sit in His presence, loose the concerns busily occupying my mind, and wait on Him - however He chooses to come. The time, whether long or short, is invariably restorative, blessed and strengthening, equipping me to cope with what He knows will be my next encounters."

Pete Greig, in his challenging book "God on Mute", helps us realise there is more to praying than we know. It is written round his family's own personal story and has continued



to be a source of help to others. He reminds of how Jesus suffered the silence of unanswered prayer at the time of his greatest need - the days of his passion. Even when we feel God is not paying attention, it is still important to make time, to stop, to listen to God, to what He might be saying, even when there seems to be silence.

## Engaging the silence

First there is prayer  
And where there is prayer there may be - miracles  
But where miracles may not be  
There are questions  
And where there are questions, there may be - silence  
But silence may be more than - absence  
Silence may be presence - muted  
Silence may not be nothing but - something  
To explore, defy, accuse - engage  
And this is prayer - and where there is prayer - there may yet be - miracles.

*(God on Mute; 'Engaging the silence of unanswered prayer' Pete Greig)*

Patricia Osborn



# Pray Your Way

Following on from the article about prayer on page 8, we're giving you some simple & practical ways in which you can engage in prayer that all ages can do.

## Teaspoon Prayers

A simple form of praying is to use T, S & P.  
Thank you - give thanks for something.  
Sorry - say sorry for something.  
Please - ask for something.  
Why not try doing this every time you use a teaspoon.



## Prayer Journal

If you're someone who likes writing, you might find that a prayer journal or diary is helpful. Writing things down can help you work out exactly what you want to say, and you can look back at all the things you've prayed for over time.



## Get Outside And Go For A Prayer Walk

You can pray anywhere, at any time, and going for a walk can be a great way of finding things to pray for. You can involve all your senses when you're outdoors and pray for whatever you happen to notice.

You might feel the coldness of the air on your skin and want to pray for those who don't have somewhere warm to sleep. You might hear the sound of birds and want to thank God for the variety of his creation.

Whatever it is, you can pray for it all, wherever your walk takes you.



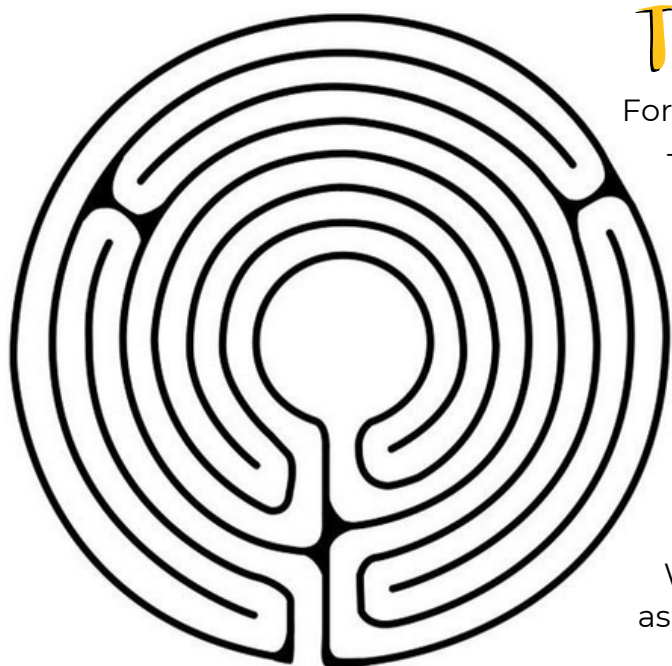
## Try This Prayer Labyrinth

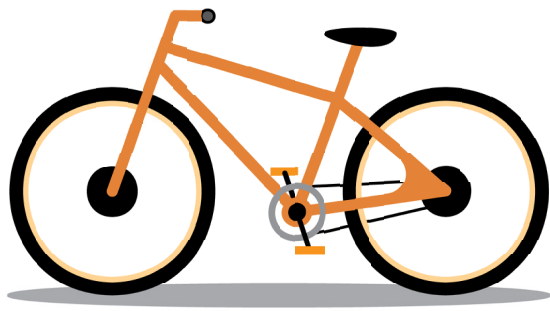
For thousands of years, Christians have used labyrinths - one route paths - to help them take time and pray. Some are big enough to walk around, but smaller ones (like this one) are used with a finger.

Place your finger at the opening and slowly trace the path to the centre. As you go, think & pray about how close to God you are at the moment.

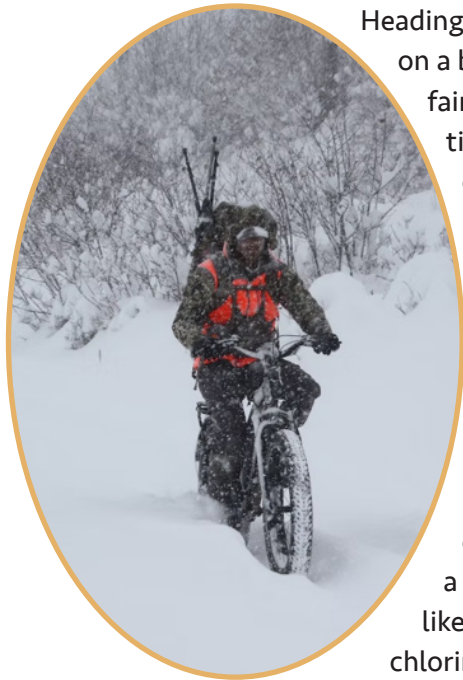
When you get to the centre, stay there for a minute or so and ask God to speak to you. You may 'hear' something or you may not, just don't rush.

When you're ready, retrace the path to the start and ask God to give you all that you need for whatever lies ahead of you in the days & weeks to come.





# The Joys of *The Bicycle*



Heading out for some exercise on a bicycle is not for the faint-hearted at this time of year. For those of us who prefer not to give their joints the arduous pounding of running or jogging, and for whom a walk hardly raises the heart rate, the bicycle remains an excellent option for a good workout. If, like me, the smell of chlorine and unintended consumption of large

quantities of swimming pool water carry little attraction, some of the local cycle paths and quieter country roads make an excellent alternative, especially on a brisk winter's day. It is a great way to get some vigorous exercise and stir us out of our WCPS (Winter-Couch-Potato-Syndrome).

The humble bicycle has so many advantages. Apart from being ecologically sound, and physiologically beneficial, it is economically advantageous (did you notice fuel prices are up again?), and psychologically soothing (no worries from the unwelcome attentions of our diligent parking wardens in Tonbridge, and little risk of a speeding fine, unless you are particularly fit!)

The direction of travel is an important consideration. Going north or south out of Tonbridge, you'll face either Quarry Hill or River Hill. For an average Kentish cyclist, such as myself, these feel more like a climber's equivalent to an attempt on Everest. Neither direction is for the faint-hearted. On the other hand, heading West towards Penshurst and beyond, the hills are less demanding. To the

East I am told you can cycle the 30 miles to Bethersden near Ashford with less than 100 metres change in elevation all the way. The only problem with going that far is that once you have arrived, you have to get home again!

If you are more a cross-country enthusiast, there are plenty of possibilities, one of the best being at Bedgebury near Flimwell. You'd be well advised to put your bike in or on the back of your car and leave the cycling part to the forest down there. There are plenty of other possible routes, and websites such as [www.komoot.com](http://www.komoot.com) or [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk) have all sorts of suggestions. And for those with the inclination – and budget – there's always the possibility of an electric bike. Users insist that these can still be quite kinetically demanding. Certainly if the battery runs out when you are far from home, the 20+ kilos take considerable pedal-power, so careful battery management is advisable!

Cyclops at 8, Bank Street near Tonbridge Castle, have all sorts of bicycles, from the family versions and cross country options, to top of the range racing bikes – and of course the electric



models. They also handle all kinds of repairs, and Paul & Laura Chapman with Jake Roe will always be happy to provide a good service for anyone interested. And if you're stuck for a Christmas present, there are all sorts of interesting gizmos for the cycling enthusiast to suit every budget!

*John Schluter*



## It's more than just food!

### LUNCHES AND ACTIVITIES:

FEAST has come a long way since its inception in 2018, serving lunches to families in the school holidays, beginning at Tonbridge Methodist church (TMC) and subsequently at St Philip's and elsewhere. In its first year we served 5 or 6 families. This year we

have regularly served 10 plus families, and have had some extra funds to offer activities after lunch: performing arts, football skills, skateboarding, drumming, arts and crafts and circus skills.



*I am amazed by, and grateful for, the support I've received*

### LARDERS:

When COVID struck we became an emergency food bank which then evolved into a community larder, serving a fresh food, large bag top up using recycled supermarket food, as well as some non-perishable items, for a £2 fee. We started with 25-30 guests per week and now we serve 100+ families at TMC on Wednesdays, and at St Stephen's on Saturdays. We have served approximately 500 households from our larders since summer 2020 as well as offering other sources of help: fuel vouchers, and finding donors to fund a new carpet, fridge, or oven for example. INVOLVE, a social prescribing service, visits once a month, giving advice on issues like housing, benefits and debt, as well as an NHS-funded initiative 'We Are With You' to support mental health.

*Being listened to is as important as the food.*

FEAST became a charity in July, and with that come greater responsibilities: to be sustainable, to make long

term plans, to train and look after our volunteers and to encourage, nourish and guide our guests forwards.

### COMMUNITY:

Our core aim is still to alleviate poverty through food provision, but FEAST has become more than being about food alone. Relationships are being made and a community is being formed between church-goers and those not in any church, and also between volunteers and guests. We offer a café to our customers alongside the larder, where they can chat and seek help and, most importantly, be listened to. An offer of prayer has yet to be turned down.

### PRAYER REQUEST:

Give thanks for God's amazing provision of food every week. For our wonderful volunteers and their hard work and commitment. For the trustees that they make wise decisions (it is so easy to be tempted by a beautiful idea that is not sustainable!).



**We aim to make this Christmas as happy as possible for our families. If you would like to help you can donate through our website: [feast.org.uk](http://feast.org.uk). To volunteer send a message through the website or contact me direct at [felicity.layton@talktalk.net](mailto:felicity.layton@talktalk.net). To donate food: TMC is open every Wednesday and St Stephen's every Saturday from 9.30 am.**

*Felicity Layton*



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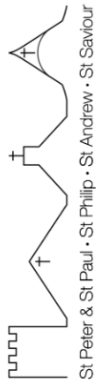


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Other offices at: Borough Green - 01732 780600, Chelsfield - 01689 452525,  
Chislehurst - 020 8467 2222, Sevenoaks - 01732 742400, Swanley - 01322 619100, Tunbridge Wells - 01892 300330





# OUR MISSION PARTNERS



**Bishop Ken Barham** - Bishop Ken visited us in October this year. He is planning to visit Rwanda next April for the first time in almost 3 years. His current fund raising efforts are focussed on building additional classrooms at the Jill Barham School.



## High Hopes

**High Hopes** - High Hopes have been back in local primary schools holding assemblies and leading an after school Fun Club. The assemblies have been prepared to introduce the children to Jesus and the wonderful things He said, did and inspired. During December, High Hopes will be sharing a special Christmas assembly based on Jesus being the very first Christmas present that was ever given - and the best!



**The Diocese of Kondoa** - The school now has 150 pupils enrolled from across the local community both Christian and Muslim. There are severe food shortages across Kondoa. Bishop Given has told us that ".....we have been distributing food to the elderly who suffer from hunger and have no other means. We give the food with no discrimination of one's religion. The Church has shown the example of the Good Samaritan. Helping a victim from another ethnic group or tribe or religion....."



**The Gelsthorpe family** - The Gelsthorpes have been encouraging the congregation to invite their friends to the church to participate in a special event that they are planning for Christmas.

They have been able to restart a weekly Teen Club to share the Gospel with non-church youth.

COVID continues to affect their ministry and they have not been able to resume eating together as a congregation. The congregation has been split into smaller fellowship groups that can meet weekly for prayer and fellowship.



**Langham Partnership** - Langham will shortly be selecting new scholars to undergo training. There are already over 325 scholars serving in leadership roles around the world. Bible commentaries and other literature continue to be written and distributed globally. In the year Jul 21 to Jun 22, almost 50,000 books were distributed to colleges and pastors and 50 new titles were published.

# 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), plus crèche for pre-schoolers

**6pm** Evening Service (Holy Communion on 4th Sunday of the month).

\*Also available online on our YouTube channel

#### Wednesdays

**10.30am** Holy Communion (1st and 3rd 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

**Creche:** (0 – 4 years), 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](mailto:ycoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk)

## Contact

<b>Parish Administration</b> Parish Office, Tonbridge Parish Church, Church Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1DA	<b>(01732) 770962 ext. 24</b> <a href="mailto:parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk">parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk</a>
<b>Vicar</b> The Rev'd Ben Thorndike	<b>(01732) 770962 ext. 23</b> <a href="mailto:ben@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk">ben@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk</a>
<b>Associate Vicar</b> The Rev'd Wendy Carr	<b>(01732) 770962 ext. 32</b>
<b>Senior Minister for Families</b> Alyson Bleakley (from 03-01-2023)	<b>(01732) 770962 ext.22</b> <a href="mailto:parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk">parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk</a>
<b>Youth &amp; Children's Minister</b> Andy Page	<b>(01732) 770962 ext. 22</b> <a href="mailto:andy@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk">andy@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk</a>
<b>Licensed Lay Minister</b> Sally Musson	<b>07713 352017</b> <a href="mailto:sallymusson@btinternet.com">sallymusson@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Parish Administrator &amp; Vicar's PA</b> Jane Higgs	<b>(01732) 770962 ext. 24</b> <a href="mailto:jane.higgs@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk">jane.higgs@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk</a>
<b>Church Family Administrator</b> Jane Thorndike	<b>(01732) 770962 ext. 24</b> <a href="mailto:jane.thorndike@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk">jane.thorndike@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk</a>
<b>Churchwardens</b> David Balcombe, Paul White	<b>(01732) 770962 ext. 24</b>
<b>Parish Treasurer</b> Ray Tanner	<b>(01732) 770962 ext. 25</b>
<b>Finance Manager</b> Yolanda Roberts	<b>(01732) 770962 ext. 25</b> <a href="mailto:yolanda@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk">yolanda@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk</a>
<b>Perspectives Team</b> John Schluter (Chair), Merle Bigden, Pippa Disdel, Jenny Macpherson, Tom James, Patricia Osborn.	<a href="mailto:perspectives@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk">perspectives@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk</a>

*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 1s
- Teddies for parents and carers with preschool children
- Prayer Gatherings
- Home Groups
- Health Walks
- Stepping Stones Bible Study for women
- Book Club
- Open House and Warm Spaces at St. Philip

**Visit our website [www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk) to find out more or complete the online form on our Contact Us page:**

**[www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk/contactus](http://www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk/contactus)**



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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](mailto:margaret.lewin@musicalbumps.com)  
07736 244142

# CELEBRATE in the Parish of CHRISTMAS! *St Peter & St Paul, Tonbridge*

**SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER**  
6PM: CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT  
AT: ST PETER & ST PAUL

**SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER**  
4PM: ALL AGE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE  
AT: ST PHILIP

**SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER**  
2-5PM: ALL AGE FESTIVITIES PLUS ANIMALS!  
3.30PM: OUTDOOR NATIVITY  
AT: ST PETER & ST PAUL

**SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER**  
11.30PM: MIDNIGHT COMMUNION  
AT: ST PETER & ST PAUL

**SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER**  
8AM: COMMUNION SERVICE  
AT: ST PETER & ST PAUL

**SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER**  
10AM: CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SERVICES  
AT: ST PETER & ST PAUL, ST PHILIP,  
ST ANDREW AND ST SAVIOUR

