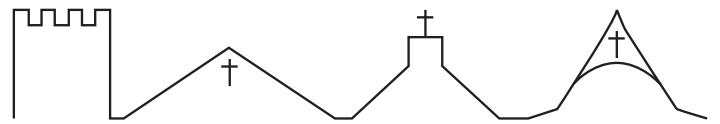
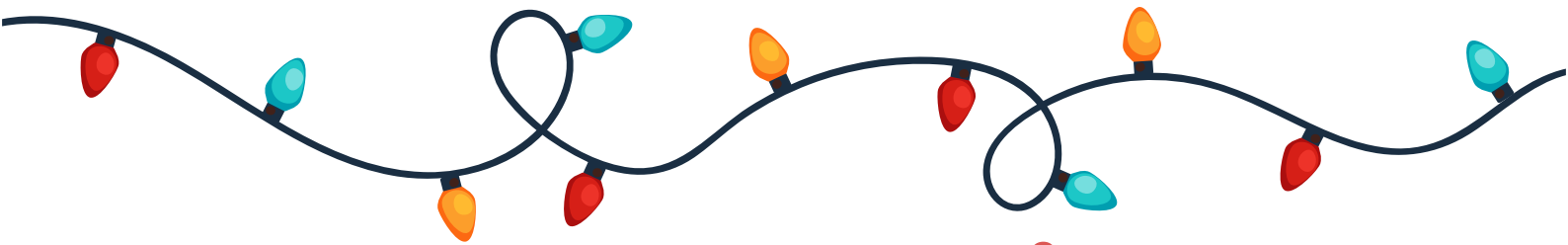




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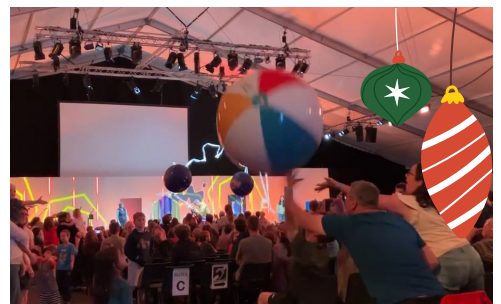
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perspectives

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- Recently moved back to Tonbridge
- Music and musicians in the parish
- Banking crisis in Tonbridge?
- Planning your Summer Holidays?



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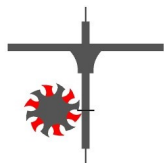
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Best wishes for Christmas

As Christmas approaches again, we are mindful of the many storms, floods and earthquakes of recent months which follow the destructive fires of the summer. The media rush us on to the latest crisis, forgetting those left to clear up the debris, struggling to put their lives together again as they face the long-haul of grief and hardship. We are reminded daily of the intense suffering of the Israeli and the Palestinian populations, the grim reality of nearly two years of war in Ukraine with so many still living as refugees, the Armenians pushed from their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh, or the six million displaced by the continuing civil war in Sudan.

The story of Bethlehem is a sign of hope for the world. But Jesus was born into difficult circumstances, and the family soon had to escape as refugees to Egypt to flee the wrath of the King Herod.

It is our hope and prayer that the world's leaders will be motivated and inspired to find a path to peace in each of the conflicts, that justice and peace may be restored, and that grieving hearts will find comfort. May many recognise this Christmas that the Christ-Child is indeed the Prince of Peace, and even as the conflicts rage, find in Him the source of peace for our souls. We wish all our readers a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Perspectives Editorial Team



Christmas Unwrapped – Christmas 2023 at Tonbridge Parish Church



I was reading this week (mid-November as I write) that the average person spends 15 hours looking for Christmas presents for others, walks 20 miles to get them, and spends two hours queuing for them. With figures like that, you could be forgiven for thinking Christmas is all about the presents!

But I suspect most of us would say that's a bit too materialistic – we know Christmas has deeper significance. though that can actually be quite hard to find behind the turkey... crackers... office parties... family rows... and, of course, presents!

Jesus' friend John puts it well in the opening words of his account of Jesus' life. He tells us that Christmas is about God revealed, God rejected, and God received. The Bible tells us God reveals Himself in the person of Jesus at Christmas – and we have a choice either to reject or to receive Him. John's Gospel chapter 1 verse 12 is the answer we're looking for about the meaning of Christmas. John writes, "yet to all who received [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

God gives us the chance, believing in Jesus, to enter a relationship with Him where he'll love and protect and dote on us - a bit like we might do with our own children this Christmas season.

If that prospect excites you as much as it does me, why not take the time to look into it 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.

We are also running a short three-week course in the new year to think specifically about how Christianity claims to offer real HOPE, real PEACE and real PURPOSE for life. We would love to welcome you to that too – Hope Explored!

Ben Thorndike
Vicar, Tonbridge Parish Church

My Faith and My Role in the Community

Victoria Maxted (Tor) only moved back to Tonbridge fairly recently, having first moved here in 2003, and having been away for her studies, she joined the Parish Church. She quickly joined a home group, and also started helping with the young people in the SOS group on Sunday mornings, and at the Holiday Club.

Tell us a bit about yourself

I have been attending Tonbridge Parish Church for over a year. Before that, I lived in Bath, Brighton and Eastbourne where I completed my psychology degrees. I currently work in the NHS, running mental health groups for young people and adults. These are 'creative', such as baking and expressive writing, and 'condition-specific' for managing and coping with conditions such as depression or obsessive-compulsive disorder.

How did you come into contact with Christianity?

I first remember learning about christianity at primary school through the local vicar who came in every week to share a story from the Bible. During year six, a Christian charity called Crossteach spoke to us about transitions and the changes ahead. I found comfort in their support and sought them out when I began secondary school. I attended the Crossteach Christian Union every week which provided a great sense of strength and support throughout school. For sixth form, I felt I wanted a stronger connection to God and joined a Church of England school, where I was surrounded by Christian teachers and peers.

Was there a particular event which made a difference?

Whilst I was living in Eastbourne, just before the Covid-19 lockdown, I had been struggling with chronic pain and had been living in my flat alone when I entered the local church for the first time. The community were friendly, and things were brighter. I was given a Bible, started reading it one-to-one and joined a home group. I found hope.

For me, I know that living with chronic pain is tricky. I find strength in God and rely on Him. He gives me strength to wake up, to do my job and to walk when it hurts. I've also found the church community (regardless of where you are; Tonbridge, Eastbourne, Bath...) to be a source



of love and support. Whether this be through prayer, a check-in to see how you are or the more practical things (meals, invites or lifts). They are a blessing and continually encourage me in my faith.



How are you involved in the Church and wider community?

I enjoy helping with the youth work at Church. I love that anyone can get involved - I tend to do the crafts, particularly for annual events such as The Light Party and Holiday Club. I'm also involved in leading SOS on a Sunday morning (Years 6-9) and helping with the Family Breakfasts. I go to a home group and the monthly prayer meeting which is great for fellowship and a chance to see people from other services across the parish. I'm also involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme at Bennett Memorial and an annual Ventures & Falcons Holiday Summer Camp.

How do you like to relax?

After a long day, I like to unwind by putting my feet up and curling up with a good book and some music or a film. If I've had a less busy day, I love cooking/baking, playing board games with friends or perhaps going for a walk - but not in this wintery, wet and windy weather!



Victoria Maxted

ONCE CHRISTMAS IS OVER....

WILL IT BE DRY-JANUARY OR EVEN VEGANUARY?

All too soon Christmas will have gone by, and we will stand at the threshold of the New Year. It is a great moment to pause and take stock. What happened in 2023? What did I learn, and has anything changed in the way I am living or thinking? What are my expectations and ambitions for 2024?

As we reflect on some of life's bigger questions in this season, we may also be inclined to tackle a smaller near-term objective in the form of a New Year's Resolution. Dry January has become a popular cure for what might have been a too-enthusiastically-celebrated Christmas and New Year! You may be set on an up-graded exercise regime for 2024 - to lift the daily target from 10,000 steps, or to make more regular visits to the gym.

So many of our New Year resolutions survive but a few days into January, but one thing we might all benefit from is a healthier diet (alongside more exercise, if possible). Since 2014 the concept of Veganuary - people taking up the challenge to eat vegan for a month - has become a trend. For those wanting to find out more the Veganuary website can provide help and resources including recipes, meal plans, nutritional advice and support. See <https://veganuary.com/>. If Vegan is too much of a stretch, you could try a vegetarian diet, but even making some adjustments can be beneficial, not just for your health, but for the health of our planet.

Meat is increasingly expensive and numerous health studies have suggested that eating too much, especially processed meat, can have a detrimental effect on our health. Recent studies have found that meat production accounts for nearly sixty per cent of all greenhouse gases from food production and that globally meat production causes double the pollution of equivalent plant-based foods. Many of us may not feel ready to commit to this level of challenge just yet. However, there are many smaller steps you can take to reduce the impact of your meat intake on your wallet, your health and the environment.

You could try:

- Reducing your intake of red meat, especially beef, by eating more chicken or fish-based meals
- Experimenting with meat-substitutes such as tofu or seitan. These now come in more varieties of textures and base ingredients than ever before.
- Reducing the amount of meat per dish by adding more vegetables or lentils and pulses.
- Using a non-dairy milk on your morning cereal or in your drinks - there are numerous options now, including soy, nut and oat based.
- Experiment to find one that suits you.
- Ordering a vegan or vegetarian meal next time you eat out. You might find some delicious new dishes to try at home!
- aiming to have one meat-free day a week.

For more advice: <https://meatfreemondays.com/>.



It's likely that at some point you will find yourself catering for a guest or even a family member who is vegetarian or vegan. It can be handy to have a few recipes up your sleeve.

Vegetarian Bolognese

Serves: 4

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large onion, carrot & stick of celery, finely chopped
- 200 g red lentils, rinsed
- 300 g mushrooms, chopped
- salt and pepper to taste
- ½ teaspoon each of dried oregano & thyme
- 1 tablespoon red wine
- 400 g chopped tomatoes
- 500 ml vegetable stock

1) Fry the onions over a medium heat until soft and slightly golden.

2) Add the chopped carrot and celery and allow them to cook for another 5 minutes. Turn down the heat if necessary.

3) Add red lentils, chopped mushrooms, wine, herbs and tomatoes. Then add stock and leave to simmer for at least 15 minutes.

4) Season to taste and serve with your favourite pasta: also works well with baked potato or rice!

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS IN THE PARISH

Few would disagree that music can have a powerful effect on us. Whether it is the music itself, or the words, the magnificence of a Beethoven symphony, an old hymn, or a simple love song, music stirs our hearts in a profound way. We have talked to some of those who make music in our churches, to see how they came to be serving this way in the church, and how they themselves see their music.

The Balcombe Family

Music seems to be in the DNA of the Balcombe family. David and Wendy both started into music early in life and encouraged their four children to do so too. Thanks to an early encounter with the Suzuki method of learning the violin, they all started their musical careers at very early ages, with each practising in a different room in their home before breakfast! They have since been involved in music in the parish church, the town, and at a national level. For the Balcombe's, music has been an important outlet, an opportunity to serve in the church and community, both as a family and individually, and to encourage others to use and develop their gifts. As they said, 'Music can be uniquely fulfilling, enabling us to open our hearts to God as we worship.'

David Fullman

David moved with his wife to Tonbridge 50 years ago, and from playing the piano for Pathfinders at Cage Green (now St. Philip's), he has contributed enormously over the years to our services, playing both the organ and piano, including for countless weddings and funerals. He finds inspiration for his Christian faith in the traditional hymns and the works of the great composers such as Handel, Bach and Mendelssohn. Now well into his 80s, he is still enjoying playing, though perhaps a little less frequently. We have enormously appreciated his faithful service and sharing his gift of music with us.



David Fullman



Members of the Balcombe family during lockdown

Steve Minton

Steve started piano lessons and singing in the church choir at the age of six. He took up the 'cello two years later. Today he leads the 'cello section of the Tonbridge Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as leading from the keyboard the Sunday worship at St. Philip's church and others in the parish. He enjoys music of all types – classical, jazz and popular. He writes 'I sense how music can facilitate our understanding of biblical text and help us feel the presence of the Holy Spirit... Music can call to mind the glory of God... I thank God for the gifts he has given us to worship Him in song and reflect his glory in secular music-making – indeed, for the gift of music itself.'

Liz Connell

Liz moved to Tonbridge in 2006, but it had been some years since she had played her viola. Encouraged to take it up again, it has been for her a joy to give something to the church, in joining in a string quartet which accompanies the worship in some of our services. As she says, when you make music, you forget all else and can focus on worship. She also now plays with the Tonbridge Philharmonic.

Rosie Gilbert-Smith

Rosie joined the BBC Symphony Orchestra as a violinist at the age of 20, and played with them for 20 years. She is a member of the Tonbridge Philharmonic as well as some trios and quartets. She regards her taking part in leading worship at the parish church as the most important music she now does. For her it is a gift she can give to God, and it is in itself an act of worship.

John Shafer

John plays with the small groups at St. Peter & St. Paul either on his violin or mandolin. He finds joy in giving his talent to both God and the people in the congregation.

Deborah Stinton

Deborah is part of the congregation at the parish church. While at present she does not play in church due to constraints of work and family, she finds her Christian faith and values align with her work with teenagers in musical theatre at the Royal Academy in London. coming as they do from many different backgrounds. She says music draws people together, as students support one another with common purpose to bring out their best.



Rosie Gilbert-Smith, John Shafer, Liz Connell & Steve Minton

We have only been able to mention here a few of our musicians. Many others also contribute, both with different instruments and in the singing groups. We much appreciate their sharing their musical gifts with us in leading our worship in the four churches in the parish.

THE PIANO SHOP

Nigel Scaife stands among the pianos in his showroom at Eridge and talks with passion and enthusiasm about his pianos, music and musical education. He has devoted his life to music. Graduating from the Royal College of Music, and with a PhD from Oxford, he was then head of music at West Kent College, before becoming Syllabus Director of the Associated Board of the British Schools of Music.

He started the Piano Shop in 2016 and has specialised in restoring and selling second hand pianos, conscious that to buy a new piano is beyond the reach of many. The Piano Shop has a first-class restoration workshop and a team of skilled craftsmen. They also provide a service of regular tuning. To encourage those wishing to try out a piano, perhaps for their children to start to learn, or for themselves when life permits them to return to an earlier love for playing, Nigel has a 'Rent to Buy' scheme, which includes free local delivery.

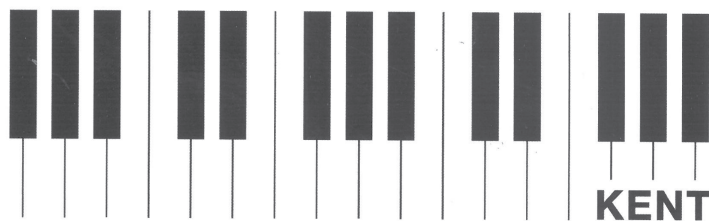
As Nigel says, there are four key criteria to look for in a piano: SOUND – you must like it and engage with it. TOUCH – whether a lighter or heavier action. LOOK – after all, it's not a small item of furniture in your home. BUDGET – and there's always the Rent-to-Buy option to find the way in.

You're welcome to visit THE PIANO SHOP showroom and workshop on the A26 at Eridge, TN3 9JR.
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Nigel Scaife in the showroom

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A Banking Crisis in Tonbridge?



Early photo of Barclays Bank, note the small house on the corner which was demolished in the early 1930s for the widening of Lyons Crescent. With thanks to Tonbridge Historical Society.

In recent months the Tonbridge branches of the main banks Barclays, Lloyds TSB, NatWest and HSBC, have all closed their doors. The growth of telephone and online banking, combined with the pressures of the covid pandemic followed by the cost-of-living crisis have meant that the number of in-person counter transactions have fallen dramatically. Post Offices can provide essential banking services such as allowing the use of a debit card to withdraw or pay in cash and check your balance for most individuals with a UK bank account. Unfortunately, Tonbridge has also suffered the closure of its central Post Office at the same time. At the time of writing a limited “pop-up” Post Office service was available in the Castle Gateway and there are plans to open a new location at Quarry Hill early next year.

The remaining financial providers on the high street (Santander, Nationwide and Halifax) do not offer business banking. This means that Tonbridge currently has no high street banks providing cash counter services to businesses. Small independent local businesses have expressed concern about their inability to bank cash payments locally and some have even been forced to move to card payments only. Moreover, there is a real concern that those unable or unwilling to move to online banking will be excluded.

In response a campaign has been set up on Facebook under the name “Tonbridge needs access to cash” aiming to campaign for the establishment of a banking hub within the town. A banking hub is a common premises on the high street where multiple banks would share space allowing customers of multiple banks to carry out their everyday banking in person, particularly the depositing and withdrawal of cash. Many hubs also offer private spaces where people can make an appointment to speak to someone from their own bank about more complex issues. These often work on a rotating basis, so there are staff from different banks available on different days. More than 60 banking hubs are now in development throughout the UK.

The Facebook group aims to share personal stories about the consequences of these changes and to discuss what can be done to secure a future for business banking counter services on Tonbridge High Street. If you are interested more information can be found online at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tonbridgenews>



Pictured is Barclays van service which currently visits Tonbridge at intervals; in the background is the closed HSBC branch. The van service does not provide any cash or counter service, instead offering financial guidance and advice on accessing online services.



The National Provincial Bank in Tonbridge, later The National Westminster Bank, currently occupied by Pizza Express. With thanks to Tonbridge Historical Society.

With its strategically important position on the route from Hastings to London and its access to the River Medway, Tonbridge has long been a local centre for trade and commerce, and history shows that Tonbridge has already weathered a few banking crises over the years.

Evidence suggests that the first coins produced in Britain were made around 80-60 BC by an Iron Age tribe based in Kent. These are called Thurrock potins, after a hoard of about 2,000 coins found in a pit at West Thurrock, Essex, in 1987.

The first gold coins made in Britain also come from Kent around 10-20 years later. These are known as Kentish stater and it is thought that they may have been created as part of the emergency efforts to organise resistance against the second Roman invasion led by Caesar.

In 1259 the Earl of Gloucester was granted an official licence to hold a weekly market in Tonbridge. Older residents of the town will remember the Cattle Market that operated in the centre of town until 1971. An open-air market is still held on Saturdays between 8am and 2pm weekly at Sovereign Way where you can buy clothes, fresh food, fruit, vegetables, baked goods, hardware and many other items.

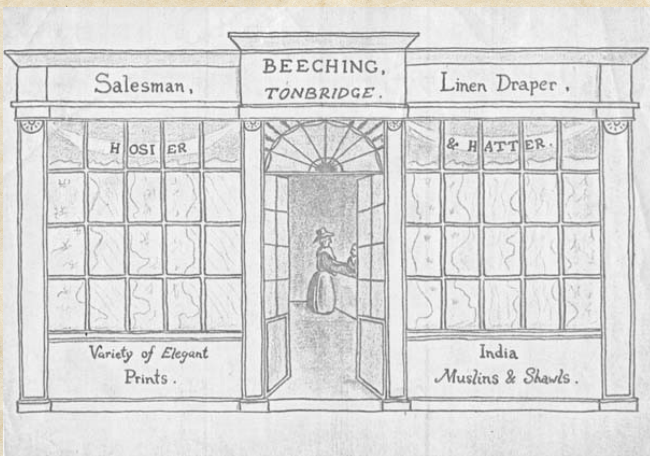
It was in 1792 that the first formal bank was established locally by wealthy local landowners: William Woodgate of Somerhill and George Children of Ferox Hall, in partnership with lawyer William Scoones. Unfortunately, none of the partners were expert in this new venture and when a banking crisis, precipitated by Britain's foreign wars hit this single branch Country Bank was ill equipped to deal with its mounting problems. By 1807 the bank was already experiencing difficulties.



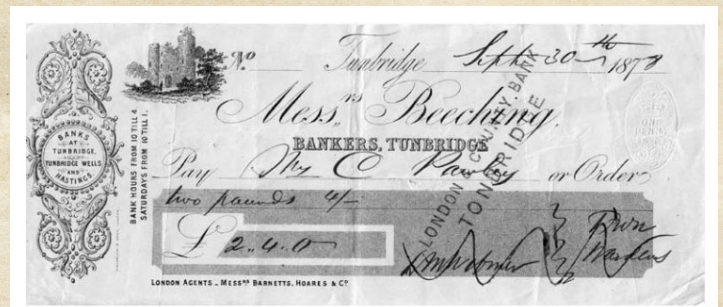
Ferox Hall. With thanks to Tonbridge Historical Society.

In December 1812 the Tonbridge Bank failed to open its doors. After six months the banks creditors were paid one quarter of what they were owed but it is unclear whether they were able to recover the rest of their savings. By 1817 both the owners had been declared bankrupt and had been forced to sell their properties. George Children died in 1818. His memorial can be seen at Tonbridge Parish Church.

Another bank, called Tonbridge New Bank, was set up by local men Thomas Mercer and John Barlow but this too collapsed within a few years. On this occasion the creditors did get all their money back, with interest, although they had to wait 12 years for it.



Who knows how many personal difficulties and heartbreaks these collapses entailed? We know that the bank owners suffered greatly but so too must many small local businesses and families.



Did you know that Tonbridge once had its own bank notes?

In 1815 Thomas Beeching, a draper based on the corner of Church Lane with the High Street who had begun to diversify into banking, started to issue his own banknotes. An advert for his shop proclaims him as a Hosier, Hatter and Linen Draper providing a Variety of Elegant Prints, Muslins and Shawls.

Mr Beeching's efforts were so successful that by 1843 his son was able to purchase the property which George Children had been forced to sell in order to repay his creditors, Ferox Hall. By 1890, when the business was acquired by Lloyds Bank Limited, it had grown to have branches in Tunbridge Wells (1826), Hastings (1859), Southborough (1874) and Bexhill-on-Sea (1885).



Lloyds Bank in the 1960s. With thanks to Tonbridge Historical Society.

There is no doubt that the history of coinage and banking in Tonbridge is a rather chequered one. We shall have to wait to see what the next chapter holds. Let us hope that it will be one in which financial matters are treated with care and integrity and the needs of all the community are catered for.

By Morwenna Fernandez

PLANNING YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAYS?



Spend a week in the Lake District and enjoy meeting with other Christians from all over the country. You will need to book accommodation soon...or try camping! The Keswick convention caters for all ages on one site at the old Cumberland Pencil Factory.

We found the worship time, teaching and seminars were uplifting, inspiring and relevant. Children's activities are brilliant too. The countryside is stunning, great for touring, strolling, walking or climbing, and Keswick offers interesting shops, food, cinema, theatre and boat trips.

David & Wendy Balcombe

For Music Lovers! This is an amazing family friendly event, held on the beautiful Wiston Estate, near Steyning, West Sussex, just over an hour from here. The Festival will be held over the bank holiday weekend, 25 & 26 May 2024. At least 5 different stages host a huge variety of Christian artists performing every music genre as well as spoken word poetry.

An opportunity to worship with 30,000 others from across the UK as everyone comes together at the Main Stage for the evening. Camping and Glamping available, but for the faint-hearted, a journey home to your own bed is possible, or a nearby airbnb! www.bigchurchfestival.com

Alyson Bleakley



I was first introduced to New Wine around 10 years ago. And was immediately struck by the very special welcome received from a couple of tent 'villages' where I touched base with people I knew.

Since then, I have been almost every year, and the delightful sense of (mainly) Christians coming together has continued: kindness from strangers, fellowship and harmony; great teaching on a range of topics and worship; and a real sense, on occasion, of the presence and power of God.

Mark Crawshay-Williams

Over the first May Bank Holiday weekend, Bible By The Beach is a family conference held at the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne. Just over an hour from Tonbridge by car, there's a warm welcome, and it's ideal for the family or a group to attend. There are programmes for younger children, teenagers, and adults, with well-known speakers and great music and worship.

You'll need to book your own accommodation in a local hotel or Airbnb, or can even 'commute' from Tonbridge. There is bible teaching, seminars, and activities – and plenty of time for a long walk on the beach and South Downs. You can book in for the whole weekend, or just go for the day on Saturday.



CAMPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Young people can benefit hugely from time away from home. They learn new skills, like sailing, make new friends and gain independence. These camps have been attended by young people from our Parish. They have a fantastic time, as well as grow in their faith. Why not consider one for 2024? All those listed below have leaders or campers from Tonbridge Parish Church attending, so there will be a friendly face there!

SCRIPTURE UNION SAILING HOLIDAYS

Harriers for 14-18 year olds

July 27th - Aug 3rd

Mallards for 11-14 year olds

August Bank Holiday Weekend

Visit scriptureunion.org.uk

CPAS VENTURE HOLIDAYS

Ventures are fun filled holidays offering children and young people great opportunities to grow, enjoy activities and explore life with Jesus. Falcons are subsidised holidays designed to suit children who may face difficult circumstances in their daily lives.

Reigate for 11-14 year olds

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for 11-14 year olds

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“The Air We Breathe – How we came to believe in freedom, kindness, progress and equality.” By Glen Scrivener

Book review by John Schluter

We share a certain outrage when we discover that one of our political leaders has not been telling the truth in Parliament, when the discourse in public life becomes aggressive, spiteful and abusive. We somehow expect that nations will observe the Rules of War as laid down by the Geneva Conventions and are appalled when they clearly do not. We are shocked when confronted with the oppression of the Uyghurs in China. We recoil from the racism evident in society, and the wanton cruelty and violence of terrorists.



But why? Why are we so incensed? We long for justice, freedom, and equality. We believe that each and every human being – no matter how rich or poor, powerful or weak – deserves fairness, dignity and respect. But where does this vision come from? Why are we so concerned about it and zealous to see it happen?

Human rights, equality and justice have been ludicrous and offensive notions for most of history. They only hold sway today because the Christian worldview gained such wide acceptance and is now so deeply ingrained in our culture. We often forget the great blessings the Christian religion has brought to the world.

Glen Scrivener takes us on a journey from Genesis to George Floyd, charting the course of the Christian revolution, and showing not only how it has shaped our world, but continues to make sense of the values we hold dear. Equally he shows, by implication, what we stand to lose by Christianity's erosion. This is a fascinating and eye-opening book, full of insight for our time – and yet still full of hope, a book which will give us the basis for our shared vision, and the story behind our values.

An opportunity to discover more about the Christian faith



HOPE | EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST FUTURE YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE?

Monday evenings at the Parish Church
24th & 31st January and 7th February 2024

To a Different Drum By Pauline Hamilton

Book review by Jill Harris



Having studied medicine for 2 years, in about 1936 Pauline Hamilton was diagnosed with tuberculosis and advised to take a year out from studying. Her boyfriend ended their relationship. She received a letter dismissing her from returning to her college because of bad behaviour – apparently drink and drugs! At 23, Pauline decided that life was no longer worth living and one day she drove recklessly towards a cliff near her home intending to end it all. At the last moment, her tyre blew out, leaving her stunned in the stationary car.

Pauline's life changed for ever. She turned at once to the God who had rescued her and in grateful amazement, offered her whole life to him. From that moment God provided for her every need. Incredibly, he opened up the way for her to continue her studies for a master's degree in physiology followed by a PhD.

Then He called her to serve in China with CIM (China Inland Mission, later to become OMF Overseas Missionary Fellowship). After just four years in China, with the change of government and the tightening grip of communism, together with other missionaries Pauline had to leave China in 1950. However, God led her to Taiwan where she continued to serve him, bringing countless Taiwanese into a relationship with Jesus. She encountered many challenging and sometimes dangerous situations, but God brought her through them. This book makes for an exciting read and is testimony to the faithfulness of God. I was reluctant to put it down.

Church Bells

As you may have heard, the church bells are due for some renovation (some date back more than 200 years). Enquiries are being undertaken regarding work needed, and a full report will be included in a future edition of Perspectives. We are very thankful for an anonymous donation which will make a significant contribution to the work to be done.



Parish Information & Contacts

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST PETER & ST PAUL: CHURCH LANE, TN9 1DA

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

ST PHILIP: SALISBURY ROAD, TN10 4PA

10.45am Morning Service (Holy Communion on 2nd Sunday of the month) and children welcome

ST ANDREW: HADLOW ROAD, TN10 4LS

9.45am Morning Service (Holy Communion on 3rd Sunday of the month)

ST SAVIOUR : DRY HILL PARK CRESCENT, TN10 3BJ

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

WEDNESDAY SERVICE

10.00am Holy Communion on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays.

Contact	
Parish Administration Parish Office, Tonbridge Parish Church, Church Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1DA	(01732) 770962 ext. 24 parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Vicar The Rev'd Ben Thorndike	(01732) 770962 ext. 23 ben@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Associate Vicar The Rev'd Wendy Carr	(01732) 770962 ext. 32 wendy.carr@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
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Churchwardens David Balcombe, Paul White	(01732) 770962 ext. 24
Parish Treasurer Andy Kirkpatrick	(01732) 770962 ext. 25 treasurer@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Finance Manager Yolanda Roberts	(01732) 770962 ext. 25 yolanda@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Perspectives Team	perspectives@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

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

Christmas Save The Dates

ST. ANDREW

9th December 3pm Carol Praise

ST. SAVIOUR

9th December 4pm Christmas Carol Singalong

ST. PHILIP

13th December 7.30pm Gingerbread House Evening*

16th December 4pm Open House - Christingle

ST. PETER & ST PAUL

17th December 10.45am Pop-up Nativity (*Children to dress up*)

17th December 7pm Carols by Candlelight

21st December 7-9pm 18-30s Christmas Social

CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST PETER & ST PAUL ONLY

24th December 8am Communion Service

24th December 10.45am Parish-wide Morning Service

24th December 2-5pm Nativity (Live Animals, Crafts & More)

24th December 11.30pm Midnight Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY & NEW YEAR'S EVE

25th December

8am Communion Service (St Peter & St Paul)

10-11am Communion Service (St Peter & St Paul)

10-11am Communion Service (St Philip)

10-11am Communion Service (St Saviour)

10-11am Communion Service (St Andrew)

31ST DECEMBER ST PETER & ST PAUL ONLY

8am Communion

10-11am Parish-wide Morning Service

6pm Evening Service

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024 ST PETER & ST PAUL ONLY

5th January 7-9pm 18-30s Food, Fun & Short Talk

24th & 31st January & 7th February Hope Explored Course

22nd - 26th July Holiday Club

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Buttons are Interesting



There is a wealth of history around buttons and their manufacture. If you have an interest in button collecting why not join The British Button Society?

Try our website www.britishbuttonssociety.com

Vintage buttons needing a home? If you have dress buttons you wish to sell please let me know.

If, however, you would consider giving them to me for my collection I will be pleased to make a donation to the church.
Angela Clark, 01732 364309 angelaclarkbuttons@btinternet.com

Musical Bumps Tonbridge & Sevenoaks

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

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

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

New families are always welcome to trial a class

margaret.lewin@musicalbumps.com
07736 244142

Celebrate Christmas

in the Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Tonbridge

Christingle

Saturday 16th December, 4pm

For all ages but particularly suitable for primary school & younger children

St Philip, TN10 4PA

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 17th December, 7pm

Particularly suitable for older children and adults

St Peter & St Paul, TN9 1HD

Nativity

Sunday 24th December, between 2-5pm

Drop in anytime for live animals, donkey rides, crafts, refreshments & carol singing

INDOOR NATIVITY AT 3.30PM

St Peter & St Paul, TN9 1HD

Midnight Communion

Sunday 24th December, 11.30pm

St Peter & St Paul, TN9 1HD

Christmas Day Celebrations

Monday 25th December

8am: Holy Communion, St Peter & St Paul, TN9 1HD

10am: Christmas Celebrations at:

St Peter & St Paul, TN9 1HD

St Philip, TN10 4PA

St Andrew, TN10 4LS

St Saviour, TN10 3BJ

