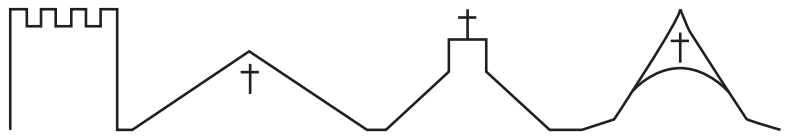




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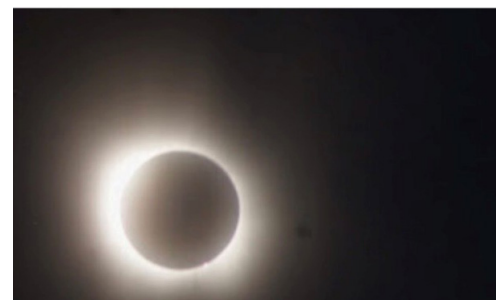
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MAGAZINE OF TONBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH

perspectives

In this issue:

- My faith, My Role – in Teaching
- Day at the Coast – Rye
- Reflections on a Kentish Garden
- Solar Eclipse in April (in USA)



Issue 63 - Summer 2024

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It has been a wet Spring... many times I've willed the rain would stop, alas to no avail! I live in hope for the drier summer season coming up. Although, to be fair, we can't live completely without water. Yes, it's difficult to live with when the rain drips through the broken tile on the roof into the bedroom, or when the torrents cause mayhem on the streets – drains overflow, pipes collapse and roads are shut (how familiar we have become with roadworks around Tonbridge recently!).



It's not just a deluge of water that can cause problems for our lives though. Relationships can be broken through bereavement, divorce, health problems, old age, to name but a few reasons. Health and social care systems are at breaking point (or arguably broken), and our technological world means we can spend days without having to interact with other people on any meaningful scale.

In an old BBC documentary – 'The Age of Loneliness' – a young mum, a student and a middle-aged man in a high-pressure job were some of the people prepared to talk about how they really felt, even in the midst of life's good things. They said the unsayable: I long for a soulmate, someone who understands.

Without water we die of thirst. Loneliness is a thirst for relationship, intimacy, and a sense of belonging. The God who made us, placed in us a deep need to relate: we are all wired up for relationship with one another. But, first and foremost, with God, who, the Bible tells us, broke into our world as a baby 2,000 years ago, grew up in poverty; then stood before a scurrying, hurrying humanity and called out in a loud voice:

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Does anyone believe in me? Then, just as Scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from inside them." (John 7)

What person would be able to satisfy our deepest thirsts? Surely, he would have to be God too.

But that's the offer Jesus makes.

We would love to welcome you into our churches in the coming weeks to explore the claims made by Jesus Christ and find out for yourself. Can He truly satisfy? Details of our services and our other activities are on page 14 of this magazine.

Ben Thorndike
Vicar, Tonbridge Parish Church



MY FAITH AND MY ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY - TEACHING

We have in the church a number of teachers and people working in education across a number of schools in the town. We asked them about their Christian faith, and how this relates to their work in the world of education. Here are some of their contributions:

Rachel Gibb

Rachel qualified as a teacher in Luton, and moved to Kent in 2005, securing a job in a preparatory school in Tunbridge Wells, where she worked mainly as a reception teacher with a brief stint in Year 1 and 2. After 11 years she moved on to her current school, Hilden Oaks Preparatory School and Nursery. Having started there 8 years ago, and in the meantime gained her NPQSL (National Professional Qualification in Senior Leadership), she has for the last 6 years been Head of Early Years. She writes:



Rachel Gibb

I had always wanted to be a teacher: if it had not worked out, I had a back-up plan of applying to be Snow White in Disneyland! Teaching is very demanding at times, but I have a passion for Early Years education. My faith has played a huge part in the way I have been able to tackle certain situations. Two books with a variety of Bible verses or Psalms have helped: 'God's little book of Calm' by Richard Daly and 'God Bless You' by Judith Merrel. My teaching career has not been plain sailing, but I have confidence that while God's plans may be different from mine, he is infinitely wiser, and his timing is always perfect. One of the things that I really struggle with is slowing down in the holidays, but I take inspiration from this little saying: "Recharge each day; the Lord's unfailing love and mercy will always continue fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise".

Jeremy King

After studying mathematics at Cambridge, Jeremy's first job was to join the staff of the maths department at Tonbridge School. 28 years later he is still there, teaching maths as well as coaching Hockey, Cricket, Football and Bridge. In addition he is a house tutor, writes the school timetable, and also volunteers for the U.K. Mathematics Trust, setting and marking competitions that develop pupils' problem solving skills. He writes:

Teaching is an immense privilege. There are few things more important than helping the next generation to reach their God-given potential. As a Christian, I want to see the pupils flourish in their studies and in their extra-curricular pursuits. But I also want to see them engage with things which are even more



important: What is life all about? How should we be treating one another? What does it mean to be truly human?

Some opportunities are very ordinary – encouraging an atmosphere of mutual respect and care in the classroom or the boarding house. Some opportunities are less ordinary – unpacking one of Jesus' parables to a chapel full of 800 boys, helping them to see how Jesus answers those big questions in life.

Some boys would call themselves Christians, and they need encouragement in what can be a tough environment for teenagers. Others are just looking, and I try to answer their questions. I would not swap teaching for any other job.



Jeremy King

Amy Shafer

Amy grew up in a home where she spent many of her holidays and weekends helping her mother, who was a teacher. Whether it was cutting out display lettering, or fixing workbooks with sticky back plastic, all her teenage work experience was in schools. She is married to John, himself a teacher, and after their own children were born, she was looking for work that would fit with their timetables. She naturally looked towards working in schools. She writes:



Amy Shafer

Slade Primary School was the first to give me a job working as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant with SEN children. Eight years on, and I am still there! Additionally, I am training with the University of Chichester to become a Play Therapist with the intention of working therapeutically in schools. It helps that Slade has strong ties with our Parish Church and so the children are

familiar with our church through regular visits and services. Across the year groups, we have regular RE lessons during which I am frequently called on in the classroom to explain my faith. I enjoy sharing this with the children of other religions in my class – nothing brings RE to life like real life examples.

I rely on my faith in my day-to-day life at school; holding Jesus' teachings in mind keeps me feeling upbeat when things are difficult or when I encounter distressing situations. Education is a people-centred, relational profession. My relationship with Jesus helps me care for the people in my school both personally and professionally.

Andy Page

After almost 9 years working as Youth and Children's Minister for the Parish, Andy left his role in early 2023 to take up a post of Teaching Assistant at St. Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School, working mainly with years 3 and 4. He leads some lessons with the children, (even on occasion appearing as Greek poet, Homer!), but mainly supports individual children with their learning needs. He writes:



Andy Page

Since I was 16, I've been involved in Christian work with children and young people, which has always been rewarding, but the most fulfilling part was when I was teaching and instructing. So it was no surprise to me to sense God's call into teaching, as I believe He has been equipping me to do this over the last 20+ years.

Being at a Christian school means that not only do we value teaching the curriculum to a high standard, but it is of importance to be sharing the gospel in each class, and in whole-school and phase-group collective worship too. Having the chance to grow in my own teaching while being in a clearly Christian environment is a wonderful opportunity, and although I've only been there a relatively short time I know I've already progressed in my own education.



Sarah Partridge

Sarah Partridge

Sarah started out in her career in South Africa, initially working as a Personal Assistant. Although she enjoyed this role, her dream had always been to teach. When she returned to England in the 1990s, she was able to fulfil this dream and qualified first as an English teacher, then as a Religious Studies teacher, having done a Religion and Philosophy degree. She writes:

I am grateful to be currently employed by a local school which enables me to give back to my own community. Teaching is a true blessing and I enjoy the opportunity to be able to share

my knowledge with young people. We look at the beliefs that people of faith hold and how these beliefs are demonstrated in their daily lives. Teaching about Christianity, I have also had the opportunity to develop my faith further as I am continually learning alongside the students.

I also have the responsibility of teaching about the other major religions. This enables young people to develop an understanding of the different faiths of the world and the beliefs and practices that they may come across. My respect for other faiths is based on Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman and His love and care for all humanity.

The joy I experience watching young minds develop is both humbling and challenging. As St Paul wrote to the Philippians, "I can do all this through him (Christ) who gives me strength." I pray daily for the strength and ability to teach with knowledge, kindness and through this demonstrate my Christian values.

Felicity Layton

Felicity started her working life in a large London bank. After 25 years, she was feeling the pressure of the 12 hour working days as the oldest salesperson in the dealing room. She decided it was time to step off the treadmill, and despite losing the large annual bonus, she moved out of the financial world into primary school teaching, her second career. She writes:



Felicity Layton

Although I did not find teaching easy, I felt the Lord supported me through my first 6 years working at a small village primary school. I had to stop work for a while due to ill health and family circumstances, which meant that, for the last 10 years, I have been doing agency work as a supply teacher, which has been a brilliant learning experience.

I try to make my brief sojourn in a classroom a happy and special day for the children rather than a strange or even frightening one. Be in no doubt: it is challenging to teach at the moment. There are times when I return home at the end of the day completely exhausted. Many children have been adversely affected by COVID and are still catching up either with their learning or with the social aspects of school, or both.

I enjoy the opportunity to teach RE lessons, though I am careful in non-church schools about how I share my faith, which takes the form of answering questions about wearing a cross etc., and what I do at weekends. However, it's good to breathe some life into an RE lesson by encouraging apparently secular questions and giving comparisons from real life.

Editor's note: Teaching is a demanding profession. Let's remember to pray for the teachers in our congregation!

Men's Walking Group



One Saturday in Hastings



It was going to be a lovely day, weather-wise, as we chatted on the way down in the car. Hadn't all the forecasts agreed and come to a consensus with the weather apps? Glancing in the rear mirror while driving down the A21, Andy, our driver, cheerfully remarked: "you won't need your jackets today".

From the station we walked back through the old town which was full of tourists, and the whiff of rotten fish was overtaken by the smell of fish & chips for which Hastings is famous. There was one more hurdle – the steep steps that lead to East Hill and the cars. We had walked about 11 miles, and most of us never did take off our jackets!

Phil Connolly

On this occasion there were only six of us who had set off to the South Coast, to walk from East Hill overlooking the town of Hastings along the coast-line to Bexhill. After parking near the top of the hill, we set off shortly after 9am, and it wasn't long before we got our first real view of Hastings. We could just make out Beachy Head in the far distance.



To reach the sea-front in Hastings proper we had to descend a fair number of steps, and down at sea-level we were met by a smell of rotten fish. We didn't hang around and set our faces for the pier heading west with a stiff southerly wind blowing off the sea to our left. We soon reached the pier for a short break and a snack, though we did not linger lest the joints and muscles became stiff in the cold wind. So we carried on along the promenade, heading westwards, enjoying the sea views and discussing the architecture of the sea-front buildings - Edwardian, Georgian or even Victorian – but they'd certainly seen better days!



With only about half a mile separating Hastings from Bexhill-on-Sea, we soon started looking for a place to stop to eat our lunch. We eventually found one of those old shelters common to many English sea fronts, protecting us from the wind. We then headed for our destination, Cooden Beach Hotel, for a well-earned drink before taking the train back to Hastings.

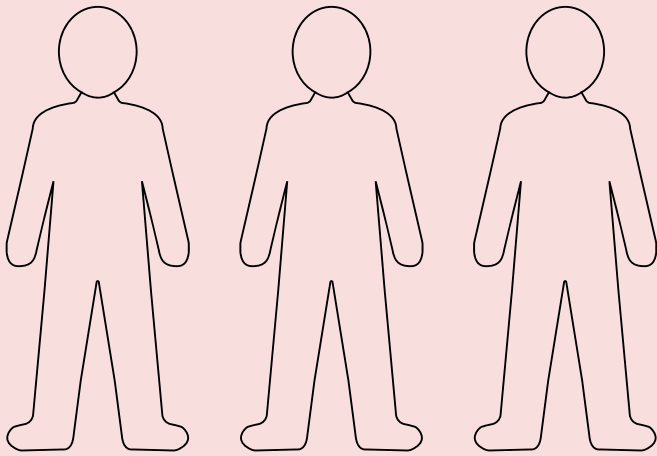
Post Script: Bank Holiday Weekend Walks

For the last eight years a group of men, mainly from the church but also joined by some friends and family, has planned a longer walking expedition over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend. So we set off from Tonbridge early on Friday 3rd May, and ten of us converged at lunchtime in mid-Wales. We lodged three nights in a bunk house, and each day walked in the mountains, with stunning views as far as the Brecon Beacons.

Our daily hikes were interspersed with an occasional pub stop-over. Mike cooked a chili for Friday evening and Les produced beef bourguignon on Saturday. We even discovered the unique merits of Welsh malt whisky one evening! We returned on Monday 6th, It was a great time shared together, and we owe a huge 'thank you' to Les who moved recently from Tonbridge to Wales, but still joined us and organised the whole weekend.

Andy Kirkpatrick

WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT GRACE?

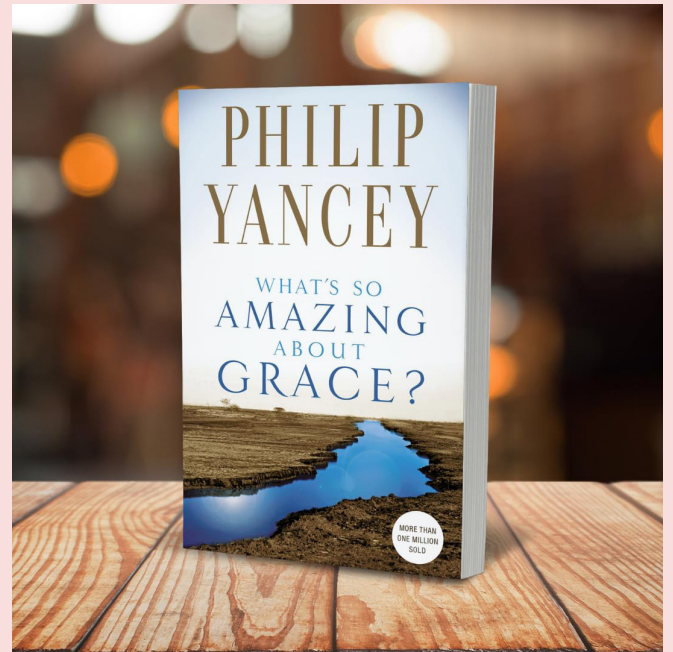


I would like to invite you to take part in a little thinking exercise that I was introduced to a few years ago and that I found very helpful and humbling.

Look at the outline of the person to the right. This figure represents those people who you admire, those who you feel are more worthy of love and admiration. How do you feel about these people? Do you long to be more like them? Do they make you feel a little inadequate, even jealous? Do you feel that if you had just had the right opportunities in life then you could have been more like them? Take a moment to acknowledge that you only know a part of them. They are only human, just like you, and they also have their own sorrows, faults and shortcomings.

The figure on the left represents those people who, perhaps secretly, you feel are less worthy of love and admiration than you are. There may be groups of people there or individuals who are personally known to you. There may be someone there who has hurt you or others very badly. Try to admit these things honestly to yourself. Question yourself as to why you have placed them in this category: are you carrying conscious or unconscious prejudice? Where did these ideas come from? How do you feel about these people: do you feel angry, hurt, bitter, disappointed? How do you feel about yourself in comparison to them?

The central figure represents you. How do you feel about yourself? Are there parts of you that you feel are superior or inferior? How does it make you feel to compare yourself to the figure on the right? What about when you compare yourself to the figure on the left?



“ True grace is shocking, scandalous. It shakes our conventions with its insistence on getting close to evil and touching it with mercy and hope. ”

The uncomfortable truth for Christians is that God loves all people equally, no matter how worthy or unworthy they may appear in our eyes. God's offer of forgiveness and grace is for each person individually. Part of that is our own willingness to acknowledge to Him our own failure, faults and prejudices, and accept His gift. Grace is God's love for the undeserving and, in comparison to the perfection of God, we are all undeserving in desperate need of love, forgiveness and redemption.

If you would like to explore this further, may I suggest reading the excellent "What's so Amazing about Grace?" by Philip Yancey.

Morwenna Fernandez

A Day Out In Rye

My wife Jacqui and I moved from Hadlow to a village near Cranbrook just over 3 years ago. We knew the immediate area well, but had not explored the Kent coast. Rye was an obvious choice for a day trip as it is a 20-minute drive away, is packed with interesting buildings, cobbled streets and is steeped in history.

We continually go back as we discover something new each time.

Probably the most famous building in Rye is the Mermaid Inn which sits on a wonderful, cobbled street. It is a hotel with a lovely restaurant and bar and a huge open fire in the winter. Parts of the building date back to the 12th century and it was used by the infamous Hawkhurst Gang of smugglers as a meeting place, with secret tunnels used as a smuggling and escape route running under the street. Folklore has it that they sat in the bar with loaded pistols in case they were intercepted by Customs Officers.

The Parish Church of Rye, St Mary the Virgin, which is over 900 years old is located on the hill where the old town stands and by climbing the church tower there are views over Rye and the beautiful surrounding countryside. The church was set on fire by French invaders in the late 1300's and the church bells taken - but subsequently recovered. The church clock is one of the oldest in the country still in working order having been installed in the mid 1500's.

By venturing a short distance outside the town, you find Rye Harbour which is built on an extension of the shingle beaches deposited by the sea over the centuries. These deposits restrict access to the original port of Rye, which was part of the Cinque Port Confederation, but now lies inland. There is a Martello Tower in the harbour dating back to the Napoleonic wars. Another 'must see' is Lamb House which is a National Trust property dating back to 1723, which has had many famous visitors, including King George I.

For families, Rye has endless possibilities. You can park free at Rye Harbour and walk along an accessible path to the beach. Along the route there is a Wildlife Trust café, shop and information centre, with the history of the harbour and surrounding area. They have look-out points with binoculars to view the wetlands, with their abundance of flowers and wild birds. You can also see these from bird-watching hides - oyster-catchers, avocets, little grebes, and golden plovers, to name but a few. You can often spot seals in the harbour too. There's a life-boat station in the harbour, and even a pub at the end of your walk, William the Conqueror (no hard feelings!), where you can have lunch!

Robert Kidson



The earth laughs in flowers

(Ralph Emerson)



June and July are the best months for taking cuttings of lavender, hyssop and rosemary, all herbs which our pollinators love. Just take a side shoot, about 6 inches long, strip off the leaves and put in a pot of compost. Water regularly and wait patiently for roots to grow. Think Christmas and these rooted cuttings can make lovely gifts; planting for pollinators brings healing to our beautiful but ailing planet earth. Way back in the 12th century Abbess Hildegard von Bingen wrote: 'If we fall in love with creation deeper and deeper we will respond to its endangerment with passion. Gaze at the beauty of earth's greenings. Now think what delight God gives to humankind with all these things. We are to work with them. For without them, we cannot survive.'

And finally, for June, locally, volunteers are meeting at the Angel Community Garden on Wednesdays from 5pm to 6pm, and nationally, 8th to 15th June - Climate Coalition's Big Green Week, then 22nd June - Chris Packham's Restore Nature walk in Central London.

We do not all have the privilege of nurturing God's gift of beauty in our own garden, but there are many ways we can honour His glorious creation by joining the countless voices, prayers and walking feet of those around our world who have a passion and determination to restore the beauty and wonder of planet earth.

Helen Longley

Claude Monet once said: 'I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers.' We may not all be moved to paint, but we can all be moved to wonder at the beauty of nature: the light greening of our trees; the music of birdsong; the symphony of colour displayed in flower, apple and cherry blossom. Dickens' well-known words in Pickwick Papers: 'Kent, sir - everybody knows Kent - apples, cherries, hops and women.'

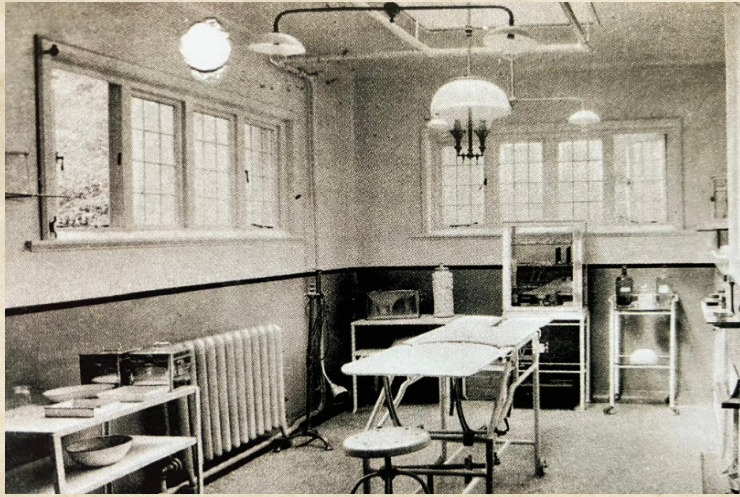
A privilege to be nurturing a Kentish Garden! You will be reading this magazine in June. A season of scented splendour with the fragrance of that most English flower, the rose. Did you know that old banana skins can do wonders for the quality of your roses if they are dug in around the roots just below the surface with the inside of the peel facing down. Banana skins are packed with phosphates, sodium, magnesium, silica, potassium, sulphur and calcium. It is also prescribed by some that the scent and health of roses is improved by planting parsley nearby.

The spring sowing season is well past but for those who delight in the freshly picked salad days of summer, it's not too late to do successive sowings of lettuce, salad leaves, rocket, and basil. In India, basil has been used for centuries to repel mosquitoes which don't like the powerful smell of the estragon and eugenol it contains. So, a handy tip: when you decide to cook outside, burn a few basil leaves on your barbecue to ward off mosquitoes.



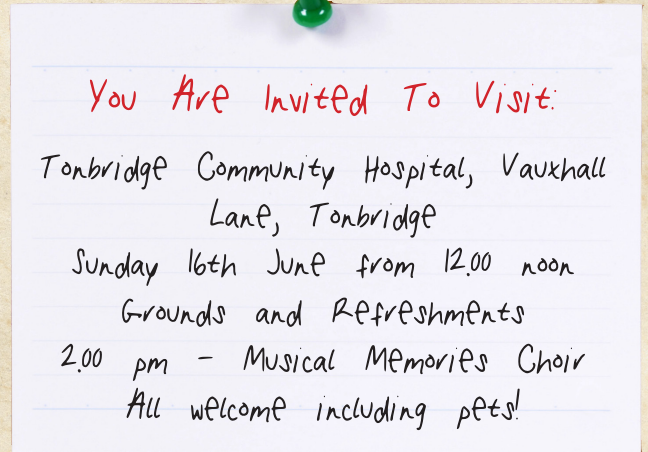
Tonbridge Community Hospital

(Formerly The Queen Victoria Cottage Hospital)



Tonbridge has had its own hospital since the late 19th Century. Originally it was in two buildings, the first opened in 1889 as an isolation hospital in Vauxhall Wood, starting with beds for two male and two female patients. A second building was added on Quarry Hill, in 1902, and called the Queen Victoria Hospital. At a time without vaccines and antibiotics, both were needed to isolate people suffering serious infectious diseases such as smallpox and scarlet fever. Six doctors in Tonbridge provided their services free of charge. By 1934 the traffic noise from Quarry Hill was becoming a problem and the needs were outgrowing the building. In 1935 at a cost of £10,300 plus £1000 for an x-ray machine, a refurbished and expanded hospital was opened on the original site in Vauxhall wood.

Today it is called the Tonbridge Community Hospital, managed by Kent Community Health Foundation Trust, and offers patient care in three wards with a total of 26 beds for further care following discharge from hospital. There's a day room and two in-patient gyms managed by physiotherapists. These facilities relieve the pressure on much needed hospital beds and enable patients to become fit enough before returning home. There are some outpatient services too. Money-raising for the 1902 building was inspired by the death of Queen Victoria, resulting in legacies, endowments and subscriptions as well as by a Hospital Pay Day Fund that was begun in 1919. Employees of local firms and businesses contributed a penny a week that entitled them to free treatment. In addition, there was an annual Hospital Sunday



You Are Invited To Visit:

Tonbridge Community Hospital, Vauxhall Lane, Tonbridge

Sunday 16th June from 12.00 noon

Grounds and Refreshments

2.00 pm - Musical Memories Choir

All welcome including pets!

Parade in the High Street until that was closed in 1939 at the outbreak of war. The Hospital Sunday Collection and Pay Day Fund continued until 1948, the year of the creation of the NHS. Other funds were raised by an Alexandra Rose Day Appeal. Over the years, alongside major changes in the NHS, there have been occasional threats of closure. One was in 1988, which resulted in a strong local outcry, including a petition with 25,000 signatures. This went to the Ministry of Health and the Tunbridge Wells Health Authority and was eventually taken to the High Court by Dr David Goodridge. The battle was won.

Since 1958, when it began, the League of Friends of Tonbridge Cottage Hospital has provided tremendous support. Through the years they have raised funds to add many new facilities, including providing a trolley service for patients. (<https://tch-lof.org.uk/>).

A feature of its work, which used to be a highlight of Tonbridge summers, was the Cottage Hospital Fete. This attracted many from the town to come and enjoy the special event and show their support. Through all the years there have been so many indomitable donors and supporters, including local GPs, that it's impossible to name them all here. But mention must be made of Sir Osmond d'Avigor Goldsmid and his family on whose land, now the Hadlow Estate, the Hospital stands, and who have long supported the hospital.

Jenny Macpherson

With thanks to the League of Friends & the book 'Tonbridge Through Ten Centuries'



Family Food for Thought

Over the past year families have been gathering before church a couple of times a term to think about what God's word has to say about bringing up our children. The Bible doesn't have a chapter about parenting, but it certainly has principles that are good to follow, whether Christian or not, and below are a few of them.



Loving Authority

Parenting can be a very guilt inducing pass time! Ok – so some days it feels like it is going swimmingly, but other days we feel we have dropped the baton, and it could be their fault but it could be mine! God's word tells us, if we are willing accept it, that He has made us, giving us, and our children, innate dignity and significance, with great potential for love and beauty and kindness. It also tells us that we are utterly fallible and mess up and have an inbuilt compass for selfishness. If we are blessed with children, we can be confident that God knows that, and he loves them more than we do, and he has given us this job of parenting them. If we accept that children are a gift from God, then we have a responsibility to look after this gift: we have a God-given authority to parent them, to care about not just their past times and education, but also their character, attitudes and values.

Loving Obedience

We'd all love our children to do what they're told! Communication and discipline are vital. The Bible itself is God communicating to the world, revealing himself through his interactions with humans and specifically becoming human himself in the person of Jesus. Our communication with our children is key – so they know what we expect, but that we also hear what they are saying – not just in their words but in their body language and silences. Putting the mobile aside is a great start! We see God disciplining his children, and that can encourage us in three ways: we can expect obedience, we could decide on a particular focus (wonderfully God doesn't demand that we are perfect all at once!), and then we can turn a behaviour crisis into a learning opportunity. (How often do we learn more when we make mistakes and get things wrong than when it all goes smoothly!)

Loving Relationship

The central story of the Bible is God winning people back into friendship with himself. Our wrong doing does not go unpunished, but is met by Jesus' own death on the cross. This provides the potential for forgiveness, and a restored relationship with God. When we trust God, we become part of his family and enjoy a relationship with him, which is exactly what the Bible tells us we were made for. The relationship we build with our children is key to their development. And that takes time. Not quality time, but just time. Doing everyday normal chores and activities is a great way to build relationships – and a loving relationship is where the communication and discipline are most effective. That is the picture we are given from our Heavenly Father. Not bad tips for parenting. And great to know we are not on our own!



Alyson Bleakley



The above article was based on a course called "Putting Parenting to Bed" based on the book 'Aren't They Lovely When They're Asleep' by Anne Benton.

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Tonbridge - 01732 617171
164 High Street, TN9 1BB
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www.welhamjones.co.uk

Other offices at: Borough Green - 01732 780600, Chelsfield - 01689 452525,
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Family Album

By Penelope Lively

Book review by Maggie Talbot

For years I thought of Penelope Lively as an author who wrote solely for children. Much later I read that if you like Jane Austen you will probably like Penelope Lively and this led me to read several of her many books.

An Edwardian villa takes centre stage – Allersmead – where the family of four daughters and two sons grew up. Only parents Alison and Charles Harper, Ingrid the au pair, and Paul (the idle eldest son) live there now.

Alison is portrayed as a home-loving mother but although she has a deep affection for Allersmead you doubt her real love for her family. Charles is a writer who seems to have lost contact with the real world and spends most of his time in his study writing academic books. However, the market for these is drying up. As the adult children reluctantly return, the story begins to unfold. Each gives their own version of their childhood, gradually revealing that “something” was not acknowledged in the family and that it hung over everyone’s life.

When the eldest daughter visits with her new boyfriend, Alison tells him that Allersmead is a real family house – “a wonderful house for a real old-fashioned family”. He is puzzled by this and his curiosity is the catalyst for the narrative that follows. It was at this point that the unspoken secret, which would explain Paul’s attitude to life and the fraught relationships within the family, was revealed.

I found the book captivating, and thoroughly enjoyed the exceptional descriptions and the pace at which the story moves.



The Salt Path

By Raynor Winn

Book review by Morwenna Fernandez

With hard work, love and determination Raynor and her beloved husband Moth have raised a family together, creating a successful farm business from scratch. As their children fly the nest, perhaps they have finally come to a stage in life where they will be able to dust off some of those dreams that have had to be shelved?

Perhaps not, as life has some very unpleasant shocks in store. They watch in disbelief as their farm is seized due to a problematic investment, taking with it not just their business and their savings but their cherished home. Then, unexpectedly Moth receives a diagnosis of an incurable illness, that will gradually lead to a terminal decline. Suddenly, their life has spiralled out of control.

At this point many people would give up in despair; instead Raynor and Moth make the brave, and perhaps slightly crazy decision, to spend the summer walking the 630 miles of the South West Coast Path, from Somerset to Dorset. Carrying the barest essentials on their backs, they set off to follow this narrow strip between land and sea.

Inspired and challenged by the wild environment they experience great highs and lows of desperation, exhaustion and elation. Encounters with strangers sometimes bring kindness and generosity, sometimes crushing hostility, ignorance and prejudice. As the summer nears its end, where will the journey finally take them?

The Salt Path is an honest and moving look at the trials of journeying into the unfamiliar territory of grief; a testament to the dedication of a love that refuses to give up, as well as a passionate eulogy to the healing power and beauty of the natural world.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

ST PHILIP: Open House 10am to 12.30pm Every Saturday in Term Time.

SOLAR ECLIPSE IN THE U.S.A

John & Celia Grew's recent visit to the USA

An aunt on my mother's side married an American in the 1920s, and thanks to that we now have an extensive family of cousins in the United States. So John & I were glad to accept an invitation to go and stay in April; to meet the large extended family in Texas to watch the total eclipse of the sun after all, the next one isn't until August 2044!

We made it into more of a holiday by staying in New Orleans for a few days, enjoying the city, and jazz on a Mississippi River boat. But the main purpose was to see the eclipse, and duly equipped with special safety glasses, we were

fortunate to have a clear sky at lunchtime on the day, as we watched the moon edge towards the sun and gradually cover it totally. The shadows lengthened, the birds sang their evening song, the temperature plummeted, and for just over 4 minutes we were in total darkness, with the stars visible. As the moon moved away, the stars melted into the light, the birds started, probably rather confused to



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
Senior Minister for Families Alyson Bleakley	(01732) 770962 ext.22 Alyson.Bleakley@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Licensed Lay Minister Sally Musson	07713 352017 mussonsally@btinternet.com
Church Family Administrator Jane Thorndike	(01732) 770962 ext. 24 jane.thorndike@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Churchwardens David Balcombe, Mike Talbot	(01732) 770962 ext. 24
Parish Treasurer Andy Kirkpatrick	treasurer@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Perspectives Team	perspectives@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

Coffee Lounge: Open Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 10am to midday

Parish Office Hours: 10am to 1pm Monday Wednesday Friday

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 13th July St Andrew's Songs of Praise 3pm
Choose your favourite Hymn, Poem or Reading
Refreshments.



sing their morning song, and daylight returned. It was a privilege to share such an amazing experience. At the same time it was humbling, calling to mind the words of Hebrew songwriter: "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?" (Psalm 8:3,4)

John & Celia Grew

SAIF APPROVED FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

OUR FAMILY CARING FOR YOUR FAMILY

Your final farewell should respect your loved one's wishes and comfort those they leave behind. Our family has provided funeral services to families and friends in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and surrounding villages and towns for over 40 years.

We know this is a time when a caring family can make all the difference.



OUR PROMISE TO YOU:

We understand your wishes and our fully trained staff are here to help

We will always provide you with an itemised estimate where possible based on your needs from our basic direct to crematorium service to a full traditional funeral

Our emergency service is 24/7 and our phones are always answered personally by our staff

We operate our own secure mortuary and private chapels of rest

We are proud, active members of SAIF and follow their strict code of practice

Your family is our priority, not profit. We can offer you support from time of need before the funeral to bereavement support following the funeral

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UNDER THE SEA HOLIDAY CLUB

St Peter and St Paul

RECEPTION - YEAR 6


St Peter & St Paul - St Philip - St Andrew - St Saviour

JULY 22ND-26TH 2024

9.45AM-12.30PM

£10 PER CHILD FOR THE WEEK

Bible stories, games, craft, drama, singing

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Bookings close 30th June

Visit church website:
www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

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St Peter & St Paul - St Philip - St Andrew - St Saviour

