

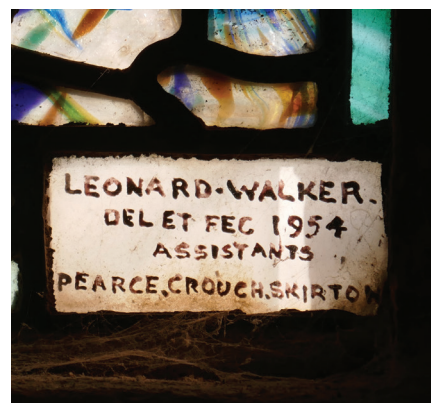
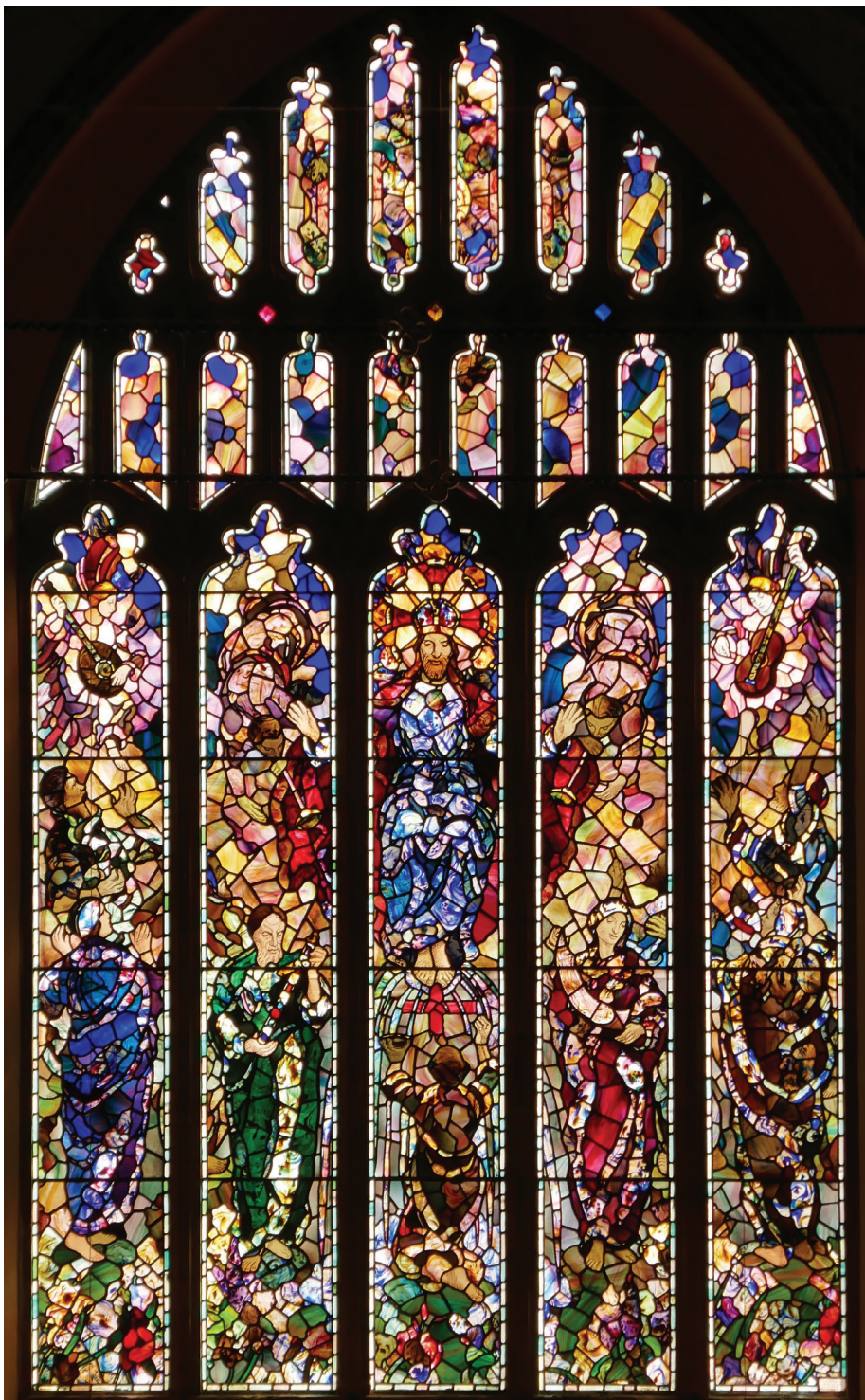
PERSPECTIVES

THE EAST WINDOW
ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

MEET THE TEAM
AT THE PARISH CHURCH

TRAINING MEDICS IN
THAILAND

KNOWING YOUR VALUE:
STAY AT HOME MUMS



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From the Vicar,

Autumn appears, summer is fading.... but we still have much for which to be thankful as we look back over the past two holiday months!

We had another wonderful week going 'Under the Sea' at our annual Holiday Club. A summer high point for many of the 130 children and young people who joined with us.

Based at St Peter & St Paul church, we enjoyed dry days that were ideal for our programme packed with activities, songs, talks, crafts, games and heaps of fun... including the leaders gunge tank!

Our theme this year was 'Under the Sea,' which saw the children delving into the original accounts of Jesus' life in the Gospels – and uncovering some amazing evidence of who Jesus really is:

He has kingly authority and supernatural power.
He offers us the forgiveness we all need through His death on the cross in our place.
He rose from the dead as He promised so that we might have new life in Him!

Each Sunday at the parish church, St Peter & St Paul, we have our creche, Sunday Club and SOS groups for those aged 0-14, plus Refresh in the early evening for school Years 10-13.

In August we hosted a series of Thursday evening discussions for adults to explore together some of life's big questions... What on earth am I here for? If there is a God, why are there natural disasters and diseases? What makes me human? Plus others.

We considered how the Christian worldview (a view of the world based on the truth of the Bible) speaks words of confidence, help and hope into some of these deep questions many of us are asking.

We still have much to be thankful for as we look back over the past two holiday months!

Whatever your age, you are always welcome to come and ask your big questions of life, or simply come to find out more about the Christian worldview and the person of Jesus we find in the Bible. The one who claims to offer forgiveness and new life for all who come to Him! *"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God."* (John's Gospel, chapter 1 verse 12).

Ben Thorndike Vicar,
Tonbridge Parish Church




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perspectives@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

STAY AT HOME MUMS



JOSEPHINE SINCLAIR

Since 2007, Josephine has been a Blue Badge Tourist Guide in London, leading tours in French, German, and English! In 2006 she had married Colin, was working part-time in a supermarket and part-time tour guiding. By 2012 they had two children, and she continued doing some part-time work in tourism, though making more time for the family.

She writes:

It was never our intention that I would work full time: Colin did, and I needed to have some time for family as well as career. The tour guiding work could be adjusted to fit time available. I enjoy serving others, and had time to become involved in different areas. Over the years, this has included chairing the PTA and sitting on a committee of the Institute of Tourist Guiding. I also joined Stepping Stones, a ladies bible study group at the Parish Church, which I now lead.

During covid there were no tourists so no work! Eek! But I could help the children with home learning. I was better at taking them out for walks and helping them bake. When some work started to trickle in, I was happy to discover that I hadn't forgotten how to guide tourists.

This year the tourist industry has seen a significant recovery – almost too much work – and I had some serious health issues, which were a deep concern. While their immediacy is past, it was a lesson to me not to take on too much. It made me stop, and realise I need to be around: yes, even teenagers need parents more than just a taxi driver or chef!

ADELINE (A-J) FOCHE

AJ grew up in Zimbabwe and came to the UK in 2004. She worked as an accountant in London. Her job required some travelling and long days when nearing reporting deadlines. A year after the birth of her first child, she returned to full-time work. The weekends would be dedicated to spending as much time as possible with her daughter. She was conscious that during the week her daughter spent more time at day-care than with her!

She writes:

When my family moved to Tonbridge seven years ago after having my second child, I decided, with the support of my husband, to become a stay-at-home mom. I found it a shock and a struggle in the beginning, though in time I found my feet. I discovered Tiny Acorns, a group of under 1s at the Parish Church, where I met some lovely moms. This kickstarted my journey back to my faith. I had my third child during lockdown and when possible attended Tiny Acorns and then Teddies (for pre-school 'graduates' of Tiny Acorns!) also at the Parish Church. My faith has been growing by regularly attending church as well as a ladies' bible group.

As a parent I am well aware that I can't and shouldn't fix everything for my children as they grow. It hasn't been easy - the challenge of meeting their needs, running the house and keeping my identity. My faith and family have carried me through the hard times, like losing oneself along the way and finding it again. Picking up my dusty running shoes has helped my mental health too. My time as a stay-at-home mom will be coming to an end soon. With support from my husband, church family, plus old and new friends made along the way I have loved the journey and privilege afforded me.



CAROLINE ZUBER

Caroline started her career in the Maritime Industry in London, followed by 8 years living in Singapore responsible for a marketing and communications team covering 16 countries across Asia and the Middle East. She moved to Tonbridge in 2016 where she lives with her husband and two children. For the past 9 years Caroline has chosen to be a stay-at-home parent.

She writes:

For me, choosing to stay at home has been the right decision for our family. But it is an emotive topic: it is not always easy, or possible financially, and I feel privileged to have been able to make this choice.

There are elements of being a stay-at-home parent that can be extremely challenging. One can feel undervalued or underestimated. But the rewards are significant: I get to walk my children to school every day; knowing that I can be there when they are sick, overwhelmed, happy or have news to share; and I can invest my time and energy in the physical and mental health of my whole family.

Even on the most unsuccessful day at home, when tempers have frayed or plans have fallen through, I am present to guide the lessons learnt based on my Christian faith, and to take responsibility for the adults my children will one day become. For me, this is where my true value lies, and it brings me great joy. Being at home has also afforded me the time to take on various voluntary roles and give back to the community and Church family that supported us in so many ways when we moved to Tonbridge.

Knowing Your Value

'Hello - what do you do?' A harmless opening line when meeting someone new. A seemingly innocuous question, a quick and easy way to learn something about a person you are meeting for the first time. What we are really asking though, is what do you chose to spend your life doing. It speaks volumes about our current social climate that the expected response is a job title.

But what if the work you do doesn't have a fancy title? Or any kind of financial reward. How do you find your value when you believe passionately in how you are choosing to prioritise your time and energy, but it is no longer openly valued by society?

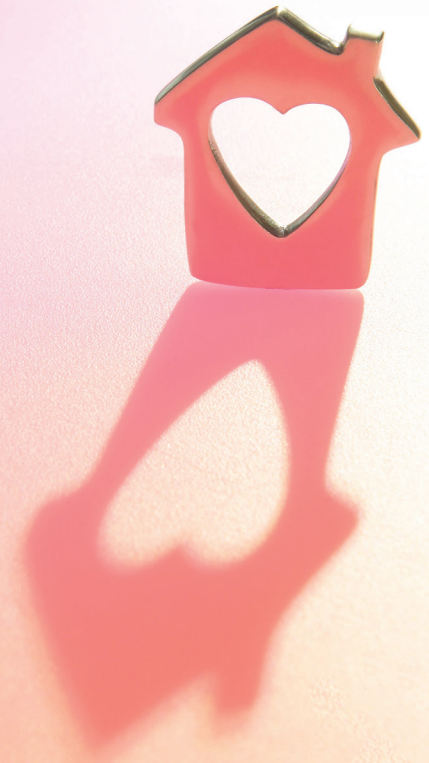
In my personal experience as a stay-at-home parent, it is so easy to feel judged, to constantly doubt the choices I have made. I no longer have performance reviews to know if I am doing a good job or promotions to know I'm making good decisions. I have a frequent monologue running in my head debating the sense of self and financial rewards attributed to my previous paid employment, versus the value of the work I now do in our home.

There are days when I have longed for someone to ask me a question about a global communications strategy, rather than just where their other shoe may be, or what's for dinner. And yet, by being at home, I have the time and the emotional energy to respond to these and the myriad of other questions and needs. I get to choose the parent I wish to be in these moments and the example I wish to set.

I passionately believe in the importance of being present - even on days when everyone is too tired to speak. In a world where we are made to feel guilty if we are not delivering at work, and guilty if we are not 'achieving' at home, I know I could not have excelled in both environments at the same time. This is not to say that others can't - many do, but I fear many feel constantly torn and unable to talk about it. To want to stay at home with your child is no longer seen as enough. And yet surely it can be everything.

My faith has strengthened me throughout my parenting journey. Christ's example has guided the choices I have made and given me the strength to face each day knowing that through his grace I am capable of tackling whatever challenges may arise. Finding identity in Christ offers freedom from judgement and the opportunity to know your true value.

To be a stay-at-home parent is a lifestyle that can bring enormous joy but there can be personal sacrifice and financial implications for the whole family. It is not a choice for everyone, but I have felt so fortunate to find confidence in my own value through the support of the church family and to feel the power of their love and acceptance.



One of my initial contacts with the church was through "Teddies", which welcomes pre-school aged children with parents or carers one morning a week. Toys, crafts and story time keep the children occupied, affording the adults time to engage with others and share the wonderful highs and inevitable challenges of the early parenting years over coffee and cake. Now I am delighted to be part of the team that runs Teddies each week and we love meeting families from across the community.

CAROLINE ZUBER

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

Teddies

Baby and toddler group
meets
Tuesdays 9.30am - 11am
(during term-time)

upstairs at St Peter and St Paul

Any pre-school children and their
carers are welcome

story time singing craft toys

Refreshments available

Meet THE TEAM



THE REV'D BEN THORNDIKE

Vicar

It is a joy to be part of Tonbridge Parish Church family. I have a passion for mission and discipleship, and a focus on strengthening the work of the church so that it can reach out into the community, which is very much part of our parish vision. Together with my family, I am excited to serve the Lord Jesus together with those across the churches and to share the good news of God's love and forgiveness in Jesus with the wider parish and beyond.

I trained at Oak Hill Theological College, and before working in church ministry taught Business Studies and Economics at a large secondary school in Cambridge. In my spare time I enjoy films and reading, open water swimming and I am a keen fly fisherman. I am married to Jane, and we have three school-age children.



THE REV'D WENDY CARR

Associate Vicar

My roles on the staff team are many and varied: beyond leading and preaching at services, most of my week involves walking alongside people through the highs and lows of life. I have the privilege of being able to meet with people of all ages, those who are a part of our congregations and those who live and work in Tonbridge and I get to share more about what it means to know and follow Jesus.

Before training for ministry in Cambridge, I lived in Kent working as a nursery nurse with children and their families and my passion was always to see children grow in confidence, to love life and to reach their full potential. Family life includes my husband Jason, our two grown up children and our middle aged labrador! I love food, cooking and hospitality and in my spare time I have a love/hate relationship with running and cycling! I love it once I've done it!



PAM CALVERT

Parish Safeguarding Officer

With all members of the clergy, staff and wider team my role is to uphold the Church of England safeguarding policies to help ensure that our parish churches are safe, nurturing places for church life and worship.



ALISON MINTON

Parish and finance administrator

I started in this role from July this year, looking after church bookings, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. In addition, I support our Treasurer Andy Kirkpatrick with the running of the Parish finances.

Before starting to work at the church, I was for 6 years Academic Registrar at St. Augustine Theological College in West Malling. In earlier times, I had worked in the banking sector as a management consultant in London. I then took time out to be a stay-at-home Mum while our two children were growing up, and was for several years chair of the governors of our children's Primary School in Tonbridge. I am married to Steve and love music, playing an active role in the sung worship team at St Philip's. I also enjoy board games, reading and spending time with the family.



DAVID BALCOMBE

Churchwarden

In my role as a Churchwarden I seek to assist the Vicar and church family in the decisions and activities of the church as we work together to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am married to Wendy, and together we both share a love of music, along with the busy-ness of church and family life.



JANE THORNDIKE

Church Family Administrator

I work as part of the administration team to support the wider church family across the parish. This includes Sunday morning service planning, and communication and publicity across the churches. I have served in a number of different churches over the years, with a focus on working with children and young people, and different aspects of church administration. Before that I was a primary school teacher. I enjoy time with my family – walking, cycling, crafts and board games with the children!



EDWARD PASCOE

Youth & Children’s Minister

For the last 8 years I have been Youth & Family minister at Frant, just south of Tunbridge Wells. I am married to Julie, and we have four school age children. We both have roots in Tonbridge, as my father worked here for 40 years, and Julie grew up here. We are very much looking forward to joining our new church family. We are excited at the prospect of working with a bigger team and all the potential of this town for sharing the good news of Jesus – with its many schools, young people and their families.



ALYSON BLEAKLEY

Senior Minister for Families

It is exciting to be part of the team, with the role of strategic oversight for our ministry to youth, children and families. I have a passion for seeing young people and families become rooted in Jesus, as well as reaching out to those who don’t know Him yet. I have been a UCCF (Universities & Colleges Christian Fellowship) Relay Worker, and also have a teaching background, which has been useful in my role in the parish working with children and families. It has been a joy for my husband John and me to be part of the church family for twenty years and bring up our three children here. Outside of loving time with my now quite grown-up family, I enjoy walking, reading and having coffee with anyone who is willing.



MIKE TALBOT

Churchwarden

While there are formal duties and responsibilities as a Churchwarden, my main aim is to work with the church leaders and across the church family to help us all to grow in our Christian faith and live it out in our community. Church activities keep my wife, Maggie, and me busy, and family - grandchildren especially - keep us on our toes, but we enjoy walking and Scottish Country Dancing whenever we can.



SALLY MUSSON

Licensed Lay Minister

I work as a full-time Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) in the Parish of St Peter & St Paul. This involves preaching, leading worship, taking funerals, pastoral visits and a leadership role at St Saviour’s Church, one of our four churches. I also serve as Secretary to the Parochial Church Council and as the Electoral Roll Officer. Beyond the Parish, I am a volunteer on the chaplaincy team at Tunbridge Wells Hospital. I can also be seen out and about locally on my bike and in the gym.



ANDY KIRKPATRICK

Treasurer

As Treasurer it is my responsibility to help oversee parish finances, alongside the team around me who bring their own experience and wisdom! I am a Qualified Accountant, currently working for a manufacturing business in Essex, where I have been for the last five years. My wife Jane and I worship at St Philip’s church. Do please feel free to ask me any questions and I will do my best to answer. Above all, I trust that if we ask God to lead our lives, he does just that!

WHEN YOU ENTER THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL ON A SUNNY MORNING, YOU CANNOT FAIL TO BE STRUCK BY THE BRILLIANCE OF THE LIGHT AND COLOURS OF THE WONDERFUL STAINED-GLASS WINDOW AT THE EAST END OF THE CHURCH. AS WITH THE GREAT MAJORITY OF OLDER EUROPEAN CHURCHES, THE MAIN WINDOW IS IN THE EAST WHERE THE SUN RISES, A DAILY REMINDER OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.



Leonard Walker working on the window

The original plain glass window was destroyed in 1944 by a flying bomb, presumably destined for London, was diverted off course, and fell short, exploding in the garden of Ferox Hall opposite Tonbridge School. There is a notice board on the pavement opposite the school.

This window is based on Revelation chapter 19, which speaks prophetically of Christ being crowned at his Second Coming. It was constructed by Leonard Walker and installed in 1954. By virtue of a 'chance' meeting between Sue Power, a member of the church, and Leonard's granddaughter who was recently visiting the church to see the window, we learned more about its history.

Walker was nearly 75 when he started the task of designing and building the window. (Who ever heard of retirement? He continued working in stained glass till the age of 82!) It took him three years to complete, for which he was paid the princely sum of £8 per week, the wages of a semi-skilled worker at the time. He had received his artistic training at St John's Wood Art School, where he later became principal, and lived in London most of his life. He regularly exhibited stained glass designs in the Architecture Room at The Royal Academy. He designed and made stained glass windows for religious and secular buildings in this country and overseas.

Many other artists would have completed the work in less time, but the key to Walker's work was that he used the glass itself to create the colour rather than painting it as others did. As an apprentice to a stained-glass artist called Leonard Augustus Powell, he toured England's churches. He would wait until the cleaners were working, borrow their stepladders for twopence and have a close look at the work of medieval artists. In this way he learned to use not paint but pieces of carefully selected different coloured glass, super-imposed to produce a jewel-like sparkle. He achieved this by using a so called 'plating' technique involving layering two or more pieces of glass on top of one another. He is said to have gone all over the country and collected 8000 pieces of glass with a bluish or yellow tinge or rare pieces of flint or crystal glass for the construction of the window.



The Pilgrim, kneeling before Christ his King: Centre Pane



*Simeon:
2nd LH Pane*

The East Window

The window is full of intricate detail and tells so much of the biblical story of Christ. The Old Testament prophets are there, Isaiah and Jeremiah, who foretold the coming Messiah. The New Testament witnesses, Simeon, John the Baptist, Mary and Martha of Bethany, who bore testimony to who Jesus was when he walked the hills of Judea and Galilee. A medical worker and craftsman are there, and the central figure of a pilgrim, kneeling before the figure of the risen Christ in the centre panel, surrounded by the angels and musicians in worship.



The Prophet Isaiah: 1st LH Pane



Mary & Martha sisters from Bethany:
1st LH Pane and 2nd Pane

The Prophet Jeremiah: 1st RH Pane

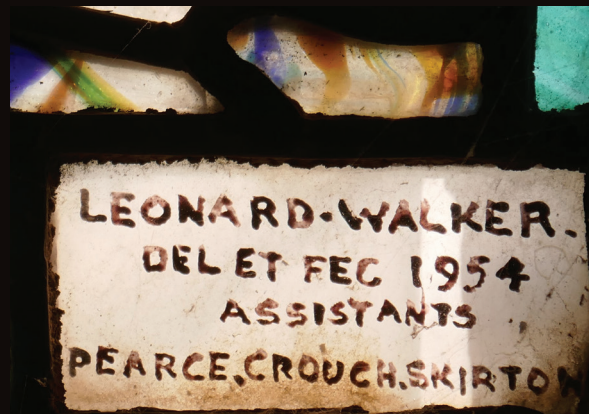


It is wonderful to reflect how what seemed like a disaster, the destruction of the former window by a stray flying bomb, could have led to the creation of such a beautiful replacement. As Gordon Rowe wrote in the Daily Telegraph in 1955:

“To me this window is more than an unusually beautiful creation. It unfolds its message with a heartfelt prayer.”



Mary & Martha sisters from Bethany.



Leonard Walker's signature

Photos: Courtesy David Robins



upz & downz

positive about learning disabilities

It's such good news when we discover something which has emerged from a seemingly impossible situation, a way found through the difficulty. When you meet Bernard Chick, founder of Upz & Downz, you cannot fail to be struck by his enthusiasm, vision, and entrepreneurial determination. That is the story of Upz & Downz, the Coffee Shop at Longmead.

But Upz & Downz is much more than just a Coffee Shop. When in 2011 Bernard was looking to find a way for his son Robert to transition from the specialist college he attended, he found nothing that offered what was needed. Rather than give up, he created in Southborough a Community Interest Company (CIC), Upz & Downz. With himself, two members of staff and three students, he aimed to provide meaningful and purposeful education which could lead students with disabilities, both young people and adults, to finding paid employment.

Fast forward to 2024, and Upz & Downz is now in Tonbridge with its own purpose-built training centre alongside their community coffee shop. In the course of a week there are 36 youths and adults who come for training and work experience, to build their technical and life skills and give them confidence to face the world.

William (*) has a learning disability and other health issues but speaks with enthusiasm about his love for carpentry, and the chest-of-drawers he is making. This has given him confidence to find a job for 2 hours a day, 3 days a week, at a local hardware store, and Upz & Downz also provides sheltered accommodation for him in Tonbridge with two other trainees.

Upz & Downz is located next door to Tonbridge Angels Football Stadium at Longmead. The centre has a classroom,

kitchen, and carpentry workshop. Activities include carpentry, cooking, up-cycling furniture, jewellery making, mosaics, gardening and bicycle repair. The coffee shop was born out of the need to create real work experience and employment opportunities and makes a useful contribution to the finances. Being at Longmead there is plenty of space for outdoor and sports activities.

Adjacent to the workshop is Hadlow Pottery. It was started by Maggie Blanche and became an independent CIC in Hadlow in 2014, moving to Tonbridge in 2022. Emma Strange now manages it, and loves the vision of the Pottery, which has similar objectives to Upz & Downz. About 30 students, both young and not so young, come during the week. One of them is Amy, who has been with the Pottery for several years, and has become a skilled painter, each item an individual work of art! She is now supporting some of the other trainees at the Pottery with their work.

The coffee shop is open every day from 9.15am to 4.00pm. Do call in for a coffee and a snack! The service is friendly and cheerful, and if you can spare a little time for a conversation with the students and staff, they welcome the contact and possibility of building community.

And when you are thinking about Christmas presents, or have furniture which could be up-cycled, consider something handmade or rebuilt, and thus unique, from Upz & Downz workshops and Hadlow Pottery! Come any time! - and the Pottery has an Open Day, scheduled for Saturday 7th December 2024.

(* name changed to protect identity)



Bernard Chick at Upz & Downz



Carpentry Workshop

Upz and Downz

01732 605634
www.upzanddownz.com



Amy Painting Mug

Hadlow Pottery

01732 669148
www.hadlowpottery.org

Village Health Worker Training in Thailand

Dr. Andrea Taylor is part of our St. Philip's congregation and works as a GP in Kent. Several years ago she heard of a great project birthed by two doctors out of their Christian based belief in the value of helping the needy in such ways as we can. Since 2017 she has been on three visits to train health workers in Thailand, and recently returned from her fourth. She writes:

The learners came from an Internally Displaced People group in a country neighbouring Thailand. Their communities are subject to military oppression and deprived in multiple ways including limited health care

travel, hot and humid weather and in a remote rural and non-idyllic location, very basic living conditions, worries over how the students' war-zone experience would affect them and their learning.

So why did I still go? I knew that our Father God was impressing on me that it was his remit to me to contribute in a small way to the project. Ironically, I had been asked to give training in mental health. In the fraught situations of their villages and communities, living with constant threat and danger, mental health is a major issue. I realised that my level of angst was tiny in comparison to the troubles faced by my young students. They were worth it. I know that there are times when a remit from God, whether large or small, may take us outside our comfort zone. I think He is worth doing that for.

The students were a dream for any trainer – keen, engaged, responsive. I worked hard and so did they. They were so open-hearted to me, yet another stranger come from afar and who would soon be off again. Amidst our focused schedule we had

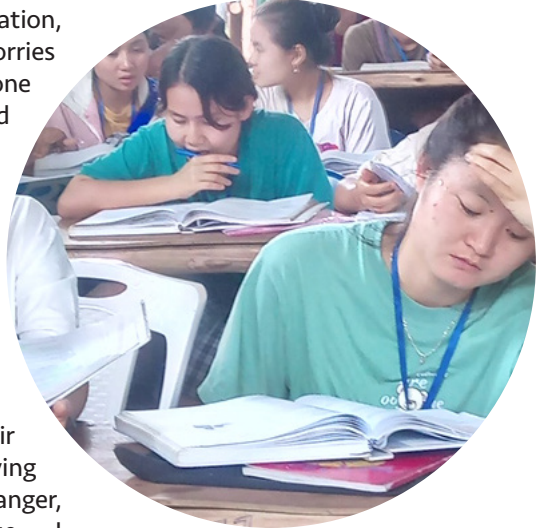
pockets of fun and found ways to have hope for ourselves and for those we endeavour to serve.

The students had so little and yet somehow they found a way to give me, at the end of the week, a beautiful gift. That, as well as their individual "thank you" made me teary-eyed, and even more so as they sang a blessing song over me as we ended our goodbyes. My learners that week won my heart. It was a time when goodness and beauty, gifts of God, turn up in quite unexpected places and ways. Will I go again? That could well be a yes!

ANDREA TAYLOR

access. Once selected, the students come to Thailand for nine months of medical training and then return right back into the danger in which their local communities live, but taking with them health care skills to places where there had been next to none.

As a volunteer trainer my task for the week was to prepare and teach a syllabus topic to a cohort of thirty students, half of whom are of Buddhist background and half Christian. The challenges and stresses of my task nearly overwhelmed me: a great dislike of 'being at the front', teaching through translators, complicated



LIGHT PARTY

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Year 1 - Year 6

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THE WILLIAM STRONG FOUNDATION

A charity established in 1713 to assist young people into work or education

William Strong Esq. had a concern to help young people find their way into education or work. In his will, he provided funds originally intended to help young people from the school attached to Charles the Martyr Church, but this has since been broadened to young people in the wider area. Specifically, 'work' meant starting an apprenticeship at sea or allied shipbuilding traders, and 'education' meant being found a place at Tonbridge School.

Today, 'education' means if the applicant is attending or applying for a University, Vocational College, or Naval Training College, or commencing an apprenticeship, though in certain circumstances a younger school child in financial need may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Foundation is administered by 6 trustees, who meet the applicants and award grants if they satisfy the criteria of the Governing Scheme. These include being under 25 years old, and residing in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells & Southborough.

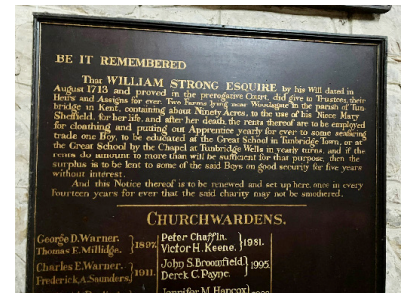
In the first instance applicants should provide the following details in writing to the Foundation:

- Intended course or career
- Estimated cost of the course
- Explain the reasons for financial hardship

The Trustees will consider the application and if it meets the Charity's criteria, a grant application form will be forwarded, usually by email. Once this is received, the applicant

will be invited to attend an interview which will take place at St. Peter & St. Paul Parish Church, Tonbridge. Following the interview, if Trustees are in agreement, the applicant shall be awarded a grant of up to £500 with the only stipulation that the student keeps Trustees informed of their progress in their chosen course.

**Interested applicants can write to the Clerk of the Trustees:
Mr. W A Corbett, 91, Tudeley Lane,
Tonbridge TN9 2ER**



Tonbridge Music Club 2024/25

TMC's 2024/5 season showcases unforgettable music, profiling the highest calibre UK and international artists - there's something for everyone, from full-length formal concerts to short, intimate Sunday morning Coffee Concerts, to a relaxed orchestral concert for all the family. Check out the TMC website for ticket

prices and full details of the artists and programmes - www.tmc.org.uk.

Everyone is welcome at TMC concerts, both 'Members' who sign up for the series, or those who just want to come to one-off concerts. You're assured a very warm welcome and a fantastic, life-enhancing experience.



Evening Concerts

Saturday 5th October:

Fitzroy String Quartet (at the Parish Church)

Friday 6th December:

Counter's Creek (folk quartet) (at the Tonbridge Juddian Rugby Club)

Saturday 15th February:

Samuele Telari (accordion) (at the Parish Church)

Saturday 3rd May:

Trio Chagall (piano trio) at All Saints' Church, Tudeley

Saturday 14th June:

London Handel Players (baroque ensemble) (at the Parish Church)

Coffee Concerts

Sunday 3rd November:

Showcase of TMC Music Award Winners

Sunday 19th January:

'Musical Liaisons' with Sam Haywood (piano)

Sunday 23rd March:

'A Walk on the Wild Side!' with Pat Gane (piano)

Family Concert

Saturday 22nd February:

'Peter and the Timber Wolf' with Kidenza and Ann Bryant (author and narrator) (at the EM Forster Theatre, Tonbridge School)

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

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

10.00am:

Holy Communion on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays.

Contact	
Parish Administration Alison Minton Parish Office, Tonbridge Parish Church, Church Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1DA	(01732) 770962 ext. 24 parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk alison.minton@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

Porchlight

UK Charity with headquarters in Maidstone



The stabbing of three young girls at a dance class in Southport in August came as a rude awakening to the agitation which lies below the surface in many communities. The new government has taken over the country at a time when the national finances are stretched. Yet every department, be it health, education, social welfare, city and county councils or defence, needs an increased budget simply to cope with the immediate demands. Among those is the rising rate of homelessness, individuals and families facing rising rents and costs. The benefits system is stretched to breaking point by the growing population, and many struggle to make ends meet. Porchlight seeks to support those who find themselves with nowhere to go, nowhere to live. They write:

We’re working with Borough Councils in Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells to provide more specialised homelessness support in West Kent. We’ve begun delivering specialist support for people on the streets who have highly complex needs. Other types of homelessness support may not have been right for them, leading to years of rough sleeping or repeat experiences of homelessness. They’re given a home for as long as it’s needed. No conditions are placed on them – we just ask that they show willingness to work towards maintaining their tenancy. It’s proven that if someone feels safe and included, they will – in their own time – start to recover and make positive choices about how they live their life. We’re also working with people in other types of homelessness accommodation and private rentals. We help individuals to overcome issues that could lead to homelessness in the future - such as drugs and alcohol or money management. And because people with complex mental health problems can find it difficult to leave the streets behind, we have specialist workers who know how to build trusting relationships and make them feel more comfortable accepting help. We also work with Canterbury, Dover, Dartford, Medway, Sevenoaks, Shepway and Thanet councils. For news and information: <https://www.porchlight.org.uk/>

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

TONBRIDGE

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173 High Street, Tonbridge,
TN9 1BX

RUSTHALL

01892 487 144

31 High Street, Rusthall,
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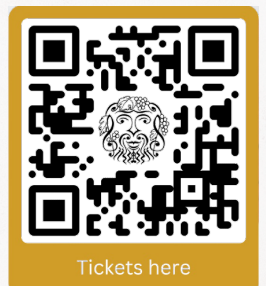


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**Bacchus Wind
Orchestra**

Autumn Concert

Saturday 12th October, 7.30pm
Adults £12 (£10 in advance).
Students & Children £3



**Scan the QR code to purchase
your tickets!**

WHAT'S ON FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST PETER & ST PAUL?



SUNDAYS 10.45 Service:



0-3s during every Sunday morning service.



For **0-1s** and their parents and carers
Wednesdays
 10.30am-12pm



For those in **Years R-5** during Sunday morning services, unless an All Age Service. (adults, please remain in the service)



For those in **Years 6-9** during Sunday morning services (adults, please remain in the service)



For **pre-school children** and their parents and carers
Tuesdays 9.30-11am
 (During term time)



For those in **Years 10-13**
Sundays 5-7pm
 (During term time) drop and pick up



OTHER EVENTS:



Breakfasts for families throughout the year



Light Party
 Sign up now for fun on **October 31st!**
 see inside for more details



Pancake Party for primary school children in March



Holiday Club for primary school children- July

