



TONBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH

WEEKLY NEWS - SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER 2024

THIS SUNDAY

St Peter & St Paul 8am Communion Service: Sacraments: The Lord's Supper 10.45 Morning Service: Commitment: John 15:9-15; Romans 12:9-16; 1 John 4:9-11 6pm Evening Service: Desperation 1 Samuel 21:1-22:5	St Philip 10.45 Communion Service: Sacraments: The Lord's Supper	St Saviour 9.15 Morning Service: Commitment: John 15:9-15; Romans 12:9-16; 1 John 4:9-11	St Andrew 9.45 Morning Service: Sacraments: The Lord's Supper
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CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- NEW** There's always good news with Jesus...! Monday morning's Book Club are reading **'Love your Church'** by Tony Merida. We have been encouraged by the reminder of Jesus' vision for His church. We have been reminded that *'Jesus did not come into this world merely to start a new community. He came to start a new kind of community.... Jesus gave his very lifeblood to start a community set apart by beauty – his own beauty'*. What an encouragement and great reminder of what church is, a Gospel-centred community of believers, as we think together about what God is already doing in this parish and seek his will together through the parish review. D.Martyn Lloyd-Jones wrote, *'the greatest need of our hour is a revived and joyful church.... The exuberant joy of the early Christians was one of the most potent factors in the spread of Christianity'*. Wendy

- Parish Review 'Better Build God's Kingdom'** (for more details on John Truscott, see: john-truscott.co.uk)

Play your part in the parish review... Imagine us being one big cooking pot together, where we put all our buildings, people and money. Where we wait in anticipation of what might come out for the better building of God's kingdom, even if that looks different from what we have now! Be willing to start there, with **'what is best for the parish as a whole?'**; rather than the things you personally like or are involved in and want to keep. The PCC has given a clear mandate for change, and across the parish we are all working and praying together in this review to see what those changes will be. As you think for yourself, join the discussion groups; and as you speak to others; do honestly consider the following questions and bring those answers to the Lord:

What are you excited about?
What are your expectations?
What do you *really* want?
What are you anxious or fearful about?
Why do you think that is?
What do you think will happen if things change?
Why do you come to church?
Aim is to 'Better Build God's kingdom' – is that what you want?

And as we do this, please **PRAY PRAY PRAY!** Use the October prayer diary and join our prayers together.

- NEW Annual Gift Day.** On Sunday 20 Oct we are preaching on 'giving' across the parish, ahead of our annual Gift Day on Sunday 3 Nov. Andy Kirkpatrick will also be presenting exciting news about our parish finances and plans for growth at every church: on 20 Oct (StP&P, StS & StP) and 27 Oct (St A). Please come ready to listen as we reflect on our giving together. On Sun 3 Nov, having had the chance to pray and plan our giving, we will all have the opportunity to return our pledge forms. With many thanks for your financial gifts, and with much excitement and anticipation for the year ahead! Do contact Andy Kirkpatrick Treasurer, for further info.
- NEW LAST CALL FOR SIGNING UP! 'Call my bluff' Cheese & Wine Tasting quiz and outreach evening: Sat 19 Oct, 7pm.** Can you tell a Merlot from a Sauvignon? A Port Salut from a Brie? Come and test your tasting skills with others and hear about Jesus' miracle of turning water into wine. Great to bring along a friend! Tickets £10 each—booking essential. **Sign up [HERE](#) or contact parish office by end Monday 14 October.**
NOTE: No need to be an expert in cheese and wine—this is just a fun evening for all!
- Calling Children and Young People!**
Don't forget to sign up [HERE](#) for the **Light Party at St Peter and St Paul, 5-7pm Thurs 31 Oct**, Year 1-6.
We'd also love the **teenagers (yr 7-13) from SOS and Refresh to help – (4pm-7.30pm)** permission form [HERE](#)
SOS are having a **Bonfire Party, 6-7.30pm Sat 2 Nov**, in Alyson's garden. More info and sign up [HERE](#)
Refresh are joining **Tonbridge Town Fireworks, 5-7.30pm Sun 3 Nov**, meet at StP&P. More info & sign up [HERE](#)
Refresh are going to **Sorted** the youth event in London on **Sat 9 Nov, 9am -6pm**. More info and sign up [HERE](#)
Calling SOS and Refresh – any that would like to help at the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Processing, sign up [HERE](#)

- **Families Breakfasts at 9.30am** – chance to meet & eat together and support each other in the joys & challenges of parenting: (**THIS SUN 13 Oct: SOS** ~~10 Nov: creche~~ (**sorry—being rescheduled**) 24 Nov: Sunday Club 1 Dec: SOS)
- **SAVE THE DATE! Holiday Club 2025 21-25 July!** We are aware a small number schools don't break up until during that week, but on balance have decided these dates work best for most people. **Do put it in your diary!**
- **Encouraging Safeguarding Awareness!** Safeguarding is at the heart of the Gospel, with its aim to protect people, especially those most vulnerable. If you are involved in formal ministries across the parish you will already have been involved with safeguarding and in contact with the Parish Safeguarding Team here (*Pam Calvert PSO, Paul White, Ben Thorndike, Wendy Carr & Alyson Bleakley*) - including completing safeguarding training. But, we want to encourage safeguarding awareness with **EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH FAMILY**, so that we can be a safer place for all. There are various awareness and training courses available free of charge from the Church of England, and if you have not completed these, can we encourage you to consider completing the first two levels. They are online and take about 90mins each. **Please see the handout attached with the emailed newsletter on how to access them** (or contact the parish office if you have received this newsletter in hard copy).

OTHER NEWS

- **Q&A evening with Bishop Jonathan Gibbs, Bishop of Rochester.** Rochester Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship (RDEF) are hosting questions & discussion regarding Living in Love & Faith (LLF) and Prayers of Love & Faith (PLF) being introduced into the Church of England. **The event is open to any orthodox evangelicals in Rochester Diocese** (those who hold to the Biblical and historic teaching of the church on sexuality & relationships). It will take place on **Wednesday 6 November, 8.00-9.30pm at St Michael's Wilmington, DA2 7EH.**

A key event to come to, and invite others to. The bishop will speak for 15minutes, with the rest of the evening to Q&A regarding LLF/PLF and how this works out in Rochester. **Questions in advance required: rochesterdef@gmail.com**
- **NEW Bells.** Our bells are in need of some maintenance over the next couple of months and therefore please note that the main doors to church will be CLOSED all next week to enable this work to start. Please use the side door entrance.
- **NEW Caring for God's Beautiful Creation.** Our local Council is offering free carbon literacy training. The training can give you confidence and understanding to take action if you're not sure what to do, if it's worth it or where to start. Four sessions online via Zoom on Wed Oct 16 and 23, Nov 6 and 13 For information and how to sign up <https://www.asustainablelife.co.uk/tonbridge-and-malling-carbon-literacy-course/>

REGULAR GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Day	Group	Meet at...	Contact
Mon 14th	Book Club Coffee lounge Merry Makers Coffee Break (inc. Thought for the Day) Men's Fellowship	10.15-11.45am, St Peter & St Paul. 10am-12pm 10am-12pm, St Peter & St Paul 10:30-11.30am, St Saviour	Wendy Carr / wendy.carr@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk Parish Office / parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk Yvonne Burgess / bidburgess@gmail.com Alison Wise / a.wise.7@btinternet.com
Tues 15th	Teddies (Toddler Group for parents / carers)	9.30-11am, St Peter & St Paul	teddies@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Wed 16th	Tiny Acorns (parent & carer under-1's) Coffee lounge Communion Service	10:30am– 12pm, St Peter & St Paul 10am-12pm, St Peter & St Paul 10am, St Peter & St Paul	Sara Thomson / sarajthomson44@gmail.com Parish Office / parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk Parish Office / parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Thurs 17th	Stepping Stones (Women's Bible Study with creche) Craft Workshop	10-11.30am, St Peter & St Paul 1.30-4pm, St Peter & St Paul	Josephine Sinclair / josephinedb@yahoo.co.uk Yvonne Burgess / bidburgess@gmail.com
Fri 18th	Church Family Prayers Coffee lounge	9.30-9.50am on Zoom (853 4454 9144) 10am-12pm, St Peter & St Paul	Parish Office / parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk Parish Office / parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Sat 19th	Prayer meeting Open House—with repair cafe	9-10am , St Peter & St Paul 10am-12pm, St Philip	Richard Roberts / richardbproberts2003@gmail.com Wendy Carr / wendy.carr@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Various	Home Groups (for all Christians who are part of our church family across any of our four churches)	Various locations and times	John Schluter / john@schluter.ch

SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

St Peter & St Paul 8am Communion Service: Giving for God: 2 Corin 9:6-15 10.45 Morning Service: Giving for God: 2 Corin 9:6-15 6pm Evening Service: Giving for God: 2 Corin 9:6-1	St Philip 10.45 Morning Service: Giving for God: 2 Corin 9:6-15	St Saviour 9.15 Morning Service: Giving for God: 2 Corin 9:6-15	St Andrew 9.45 Communion Service: Giving for God: 2 Corin 9:6-15
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Newsletter info: Tel 01732 770962 ext. 24 / email jane.thorndike@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

Parish Office opening hours: Mon (10am-1pm), Wed (9am-12pm) & Fri (10am-1pm)