



TONBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH

WEEKLY NEWS - SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2024

THIS SUNDAY - ADVENT SUNDAY

St Peter & St Paul 8am Communion Service: A light has dawned: Isaiah 9:2, 5-7 10.45 Communion Service: A light has dawned: Isaiah 9:2, 5-7 6pm Evening Service: The mothers of Jesus: Matthew 1:1-17	St Philip 10.45 Morning Service: A light has dawned: Isaiah 9:2, 5-7	St Saviour 9.15 Morning Service: A light has dawned: Isaiah 9:2, 5-7	St Andrew 9.45 Morning Service: A light has dawned: Isaiah 9:2, 5-7
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CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- **NEW There's always good news with Jesus...!** Christmas is a great time to share that good news with others! Let's use this month to pray who we might invite to our Christmas services and events over the next few weeks. **Including our Christianity Explored course starting on Wednesday evenings for seven weeks from 15 January.** Ask that God would graciously reveal this good news of hope and restoration to all who trust in Jesus to all those who visit our churches this season. *Ben*
- **Encouraging Safeguarding Awareness!** Safeguarding is at the heart of the Gospel, aiming to protect people, especially the 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 (*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). We are asking you to do this training to support our commitment to safeguarding in this parish; and in our commitment to you, please do contact us if we can support you in any way to do this training, whether that is practically, prayerfully or with follow up support.
- **NEW December Prayer Diary** Do collect the new prayer diary for this month and join us in praying.
- **SAVE THE DATES—Christmas services and events! (CHRISTMAS PUBLICITY NOW AVAILABLE!)**
 - **Carol Praise:** Sat 7 Dec, 3pm, St Andrew
 - **Gingerbread House evening:** Wed 11 Dec, 7.30pm, St Philip, booking essential.
Sign up [HERE](#) or via EVENTS tab on website, or contact the Parish office.
 - **Christmas Carol Singalong:** Sat 14 Dec, 4pm St Saviour.
 - **Carols by Candlelight:** Sun 15 Dec, 7pm, St Peter & St Paul.
 - **Pop up Nativity during 10.45am service:** Sun 15 Dec, 10.45am, St Peter & St Paul. Children can come dressed up ready in any Nativity costume (we will also have costumes children can borrow!).
 - **Christingle:** Sat 21 Dec, 4pm, St Philip.
 - **Nativity:** Tues 24 Dec, 1.30-4.30pm (drop in for animals, crafts, refreshments, carols, with Nativity at 2.30 & 4pm)
 - **Midnight Communion:** Tue 24 Dec, 11.30pm, St Peter & St Paul.
 - **Christmas Day Celebrations:** 8am: Communion. Plus 10am: Christmas Celebrations in all our church buildings.
- **18-30s Christmas Social** – Thurs 19 Dec, 7-9pm, St Peter & St Paul, Lower Lounge. Please sign up via the EVENTS tab on the website or [HERE](#)
- **Donations of Christmas nibbles!** We are hoping to serve [mulled wine / mince pies / Christmas biscuits](#) at our 'Carols by Candlelight service' and 'Nativity'. Please drop off any donations to the Parish office. Many thanks.
- **NEW PCC prayers.** Do pray on for our PCC meeting on Monday evening (2 Dec), for discussions about many of the different things we do in the ministry and mission of our church family life together.
- **NEW Save the date – Burns' Night Ceilidh** Fri 7 Feb 2025 at St Peter & St Paul: An evening with haggis supper and dancing and a short message about the Christian faith. Great to bring a non-Christian friend.

- **Opportunity to serve!** We're thankful to Maureen Gamage who is currently our Verger, faithfully supporting wedding and funerals. However, we are now looking for some more volunteers to support Maureen and our wedding and funeral services, including help with the AV desk. The commitment is usually two hours or so for each service and can be during the week or on Saturdays, intermittently throughout the year. For more information, please contact the Parish Office.
- **Families Breakfasts at 9.30am** – chance to meet & eat together and support each other in the joys & challenges of parenting: **THIS SUNDAY** 1 Dec: SOS.
- **Book Group** will be reading **Tim Keller 'Hidden Christmas'** throughout Advent starting on 2 Dec for 3 weeks, if you would like to join them do come along - contact Wendy Carr or Parish Office for more information.

OTHER NEWS

- **NEW Jane Austen's Birthday Celebration** will be held at the Parish Church On Thurs 12 Dec at 2.30pm. Professor John Mullan will give the address: 'The Delights of Jane Austen's Dialogue'. Entrance for the address will be £5 on the door.
- **NEW** It has been a joy to grow and deepen our links with **Bishop Chavasse Primary School** over this last year and with that in mind we are all invited to their Christmas Fair on Fri 6 Dec, 3.30-6.30pm.
- **NEW Donations to FEAST.** If you would like to support the work of FEAST this Christmas please drop off any donations (mince pies, Christmas cake, puddings, Yule log, chocolates , biscuits, biscuits for cheese) to the Parish Office by 8 Dec. Many thanks.

REGULAR GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Day	Group	Meet at...	Contact
Mon 2nd	Book Club	10.15-11.45am, St Peter & St Paul	Wendy Carr / wendy.carr@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
	Coffee lounge	10am-12pm	Parish Office / parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
	Merry Makers	Not meeting until 13 Jan	Yvonne Burgess / bidburgess@gmail.com
	Coffee Break (inc. Thought for the Day)	10:30-11.30am, St Saviour	Alison Wise / a.wise.7@btinternet.com
Tues 3rd	Teddies (Toddler Group for parents / carers)	9.30-11am, St Peter & St Paul	teddies@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Wed 4th	Tiny Acorns (parent & carer under-1's)	10:30am–12pm, St Peter & St Paul	Sara Thomson / sarajthomson44@gmail.com
	Coffee lounge	10am-12pm, St Peter & St Paul	Parish Office / parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
	Communion Service	10am, St Peter & St Paul	Parish Office / parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Thurs 5th	Stepping Stones (Women's Bible Study with creche)	10-11.30am, St Peter & St Paul	Josephine Sinclair / josephinedb@yahoo.co.uk
	Craft Workshop	1.30-4pm, St Peter & St Paul	Yvonne Burgess / bidburgess@gmail.com
Fri 6th	Church Family Prayers	9.30-9.50am on Zoom (853 4454 9144)	Parish Office / parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
	Coffee lounge	10am-12pm, St Peter & St Paul	Parish Office / parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Sat 7th	Prayer meeting	9-10am , St Peter & St Paul	Richard Roberts / richardbproberts2003@gmail.com
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 8 DECEMBER

St Peter & St Paul 8am Communion Service: The fathers of Jesus: Matthew 1:18-23 10.45 Morning Service: The fathers of Jesus: Matthew 1:18-23 6pm Evening Service: Where is the King? Matthew 2:1-23	St Philip 10.45 Communion Service: The fathers of Jesus: Matthew 1:18-23	St Saviour 9.15 Morning Service: The fathers of Jesus: Matthew 1:18-23	St Andrew 9.45 Morning Service: The fathers of Jesus: Matthew 1:18-23
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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)