



TONBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH

WEEKLY NEWS - SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2024

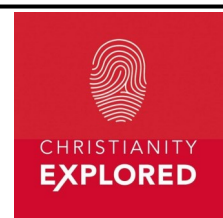
THIS SUNDAY

St Peter & St Paul 8am Communion Service: Mary's faith: Luke 1:26-55 10.45 Morning Service with Pop-up nativity: Mary's faith: Luke 1:26-55 7pm Parish Carols by candlelight	St Philip 10.45 Morning Service: Mary's faith: Luke 1:26-55	St Saviour 9.15 Morning Service: Mary's faith: Luke 1:26-55	St Andrew 9.45 Communion Service: Mary's faith: Luke 1:26-55
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CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- **NEW There's always good news with Jesus...!** It was a joy and a privilege to come to our Father God in prayer on Thursday evening at our monthly prayer meeting; to pray for the needs of the world, our mission partners and give thanks for Christmas events and services already happened, as well as pray for those still to come! And to share testimony with one another of the work that Jesus has done in our lives even this week. We also spent a good time praying for our Parish Review. If you missed coming do use these prayers (**attached with emailed newsletter**) of thanks and please to aid your personal prayers for the Parish Review. *Ben*

Christianity Explored - an informal and relaxed seven-week course. For anyone who wants to think about the meaning of life. A great course if you want to brush up on the basics of the Christian faith or to invite non-Christians friends or family to. You don't need to know anything about the Bible and you won't be asked to pray or sing. You can ask any question you like, or you can just sit and listen. Whoever you are, whatever you are thinking, CE is a place for you to explore what life's all about. It might just be the best news you've ever heard. **Starting on Wed 15 Jan, for 7 weeks. Sign up [HERE](#) or via the 'Church Life' and 'Course' tab on website (or contact the Parish Office).**



- **Christmas services and events STILL TO COME!**
 - **Christmas Carol Singalong:** THIS Sat 14 Dec, 4pm St Saviour.
 - **Carols by Candlelight:** THIS Sun 15 Dec, 7pm, St Peter & St Paul.
 - **Pop up Nativity during 10.45am service:** THIS 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!).
 - **18-30s Christmas Social:** Thurs 19 Dec, 7-9pm, St Peter & St Paul, Lower Lounge.
Sign up via the EVENTS tab on the website or [HERE](#)
 - **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)
NEW Budding actors?! If you would like to take part acting in our Nativity on Christmas eve, do contact the Parish Office! We are still in need of a first aider (3-5pm slot) and a couple more welcomers please!
 - **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.
- **Christmas donations** (from Christmas services) will be split between Christian Aid (disaster relief, supporting Ukraine & Gaza appeal) and Rock UK (Christian charity for children & young people, with local centre in Tonbridge).
- **New group 'CONNECT' for School Years 6-9 starting Thurs 23 Jan!** Like food? Like fun? Come along to our midweek Connect group! You'll find an array of games on offer, or just chill out with friends. Have some great food and listen to some great talks that help us think about what God means for our lives. Why not bring a friend, or seven! We'd love to see you all! Link to sign up - [HERE](#)
- **Opportunity for all ages and stages!** Interested in helping with Connect? (see above!) Particularly with cooking/ serving tea? We'd love to hear from you if you are interested in serving this way. Do contact Ed or Alyson.
- **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. Tickets available after Christmas so watch this space!
- **NEW Many thanks for all who serve** across the Parish (both on rotas, and many other unseen areas of service). The rotas have now been emailed out - do check your email inboxes! **For everyone in the church family** - please also check physical pigeon holes in our churches, so you don't miss out on the Christmas cards starting to appear!

OTHER NEWS

- **Kent Men's convention:** Sat 1 March, 10am-3pm, St Nicholas' Church Sevenoaks. 'Real Strength: Depending on God and His word through life's highs and lows'. Click [here](#) to find out more and book tickets. *If you are thinking of going and would be happy to coordinate lifts, please do contact the Parish Office.*
- **NEW** The **Restored Lives course** is also coming up at St. Nic's in Sevenoaks from 23 Jan for 8 weeks (7-9.30pm). A course supporting people through separation and divorce. To book, or for more information please see www.restoredlives.org/sevenoaks
- **NEW** A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gift Appeal** such a success in Tonbridge this year. As ever your generosity was amazing. We managed to send out from the Tonbridge Processing Centre **56,000 shoeboxes filled with gifts**. These gifts are now on their way to **Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Moldova and Serbia** bringing smiles of joy to children and teenagers in some very difficult places. Bless you all for your support! **PS** If you wanted to join in but forgot you can still make up a shoebox gift online, a good last-minute Christmas present for the person who has everything! Take a look at this link: samaritans-purse.org.uk/shoeboxonline

REGULAR GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Day	Group	Meet at...	Contact
Mon 16th	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 17th	Teddies (Toddler Group for parents / carers) Christmas Party!	Not meeting until Tues 7 Jan	teddies@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Wed 18th	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 19th	Stepping Stones (Women's Bible Study with creche)	Not meeting until 9 Jan	Josephine Sinclair / josephinedb@yahoo.co.uk
	Craft Workshop	Not meeting until 9 Jan	Yvonne Burgess / bidburgess@gmail.com
Fri 20th	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 21st	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 22 DECEMBER

St Peter & St Paul 8am Communion Service: The shepherd's faith: Luke 2:8-20 10.45 Morning Service: The shepherd's faith: Luke 2:8-20 6pm Communion Service: A sword in the soul: Luke 2:33-35	St Philip 10.45 Morning Service: The shepherd's faith: Luke 2:8-20	St Saviour 9.15 Morning Service: The shepherd's faith: Luke 2:8-20	St Andrew 9.45 Morning Service: The shepherd's faith: Luke 2:8-20
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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)**