

# TONBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH - WEEKLY NEWS

## SUNDAYS 22&29 DEC 2024 AND 5 JAN 2025

### SUNDAY 22 DEC

<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul</b> 8am Holy Communion: 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	<b>St Philip</b> 10.45 Morning Service: The shepherd's faith: Luke 2:8-20	<b>St Saviour</b> 9.15 Communion Service: The shepherd's faith: Luke 2:8-20	<b>St Andrew</b> 9.45 Morning Service: The shepherd's faith: Luke 2:8-20
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### CHURCH NEWS AND COMING UP

- **NEW There's always good news with Jesus...!** We are well into Christmas events and services and have already had many opportunities to share the good news of Jesus 'born for our salvation'. Join us in praying that people would leave our services and events eager to find out more and sign up to Christianity Explored course starting on 15 Jan for 7 weeks. Let's pray for 10 new faces, amongst the familiar ones, to join us for Christianity Explored! *Ben*
- **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 Office opening hours over Christmas:** Parish Office will close on Tues 24 Dec and open again on Mon 6 Jan.
- **Many thanks for all who serve** across the Parish (both on rotas, and many other unseen areas of service). The rotas for next term have now been emailed out - do check your email inboxes! **For ALL in the church family** - please also check physical pigeon holes, so you don't miss out on the Christmas cards starting to appear!
- **NEW** Prayer is a foundation of our vision, and with that in mind, do pick up a **January prayer diary** at the back of church and put **Thurs 9 Jan in your diary - our next Monthly Prayer Meeting**. A great way to start the new year!
- **NEW Last Sunday in 2024 - Sun 29 Dec, 6pm:** An informal service of worship, prayer, testimony, reflection and Bible reading. An invitation to come and reflect on how God has blessed you in 2024 - in both good and difficult times. - and to look ahead to 2025.
- **NEW St Saviour's** has welcomed the installation of the **new inner glass door** which has enhanced the welcome offered by the church and improved accessibility. Many thanks for all who played a part in making this happen.

### CHRISTMAS - STILL TO COME!

- **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:** Wed 25 Dec 8am: Communion. Plus 10am: Celebrations in all our church buildings.

## **REGULAR GROUPS & ACTIVITIES - CHRISTMAS DATES**

**Book Group** - Re-starts 6 Jan – continuing to read ‘Love your Church’ (chp 8) A new book will begin on 13 Jan...tbc!

**Coffee lounge coffee shop** - Open Mon 6 & Fri 10 Jan, then normal hours (Mon, Wed & Fri 10am-12pm) from Mon 13 Jan

**Merry Makers** - re-starts Mon 13 Jan

**Coffee Break** - re-starts Mon 6 Jan

**Men’s Fellowship discussion group** - re-starts Mon 13 Jan

**Teddies toddler group** - re-starts Tues 7 Jan

**Tiny Acorns baby group** - re-starts Wed 8 Jan

**Stepping Stones ladies Bible study** - re-starts Thurs 9 Jan

**Craft workshop** - re-starts Thurs 9 Jan

**St Andrew Open Door** - re-starts Thurs 9 Jan

**Church Family prayers on Zoom (853 4454 9144)** - Continuing every Friday morning (including on 27 Dec & 3 Jan)

**Women’s fellowship** - re-starts Fri 10 Jan

**Saturday prayers** - not meeting Sat 28 Dec

**Open House at St Philip** - re-starts Sat 4 Jan

## **SUNDAY - 29 DECEMBER**

### **St Peter & St Paul**

8am Holy Communion: Luke 2:41-52

10.45am Parish-wide Morning Service: Luke 2:41-52

6pm An informal service of worship, prayer, testimony, reflection and Bible reading

## **SUNDAY - 5 JANUARY**

### **St Peter & St Paul**

8am Holy Communion:  
Something great is coming! John 2: 1-12

10.45 Communion Service:  
Something great is coming! John 2:1-12  
(Children’s groups re-start)

6pm: Evening Service: Jesus is revealed!  
Matthew 17:1-13

### **St Philip**

10.45 Morning Service:  
Something great is coming!  
John 2: 1-12

### **St Saviour**

9.15 Morning Service:  
Something great is coming!  
John 2: 1-12

### **St Andrew**

9.45 Morning Service:  
Something great is coming!  
John 2: 1-12

## **DATES FOR THE NEW YEAR - CHURCH NEWS**

- **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).**
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- **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 Upcoming Families Breakfasts:** *Sunday Club: 19Jan SOS: 2Feb Creche: 16 March  
All Families: 30 March for special Mothers' Day Breakfast*

## **DATES FOR THE NEW YEAR—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.*
- 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](http://www.restoredlives.org/sevenoaks)
- **NEW Hospice in the Weald Christmas Tree Recycling** Click [HERE](#) for more info and to register to arrange collection.

**The staff team** wish you all a Happy Christmas as we remember the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, Lord of creation.

*"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you;  
he is the Messiah, the Lord. " (Luke 2:11)*

**Please note that the next weekly newsletter will be FRI 10 JAN**