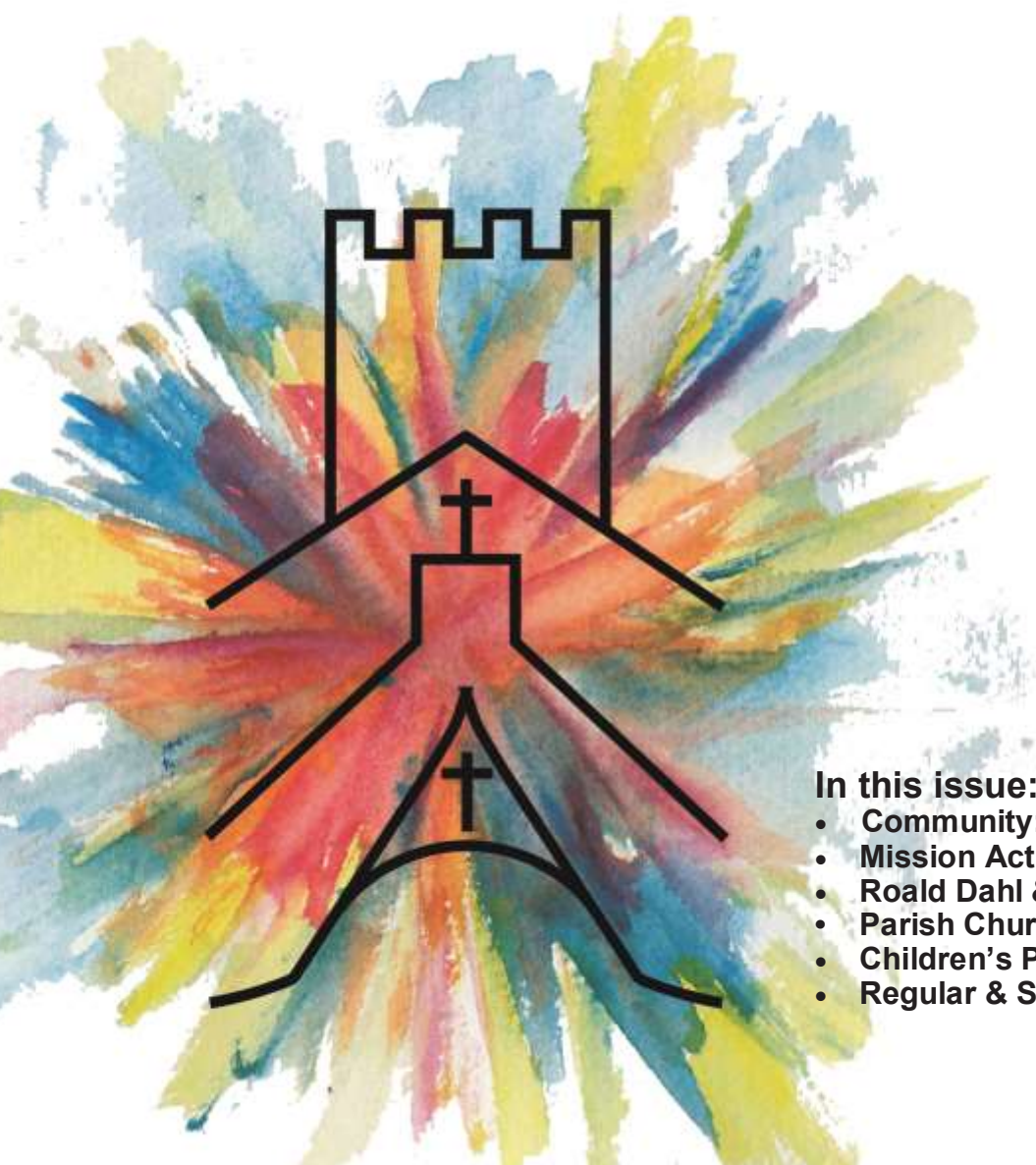


perspectives

Issue 32 - Summer 2016

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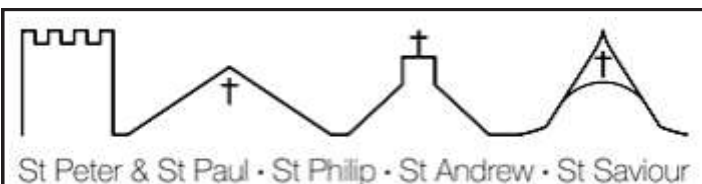
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If you have any comments or questions, would like to make any contribution to the next edition of Perspectives or would like to receive this magazine on a quarterly basis please contact the editorial team via:

Perspectives@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
or Perspectives Editorial Team,
The Coach House, Church Street,
Tonbridge, TN9 1HD
tel.no: 01732 770962 extension 25.



The Perspectives logo found on the front cover represents the four parish churches worshipping and working together.

Dear Friends,

Summer fruits

Summer fruits are many and varied.

They make an ideal diet for the health-conscious, or to keep your five-a-day alive.

We could choose berries, peaches, apricots, melons and mangoes to name but a few. These lovely fruits

are especially enjoyable in the open air, even better with sunshine, and possibly with cream!

What has this to do with a Christian magazine, I hear you ask? You are probably now feeling hungry and longing for a quiet or sociable meal.

There are, of course, other fruits of summer - not just the edible ones. Holidays or, as the Christian faith aptly says, Holy days: time to slow down aside from the rush and crowded diaries and responsibilities. A change of pace, a change of place, a change (we trust) of weather. The other fruits of the summer months are longer days, a chance to enjoy longer hours of daylight and sunshine.

Despite the right warnings of skin care from UV rays, most of us recognise the value of fresh air and sunshine to invigorate us. From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised, says the Psalmist. What gifts to enjoy, holidays and longer days - all to inspire praise to the Lord!

Perhaps the greatest fruit that comes to our summer, or any season of the year, or our lives - is the so-called fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control. These are gifts given to us all by the Spirit himself when we ask him and open our lives to him.

I pray that as you read and reflect, using our Christian magazine, that you may take a moment to open your life to the renewing work of the Spirit. Allow him to grow his fruit in you!

The Rev'd Mark Brown, Vicar

*The Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Tonbridge
 with St Philip, St Saviour & St Andrew*

Rural Dean, Tonbridge Deanery





Chris and Chrissi Ingram

Chris, Chrissi and one-year-old Sammie are such a part of church and community that it is surprising to realise that they have only lived in Tonbridge for 4 years.

Chrissi works for an insurance company in London in Risk Management. Her baking is well-known in the Parish - come to a St Philip's August Tea service and you might be lucky! Chris is an instructor at Rock UK, Carrotty Wood Centre, where many local groups and schools have a great time, testing their physical and team building skills in the woods. They are both creative as well as practical: Chrissi sings at St Philip's and Chris helps run the AV system, and leads and preaches at some services. We talked about their lives so far, faith and staff development.

Did you grow up in faith?

Chrissi: My parents were Christians, getting involved in "Mission for London" soon after their wedding and a key part of the small church where I grew up. They were supportive of my questioning phases, encouraging me to think things through and find my own faith.

Chris: Whereas for me, only my mum was a Christian, taking me and my siblings to church while my dad stayed at home. As a teenager, having both options available let me make up my own mind. I doubted God's existence for four years but then I went with my family to a Christian family camp, where God found me again!

How has your faith been helpful?

Chrissi: I suffered with severe depression as a teenager, but knowing God pretty much kept me alive.

Chris: Personally, God is my support in everything that I do - He's always got my back. As I work primarily with young people I never really know what to expect. Every group is unique and requires something different of me.

Also, as Rock UK is a Christian organisation, faith is a part of the whole work ethos, unlike a 'normal' workplace. People are encouraged to grow in faith, as well as work-related skills. For example, a review with your manager might begin "How's your faith developing?"

Chrissi: Whereas I struggle with my work reviews - giving an honest answer that will get you a good performance review is a political art form I haven't mastered.

Chris: Rock UK is also a community with most staff living together on site. This team is made up of people from all over the UK, sometimes further

afield, all with varied backgrounds and characters. This creates a fantastic opportunity for us all to learn from each other's experiences. As a longer-standing part of this community, Chrissi and I make an effort to encourage staff that may only be here a couple of years to settle quickly and have people they can trust close by. As part of this, we host socials with games and food for us all to relax together.

Do you have time for hobbies and interests?

Chris: I don't have a huge amount of spare time with Sammie around, but I love woodcraft skills and playing games.

Chrissi: Playing in the park with Sammie! Singing: I have sung in church since I was 13-14, and helped lead the Rock Gospel group at Uni. I've not yet met a craft I don't want to try, but my real passion is baking.

How would you like to see the Church develop?

Chrissi: We should be open to what the community needs, be prepared to reassess constantly what we do. We need to evangelise through genuine relationships with people.

Chris: We need to be open and honest about ourselves. We cannot grow as a community if we hide behind masks of 'everything is fine'.

Here we ended, Sammie being distracted from his growing need for tea by having a plate balanced on his head, and Chrissi not yet sorted out from a day in London. Many thanks to the whole family!

Jane Mata



We can't promise sunshine, but this summer is set to be a memorable one in terms of local activities, events and festivals. Here is a selection of some of the top things to do this summer.

July heralds the **Tonbridge Festival**, which aims to bring the joy of the arts to the people of Tonbridge, in a celebration of all art forms. The festival is run over 10 days and includes a range of performing arts, live music, art exhibitions and literary events all around the town. Venues include West Kent College, the Tonbridge Rugby Clubhouse, and Tonbridge Castle, as well as a number of local businesses. The annual event, formerly known as the Tonbridge Arts Festival, will include performances and exhibitions from professionals and amateurs, with the opportunity for community involvement in an open art exhibition and poetry recital. For the latest information visit: www.tonbridgefestival.co.uk

If you're looking for an excuse to get outside and enjoy the warmer days and lighter evenings, consider going for a **walk around Tonbridge** to places which have associations with Jane Austen and her family. Austen's father was born in Tonbridge in 1731, so there are many family links to the town, and the walk takes a circular route around the town to include Tonbridge School, Tonbridge Castle and the church of St Peter and St Paul. The walk details can be found here: www.janeaustensoci.freeuk.com/pages/branches/kent_tonbridge.htm

We'll also be welcoming children aged 4-11 years old to our **Parish Holiday Club**, 25-29 July at St Saviour and St Peter & St Paul. There'll be games, competitions, drama, songs and things to make, all with a Bible theme, every morning 9.30-12 noon. Booking is essential – visit www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk for further information.

Tunbridge Wells' **Jazz on the Pantiles** is back for another year, with live bands performing at the bandstand in the Pantiles every Thursday night from 7.30pm May-September. Visitors are encouraged to listen to the music and soak up the atmosphere, whilst relaxing in one of the nearby bars, cafés, or restaurants.

And finally, whether you're feeling fit and are keen for a challenge, or simply keen to exercise your vocal chords, the **Tonbridge Half Marathon** on Sunday 2nd October may be for you. In its 6th year, the race is being staged jointly by Tonbridge Rotary Club and Tonbridge Lions Club to raise money for KSS Air ambulance, the Tonbridge Cottage Hospital League of Friends and other local charities. The race starts at 10am from West Kent College, and takes a circular route out to Leigh village and back again. Local residents are encouraged to come and support the runners (who last year included The Rev'd Mark Brown) and cheer them on. This year the event incorporates the Kent Half Marathon Championship, which means that affiliated runners (those running for Tonbridge AC, Tunbridge Wells Harriers, Sevenoaks AC etc.) are automatically entered into the team event. For further information, or details on how to enter, visit www.tonbridgehalfmarathon.co.uk/.

Dates for your diary:

- **Tonbridge Festival, 1-10 July**
- **Parish Holiday Club, 25-29 July**
- **Jazz on the Pantiles, Thursdays May-Sept**
- **Tonbridge Half Marathon, 2 October**

Natasha Stille

2016 marks special anniversaries for a best-loved and best-selling children's author, Beatrix Potter, and one of the 20th century's best storytellers for children, Roald Dahl. But what inspired them to become such exceptional authors?



Helen Beatrix Potter

28/7/1866-22/12/1943

150th Anniversary

Beatrix had a typically Victorian upbringing in Kensington: taught by a governess, Beatrix was lonely until her brother Walter Bertram Potter was born. She had numerous pets, spending holidays in Scotland and the Lake District, developing a love of landscape, flora and fauna, all of which she closely observed, drew and painted.

In her 20s, Beatrix became a talented naturalist - her unpublished paper about fungi entitled "On the Germination of the Spores of Agaricineae" brought her recognition of her contribution to mycological research. Subsequently Beatrix concentrated on drawing and painting, as well as writing illustrated letters to children, one of which was her first successful publication: *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

After the death of her fiancé and editor Norman Warne (unexpectedly from leukaemia), Beatrix bought Hill Top Farm in Sawrey in the Lake District in 1905. Writing more books and tending her farm, Beatrix Potter married William Heelis in 1913 and became a Lakeland farmer. Breeding Herdwick sheep that won many prizes at country shows, she also bought a further 14 farms (4,000 acres) - consequently preserving the beauty of the countryside.

Beatrix wrote and illustrated 28 books, translated to over 35 languages and sold over 100 million copies. In addition to her publishing, Beatrix was keen to license all her creations, making Peter Rabbit the world's oldest licensed literary character. After her death, Beatrix left her impressive land estate to the National Trust and Hill Top Farm was kept exactly as it had been when she lived in it, now receiving thousands of visitors annually.



Roald Dahl

13/9/1916-23/11/1990

100th Anniversary

The son of Norwegian parents, Roald had 4 sisters but it was Roald's education at Cathedral School in his birthplace of Llandaff/Cardiff, boarding school St Peter's in Weston-upon-Mare and Repton School in Derbyshire that inspired his writing. Dahl was exceptionally tall, excelled at sports, passionate about literature and interested in photography. In August 1934 Dahl crossed the Atlantic and hiked through Newfoundland. In July 1934, Dahl joined the Shell Petroleum Company and was stationed in Mombasa (Kenya), then Tanzania, encountering a rich variety of African wildlife whilst on assignments.

Dahl joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 but after serious injuries caused during a crash-landing in Egypt he was transferred to Washington D.C. to become an assistant air attaché, where author C.S. Forester encouraged him to write. Dahl married film actress Patricia Neal in 1953 and his bedtime stories for his five children inspired his career as an author, providing an informative test audience. His works include *James and the Giant Peach* (1961), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964), *Fantastic Mr Fox* (1970), *The Witches* (1983), *Matilda* (1988).

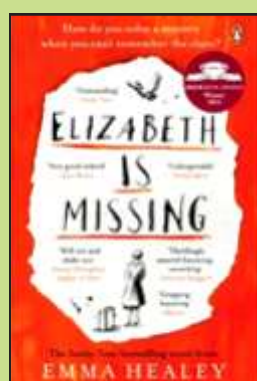
Some critics and parents baulk at Dahl's portrayal of children's harsh revenge on adult wrongdoers. Dahl claimed that children have a more crude sense of humour than adults, so he merely appealed to his readers.



Roald Dahl composed 19 children's books 9 short story collections, and several television and movie scripts. Amongst the world's best-selling fiction authors with works translated into almost 60 languages and 200 million sales, Dahl's commitments in neurology, haematology and literacy continue through Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity.

Hopefully this brief article has shown you how varied and unusual their lives were. One last question remains: did they ever meet? According to Brough Girling (Dahl's friend, the founder and director of Readathon, a campaign to get more children reading) Dahl had been a massive Potter fan and they met once when Dahl was 6 years old during his visit to Beatrix Potter's farm. What was the outcome of their meeting? We hope you enjoy researching this for yourself!

Aneta van Bodegom



"Elizabeth is Missing"

Emma Healey

Maud is becoming more and more absent-minded and forgetful. Maud's mind is gradually forgetting how to make connections. Maud is suffering from dementia.

Yet, there is one thing Maud is completely certain about - her friend Elizabeth is missing. Maud keeps finding the notes she has written herself - notes reminding her to search for Elizabeth. However, everyone dismisses her constant questions and repeated investigations as the ramblings of a damaged mind.

Despite this, Maud is determined to find Elizabeth. She is determined and she won't give up. As her mind slowly unravels, Maud gradually pieces together the answer to a much older mystery - the disappearance of her beloved sister while she was still a teenager.

This book is a good mystery story, which you will enjoy if you like reading detective stories and solving puzzles. It is also much more than a good story, it is a fascinating and haunting insight into what it might be like to suffer dementia. It is beautifully written with humour, insight and enormous love and sympathy. I thoroughly recommend it.

Judi Hammill

"The Roald Dahl Treasury"

Recently I have been reading Roald Dahl's Treasury. It's a collection of stories, poems and extracts of other books. I think some stories are really funny and some are serious and terrifying. Some taught me new songs like 'The giraffe, the Pelly and me'. I know it is a poem but I sometimes sing it. I like The Twits because they make me laugh! The Pig is a beastly story about a pig that eats a farmer.



One of the great books is "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". Charlie's grandpa used to work in a chocolate factory but the owner (Willy Wonka) closed it down! Who will ever get to see it again? Only 5 lucky children get to see the inside of the factory by getting a golden ticket from a Wonka bar. But they don't know that they could actually win the whole chocolate factory! During the visit, Willy Wonka taught them manners and how to be good!

My favourite book from Roald Dahl is Matilda: a book about a little girl who loves reading. Unfortunately her parents are cruel, mean and they don't believe in education. She is a lucky girl because she gets to go to school, where she meets Ms Honey, a wonderful teacher, who loves every child just as they are. The ending is great: Matilda gives the cruel head-teacher a lesson and Ms Honey adopts Matilda.

I really like Roald Dahl's stories because they teach you lessons never to be forgotten and the endings to most of his stories are happy or funny.

Gabriella van Bodegom, age 8

Have you ever wondered what Tonbridge parish church does to help people outside the parish? Quite a lot – in fact we are committed to giving 10% of our income to assist in other areas. In Tonbridge parish we have a Mission Action Group who have the responsibility of deciding how and where funding should go. Sometimes our funding is spontaneous, when there is a sudden need.

Parishioners might add to this too: for example in January 2016 we assisted with grain for parts of Tanzania affected by drought. However, most of our commitment, or tithe, steadily and continuously supports specific groups - our Mission Partners - in all corners of the world doing varied work. We have regular contact and personal links. The action brings us, as well as them, great benefits and fascinating insights.

Here is a summary of our larger projects. Over the coming months we will report on each one.

MISSION ACTION GROUP



OMF International: SE Asia

Sharing the gospel across this diverse area, OMF helps start churches and reach people through student work and medical practice.

www.omf.org.uk

Agapé is a Christian charity dedicated to addressing the spiritual needs of the UK by helping people to see, hear, understand and be forever changed by the person and claims of Jesus.

Agapé is part of the international movement of Campus Crusade for Christ, with a presence in 191 countries.



Peter Whitfield works with AGAPÉ in the UK, helping people to know and follow Jesus. Agapé UK focuses particularly on students, families and workplaces.



The Lawrence Barham Memorial Trust: Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi

The Lawrence Barham Memorial Trust (LBMT), a UK registered charity, was set-up by Bishop Ken Barham in memory of his father Bishop Lawrence Barham, who served the church for 40 years in Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda.

The Trust has been operating in East Africa since 1985, supporting the work of the Anglican Church by helping to meet the spiritual, physical and intellectual needs of its people in the context of their own culture and ways. It also includes building projects such as a cathedral, two income-generating guest houses, schools, colleges, a medical centre and houses for widows and orphans.



Photo: guest house being build (with Jill Barham, Bishop Ken's wife).

Crosslinks: Togo

Gad and Liz Numadi are in Togo (Africa). Their priorities are frontline evangelism and the training of trainers.



Gad with Celia Grew on a recent visit to St Saviour's church

The population of Togo is young, with about half under the age of 14. There continues to be much poverty. Gad is leading the team to train pastors and children's workers. Liz is sharing God's word and supporting more vulnerable children - imprisoned or with disabilities. Together they provide bible teaching and healthcare for those living in a poor, isolated, traditional village.

Retrak

East Africa and Brazil

No child forced to live on the street

Retrak is a faith-based UK charity. Our vision is a world where no child is forced to live on the street.

Retrak works to enable street children to move from a life of vulnerability, exclusion and poverty to a life within a safe family or community. We work with the children and the family members to ensure everyone is as healthy, emotionally well, safe, educated, and as economically independent as possible. It is a very difficult task but we are glad of the results and would like to share our stories with you.



Anglican Diocese Of Kondoa Tanzania

Bishop Given Gaula moved to Kondoa with his family and was consecrated bishop in 2012 to lead the Diocese.



Kondoa Diocese, about the size of Wales, is one of the poorest in Tanzania.

The Diocesan mission is to improve educational standards, poor health care, relieve food shortages, build a financially sustainable diocesan structure and shepherd the local communities in their daily struggles.

The Diocesan mission works on a number of projects including: raising funds to fight the severe famine after a drought in 2015-16, women's empowerment, Bible School, Bishop Justus Vocational School in Chemba.



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The name "Langham" comes from All Souls Church, Langham Place, London, UK, where John Stott ministered for nearly 60 years.



This Partnership provides training, study and materials for preachers and leaders, who take their skills to 90 nations across the world..

**Rev'd Dr Chris Wright,
International Ministries Director**

*Reviving our Worship

*Reaching our Community

*Refurbishing St Peter & St Paul

The air has been thick with dust, the building smelling heavily of damp plaster, paint and timber. We knew the scaffolders and joiners were at work from the loud clanging, drilling and sawing. Wide open doors for scaffolders and deliveries have frozen the office staff – St Peter and St Paul’s refurbishment has been going on from January to May!

Through it all, with the co-operation of the builders and the willingness of volunteer clean-up teams, the church has remained open for Sunday services. The interior might have resembled *Wear M Out* with scaffolding platforms at 5 different levels, and the seating layout regularly changed, but services carried on.



Unusual approach to the church, with only 5mm clearance each side

What was it all for?

We wanted to open up the choir area and front of the church, to give more flexible space for the focus of community events, like Holiday Club and Extravaganzas. To stage concerts, dance, drama and our regular music groups, we simply needed more room. We needed wheelchair access to the choir and sanctuary areas, improved lighting and audio visual equipment.



Cherry - picker to install new lighting



Constructing platform and installing wiring



View from the top

In terms of preserving and restoring the ancient building we needed to repair the roof, redecorate, and repair and refurbish monuments – some of national importance and suffering from Victorian gas and oil lamps.

What did we do?

A team of church members with years of civil engineering, surveying, and planning experience drew up proposals. Permissions were sought and funding raised. Once underway, specialist monument cleaning and the removal of some pews began, then repainting, extension of the platform, installation of new AV and LED lighting cables, flooring and equipment. Roofing repairs will take place over the summer period.

Site manager David Balcombe and team member Paul Jagger





Repositioning front choir pew



Chancel showing memorial slabs under old choir stalls



Hand-making replacements for damaged or missing features on monuments



Roubillac Monument before cleaning



Roubillac Monument after restoration



Hilary Ruxton replacing missing piece of stained glass

Window Cleaning



Life (Teddies group) carried on around the work



The outcome

Come and see! The repainted walls set off the beautiful windows and reflect the light. What were sooty monuments now gleam, and we have flexible, accessible space for townwide events. The distinctive Victorian features have been saved and structural work will now withstand a few more hundred years. We hope it feels inspiring.

Discoveries along the way....

- Seventeenth century tomb slabs lay under the Victorian choir stalls
- A little wooden griffin carving
- The joy of working with a team of skilled workpeople and enthusiastic volunteers

In recognition of his services...

Parish family member Richard Roberts had a surprising letter with the Christmas post last December: A letter from Buckingham Palace, saying he had been nominated to receive Maundy money from the Queen at Easter 2016, in recognition of his service to the community and church. This was the first Richard had heard of it, except for a cryptic request from Rochester Diocese (our regional C of E authority) to check his age.

JM: Your age?

RR: The Maundy money is awarded to ELDERLY PEOPLE with church and community service! This year 90 men and 90 women were nominated, and we could all bring one companion, who, the invitation stipulated, had to be “responsible for the nominee”. Despite this responsibility, Judy (Richard’s wife) was still keen to come.

JM: We have seen you dealing with church cash each week, leading children’s groups on Sundays and at Holiday club, and you and Judy are loyal cleaners and carers for the Church. You have also been Church Warden twice....



RR: With a 30-year gap!

JM: What has your community service been?

RR: In the community, Judy and I have run services at High Hilden care home since 1970, I am a trustee there, and I was a volunteer at Cruse Bereavement Counselling for 25 years. Lots of others do as much really and Judy certainly does. We met some fascinating people from all over the country and Scotland on the day – but I never met my lady counterpart from Rochester!

JM: Tell us more about the day.

RR: The service this year was at Windsor in St George’s chapel. It is only the second time there since 1959, but it seemed fitting for the Queen’s 90th year. We gathered an hour before the service and were told some of the history, the meaning of the service, and some protocols. The Queen regards the event as an honour, symbolic of medieval monarchs washing their subject’s feet in memory of Jesus

at the feast of the Passover. When the Queen met us, her commitment showed - she was very vibrant and greeted each of the 180 of us as if we were special to her. She seemed genuinely proud to be doing this - it was very moving. *[Indeed, a press photo which we cannot print shows Richard looking, as his granddaughter said, “about to cry” – and the Queen, tiny and trim in a Chanel style blue tweedy jacket.]* The choir, music and ceremony in St. George’s chapel were splendid.

JM: What is the Maundy Money?

RR: Originally the monarch gave alms to the poor, sometimes clothing. Now, the white purse has special coins to the value of 90p to represent the Queen’s 90 years. The red purse is the equivalent of the clothing provision, with a special £5 coin and a 50p – this one commemorates the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings later this year.

JM: Is it like being on the honours list?

RR: For the ELDERLY! We were told the Maundy people tend to be less in the public eye. But despite the number of us, the Queen made it feel a very personal honour – an unforgettable day.

Richard Roberts was interviewed by Jane Mata .





The Slide Away seed was sown in 2002 when, as an Educational Psychologist in Kent, I became aware that bereavement affected a number of young people in our schools and sometimes impacted on their learning and/or behaviour.

At that time, I had no idea of the numbers of children affected by grief, but figures provided by the Childhood Bereavement Network for 2015 estimated that 5750 school age children and young people in Kent had been bereaved of a parent or sibling at some point in their childhood. I didn't have those figures back in 2002, but my father and my son had died within a 12 month period.

Slide Away began its work in 2004 and we provide children and young people with the opportunity to attend a two day workshop where, in small groups led by experienced staff, they find ways to understand and cope with the emotional journey they have found themselves on. Dependent on the age of the participants, the therapeutic activities can comprise a mixture of stories, creative tasks and outdoor pursuits. There are sometimes tears and always laughter. The children have fun and leave the workshops with their own Snowy Bear. We also recognise the importance of supporting the adults in children's lives, so we offer support to parents, carers and schools. Families can meet up together at our annual events, such as the Advent Candle afternoon in December and the Spring Fun Day at Easter time.

Last year we provided 10 workshops and supported 54 primary school children and 27 secondary school young people. Three years ago we began to help children living with a family member with a life limiting illness, through a monthly group meeting that provides support at a very difficult time.

If you would like to know more about Slide Away's work with bereaved children and young people or would like to support us, then please visit www.slideaway.org or contact me on slideawayone@aol.com.

Denise Ross - Founder, Slide Away

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message in the letters you have not coloured in.

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The Tale of ...

Unscramble the titles of the books by Beatrix Potter in the "The Tale of..." Series of books

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Barbecues

One of the highlights of our Church calendar is the Holiday Club that takes place at St Peter & St Paul and St Saviour's Churches during the first week of the summer holidays.

Last year 240 children had a fabulous time having fun and making new friends whilst learning about the characters from the bible who were 'unexpected people in God's mission team', along with an enormous group of willing adult and young volunteers.

The highlight of each Holiday Club, for me, is the barbecue at the end of the week. All the children, parents and siblings are invited to the Vicarage garden for a barbecue, cakes and drinks.

Luckily, after many years, I've got the knack of serving 450 piping hot sausages in rolls down to a fine art! Of course, I couldn't do it without a fabulous team of dedicated, happy people. During June there are certain members of the congregation who try to keep a low profile because they know that if I spot them then I'll ask

for their help behind the 'bank' of three barbecues. Luckily for me, I always manage to track them down and if you ask them I am sure they will say that they all thoroughly enjoy themselves (even if it can be a little on the hot side).

Haywards Butchers always do us proud by providing their tasty, meaty sausages. They pre-cook them in their steamer so we just need to heat them through and brown them off on the barbecue, guaranteeing no 'upset tums'. Of course, there are also the rolls, the napkins, the tomato and brown sauces and the veggie sausages to remember.

Thankfully the Vicarage has a very long garden, as the queue that forms shortly after 12:15pm snakes around as far as the eye can see. Luckily, no-one seems to mind the wait as they catch up with friends and discuss what they have just learned during the short 'feedback' service at St Peter & St Paul, hearing about what the children have been doing during their action-packed week.

Once again, this year, I'll be working with others to ensure that Holiday Club doesn't only fill the children with the knowledge that God loves them, but that they will also be filled with hot tasty sausages and a good portion of good cheer.

Christina Rodgers



Views from the Potting Shed

Well, summer is upon us and the garden is well into growth, although I suspect this year a number of gardens in Tonbridge will be lacking some colour. The demise of Homebase and B&Q in the town has robbed us of local outlets selling a large variety of bedding and vegetable plants, not to mention shrubs and garden accessories. If only we still had the garden centre that was adjacent to the golf range in Cannon Lane! The supermarkets in the town do sell a limited range of plants, feeds and fertilizers etc. but not enough, I am sure, to meet demand. The discount and hardware stores in the High Street carry ranges of garden accessories and some plants, but again the range is limited. The two stalls in The Pavilion adjacent to the High Street stock a range of plants, as do the Saturday market and Farmers' markets, so it would be worthwhile giving them a visit.



Going slightly further afield, we have Broadview at Hadlow College and its well worth walking around their gardens for ideas, and Brookside at East Peckham, both of which have an array of plants, as well as Coffee Shops for those needing a pit stop. For those who feel able to battle the A21 roadworks and holiday traffic, we have B&Q at North Farm and also Notcutts opposite Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury.

Further away, there are garden centres on the other side of Tunbridge Wells but who wants to

battle through the traffic in Southborough and Tunbridge Wells? Going the other way, just off the A21 at Sevenoaks turning onto the A25 towards Westerham there are two garden centres almost immediately on the left-hand side, with further garden centres towards Polehill and Badgers Mount.



There are many small garden centres tucked away down country lanes, so if you are driving around look out for them and give them a

visit. I am sure that they would welcome your custom, and you never know, you may pick up something unusual. Also look out for enterprising locals who put up stalls outside their houses offering plants for sale. They are more often than not good value and might offer something different to plant.



As for me, there is just enough time left in early June to sow some annuals that will

hopefully flower in autumn - now where can I buy the seeds?!

Whatever you do this summer - happy gardening!

Arthur Mow

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An Olympic Welcome

As the 2016 Olympics in Rio approach, Will Mata wonders if the church can learn a lesson from the volunteers of the London games.



*Photo
David Stubbs*

“Hello, welcome, you’re in for a great day,” bellows a man through a megaphone. Dressed in purple and perched on what could be a lifeguard’s seat, this man looked extremely pleased to be welcoming people to the Olympic Park in Stratford. However, my friend was not alone in his glee. On my way to the Copper Box to watch a handball game there were many more relentlessly enthusiastic volunteers.

For four weeks during 2012 there were 70,000 people in this buzzing purple army welcoming, directing, ushering and organizing with equally big grins. My walk into the Olympic Park that day made me consider if such warm welcome should be on offer at church more often.

True, the London Olympics was a once in a generation event while church runs every week, rain or shine. While it might not be the best idea to have a congregation member shouting from a megaphone outside the church from a lifeguard chair, one feels that there is a lesson to be learnt here.

Matthew 23:11 tells us that “the greatest among you will be a servant,” while Hebrews 6:10 encourages all to serve in a loving way. It can be tough to feel enthusiastic about welcoming or serving coffee on a weekly basis but the happy volunteer outside West Ham station was able to do a fairly mundane task with enthusiasm as he recognised he was playing a small part in something great.

Is that not how we should look to react as Christians?

Of course, the Olympics and Paralympics could not last forever but it was great to think that a massive, cheerful army could just be conjured up from nowhere. One wonders what the volunteers went on to do. Some are collecting tokens at the end of the weekly parkrun while others may now be helping staff the handball club the spirit of the Olympics inspired. There are those who may have returned to normal life and not lifted a finger since but athletic volunteers may even be on the start-line come Rio.

For those weeks, these volunteers helped to make the world a better place. As a church, we are in it for the long haul. Galatians 5:13 calls the church to do this on a more regular basis. 1 Samuel 12:24 reads: “Be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. Consider what great things he has done for you.” Sure, it would be nice to just activate these Games Makers whenever they could be useful. Imagine if they all decided to take Syrian migrants into their homes, committed to visiting lonely elderly people or supported the homeless!

As a church, our enduring presence is more of an opportunity than a drain. Through prayer, service and outreach churches all over the world have been making the world a better place for years. As a community of God centred individuals staffing the Olympics would just be the beginning of what could be achieved.

While the lifeguard chair and megaphone can be left at the swimming pool it is worth remembering that we too have something to be excited about.

Will Mata



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¹One Poll, 2014 The Good Care Group is registered with the Care Quality Commission in England and the Scottish Care Inspectorate in Scotland.

June

Sun 12	Evening service for the Queen's birthday, 6.30pm St Peter & St Paul
Sun 19	Evening service with prayer for healing, 6.30pm St Peter & St Paul
Sun 26	Sharing the Bible and praying with tiny children, St Peter & St Paul, 3pm. Informal and practical session – bring children – all welcome

July

25 Jun - Sat 2 July	MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS by Ron Hutchinson. Oast Theatre. 01732 363849
Sun 10	Tonbridge Philharmonic: Proms at the Castle Tonbridge Castle grounds. 8.00 pm. See p.5
Sat 16	Summer tea party at St Saviour's, 3 - 4.30pm
Sat & Sun 16-17	Tonbridge Football Fiesta Our theme, as always, is Sportsmanship and Family Enjoyment. Adults £2 (children free), including a comprehensive programme containing a site plan and all the day's fixtures. On site parking will be available (first come first served). Postcode TN9 1DS
Sat 23	Cream Tea for Kondoa, 2.30 - 4.30pm St Philip's. All welcome - no charge, but donations to our partners in Tanzania welcome.
Sat 23 - 30	FUNNY MONEY By Ray Cooney. Oast Theatre. 01732 363849

August

	See back page for all-age Summer special services!
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September

Sat 3	Balcombe family concert at St Peter & St Paul. Expect a great mix of popular, classical and show music from the talented family. See website for time and booking info.
Sat 10 - Sun 11	Heritage Weekend. Visit St Petetr & St Paul and St Saviour's for tours, including crafts and refreshments at St Peter & St Paul. All day Saturday and after 11 on Sunday, but check website for details.
Sat 24	Women's Breakfast at Rose & Crown with guest speaker. Ring church office (01732 770962 x 24) for booking details.

Baptisms

1 May	James Theodore Couper
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No Weddings

Deaths

3 January	Robert John Woodgate
19 January	Albert Cox
24 January	Ruby Fraser-Allen
1 February	Gerald William Wallace
3 February	Mary Helen Notton
6 February	Eric Bathurst
19 February	Alan Keith Russell
11 March	Susan Wellard
14 March	Malcolm Arthur (Bunny) Bates
15 March	Mignon (Minty) Heath
18 March	Jacqueline Thomas
19 March	Kathleen Macy May
21 March	Daphne Patricia Hobden
23 March	Penelope Jane Bridgwater
25 March	Sylvia Stevens

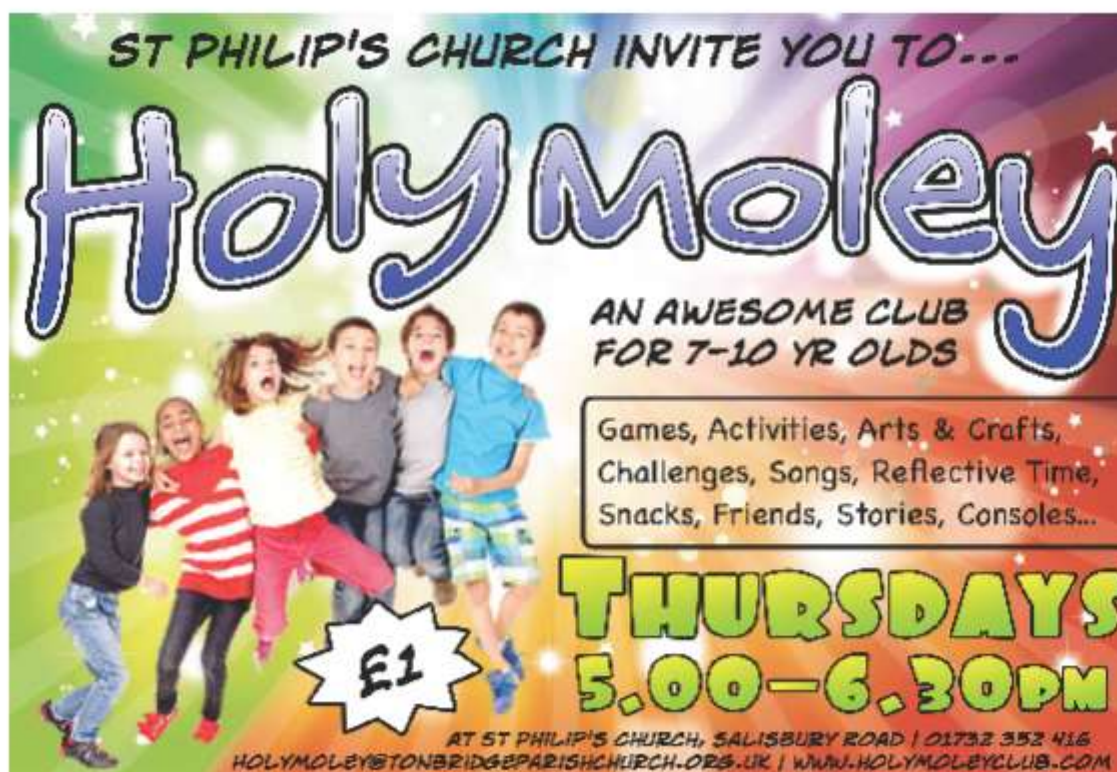


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	St Peter & St Paul	St Philip's	St Saviour's
Daily	Coffee Shop 10am to 12pm Monday to Saturday		
Monday	Merry Makers: needlecraft and quiet time 10am, Upper Lounge Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Seniors	Men's Forum 8pm fortnightly. For more info contact Ray Tanner on 01732 351422	Coffee Break 10.30 - 11.30am Keep Fit 5.30pm
Tuesday	Teddies 9.30am, Upper Lounge (term time) Beavers at Ridgeway	Stretch, Tone & Relax Class 1pm Grapevine Drink, chat and activities. 2.15pm to 4.15pm Brownies 6pm	
Wednesday	Tiny Acorns under-1s 10.30am -12pm, Upper Lounge (Term time) Cubs at Ridgeway	Tots and Co. 1.15pm - 2.45pm (term time) Open Prayer 8 - 9pm First Wednesday of month	
Thursday	Stepping Stones (term time) Bible Study, crèche available 10am Afternoon Workshop (crafts) 1.30pm Upper Lounge 1st Tonbridge Guides	Holy Moley club Fun and games for children school years 3 - 6, 6pm - 7.30pm Heavenly Hands puppets, 8pm	
Friday	Rummikub Players 10.00am -12.30pm, Upper Lounge. Bell Ringers at Parish Church 7.45pm Scouts at Ridgeway	Women's Fellowship 7.30pm - 9.30pm, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month	
Saturday	Parish Prayer , 9am Lower Lounge Coffee Shop 10am - 12pm Open Church 10am - 4pm		CONNECT for school years 6-8





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St Peter & St Paul Church Lane, TN9 1HD

Sundays:
8am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays of month)
10am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 4th Sundays) and Sunday Club for ages 4-11 each week in term time
6.30pm Evening Service
Wednesdays:
10am Holy Communion

St Philip's Salisbury Road, TN10 4PA

Sundays:
9am Holy Communion (1st Sunday of month)
10.30am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 3rd Sundays) and Sunday Club each week in term time

St Andrew's Hadlow Road, TN10 4LS

Sundays:
10am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 2nd Sunday of month)

St Saviour's Dry Hill Park Crescent, TN10 3BJ

Sundays:
8am Holy Communion (2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays of month)
10am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 1st Sunday and informal service on 3rd Sunday)

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Curate The Rev'd Simon Couper	355200
Churchwardens Patricia King Ray Tanner	01732 366179 01732 351422
Vicar's PA Yolanda Roberts	770962 ext 25
Parish Administrator Jane Higgs	770962 ext 24
St Philip's Administrator Jane Mata	352416
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The miracles of Jesus

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Other Morning services, Holy Communion and Evening Services at usual times around the Parish (see page 22), except for St Philip's church where the 4pm service replaces the 10.30am service during August.



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