

**7th & 14th
Feb 2010**

**ST PETER & ST PAUL, ST ANDREW'S, ST PHILIP'S &
ST SAVIOUR'S**

Tonbridge Parish News

"Ask Avatar"

Sunday **21st February**, 7.45pm for 8pm @ St Peter & St Paul.

Did you see the recent blockbuster "Avatar"?

If you'd like to reflect further, invite other movie buffs, or find out what the fuss is about,

then Mark & Abi with Refresh will be hosting an evening of fun, popcorn & nibbles,

on James Cameron's latest film, "Avatar".

Stepping Stones extends an open invitation to their Special Event on Thursday **25th February** at 10 am.

Can we trust what we read in the New Testament?

- Has the New Testament been altered and manipulated over time by people with their own agendas?
- Were the original authors trustworthy and accurate in recording what had actually happened?
- What about all the other gospels that the church suppressed?

Peter Goodridge will be speaking on the reliability of the New Testament.

Refreshments at 10am finish by 11.30am.
Crèche for under 5's.

Dear Friends,

Lent is almost upon us. On the one hand, Lent is a time to reflect and we have the opportunity to do that in our Tuesday Lent talks, which this year focus on God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

But, on the other hand, Lent is a time to pray (and even fast). Indeed, Jesus encourages us to pray and tells us to have faith that our prayers will be heard. Prayer can move mountains, he said.

Sometimes God answers our prayers in a straightforward way. Sometimes the answer comes in the form of miraculous healing. At other times, God's answers seem less straightforward. We begin to doubt that he heard or paid attention.

But maybe, just maybe, God is answering them in ways that change us rather than what surrounds us. God wants to mould us into people who are more like Jesus. People who are more holy. People who can be used by God to answer the prayers of others. A few years ago I came across this poem in a magazine from Oasis (the charity that helps the homeless). I guess this sums it up.

Open your eyes

I asked for strength and God gave me difficulties to make me strong;

I asked for wisdom and God gave me problems to learn to solve;

I asked for prosperity and God gave me a brain and brawn with which to work;

I asked for courage and God gave me dangers to overcome;

I asked for love and God gave me troubled people to help;

I asked for favours and God gave me opportunities;
I received nothing I wanted and everything I needed;
My prayers have been answered.

God does hear and does answer. So, this Lent, let's "be joyful in hope,
patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12).

Yours in Christ

Revd Peter Goodridge

Family Pancake Party

16th February at St. Philip's Church

5.30 pm – 7 pm

Reminder! – forget all about the snow and cold weather. This is a very warm invitation to all members of the church family to come and join us at a Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday. There will be refreshments, some great games for the children (of ALL ages!), a short informal talk by Mark Oden the guest speaker at the Lent Course, AND last (but not least), some delicious pancakes!

Signing-up lists are available in all the churches (for catering purposes), and do invite your friends and family along as well. It will be a great opportunity to meet up together over a cuppa and pancakes, and join in the fun for all the family. There will be no charge, but a voluntary donation box will be available on the night.

We look forward to seeing you there, do please come!

from the "pancake-makers"

PRAYER REQUESTS

Staff Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday 9.30am

in the choir stalls at St Peter & St Paul.

Please come along and join us as this is open to all
who would like to attend.

Tues 9th February ~ Pray for Mark as he takes the funeral service for Ada Horton this afternoon at St Peter & St Paul.

Wed 10th February ~ pray for Gary & Peter as they lead Discovering Christianity tonight.

Thurs 11th February ~ pray for all those assisting in Funeral Ministry as they meet this morning.

Tuesday 16th February ~ pray for our Parish Pancake Party and all who attend, and for Revd Mark Oden who leads our first Lantern Talk tonight.

Sat 20th February ~ pray for the Working Party @ St Philip's.

*Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation and
respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful
lives: set straight our crooked
hearts, and bend our wills to love
your goodness and your glory in
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL
NOT BE ANY OTHER
SERVICES IN THE PARISH
TODAY**

St Peter & St Paul

8am Holy Communion

Lead & Preach: Revd Mark Brown

10am Whole Parish Morning Service
with Parade

*to include the Commissioning of
the Parish Children's & Youth Leaders
'Living Well in our Community'*

Lead: Revd Peter Goodridge

Preach: Revd Mark Brown

6.30pm Evening Service

'Daily Discipleship:

Are you worried?'

Lead: David Heyes

Preach: Brian Buck

St Peter & St Paul

10am Morning Service

'When God lets us down'

Gen 31: 36-55

Lead: Revd Peter Goodridge

Preach: Brian Buck

6.30pm Holy Communion

Daily Discipleship:

Christianity - the soft option?'

Lead: David Heyes

Preach: Revd Mark Brown

St Andrew's

10am Holy Communion

'When God lets us down'

Lead & Preach: Revd Gary Townsend

St Philip's

10.30am Morning Service

'When God lets us down'

Lead: Tom Robertson

Preach: Jacky Wright

St Saviour's

8am Holy Communion

Lead & Preach: Revd Mark Brown

10am Holy Communion

'When God lets us down'

Lead: Abi Dunn

Preach: Revd Mark Brown

Ash Wednesday Service...

The parish Ash Wednesday Service will take place on Wednesday **17th February** 8pm St Peter & St Paul. All are welcome to attend.

Lent 2010...

Full details of our Lenten Initiatives can be found together with these notices. If you have not got your copy, please request one from one of the side persons today.

A Feast of Living Spirituality...

This day is one of the 'Growing your Ministry' workshops run by the Rochester Diocese. It will take place on Saturday **6th March** 12.30pm-6pm in Rochester Cathedral and ticket price is £5. Bring along your own lunch but drinks will be provided. The workshop will include Evensong, time for personal space and worship. For more details please see the poster at the back of St Peter & St Paul or contact the booking department on tel. 01634 560000. The closing date for all applications will be **26th February**, so please do book your place now if you are interested.

Lunchtime Concert...

Our next Lunchtime Concert will be on Wednesday **10th March** 12.30pm at St Peter & St Paul, with guest flutist Rachel Osbourn-Smith. The concert will be followed by a light lunch. Full details will be available in church shortly so look out for the invitations.

The God Confusion

Are there answers to the big questions of life and eternity? Speakers Tim Keller, Al Stewart & Rico Tice.

Saturday 13th March

10.15am—4pm Excel London.
Cost is £30 (£25 for concessions)

The aim is to equip Christians for their mission by talks, testimonies, seminars and by answering questions that unbelievers ask. Please pick up a flyer at the back of the church now more information and booking details.

If you would like to attend please call Sara who is going to try and get a group together from the parish.

Please call her on tel. 01732 356430.

Maundy Thursday Service...

The parish Maundy Thursday Service will take place on Thursday **1st April** 8pm St Saviour's Church Dry Hill Park Road. This service will be a service of Holy Communion with foot washing. Every one is welcome to attend.

Good Friday...

There will be a 3 hour service at St Peter & St Paul 12noon-3pm on Friday **2nd April**. Please feel free to come for as long as you would like. All welcome.

Burrswood Quiet Day

'The Water of Life'

A day of reflection led by Helen Warwick. **Tuesday 9th February** 10am-4pm. To book a place please contact the Chaplaincy office by telephone 01892 863637 ext 2364 or by email: chaplaincy@burrswood.org.uk

Modern Pentathlon World Cup organisers need your help...

In April of this year Medway is hosting the Modern Pentathlon World Cup which takes place between **6th-11th April** and they are looking for volunteers to help with this 4 day event. All volunteers that help with the event setting up on Tuesday 6th April or Wednesday 7th April will receive a free ticket to one of the weekend finals days.

Volunteers must be aged 16 or over. If you and your friends are interested in taking part you can register your interest using the registration form which can be downloaded from the Medway 2012 website at:

www.medway.gov.uk/london2012/55319/101366.htm

More details can also be found on this website.

Mike Evans

Congregational Meetings...

Please find details below of our churches' congregational meetings. This is your chance to hear about what has been happening in your church over the last year and to ask any questions to your Leadership Team.

St Peter & St Paul

Monday 12th April 8pm.

St Saviour's

Tuesday 13th April 8pm.

St Philip's

Thursday 15th April 8pm

St Andrew's

Sunday 18th April after the morning service.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will then follow at St Peter & St Paul on **Wed 28th April 8pm.**

“Well done to SOS...

who worked hard to raise **£146.14** by baking and selling cakes after the 10am service @ St Peter & St Paul. A huge thank you to ALL those who generously supported them in this! The money raised will be sent to the DEC for their Haiti appeal.”

Jane

It is with regret that we have to inform you of the passing away of our dear sister **Betty Field** on 3rd February. Her funeral service will be held on Friday **26th Feb 10.45am** at St Peter & St Paul. All welcome.

Vibrant Vision update...

Thank you to all who prayed and supported by their presence the most memorable morning at St. Philips late last year in November called “Vibrant Vision” I am pleased that Jenny Hancox and Hilary Ruxton are heading this up with a small team. It was felt that the energy and enthusiasm of our time together should not be lost so please pray for the team, Allison Brown, Peter Goodridge, Steve Woods and Sharon Townsend as they carry this forward. Here are their agreed terms of reference.

1. *Seek ways of working across the whole parish for our work with children and young people.*
2. *Establish appropriate and realistic oversight for our current and future work with children and young people.*
3. *Support existing work and develop new ways to ensure children and young people that are part of our membership grow into Christ and their relationship with Him.*
4. *Make recommendations for future good practice.*
(long term to the PCC)

I have been encouraged by stories of new children attending our groups and I am sure you with me would want to thank all our existing children's and young people's workers. Please do all you can to pray for and stimulate service, perhaps as a helper for our existing groups? – you can be sure you/they will be part of a vibrant and exciting team.

Mark Brown

Gifts for Barnardos...

Barnardos would like to pass on their grateful thanks for all the support this Parish has given them over a great number of years, and advised that they have at last started to receive LEA funding. With this in mind we are asking if any of you have any ideas of local charities that would benefit from our children's and adults' gifts kindly given over the New Year.

All suggestions to David Heyes c/o St Peter & St Paul. Thank you.