

Beauty from Brokenness



Parish Reviews Booklet
2010 - 2011

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The Parish Mosaic 2010

(pictured on front cover)

*“Now you are
the body of Christ,
and each one of you
is part of it”*

(1 Corinthians 12:27)

*The Parish Mosaic is designed by Christine Highland
and created by our Parish family*

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Dear Friends

Leadership is about saying “thank you!” and defining reality. This report of God’s work in our Tonbridge Parish calls forth much thanksgiving. I am grateful to the many leaders and those who support them, for their tremendous work for Christ. The sum is truly greater than its parts and together this vast account of our activities should leave us with nothing but praise to God.

Thank you to those who with me have assisted in the oversight of all this work, Peter our Curate, the Staff and Leadership Teams, and the PCC.

To those who have been given, much will be expected. So as I reflect upon all that God has done in our midst, I do so with the challenge to ‘define reality’ and seek His will for our future.

We need to seek younger leaders to be encouraged and skilled in serving Christ in the Church.

We are, I believe, called to expand our work amongst young families. We have many to reach, but with a great spread of leaders amongst the crèche, children’s and youth work, we will ensure any new residents will find a home and not look to base themselves elsewhere.

We are constantly in need of personal restoration and renewal. I hope by growing our small group networks, seeking to enliven our evening service, being more open at our time of seeking God for healing, and encouraging our musicians to lead us in new and fresh ways in worship, we will all be “changed from one degree of glory to another” and “grow in Grace”.

May I commend this booklet to you to seek inspiration for your prayers and service.

The next year I am praying will be a year when the **“Triumphs of His Grace”** will be experienced in our midst in lots of ways – to continue our journey please come and join others from around our Parish at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Wednesday 13th April, 8pm at our Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul. We have much, thank God, to build upon from this previous year.

In Christ, MARK BROWN

CHILDREN & YOUTH

BABYSPACE

Venue: St Peter & St Paul, Lower Lounge, Mondays (Not Bank Holidays), 12.30 – 15.15pm

Contact: Jenny Macpherson, 01732 352703, mjenuflex@hotmail.co.uk

In this we offer the ministry of hospitality to parents, mostly Mums, and their small children. In effect, the Coffee Shop is open, but those who come use the Lower Room instead of the tables and chairs.

Some families have been coming for over two years and strong friendships have developed. We have seen our first babies grow into delightful two-year olds and some of them now have younger siblings. More are expected soon. Together they enjoy playing with the excellent selection of toys while the Mums enjoy cups of tea and a good chat with one another.

A team of parish Grannies enjoys a duty rota to offer welcome and keep the teapot full.

BRIGHT LIGHTS PARTY 2010

(Alternative to Halloween, for primary school age children)

Next Party: Bright Lights 2011, Saturday 29th October, 4.30pm-7pm @ St Philip's

Contacts: Jo Gamage & Jane Higgs c/o 01732 770962 x25 or jane@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

It is guaranteed that God provides generously each year: a full team of adults - a party leader - children (!) – fun & laughter - food - His message - His welcome!

2010 was no exception, and as the large crowd of local children watched their creation of a model town come to life, and as we dimmed the lights and spent time in the quiet, the image of a brightly lit church at the centre spoke movingly to children and adults alike, of God, the master builder, in the heart of community.

We can celebrate that the children we meet, perhaps for the first time, the only time, the last time, have at least one seed sown. Let us pray that the seed is allowed to grow, to strengthen, to blossom, into a trusting relationship with God that will be infectious and positively affect those around them.

We once more offer to God in prayer a blank canvas to design as He desires. Please pray for each and everyone who will be involved in this year's Bright Lights party; that they will respond to God's calling, stepping out in faith, and serving those in our community who may otherwise never step inside.

GYM stands for 'God, You and Me'

(Fun-filled interactive look at the Bible for all children aged 4-11)

Venue: Upper lounge, St Peter and St Paul, Sunday mornings during morning service, 10am -11am

Contacts: Alyson Bleakley 01732 368340 and Allison Brown 01732 770961

Each week we explore a Bible passage with the children using games, storytelling/drama/role play, quizzes, and craft. This year we have looked at the lives of Jonah, Samuel and David, as well as passages in Luke, Matthew and Timothy.

After an introductory theme-setting activity as a group, we split into 3 different age groups with activities chosen accordingly. Leaders and helpers are from across the parish, and all have one thing in common – they love working with your children!

HOLIDAY CLUB 2010 – Champions Challenge

Venue: St Peter and St Paul, July 26th – July 30th 2010

Contact: Alyson Bleakley, 01732 368340, alysonbleakley@googlemail.com

Some children are still referring to it as the best week of their summer holiday. One child didn't want to go home. The church buzzed with activity and energy throughout those 5 mornings. Volunteers from across the parish and from across the age range assembled to provide 130 children with a fun packed, energetic week that culminated with 300 people thronging into the vicarage garden for a BBQ blessed with glorious sunshine. 'Champions Challenge' gave the children a glimpse of the person of Jesus and a presentation of the gospel, which we pray will bring forth fruit in God's good time. The new venture of Lisa's café for parents/carers at drop off time, which included a



'thought for the day' and a bird's eye view of holiday club was really worthwhile and will be repeated next time. Sadly, few new faces came back to the reunion service held in September, but we hope that bridges are

being built in other ways and that we will see some families respond to the invitation of the Easter Eggstravaganza. We are indebted to everyone's energy and willingness to make this happen, and we look forward to 'Pyramid Rock' beginning on the 24th July 2011. This will look at the life of Joseph and his experience of God's sovereignty. Whatever help you can offer will be much appreciated, be it praying behind the scenes, helping with registration, or clearing up after it all – for one or more days – every little bit helps! Thank you in anticipation!

KID'S CLUB

Venue: St Philip's/Sundays/ 10.30 am

Contact: Rebecca Mathieson 01732 362877/beccamat@uwclub.net

Kid's Club meets during the morning service at St Philip's every Sunday except the first in the month when we have an all-age service. The children stay with their parents for the worship and notices at the beginning of the service and then go with the children's leaders for their own activities. We welcome children aged 3-11 years and we also provide an area with soft mats and toys for babies and toddlers to play. Our aim is for the children to learn more about God and for their own faith to grow. During their time with us we read or tell stories from the Bible and we also act out stories. Every week we play games and we often do some craft which is linked to the theme of the session. The older children are given opportunities to look up passages in the Bible and to read it for themselves. We also have a time of prayer each week and learn memory verses. We hope that the children have fun while learning more about what it means to have faith in Christ.

LET THE CHILDREN SING

Venue: St Saviour's, usually 1st Wednesday of each month 10.00 am - 10.30 am. **Contact:** Helen Longley 01732 352580

'FROM THE LIPS OF CHILDREN AND INFANTS YOU HAVE ORDAINED PRAISE' (Psalm 8)

A forest of hands waving in the air to the song 'I want to be a blooming tree'; smiling faces as Slade infants sing 'Spring Chicken' with graphic mime; Cary's on cymbals accompanying 'God's love is like a circle'; scallop shells on pilgrims young and old. Dancing and jumping, clapping and skipping – it's all part of 'Let the Children Sing'; the joy of sharing a time of worship with pre schoolers, their carers and the young at heart. We are richly blessed by Infants of Slade School joining us once a term. Thank you teachers!

A year of celebration with Pam Hudson's 90th Birthday; Pentecost party in the garden; Christingle with candles burning, while a blanket of snow transforms the landscape outside.

A year of change, sadly, we said farewell to Gary and his guitar. Sadly too, farewell to Thomas – last of the Bleakley family to worship with us. End of an era! Happily, we've welcomed Jill Harris with her puppets and guitar as she takes over more of the leading and Carolyn King with her gifted keyboard skills. Happily too, we've enjoyed three sessions in the parish church before moving back to a re-ordered St. Saviour's, offering exciting opportunities for creative movement in worship and play.

Huge thanks to a wonderful team of pray-ers and practical helpers – Anne Norman, Joyce Inge, Jill Harris, Kwan Brenchley, Lesley Stevens, Carolyn King, Chris Bishop, Dorothy Higgs, Julia Jackson, Nancy Ashwell, Margaret and Laurie Pope, Pam Hudson.

REFRESH

Venue: Upper Lounge, SS Peter & Paul 7.30-9/9.30pm

Contact: Jonathan & Ali Harber: 07754 460543 (J mob) & 07876 621423 (A mob)

Refresh is a fun and a friendly place for those in Years 10-13 to discover more about Christianity. We start each week with time to chat before we play some games. There is a short talk with opportunity for questions and an informal Bible study and discussion in groups. The support of David Roberts, Pete Wright, Jackie Williams and John Bleakley has been invaluable, as have others who have delivered a talk.

We have monthly socials including; BBQ, film night, an evening of Christmas themed games, ten-pin bowling and pancake making.

Some of Refresh lead the music at SS Peter & Paul, and there was a Refresh led evening service on Sunday 27 March.

Last autumn we were looking at God's plan of Salvation, this spring we have been reading Philippians and thinking about what it means to follow Jesus. This summer we will be doing a series on some of life's big questions such as understanding suffering, what the gifts of the Spirit are and why do we trust the Bible?

We have been really encouraged by the young people who have been coming along. We believe that they are growing in their knowledge, understanding and love of the Lord which is an amazing answer to prayer.

We hope that Refresh will continue to be a place of fun and friendship, but most of all that Refresh will be where the Bible is taught, Jesus encountered and that our young people grow in love for him and want to serve him.

SOS – Cross-Parish Teaching Programme for 11-14 year olds

Venue: St Peter & St Paul, Upper Lounge, Sundays at 10am

Contact: Hilary Ruxton/01732 771150/hilaryruxton@googlemail.com

We meet every Sunday to chat, study scripture, enjoy games and...EAT! We use a teaching programme called Urban Saints which provides a continual stream of creative, biblically-based meeting plans – there is never a chance to run out of ideas to inspire, encourage and equip our young teenagers in their Christian journey!

As Leaders we form a team of six and we meet once a term to plan a roster which enables us to share the teaching load - about 3-4 Sundays out of 12 weeks. We would love to welcome new members to this growing team. It is vital we support our youth, particularly teenagers, when there is so much to take them off course. They are a delightful group of youngsters and it is a huge privilege to be journeying with them. Do enjoy chatting to our youngsters after church whenever you can – they need our care, support and encouragement.

This year we have introduced some social activities to support the teaching programme and we recently enjoyed some enormous home-made Spanish pizzas whilst watching ‘How to Train a dragon’.



On May 7th we are accompanying a group of 6 SOS members for a day on the Isle of Wight led by Urban Saints. Apart from the excitement of a hovercraft ride they will also be enjoying giro chairs, climbing walls, water sports and a God “Byte” from a guest speaker. Do come and chat to us further about getting involved with our young teenagers.

SUNDAY CRÈCHE

Venue: St Peter & St Paul

Contact: Sara Thomson 01732 356430

We thank God for the links the Crèche gives us with the young families who attend the morning service at SS Peter & Paul and for the fun we have as we play, sing and read Bible stories together. We are blessed with so much space and a great selection of toys. We have had an average of 7 children attending but one Sunday we had 18! We have links with 23 families.

After over two years of helping each Sunday, Joyce Jubb has felt it right to retire and two young people, Rebecca and Nancy now come each week to support the adults in caring for the children. Sarah Maynard and Sandra Warland kindly hold the fort so that I can worship once a month. Parents also help on a rota. Thank you to all the team for enabling parents to worship the Lord knowing their babies are being well looked after.

Please pray for safety and for a loving welcome for each child as they join us each Sunday and that they in the future will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus with the whole of their lives.

TOTS & CO, a parent/carer & toddler group for 0-5's

Venue: St Philip's, Wednesdays 1.15 - 2.45pm, term time

Contact: Liz Wood, 01732 770955



Toddlers come to enjoy farmyards, toy cars, train driving, dressing up as princesses or policemen, constructing Lego models as well as trampolining and bike riding. Babies enjoy our quieter soft play area or sit on laps watching & learning all that is going on. Jackie cuddles a baby (try & keep her away) while the Mum

spends some quality time with her toddler; Lisa is preparing a beautiful craft activity in our colourful Rainbow Room; Mums, Dads, grandparents & carers are served tea & coffee and sometimes delicious cake too.

Amid the general hubbub, everyone's content & relaxed on a Wednesday afternoon. Children are engaged in playing & sharing, while parents & carers have time to chat to one another and share in the joys and struggles of parenting & family life. There is a brief lull when the bell rings – time for the children to enjoy their refreshments and then it's off to create a masterpiece with this week's craft.

It's nearly time to go home when our Together Time starts with singing, birthdays, perhaps a story & then a final song of "Sleeping Bunnies" signals the end of Tots for another week – there's just time to change or choose a book at the newly introduced book library as you leave.

Everyone is very welcome to come to Tots & Co; we'd love to see you. Helpers or people willing to lend a listening ear are also very welcome; please contact Liz to know more.

Uniformed Groups

2nd TONBRIDGE (Parish Church) SCOUT GROUP

This Scout group has its headquarters in the Ridgeway Tonbridge

Contact: Ted Jones 01732 355764

When little children join our Beaver colony at 6 years they are encouraged to play games, draw, paint, make toys and gifts for mum and dad. Several times a year they will have fun packed days out at places of interest or a special event run for all the beavers in Kent

At 8 years of age they are able to move into our Monday or Wednesday Cub Packs, which are able to provide more varied fun and games mixed with Scouting skills e.g. simple knots, fire lighting, tent pitching, cooking, map reading, keep fit and many more. Cubs will also have the opportunity to camp in a tent for a weekend and enjoy many outdoor activities. They are also offered visits to places of particular interest to them.

Children of 10 years move on to our Scout Troop where they will pick up even more valuable skills such as, rescue knots, pioneering, orienteering, night hiking, build a temporary shelter and sleep in it, emergency first aid, rope climbing, canoeing, and if they are keen even a microlight aircraft flight and parascending. The Troop also camp for a week during which they will light fires, cook their own meals, hike for miles across unknown countryside without help, and experience many more exciting activities.

Scouting turns little children into skilled, responsible adults in a fun packed environment.

GIRLGUIDING

Tonbridge Town District

Contact: Karen Cox, Tonbridge Town District Commissioner
01892 520935, karen.cox@tiscali.co.uk

Girlguiding Tonbridge Town continues to thrive with 6 units meeting at St Peter and St Paul during the week (and other units meeting elsewhere in the Town). We have units for every age from Rainbows (5 – 7) Brownies (7 – 10) Guides (10 – 14) and Rangers (14+). Unfortunately one of the Guide units had to close in September due to a shortage of adult leaders and this has put a lot of pressure on Guide places in the District. Brownie numbers are increasing and a new unit opened in January and is already nearly full. Waiting lists for all sections continue to be very long. We really need more adult help so that we can re-open the Guide unit, ready for all the extra Brownies as they get older!

We all finished off the centenary with a ‘Vision’ party in October at the Kent County Showground. Over 2,000 girls and leaders from across the area were there to share a vision of Guiding into the next 100 years. We watched a video of events that had happened over the year and joined with members across the country by video link to re-make our Promises. The promises were timed for 20:10 20/10/2010 and we all received a very special promise badge. We then watched a big firework display.

More exciting things are planned for this year with all the Brownie and Guide units going away for a holiday or camp. There will also be a District event in the summer. Weekly unit activities continue to be varied and challenge the girls to try new crafts and skills, and to learn leadership and organisational skills.

The units all need more adult help. All adults (18+) can be involved in Girlguiding, although only females can run the units. Perhaps you would be able to help each week at meetings, or less regularly on a rota basis, or offer occasional help for special activities. If you have a skill that you would be willing to share with the girls we would love to hear from you.

(The 7th Tonbridge Brownie Unit, which meets at St Philip’s Church on Tuesdays 6.15 – 7.30pm term time, currently have places available with a shorter waiting list)

CHRISTIAN COURSES

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

Contacts: Jeremy & Patricia King, 01732 366179,
patricia_smart@yahoo.com

A Christianity Explored course was run at the Parish Church for seven Thursday evenings during Autumn 2010. Four people attended the course. Each week we were served a delicious meal, followed by discussion and a DVD. The seven weeks covered the following topics: “Jesus – Who Was He?”, “Jesus – Why Did He Come?”, “Jesus – His Death”, “What is Grace?”, “Jesus – His Resurrection” and “What is a Christian?” It was an encouraging course after which all four people decided to continue studying the Bible by joining a Home Group.

Thank you very much to everyone who enabled this to happen. The catering was a team effort as different people kindly prepared and gave the meals for each evening. Richard and Judy Roberts and David and Rosemary Heyes helped to serve meals. Louisa Medhurst was instrumental in heading up the catering and was there each evening. Sara Thomson also did some of the catering and a lot of the organisation. We all appreciated the new kitchen facilities that are upstairs at St Peter and St Paul; they made a real difference. Thank you also to Peter Goodridge for helping us to lead the course and for being in charge of the AV.

Christianity Explored is a good course to bring someone along to in order to introduce them to the Person of Jesus, as well as providing the opportunity to explore the Christian faith further. Do look out for Christianity Explored courses in the future.

DISCOVERING CHRISTIANITY

Contact: Rev’d Peter Goodridge (Parish Curate,)
peter@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk, 01732 355200

Discovering Christianity is a series of 3 or 4 meetings where the basic beliefs of Christianity are explained and the following topics discussed:

- What is the Christian message?
- Who was Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- Did Jesus really rise from the dead and why?
- Is the New Testament reliable and trustworthy?
- What about other religions? (Optional)

This is a great opportunity for people to investigate the claims of Jesus or revisit the basics of Christianity in a safe environment. Nobody is asked to pray, sing or read aloud, but any question may be raised. Tea, coffee and cake/dessert are provided.

Although a formal group has not met since last March, Peter has used the material as the basis of discussion with 2 couples in preparation for Baptism and another couple who wished to investigate the Christian faith.

JUST FOR YOU!

Venue: Pizza Express, 8 Feb, 1 Mar & 5 Apr 2011

Contacts: Mark Brown mark@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk, Judy Roberts 01732 355026, Tom Robertson 01732 871758, thomasrobertson537@btinternet.com

Thanks to the men's group called Godly Guys that meet at SS Peter and Paul, I found myself giving a talk at Pizza Express – the food and company seemed to aid really good engagement and I came away feeling “this is a great place to preach.” Just For You was born! 15 of us have met for one evening each month during Feb, March and April. I have never explained the Christian faith before using a Pizza as an illustration, but there is always a first time for everything. It has been so encouraging to meet with members of our fellowship who are seeking to grow in faith and make a public commitment at confirmation. Thank you to those who invited friends to attend or who organized babysitting and to Tom and Judy for assisting with the group work. *Mark Brown*

THE MARRIAGE COURSE

Venue: St Peter & St Paul, 8pm-10pm

Next Course: commencing Wed 11 May 2011 (excl Wed 1 June)

Contact: Jackie Williams, 01732 351717, romajo@sky.com

The Marriage course is a 7 week course for any married or co-habiting couple, whether they have been together for one year or sixty-one years, whether they have a good relationship or are struggling. We ran 2 courses last year which were very successful and the next is planned for May 2011.

During the session there are breaks in the talks to give the couples an opportunity to discuss with each other some of the issues that have been raised and to have tea/coffee and dessert. The couples are spread far enough apart, and background music is played, to ensure discussions are not overheard.

The Marriage Course originated at Holy Trinity Brompton, London and since then thousands of courses have started around the world. We use DVDs for the course, featuring Nick and Sila Lee. There is no group work, so you can

relax, you will not have to share anything about your relationship with anyone else.

About 18 couples in the Parish have taken part so far and we would love to see more and more couples coming along. A strong, loving and lifelong relationship doesn't happen by chance. It takes effort and dedication to keep the fun and romance alive. We can all learn how to make even the happiest marriage better.

Feedback from a recent course participant: *"The most important thing I have learnt, is that I am reminded to keep our marriage as a priority amongst all the other things in life"*.

MISSION SHAPED MINISTRY

Liz Spicer

From September 2009 'til July 2010, I travelled to Canterbury once a month to attend the Kent & South East Mission Shaped Ministry course run by Fresh Expressions.

Just eleven days before the start of the course a member of my congregation shared the course promotional leaflet with me which I did not scan as I normally would, I read it. The information therein was like a force pulling me in and I was soon enrolled on the course.

The first session on day one was an introduction to the course, which culminated in sharing our hopes and fears for the next year, what we hoped to learn and be equipped for, and whether we had any anxieties. On day two we were introduced to the course presenters, given a huge ring binder and told that we would fill it to bursting by the end of the course - we did!

Most weeks followed the same format: verbal presentation using PowerPoint, DVDs of fresh expressions already out there, interactive projects, and encouragement to share what we were involved in.

It was a year to be equipped in planting and sustaining fresh expressions of church.

The course hope is that it will be open and accessible to people from different church backgrounds and that we will equip one another in this ministry. It's five key values:

- (1) we are all disciples of Jesus Christ
- (2) we are adults with different gifts and different ways of learning
- (3) God calls us to work together

- (4) we learn by reflecting on our past and present experience
- (5) we believe in life-long learning

What did I learn - that in each of our lives there is an opportunity to reach out in so many different ways with the truth of Jesus. All age-groups are receptive to the joy we are equipped to share. That now is the time for People of God to be bold, to be imaginative, and to be committed to work together in new and enlightened ways and locations – large or small – in a sustained way, to the glory of God.

DEVELOPMENT AREA

LITURGY

Rev'd Mark Brown

One of the prime responsibilities of the incumbent is to oversee all public worship and the shape and structure of this part of our work is very important. There needs to be something for the Spirit to breathe his life through and there needs to be freedom for this life to be experienced. What is regular and kept the same and what are new and creative styles needs careful balancing. As a team of clergy and readers I was particularly grateful to Helen Longley for leading a super training evening to enhance our skills in this area. Peter Goodridge and the Readers team at St. Philip's have produced a new and fresh worship card. This year we will seek to produce a new set of cards for worship at the Parish Church. I am happy to receive offers of help. Thank you to all who lead our worship and to the administration team who tirelessly produce special orders of service when we are seeking to develop our worshipping life.

MUSIC AROUND THE PARISH

Contacts:

St Saviours: Carrie Walshaw 01732 832725

St Philips: Pete Wright 01732 361714

Choir: Derek Laker 01732 351602

St Peter & St Paul am and pm services, + any other enquiries:

Wendy Balcombe 01732 357734 wendybalcombe@hotmail.com

St Saviour's The congregation are enjoying their new (refurbished) piano, and a new set of hymn books which offer an extended and updated range of

hymns and songs. David Fullman plays the organ each week, and the music group continues to take the lead for the informal services once a month.

St Andrew's The clavinova (electric organ/piano) is played by a rota of musicians from across the parish. This is much appreciated. The set of hymn books has been supplemented by the surplus books, including a music copy, from St Saviour's (recycling at its best!).

St Philip's The worship team has grown both numerically and spiritually; the new members have flourished during the past year. Mid-week practices are held once a fortnight for rehearsal and fellowship, and a small group leads each Sunday.

St Peter and St Paul Quite a large number of enthusiastic people are involved in the morning worship team; we have a rota of groups for each Sunday of the month, with practices most Saturday afternoons.

There was a magnificent response to the appeal for refurbishment of the organ, now completed.

Evening Services David Fullman plays the organ and piano for Sunday evenings, and is often joined, for special services, by musicians from around the parish. We are considering extending this to provide more regular musical support and variety for the evening congregation.

Choir The choir has continued to grow in commitment and enthusiasm; they lead at the monthly evening Communion services, and also at a considerable number of weddings, funerals, memorial and occasional services.

It is such a privilege to be involved in music in the parish; I think all involved enjoy contributing, and find the fellowship and mutual encouragement uplifting. We very much welcome others, especially young people, as their older peers move on to university, etc. We do encourage anyone who might be interested in joining in at any of the churches to contact us.

PASTORAL CARE

Local Pastoral Contacts have now been appointed for each church to make it easier to look after our 4 congregations. These pastoral leaders enable the clergy to be made aware of any particular pastoral need that they might not be aware of and in turn can respond to any need brought to the clergy's attention. They are pastorally aware, sensitive and work closely with the pastoral assistants in their church. They are also members of their church's leadership teams. This helps in the understanding of the particular needs of each congregation, as each has its own problems and issues.

Some areas of pastoral care are parish wide, for example Bereavement Care and a big thank you to Sandy Chapman for organising follow-up visits after funerals.

Thank you to the Local Pastoral Contacts:

St Philips – Rebecca Mathieson
St Saviours – Roxanne Robins
St Andrews – Margaret Smith
St Peter and St Paul – Juliet Roberts

Thank you also to the many people who quietly and prayerfully support the above in many ways – from hospital visiting to transport , cooking meals to shopping and many more valuable services. Juliet Roberts

PUBLIC FACE OF THE CHURCH

Rev'd Mark Brown

The Public Face of the Church has seen continued development over the last year with some regular early morning 'thought for the day' on Radio Kent, and through the ongoing work of the Parish website and of course our Perspectives magazine. In today's rapidly changing world we will need to learn new ways of connecting with the public at large. I am very grateful to our many groups who produce high quality advertising that shows people we are serious and sincere about God's work. In my new role as Rural Dean, I have been able to connect more widely with members of our local council and community. Interestingly, this has already brought about fruitful conversations and links with the wider community. May we never be ashamed of the gospel of Christ but be ready to connect our faith in relevant ways to the watching world.

SCHOOLS MINISTRY 'THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL!'

Contact: Helen Longley 01732 352580

'The harvest is plentiful'. That's the good news from Mike Harrowing of Children's Workshop, Chris Kidd TBC and Fran Ingram of St. Stephen's Church. Last November they shared their ministry with our Schools team and anyone in the parish interested in their work with the young people of our town. They each gave inspirational talks, emphasizing the welcome schools offer them and the opportunities for Christian witness. THE DOORS ARE WIDE OPEN! Exciting!

Last November too Diana Faunce led an Inset Twilight session for local primary school teachers. As a consequence, we will be hosting two school days in the summer term for Year 3 and Year 5 pupils of Woodlands School. 100 Year 5 pupils will be looking at Church as community – a golden opportunity to share what our faith means to us; why we gather together, what the church gets up to locally and globally – and why our ministers wear frocks!

Discovery Day with pupils from Slade school last June - the highlight undoubtedly Joe King's demonstration of stone carving. Slade pupils joined us for 3 days in March 2011 for Stories Jesus Told and an Easter Trail.

SING OUT is now in its third year. We invite local primary schools to sing out at lunchtime in the Parish Church during the last week in June. The children love it and so do we! Please come along and join in the fun. You won't be disappointed, I promise!

A big thank you to Norman and Gill Whitfield, Diana Faunce and Roxanne Robins for their hard work, skills and commitment. Thank you to all those who have recently expressed willingness to be involved in this ministry. Teachers actively want us to deliver the Christian components of the RE curriculum. This is a God-given opportunity we need to wholeheartedly embrace. The more volunteers we have, the more we can offer. 'THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL...'

VIBRANT VISION – looking at how we serve our young people across the four congregations. (Cross-parish Working Group meeting 4 times a year)

Contacts: Jenny Hancox: 01732 505194/jenny@hancox.org.uk, Hilary Ruxton: 01732 771150/hilaryruxton@googlemail.com, Peter Goodridge: 01732 355200/peter@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk, Allison Brown: 01732 770961/alliejbrown@hotmail.co.uk, Steve Wood: 01732 770955/steve@hhpt.co.uk

In November 2009 we were tasked on behalf of Tonbridge Parish Church to:

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 to the PCC.

Over the last year or so, the Vibrant Vision team has been instrumental in facilitating:

- The use of the same teaching material across the parish for the 4-11 age groups from September 2010. Full training in the use of this material has been given by Scripture Union (13th Nov) and this appears to be successful.
- A team of 6 has been built up to lead and help with the SOS group – 11-14 year olds – following on from the good work of Steve and Jane Higgs.
- A very successful across-parish ‘Pizza and DVD’ social event for 5-11 year olds, held at St Philip’s.
- A good weekend away at Carroty Wood for the 11-14 year olds - thank you to the PCC for sponsorship to enable this to take place.

Following on from the success of the above-mentioned parish social events for 5-14 year olds, the Vibrant Vision team is ready to appoint a very part-time (1-2 hours per week) ‘social event co-ordinator’. Please speak to Jenny Hancox if you are interested.

FELLOWSHIP/SUPPORT

GODLY GUYS

Venue: Various locations, usually meeting once a term

Next meeting: Thursday, 23rd June, details TBC

Contact: Mark Brown, 01732 770962 x25,
mark@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

Godly Guys has been great! I recall an evening’s walk followed by a Bible study, Charlie’s very thought provoking talk on work in Prisons, a time for company and reflection at Pizza Express, and an evening in Church considering the Christian Faith and Art (thanks to Tom Chaloner). We need to find some guys to lead our work and connect more with Men’s Forum at St Philip’s ... maybe in the coming year! As I look back, I am thrilled to have fellowship with many men who want to go for it with God in their lives. If you would like to be on the e-mail invitation list, do let us know.

HOME GROUPS across the Parish

Contact: Revd Peter Goodridge (Parish Curate),
peter@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk, 01732 355200

Home groups provide an excellent environment where Christians can develop strong friendships of mutual trust, enabling open conversation about the life of discipleship, the provision of loving pastoral care and spiritual growth. Home groups (like other small groups in the parish) are a central part of Church life, health and growth and help us in four areas:

- Fellowship - supportive Christian friendships
- Bible study - hearing what God has to say to us from the Scriptures
- Prayer - responding to God
- Service - helping out in our churches and community

We currently have 16 main home groups. Although one came to an end last year another started as a follow-on for people who attended the last 2 Christianity Explored groups. The total membership is in the region of 165 to 170 people.

The nature of each group varies. Some groups meet weekly and some fortnightly; some meet in the daytime and some in the evening. Some comprise members from only one church in the parish, others have a mix and some even include people who do not go to church at all! A few of the groups have been following the church sermon series on Galatians and Matthew whilst others have been choosing their own material such as DVD based material, Nehemiah or an overview of the Bible.

We are currently promoting home groups, encouraging new ones to form and people to join. Belonging to a small group is key if we wish to enjoy the genuine Christian community (mutual support, encouragement, discipleship and evangelism) that is in line with the New Testament vision of church.

MONDAY MORNING MERRY MAKERS and THURSDAY WORKSHOP

Venue: Upper Foyer, St Peter & St Paul

Contact: Yvonne Burgess 01732 350651

M.M.M.M. & T.W. What is it?

Merry Makers is a group started by Beatrice Perry who meets on Monday Mornings. Who wants to do housework on a Monday? Why not start by 'relaxing'? It has been suggested that it also keeps us off the streets! Beatrice ran craft classes in the vicarage and from these it was decided to start M.M. It is for anyone who likes to do any form of craft that is possible to do in the Upper Foyer at St Peter and St Paul. We start at 10 a.m. for coffee/tea followed by a short quiet time at 10.15 a.m. before starting our craft. Sometimes we 'do our own thing'; sometimes we work on a theme

e.g. patchwork, blackwork, cross-stitch, tapestry etc. and we are there to help each other.

Thursday Workshop is the other group meeting on Thursday afternoons. We are two groups doing similar crafts that meet together as one on several occasions e.g. outings, tea parties, Christmas Dinner. The only difference is that we have no quiet time on Thursday and more card making is done.

The work we do is shown at the craft exhibition that we organise for Heritage Weekend in September. At the present time we are just finishing 4 kneelers commissioned by Stephen Seamer. Two are already in the church as well as 4 cushions. We have just finished a patchwork project for Christmas, have tried quilling and have just started a Hardanger and pulled thread work project.

Proceeds from the exhibition are sent to a charity – usually local. This year we chose the church organ fund to which we gave £964.00.

We would love to have more members. We would also welcome items suitable to be included in our exhibition. If you are interested, can help or would like more information please contact me.

OUTLINE TEA

Venue: Lower Lounge, St Peter & St Paul, 3rd Sunday in month, 3 - 4.30pm

Contacts: Sandy Chapman 01732 351268, Doris Jones 01732 364270,
doris872@btinternet.com

Outline Tea started in the 80's when Jane Noble, who had recently been bereaved herself, invited others in a similar position to her house on a Sunday afternoon (a time when many are most lonely and in need of the support of others) for a chat. Soon her house became too small, and the event moved to the Parish Church.

We meet once a month, normally on the third Sunday, but sometimes if other events clash we change to another Sunday. (We do produce a card giving the dates for the year). People are collected and taken home by car, unless they live near and prefer to walk. There is a varied programme. The afternoon often starts with Molly Taylor playing hymns chosen by those gathered, followed by someone giving a talk or maybe a quiz. In the spring we take a drive round the local area to see the blossom and the bluebells (if they can be found!). At harvest last year, we met in the church, which was beautifully decorated, to give thanks for God's provision and at Christmas joined others at the afternoon Lessons and Carol service.

Outline Tea is for anyone on their own, churchgoer, non-churchgoer, it does not matter, all are most welcome.

We finish this article by saying thank you to the drivers and all who help in anyway. Without your support this event couldn't take place.

ST PHILIP'S MEN'S FORUM

Venue: St Philip's, every second Monday of month at 8.00pm

Contact: Ray Tanner 01732 351422/raytanner_1@btinternet.com



Another year of great activity including breakfasts, food evenings, bowling, snooker and working groups. Our main evenings are a mixture of Bible Study, DVD's, personal activities, and general fellowship. These gatherings bond us as Christian men and offer support, encouragement, and a sense of humour.

We have just started encouraging our youngsters to come to our breakfasts and we intend to carry this on during the coming year with special invited guests leading. We are also looking to have some joint events with the GG's (Godly Guys) from our sister churches.

STEPPING STONES

Contact: Sara Thomson 01732 356430

Stepping Stones continues to thrive as a Bible Study group for ladies in our parish – from young mums to grandmothers. We meet every Thursday morning in term time from 10 – 11.30am in the upper lounge at St Peter and St Paul. We enjoy fellowship over tea and coffee and then join together for notices and prayer before we split into three groups for Bible study. We are now averaging 19 ladies a week which is really encouraging.

We have a wonderful team of ladies who look after our pre-school children in a crèche, allowing their mums to enjoy social time and concentrate on the study. Many of our young children have moved on to school having been to Stepping Stones since they were babies! We would value prayer to have new mums with little ones joining us.

In the past year we have studied Mark's Gospel, learning about the life and teaching of Jesus. We followed this with The Christianity Explored Course of DVDs and studies, which, although it concentrated again on Mark's Gospel it helped us look at it in a different way. The studies were very helpful to those

in the group new to Christianity and Bible Study and also to those who were further on in their journey with Christ. We all learn a tremendous amount from each other.

In October we had an inspiring talk from Sandy Davies entitled “Bangladesh and Beyond” and invited guests to join us.

Many thanks go to our leaders Allison Brown, Sara Thomson, Yolanda Roberts, Patricia King and Juliet Roberts who prepare and lead our studies.
Juliet Roberts

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Venue: St Peter & St Paul (Lower Lounge), First Tuesday in month, 2pm - 3.30 pm

Contacts: Nanette Gate 01732 354304, Jean Gibson 01732 354464, Sadie Moore 01732 353625, Felicity Kemp 01732 353609/flisskemp@hotmail.com

The Tuesday Fellowship season runs from September up to, and including, July. Our meetings commence with a hymn followed by the Fellowship prayer. The next 20 to 40 minutes are given over to a speaker or, in the case of our December meeting, to being entertained by the excellent Philomel Singers, which gets us into the Christmas spirit.

The subjects covered by the talks can be very varied. Anything from contemplative, spiritual and thought provoking, to interesting and entertaining, such as the various journeys and holidays our members have experienced. Sometimes they have hair-raising and amusing adventures to recount.

The topics can range from the Royal Family, collecting hat pins, card making and flower arranging - in fact, something for everyone. This year, for example, we have had talks on Jane Austen, the duties of a Church Warden and a well received talk by our Jean Gibson relating to her canal boat holiday. The meetings always end with tea and biscuits when our members have a chance to chat before heading home.

During the summer months we endeavour to arrange an outing: this May it will be to Broadview Gardens, Hadlow College. Then there is our strawberry tea to look forward to.

The team would love to have more members join us who would be assured of a warm welcome.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Venue: St Philip's, 2nd & 4th Fridays of month, 7.30pm

Contact: Marion Evans 01732 353873

Women's Fellowship is open to all women, and not all frequent attenders are members of St Philip's.

The main aim of the group is fellowship, and our meetings always start with tea or coffee with cake or biscuits. Once we have all arrived and are settled, we have a Bible reading and then pray about any needs that have come up with us, our families or our neighbours.

Then we move on to the evening's activity, but this, too, is mainly a time of fellowship and getting to know one another better, and I sense that, even if there were no 'activities', a time of sitting and chatting in a safe and relaxed setting would be really valued by those who come.

During the past year, we have had a visit from a falconer with his birds of prey, we have watched a film, we have twice gone to 'Come and Celebrate' at Scott's Project, and Joy has given us an illustrated talk about Scott's.

Andrea has given us two evenings of beading, we have shared recipes, books and poems, and we have almost completely failed to recognise each other from baby photos!

We have also found excuses for having a few bring and share parties.

All women are welcome. Please feel free to bring along a friend.

HISTORY/GENERAL INTEREST

JANE AUSTEN PROJECT

Contact: Vivian Branson 07785 760995, vivian.branson1@btinternet.com



Tonbridge is a really important centre for lovers of one of the world's favourite authors: Jane Austen.

There are buildings around the town where the Austens lived and worked and Tonbridge School is where Jane's father, George, studied. There are memorials in St Peter and St Paul to the Austens and their friends. Jane's grandparents, together with her step-grandmother are buried in the north aisle. We have designed a circular walk which highlights the

Austen connections, written a booklet about the memorials in the church, we have a postcard highlighting Jane's Kentish connections and we have

audio-guides read by Louise Jameson. As well as all of this we are really lucky that local Austen scholar, Margaret Wilson, has written the authoritative work 'Jane Austen's family and Tonbridge'. The aim of our project is to highlight globally these very important connections. We are constantly being asked to talk about this and conduct guided walks. Last year we had a wonderfully successful event in the Tonbridge Arts Festival and another very popular event celebrating Jane's birthday. This year we have some historical impersonators coming in June who will give an idea of Jane's grandparents: a surgeon and his wife. For Jane's birthday Professor Michael Wheeler will be talking about the beginnings of the novels. So you can see that we are trying to get a balance between the Austen background and the novels. The enthusiasm for this project is absolutely terrific.

PARISH

6.30 EVENING SERVICE

Venue: St Peter & St Paul

Contacts: David and Christine Turner 01732 353900

The evening service continues to be for the whole parish, the number attending is usually 60 to 70 and we have had some new members joining during the last year.

The music is a mixture of traditional and modern hymns accompanied mostly by David Fullman on the refurbished organ and occasionally by the music group. The Choir, with their new robes, sings for the Communion Services and on other special occasions.

Prayer is very important and especially beneficial when a period of silence is included for reflection. Prayer ministry is offered after receiving communion and at other times on request.

The new AV system is working well and is used for most services. Hymns are shown on the screens, but hymn books are available for those who prefer them. It is also used to display the main points of the sermon, which we find very helpful.

The teaching continues to be excellent with Mark and Peter at the helm and help from lay readers and visiting speakers. On the 27th February Dean Adrian from Rochester Cathedral gave a very stimulating and relevant sermon, which was very well received.

We are looking forward to the visit of Bishop Graham Dow and his wife Molly during Holy week – not to be missed!

The 6.30 congregation is very friendly and welcoming. Many people feel it is like a family. Why not give it a try?

8 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION

Usually numbering between 12 and 20 members (though our average age is somewhat higher!) the congregations much appreciate this peaceful, reflective service each Sunday, whether at St Saviour's or at the Parish Church. Kneeling is difficult in the beautifully refurbished St Saviour's, but we are each adjusting our practice or accepting the challenge as a penance; certainly the variety of ambience is good for us, and we are grateful to our clergy for maintaining this ministry to us.

John Smalman-Smith

PARISH ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

Alyson Bleakley, 01732 770962 x24, M-Th, 9-1; **Dawn** Scrivener, x20, MThF, 9-12, Tu, 9-3 - based in St Peter & St Paul; **Jane** Higgs, x25, M-F, 9-3 - based in The Coach House. Welcome to our new team member, **Jane** Mata, 01732 352416, based at St Philip's (days/times TBC)

“Opportunities”

Working as y**O**ur Parish administration team
we are very conscious of **P**rayers support – thank you!

It's a real **P**rivilege to be committed daily
to the **O**rganisation of God's work in our town.

Our **R**oles involve **T**alking with many, facing the **U**nexpected
and carrying out all that is **N**ecessary.

In many ways our daily walk is based on **T**rusting;
both **I**ndividually and as a team.

Every day we look forward to **S**erving God
and each other in this place!

BELLRINGERS

Venue: Ringing Chamber, St Peter & St Paul

Practice: Weekly on Fridays from 19:45 to 21:15

Sunday service ringing: 09:00 -10:00 and 17:45-18:30

(Ringing for weddings etc by arrangement)

Contacts: Tower Captain: Tim Lynch, 01732 360360/timbolynch@aol.com;
Tower Secretary: Angela Clark, 01732 364309/
angelaclarkbuttons@btinternet.com

Our bells now have smart new ropes with royal blue sallies (the woolly bit) with gold stripes (they have been plain royal blue for at least the last 40 years. Steeple Keeper Martin Willson has been pre-stretching them to make them less elastic when they're first used for ringing.

We have some £11,300 in our Bell Restoration Fund. We're going to commission some work later this year to help define a preferred project specification.

The bells are still difficult to ring and fewer of our ringers feel confident in handing the heavier bells in the ring, including our one tonne tenor bell. Thinking of future recruitment, the bells need a major project to rehang them so that they will be easier to ring – this is likely to involve installing a new bell frame lower down the tower than the 18th century timber frame.

Mark Brown has been supportive about our future plans, but we realise other financial demands within the church have a higher priority. Consequently, the way forward is in the hands of the ringers at this stage and it could be a long process before the project is finally realised.

Meanwhile we will continue to be the audible message throughout the town that a welcome awaits at St Peter & St Paul for all who come to worship or to visit. *Tim Lynch and Angela Clark*

BOOKSTALL

Venue: St Peter & St Paul

Contacts: Jeremy and Patricia King, 01732 366179,
patricia_smart@yahoo.com

The bookstall stock has been maintained: books that were sold have been replaced and a few new titles were added. Patricia King has reviewed some of these books in Perspectives.

Thank you to Jane Higgs for ordering the books for special occasions.

Some books were sold during the year, but most people still buy their Christian books from the Tonbridge Christian Resource Centre or on-line rather than from the parish bookstall.

EVANGELIST

Contact: Tom Robertson 01732 368206,
thomasrobertson537@btinternet.com

It all started at a parish missions open day when I asked if it would be possible for someone like me to do a course, and to my surprise they said yes! I'm now on a journey as an evangelist, and what a journey, since taking that step doors have opened up.

I've been involved in parish outreach work with Mark and also worked alongside the Bright Lights team, Jane and Jo.

I've Done two mission walks with Through Faith Missions (TFM) Walk East Sussex and National Forest, and looking forward to Walk West Dorset in Sept 2011, the experience and stories are amazing.

Working with Ray Tanner we organised another outreach in September 2010 into the community, it took the form of an initial survey as carried out by TFM. We finished the week with a "Great" Family Fun Afternoon on the Saturday working closely with the organisational skills of Catherine and Julie.



Thanks again to Linda Jones our e-mailer, each door knocker had an individual prayer partner, it was an exciting time for the church as a whole, especially

for the out-reachers and those "back at the ranch" holding them in prayer.

Altogether 791 homes were visited, 169 surveys completed and 129 people took 'Know God Personally' booklets. Many people expressed their gratitude that the local church was interested in their views and enjoyed the doorstep discussions.

Those involved are determined to use their new found boldness in speaking out.

If we were to do it again, would you join us??

MID-WEEK HOLY COMMUNION

Venue: St Peter & St Paul, Wednesdays 10:00 a.m

Contact: Barry Driscoll, 01732 350012

This 10.00 a.m. Wednesday Service mixes the formal and informal in a way which remains popular week by week. Attendances average 25, but 30 plus has been known.

Mark and Peter lead and our team of four pairs are responsible for laying up, readings, prayer-time and administering the wine. The friendly atmosphere is usually continued over coffee and a chat in the coffee-lounge afterwards.

If you are free between 10.00 and 11.00 a.m. on a Wednesday, please join us to meet with the Lord.

MISSION ACTION GROUP (MAG)

Venue: 30 Allington Drive: January, May, July, October, 2pm,

Contact: Peter Hancox, secretary, 01732 505194, jenny@hancox.org.uk

MAG is a sub-committee of the PCC, appointed to advise on the distribution of the Parish tithe. It also suggests how the Gill McClare Legacy Fund should be used. Last year, £26,568 of the tithe was donated to 40 mission organizations or individuals, while £5,000 of the Gill McClare Legacy Fund went to 13 organisations.

Each of our four churches has a MAG representative, in touch with the Leadership Team and the congregation, as a means to exchange ideas and suggestions. At present we have Mission Partners in Europe, S.E. Asia, several African countries and the UK. We are encouraged to spread news and prayer requests from our Mission Partners, as well as letting them know of our current Parish needs. There is provision to help with the cost of travel for any parishioner on an outward visit to one of our Mission Partners.

In addition, MAG is responsible for administering the Training Opportunities Grant Scheme. Funds are available towards fees for those who feel called to start a training course in Readership, pastoral work or Evangelism.

PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

We helped to organise the November 2010 “A Time to Remember” service for bereaved people, which was well received by those who came; assisted by Davyd and Sue Power, Juliet Roberts and others. PAs also helped with the Hospice in the Weald Service in early December.



Sandy has done many bereavement visits for the Parish and she, Louise and Roxanne are part of the Chaplaincy visiting

team at Kent & Sussex Hospital and the new Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury.

Listening is a fundamental aspect of PA work. Margaret uses this skill in Spiritual Direction. We all assist with Holy Communion administration and Roxanne coordinates the Prayer Ministry team for St Saviour's. Liz helps at Grapevine and, once a month, at the Christians Caring Club. Sandy is now running Naomi's Coffee Lounge, as well as being on hand to talk with people there.

A high point of our ministry is taking Holy Communion into homes for individuals or small groups in Penruddock House, Castle Court and Holmes Court. We share in fellowship with people there, linking them to Parish worship.

Sally Watts has stepped down from her role as Pastoral Assistant after many years of service, including visiting with the 'Good News Down Your Street' evangelistic team, baptism visits, working as PA with several curates at St Saviour's and more recently with the Quiet Garden Ministry.

We welcome Louisa back to ministry at St Peter & St Paul.

We are grateful to Mark and Peter for their support and encouragement.

Sandy Chapman, Louise Medhurst, Roxanne Robins, Margaret Seakens, Liz Spicer

ST ANDREW'S YEAR REPORT 2010 - 2011

Prayer Card Outreach

Prayer Card visiting continues during the summer months. The chart for each road visits has been reviewed. Mid month, cards are delivered to each house, requiring only one person for each road. Collection needs two people to call at each house. The resultant prayer requests are included during our time of intercessions on the following Sunday. Those requesting prayer are invited to attend if they wish to do so. St. Andrew's would appreciate help from other church members in the parish with the collection when the outreach starts again this year.

Contact: Mrs Margaret Smith, 01732 365977

Framley Road Fellowship

Informal meetings began two years ago, meeting at the home of Mrs Margaret Smith, when it became apparent there was a need for people otherwise isolated in their homes to meet together for friendship and

fellowship. Coffee/tea mornings from 10 am to 12 noon, and between 2 and 4 pm, continue bimonthly, with neighbours supporting and supplying cakes and biscuits. We meet in the kitchen, or in the garden, weather permitting and husbands, wives and children are welcome.

Contact: Mrs Margaret Smith 01732 365977

The Healing Prayer Ministry

The healing prayer ministry within St. Andrew's is slowly gaining support. Several people have asked for prayer and we hope to create more opportunity with the offer of private prayer at the Communion rail and during home visits. The possibility of using St. Andrew's for healing prayer during the week has been discussed and, after consultation with the parish, could be developed and encouraged during the next year.

Contact: Mrs Judith Cooke, 01732 353814

Worship Team

This team, led by David and Joan Fenner, prayerfully prepares the Service of Morning Prayer or Holy Communion, (second Sunday), for each Sunday. This includes choosing hymns appropriate to the sermon subject, alerting musicians, choosing the verse from Scripture, and preparing and distributing copies of the Service Crib Sheet for all those involved in the services.

Contacts: Mr & Mrs David Fenner, 01732 358097

Deputy Warden

David Merry has this responsibility, which includes caring for fabric, goods and ornaments. David reports that the church building has maintained its integrity. New blue carpets have been installed, provided by SS Peter & Paul. Very good silk flowers have also been provided for those occasions when fresh flowers are not available. Trees around the church have been lowered in height to six ft, which prevents damage to the roof and opens up the views of the church.

Contact: David Merry 01622 813545 – with any queries.

Pastoral Oversight

Overall pastoral responsibility for the parish is vested in the Vicar, Rev'd Mark Brown and Curate Peter Goodridge. Reader Terry Collins has been allocated specific responsibility for St. Andrew's. This church gives a very warm welcome to everyone who comes here. The congregation are well known for their friendliness and care, for visiting the sick and the elderly and their prayers and concern for those in need. Speaking as their Reader, I feel very privileged to be a part of this lively fellowship.

Contact: Mr Terry Collins 01732 364956

ST PETER & ST PAUL LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT 2010/2011

Since last year's AGM, Gill Dunn has joined the team but Peter Ruxton stepped down, due to the time he spends out of the country on business.

What have we been doing in the past 12 months? Well, we have met formally six times and the following is a summary of the main topics that we have tackled on your behalf: -

1. **Prayer Space** – created in the Chancel area, with a chair, Bibles, some prayer topics and a prayer book for children. This followed a suggestion made at last year's AGM. We are very grateful to Sue King and Sara Thomson for making this happen
2. **Volunteers Leaflet** – was produced and distributed to the church family, listing the areas in which help could be given to assist with the running of our church and the related activities. The response was encouraging and we intend to make this leaflet permanently available
3. **Carpet Appeal** – having decided that the upper lounge carpet had seen better days, an appeal was launched to raise £5,000 to re-carpet the upstairs rooms. Thanks to God, the church family raised £6,500 – sufficient to do all that was planned, plus the three staircases.
4. **Upstairs Kitchen Refurbishment** – thanks to a generous donation, we were able to organise the complete refurbishment of the upstairs kitchen, really adding to our catering capabilities and making the whole area look so much better.
5. **Organ Repair Appeal** – we were somewhat daunted by the thought of having to raise nearly £19,000 (circa £16,000 if we could reclaim the VAT) for the organ repairs, particularly in view of the fact that we recently had to appeal for monies to do the upstairs carpeting. We decided that we needed to surround the project with prayer and we stepped out in faith! We organised a prayer morning in church on 16 October, the day before the designated gift day. We also organised a talents auction with a fish and chip supper. This was a really good social occasion and raised around £2,000 for the appeal. In the event, over £19,000 was raised so with the VAT reclaim, there was a surplus of more than £4,000. Why did we have any doubts? As announced at the time, this surplus will go to the Ministry Costs Fund.

6. **Memorial Garden** – following a suggestion made at last year’s AGM, we have examined various ways of laying down a path or some stepping stones between the grass and the wall in the memorial garden. Concern has been expressed by church family members that any such pathway would cover up places where ashes had been interred so we have decided to leave it as it is, apart from organising a receptacle for cigarette butts by the seat.

I will soon be stepping down from your Leadership Team as I am moving to Cheltenham. I have been privileged to serve you in this capacity and can assure you that the affairs of this ancient church are left in very good hands.
Tony Owen, on behalf of the St Peter & St Paul Leadership Team

ST PHILIP’S LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT 2011

In January the Leadership team were asked to give a presentation to the PCC. We highlighted various events held during 2010; the 40th anniversary Ruby Red Party, Wild West Barn Dance - well attended and the Pet service to name but a few.

The Outreach week in September met new people on doorsteps & homes culminating in a FREE Family Fun Day - A great day of service and friendship building. Much dedicated work took place behind the scenes to improve output and efficiency of the AV System – new front doors (internal ones soon) gave a light and welcoming appearance.

The groundwork that has been laid over the past couple of years at Grapevine and Tots & Co to establish links with the neighbourhood has been particularly encouraging and we hope to build on these. We intend these two areas should be the main focus of our attention for the immediate future. Specifically, we plan to develop a permanent café area, with new furniture in the coffee lounge and access to Salisbury Road. We would value prayers and any ideas for raising funds for this, anticipating an approximate cost of £2,500. In April there will be an open afternoon for the new Howards Drive residents, highlighting Tots & Co and Grapevine.

It is always great news when members of our congregation feel called to specific areas of ministry and we are excited that Steve Wood is undertaking the Mission Shaped ministry course in Evangelism and that Kate Doody will be starting her Pastoral Assistant Training in September.

Finally, we believe that much of our activity and worship over recent months has been laying the foundation for the appointment of a new

Associate Vicar, whose presence will enable us to really move forward. The Leadership Team value the prayers and support we have received as we all work together, in our aim to worship and serve God in north Tonbridge.

ST SAVIOUR'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are Sally Musson, David and Roxanne Robins, and Carrie Walshaw

Contact: Sally Musson 01732 838411/mussonsally@btinternet.com

Much of the focus of St Saviour's in 2010 and 2011 has been on the long-awaited re-ordering known as the Dorothy Stonely Project.

After significant preparatory work by Allan Broadbent and Julia Jackson, assisted by Helen Longley and Anne Norman and others, the re-ordering of St Saviour's was finally given the go-ahead in early summer 2010. The funds for the work were provided by the legacy of Dorothy Stonely, a lifelong worshipper at the church, who died in 2002.



By the end of July 2010 the contents of the Church had been packed into storage, and the project was underway. The aims were to upgrade the heating, lighting and disabled access, and to redecorate the extensive ceiling. The main contractors were Civils of East Peckham,

represented by David Balcombe, and the Parish interest was in the hands of Ray Tanner as Quantity Surveyor. The pews were all sold to individuals or architectural salvage companies. The work was completed in November on time and under budget.

One of the benefits of belonging to a parish with several buildings for worship is that the St Saviour's congregation was able to join others during the construction period. Some found a familiar style and welcome at St Andrew's; others joined the slightly younger and more contemporary St Peter & St Paul and St Philip's, but we came together for monthly Sunday afternoon tea in the Lower Lounge to keep in touch with each other and the progress of the project. The October meeting was enhanced by the presence of Peter and Georgie Walker, former staff members of the Parish and St Saviour's.

The reopening of the church in late November coincided with one of the coldest spells of this cold winter. In spite of the low temperatures, the bright, colourful and worshipful interior of the church welcomed us all, and the quality of design and workmanship has been much appreciated. The increased flexibility of the building is evident weekly after Sunday services as we mingle and chat. Its use as a parish resource was made clear both by an imaginatively staged 'Let the Children Sing' in March, and a meeting for parish leaders with the chairs reoriented to the north. We are delighted that the work was recognised by a Commendation from the Tonbridge Civic Society in their 2010 awards.

We are very conscious that much energy, thought and prayer has been expended on our building this year, and that mission should be central in the next months and years as we look to see how God wants us to use the renewed building for the Gospel.

WHOLE PARISH PRAYER EVENINGS

Venue: At the start of every term in our four Church buildings
Rev'd Mark Brown

I have been thrilled to see how this gathering has continued to be integrated into our life together as a Parish Family. The message that we need to gather and commend God's work to him in prayer has been well and truly heard, so thank you to the increasing numbers who are supporting these gatherings. We aim to vary the styles of worship when we meet, particularly with a focus on how we pray. The personal confidence needed to attend a prayer meeting at a church needs to be quite high and so therefore, may I offer encouragement and a personal invitation to others to attend. All of us have to start somewhere and we would all be offering a great service to our brothers and sisters in Christ if new members were enabled to attend and feel supported. Why not ask someone to come with you to our start of term praise and prayer evenings?

Training

St PETER & St PAUL AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM

gallery@peterandpaulav.co.uk

Wow - another busy year on the already well equipped A/V system! Most importantly, we have written a 'process orientated' manual - i.e. if you want to play a DVD, it takes you step-by-step through a simple process!

Many will have noticed there are fewer errors in the song words on screen (hopefully!). We've been working through the songs, checking the programmed versions against the choir's music to ensure they match and are error free.

Other highlights:

- We had a ruthless sort-out and built new storage.
- Selected better backgrounds and fonts for songs.
- We've installed a lot of new video equipment. We can now connect a camera in a number of locations around the church. This can be used during children's activities, or to project the organist during organ recitals for example.

Over the next year, we hope to:

- Install a small intercom between the choir area and the balcony,
- Remove the trailing wires to the choir's video monitor in the front pew.
- Purchase a portable camera so we don't have to borrow one!
- Install Audio/Visual technology in the upper lounge to facilitate the various groups that use the area and to enhance the teaching of the Sunday groups.

We are looking for trainees, particularly some who could operate the system for Sunday services on a Rota system. It's not that difficult, and can be fun! If anyone is interested, please see Andy Gibb, or email me at the above email address.

ST PHILIP'S AV TEAM

stphils@peterandpaulav.co.uk

During the last year we have been busy working on the system and here are some of the highlights:

- Installing a Video Scaler so we can run DVD's and the PC through the projector
- Replacing the cabling and clearing up the interference on the screen
- Connecting the hearing loop to both the speech and music systems
- Building a new enhanced permanent Desk
- Replacing the old screen with a new electric screen

During the next year we plan to:-

- Replace the current wall mount to help centralise the projector better
- Wall mount foldback speakers for the music group
- Add additional cabling to enable the projector to be more versatile
- Fit a second screen to the left hand side of the church and mount a new projector bracket and all the cabling needed
- We would also like to buy a second projector

We are looking for trainees, who could operate the system for Sunday services on a Rota system. It's not that difficult, and can be fun! If anyone is interested, please see Steve Wood, or email me at the above email address.

PUBLIC FACE OF CHURCH

CHURCHYARD GROUPS

The Tidiers

Each month on the first Tuesday (10 a.m. for an hour or two) our Churchyard Group continues to supplement the mowing and hedge-cutting done by the TMBC. We keep clear the Garden of Remembrance on the South side and the 'main churchyard on the North and West, fighting the ivy, brambles and elder which so quickly overrun the gravestones, trees and walls. We also clear the litter, and maintain the gully round the church itself, and generally try to keep this lovely green 'oasis' looking loved.

The 4/5 of us would welcome more help, however irregularly: no skills/tools required – just caring patience, and some residual flexibility! Peaceful and rewarding, it is good for body and soul – and for our church and community.

Contact: *John/Mary Smalman-Smith, 01732 351689*, or find us on the day.

The Wildlifers

These promote another activity which is to establish wildflowers and shrubs to attract and nurture birds, bees and bugs thus trying to do our bit to treasure God's wonderful creation with its precious biodiversity. We are helping to create, through the centre of Tonbridge, a green corridor and the churchyard can be a vital part of it.

Last summer our first efforts produced some encouraging results. The seeds had germinated and there were brilliant patches of wild flowers. We entered the Council's 'Wildlife Gardening' scheme and gained a Bronze award.

There is still so much more that could be done - more seed sowing, more planting, bird boxes, bat boxes etc. - if only we could inspire other enthusiasts to join in and for all of us to see that Christians should care for the wealth of beauty and interest that God has provided.

Anyone who is interested can help at any time that suits them, after agreeing a part of this project. Do join in!

Contact: *Jenny Macpherson 01732 352703*

GRAPEVINE

Venue: St Philip's Coffee Lounge, every Tuesday 2:15 – 4:15pm

Contact: Liz Spicer 01732 353048 and Sandra Wakefield

Grapevine is a 'drop-in' facility which welcomes any member of the community. As a group, our enjoyment is meeting together, reading the daily/weekly paper and most recent magazines. - naturally accompanied by a cuppa or two + sweets, biscuits, fresh fruit and sometimes Sandra's homemade "granny buns", which everyone enjoys! (Grapevine does not make any charges therefore donations are a blessing.)

Both Liz and Sandra are involved in the setting up, practical running, listening and pastoral support. Hosting Grapevine requires tables and chairs to be set up, which is now physically challenging for both of us. However, sometimes the clearing away just happens with the help of others, which is most appreciated.

Grapevine regularly welcomes non-churchgoers from the local community, both men, women and dogs! Most folk who call into Grapevine do not stay the whole time

Grapevine is also home to one of the North Tonbridge PCSO Linda Baker's regular surgeries, usually every six weeks. The PCSO's surgery remit is to deal with matters affecting quality of life in the neighbourhood. At the surgeries Linda meets with anyone who has an issue, confidentially, in the Caleb Room.

Recently, Grapevine hosted an awareness and 'bring-and-buy' fundraising sale in aid of Target Ovarian Cancer when we saw our regular Grapevine visitors mingling with twenty or so people who came especially to support the afternoon. £150 was raised and an enjoyable time was had by everyone.

In the future, it would be great to have a permanently set-up coffee-lounge with a direct entrance from the car park. We feel sure this would make the

challenge of 'entering a church' less of a barrier for non-churchgoers of our community and, therefore, expect to welcome larger numbers.

HEAVENLY HANDS PUPPET TEAM

Venue: St Philip's (adult team members meet 8pm on Thursdays, and the junior team meets the 2nd & 4th Sundays after St Philip's morning service.)

Contact: Steve Wood 01732 770955

Throughout this year, we have been very busy, with lots of bookings, the main event being our regular contributions to the "Come on and Celebrate" services held once a month on a Friday night at The Scott's Project, where we always receive an extremely warm welcome. In the summer, we performed at St Philip's Fun Day as well as at the Pond Farm garden party. I really loved Pond Farm, a really massive, beautiful garden filled with all my favourite flowers and a lake – pure bliss! Steve and Dave also gave a puppet show during the Friendship Hour at Tonbridge Parish Church for Christians Caring.

In October, Jeremy and I joined Steve and Dave at the annual One Way UK Puppets Conference in Reading. We started the day with worship and prayer, followed by about an hour or so of different presentations and sketches. Later, we all went off to our different workshops. I chose "Dancing with Flags" and "Working with Animal Puppets". I particularly enjoyed "Dancing with Flags" as it was a chance to be creative within a group, learning all the different moves, and I have recently started learning flag dancing at St Philip's. "Working with Animal Puppets" was also brilliant, and I hope that I will have the opportunity to put what I learned there to good use. Later after lunch, we all enjoyed the highlight of the day, which was the annual competition to see which team of puppeteers could do the best sketch, with prizes given to the winners, and I have to say that these guys were seriously talented, giving outstanding performances. I hope that Heavenly Hands will be able to enter the competition next time round, so watch this space. *Carolyn King*

LUNCHTIME SERVICES, with light lunch served

Venue: Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, Church Lane, held termly

Contact: Jane Higgs, 01732 770962 x25, jane@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

Lovely music, respite from a busy day, a tasteful lunch, all along with new and familiar faces. These are the hallmarks of termly Lunchtime Services. This last year we have enjoyed a wide range of musical tastes, with musical

theatre, jazz, woodwind, along with a high quality solo voice. Added to the sheer enjoyment of these occasions is my own reflection that perhaps the penny has still not dropped amongst our membership that these are 'outreach' events, a word from Scripture, prayers and invitation to think further, are always given.

Perhaps you would like to join us to see these events supported. We would love to meet more people from our local retail and business community. Our next Lunchtime Service takes place in Holy Week on Thursday 21st April, 12.30pm – we welcome professional singer David Hurley from the Kings Singers. Thank you to the catering and wardens' teams for their hard work behind the scenes. *Mark Brown*

Perspectives

Contact us via: perspectives@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

It seems incredible that our quarterly parish magazine will be three years old when issue 12 is printed for distribution in June. The brief we were given in the winter of 2008 was to produce a magazine which would appeal to all our neighbours in the town and not just to the members of our four churches.

We are blessed in having parish notices week by week which provide our members with important diary dates and service details but Perspectives gives a Christian viewpoint along with secular articles including historical, environmental, food and traditions along with book reviews and poetry. It is good to report that so many people have volunteered to write illustrated, relevant, articles in time for each issue's printing. We are very grateful to them and to a team of almost 50 distributors who deliver to about 550 residents who have requested home deliveries. Some copies are available in each church for those who might be new to the parish or for visitors attending services.

Our eventual aim is for Royal Mail to deliver Perspectives to all 5 500 homes in our parish along with several hundred businesses. Royal Mail would carry out this delivery and the cost of printing 4 000 extra copies would be considerable but with enhanced advertising this could be accomplished!

We are grateful to God for providing a team with enormous editorial, secretarial, desk-top publishing and advertising contact skills and look forward to receiving articles from our many readers.

David Heyes (Team Leader)

QUIZ NIGHTS

Venue: St Philip's (Next Quiz: September 17th at 7.30pm)

Contact: Ray Tanner 01732 351422

Quiz nights are Family fun evenings, which are always well attended. We have enjoyed two this past year and although low cost events, they have managed to put over £150 into funds to improve the St Philip's building. Many of the people who come are from the surrounding area, other churches, and now a number of our user groups make the evening successful and light hearted.

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S FLOWERS

Contact: Sue Power 01732 351882

First of all I would like to say a very BIG THANK YOU to our team of Flower Arrangers for their help.

Our aim is to always have flowers in church except during Lent. We work on a rota basis to decorate the Altar each week and I am often asked to arrange flowers for Thanksgivings, Funerals and Wedding services and also to remember a loved one's birthday.

At Easter there is a collection to buy lilies to remember loved ones and I put a list of the names in church on Easter Sunday. The flower arrangers all come together to decorate the church on Good Friday afternoon.

Later on in the year we celebrate Harvest Festival when we bring a lot of colour into our lovely church. At Christmas all the flower arrangers try to be in church together which is a lovely time of peace and friendship

I am always looking for more people to join us and will provide some basic training, so if you think this would be of interest to you, you will be most welcome.

If you have spare foliage we can always use it, as greenery gets very short; please call me to find out more.

I would also like to acknowledge and express my thanks to our local Sainsbury's who presently donate left-over flowers to the church on a Monday morning.

We are so blessed to have such a lovely church to decorate and I thank God for giving us the skills to do it justice.

ST SAVIOUR'S GUILD April 2010 - March 2011

This year has been very different! We met as usual while the church was closed during August, September, October, and most of November. This meant that although we held a Coffee Morning at Easter we missed holding the usual Harvest Coffee Morning.

Advent Sunday was the new start for St. Saviour's and the Guild resumed its responsibility for brass cleaning and arranging flowers. The snow caused some problems with access over the Christmas period but with the approach of Spring we are now planning for the Easter Coffee Morning, in aid of our overseas mission partners.

The Guild meets on the first Thursday of the month at 9.45am to clean the brass and arrange the flower rota, with discussions - while we have a coffee - about future plans as well as current topics.

We would like to see some more new members - have a word with Betty Sanders or Jean Whitehead. Come and join us!

THE TONBRIDGE CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

Christine Highland

Last October, Tonbridge hosted its first town wide Arts Festival. It was an opportunity to show the talents and skills that the people of Tonbridge possess.

Mark Brown had the excellent idea of hosting an art exhibition within the church of St Peter & St Paul as our contribution to the Arts Festival. He wanted to call it the Pillars of Truth and it to be an illustration of the truths of the Christian faith.

A group of about eight of us gathered to produce the finished works that created a stunning exhibition unique in the Arts Festival. The exhibits ranged from flower arrangements to needlework, woodwork and painting. There was a table display of small creatures made by local schoolchildren and the whole effect was varied and inspiring.

Many people came to view it and I believe we were one of the most visited displays in the Festival. We had locals, students and tourists of various nationalities and their comments were extremely favourable.

It was a successful exercise in team work and co-operation as not only did we have the expertise of the exhibitors but the hospitality team were there and a bevy of stewards to act as hosts. All in all I think we did ourselves and the town proud!

Special Services

PET SERVICE

Venue: St Philip's

Contact: Ray Tanner, 01732 351422/raytanner_1@btinternet.com

Another fine day saw our church filled with dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters - all behaving themselves! A well attended Sunday afternoon service, when many people came along to give thanks for the pleasure that their pets give them. Some great singing too, as well as Tom Robertson engaging with all the folk and children who came to learn about their pets and names.

It is intended to hold another service on **July 3rd 2011** at **4.00pm**



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