

16th June 2022

News from the parish



Dear church family

SUMMER READ!

One of the most encouraging things about being a Christian is that God calls us into a family of believers. Where, together in the local church, we can share the joys and challenges of life, and seek to both challenge and encourage one another on as Christians. Hebrews 10:24 calls us to “*consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*”

Over the years, I have been most personally encouraged when that happens on a 1-1 basis. Sitting down with another Christian to open the Bible together and chat about what that really means for us tomorrow and on into the week ahead. It's where the 'rubber hits the road' of the Christian life, so to speak! **Last week I found myself in one of those 1-1 sessions chatting about this book:** <https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/respectable-sins>

We were chatting about some of the things we think are ok or unimportant in the Christian life, but which the Bible challenges us on if we are seeking to live for Jesus. Of course, we all know that things like stealing or murder are sins. But what about discontentment or unthankfulness?!

This book – ‘Respectable Sins’ (by Jerry Bridges) – both encourages and challenges us in some of those areas. The subtitle is simply ‘Confronting the sins we tolerate.’ As we seek to live for Jesus (our vision statement ‘Living Jesus, Loving Tonbridge’), how great if God’s Spirit did His work in some of those areas we are not even aware we need His help with to be changed more and more into the likeness of Jesus!

The book above is written by a particular Christian for a particular group of Christians, but I am sure whatever label we might give ourselves as Christians, and whether or not we agree with everything in it, this book will be both a great challenge and encouragement for each of us.

So with all that in mind, can I commend this book as a SUMMER READ for each of us across our churches who would like to (you can purchase using the link above). Perhaps read it at home, on holiday, in a lunch break, travelling to work, or wherever you would like. We will also plan a DISCUSSION EVENING in the early autumn for those who have read the book and would like to share and discuss our thoughts and reflections (details to follow).

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:1-2)



 Ben Thorndike, Vicar

- It's not long now until **Holiday Club** and bookings close on 1st July. We still have space for more children to join us, and booking forms can be found in our churches or **on our website**. We want as many to join us as possible, and cost doesn't need to be a barrier to attendance, so **talk to us** if this is something that you're concerned about.
- Things on Sundays will be happening a little differently over the Summer, and we want to give those who regularly service in the YCF ministry a break, so if you're willing and able to support a more basic way of doing things from 31st July to 28th Aug please **let us know**.
- Please continue to pray for our children, young people, families & team:
 - for those continuing to undertake exams at this time
 - for continuing preparations for Holiday Club & more children to book
 - that **Worship in the Wild** on 26th June would be a great time of fun & engagement with God
 - that families would increasingly feel safe & able to join us for Sunday worship
 - for fruitful times of rest for the YCF team among the busyness of the term

Parish family news & activities coming up..

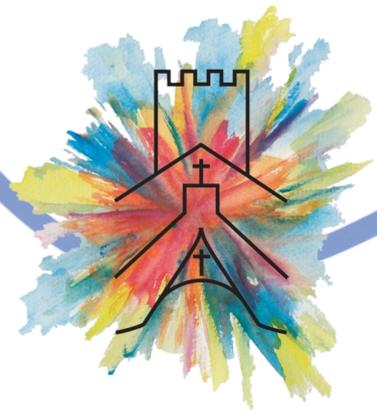


- **Bakehouse Books**, currently meeting in P&P's Upper Lounge, Mondays 10-11.30am, is soon to start a new book. If anyone is interested in joining us, all are welcome, if you are unable to attend but would like to follow the book at home we will be reading Pete Greig's 'God on Mute'. For more information contact Rev'd Wendy Carr on wendy@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk.
- **Whole-parish Prayer Evening**, Wednesday 6th July, 7.30pm refreshments for 7.45pm @ St Philip's. Another opportunity for us to be a praying church together.
- **Baton Brunch**, Thursday 7th July, 10am-12noon, serving Coffee, Tea & Pastries @ St Peter & St Paul to follow the arrival of the Commonwealth Games Baton through Tonbridge. Come along & bring guests!
- **Holiday Club weekend**, see Youth, Children & Families on p1; deadline for booking children is 1st July!
- Rev'd Wendy Carr will be leading a **quiet day in Hildenborough** on Tuesday 26th July, 9.30am-12.30pm; places are limited so if you would like to book contact wendy@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk.
- **Bishop Given's August visit**: save the date as we welcome Bishop Given & his wife Lilian into our Parish with events taking place @ St Peter & St Paul and St Philip's on Friday 12th & Saturday 13th August! Full details to follow, also in July's Newsletter—everyone will have the chance to talk with them!
- **Midweek Holy Communion** at St Peter & St Paul on Wednesday 6th July, 10:30am with Rev'd Ben Thorndike and Wednesday 20th July, 10:30am with Rev'd Deryck Charnock .

GROUPS & ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE PARISH

Day	Group	Meet at...	Contact
Saturday	Health Walks	10am from St Philip	Sandra Stagg sandra_stagg@hotmail.com
	Open House (18/6,9/7)	10am St Philip	Rev'd Wendy Carr wendy@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Sunday	Children's Groups R-Y9 Refresh Y10-13 <i>meet later</i>	10:45am St Peter & St Paul and St Philip	Andy Page andy@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Monday	Book Club	10am St Peter & St Paul	Patricia King patricia_smart@yahoo.com
	Coffee Break inc Thought for the Day	10:30am St Saviour	Alison Wise a.wise.7@btinternet.com
	Men's Fellowship (2nd & 4th Monday)	7:45pm St Philip	Ray Tanner raytanner_1@btinternet.com
Tuesday	Teddies Toddler Group (term time only)	9:30am St Peter & St Paul	Patricia King patricia_smart@yahoo.com
Wednesday	Tiny Acorns under 1s (all year round)	10:30am St Peter & St Paul	Sara Thomson sarajthomson44@gmail.com
Thursday	Stepping Stones Bible Study (term time only)	10am St Peter & St Paul	Josephine Sinclair josephinedb@yahoo.co.uk
Friday	Women's Fellowship (2nd & 4th Friday)	7:30pm St Philip	Marion Evans marionevans244@gmail.com

The month ahead – services



SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES & PREACHERS

Sunday	St Peter & St Paul 8am Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul 10:45am Service*	St Peter & St Paul 6pm Evening Service
19th June / Luke 15: 11-32	Rev'd Ben Thorndike	Dr Jeremy King	Rev'd Wendy Carr
26th June / Mark 3: 20-35	Rev'd Wendy Carr	Sally Musson	Rev'd Ben Thorndike (HC) Hebrews 5: 11 - 6: 12
3rd July / Mark 4: 1-25	Rev'd Ben Thorndike	Rev'd Ben Thorndike (HC)	Rev'd Ben Thorndike Hebrews 6: 13-20
10th July / Mark 4: 26-34	Rev'd Wendy Carr	Rev'd Wendy Carr	John Schluter John 1: 1-18
17th July / Holiday Club	Rev'd Deryck Charnock	Rev'd Ben Thorndike	Sally Musson

Sunday	St Philip 10:45am Service	St Andrew 9:15am Service	St Saviour 9:15am Service
19th June / Luke 15: 11-32	Rev'd Ben Thorndike	George Gilbert-Smith (HC)	Rev'd Ben Thorndike
26th June / Mark 3: 20-35	Rev'd Wendy Carr	Robin Dunn	Sally Musson (HC)
3rd July / Mark 4: 1-25	Andy Kirkpatrick	Rev'd Ben Thorndike	Sally Musson
10th July / Mark 4: 26-34	Helen Longley (HC)	Robin Dunn (HC)	Helen Longley
17th July / Holiday Club	Whole-Parish	All-age Service	@ St Peter & St Paul

(HC) Holy Communion Service

* also livestreamed on our YouTube channel

REGULAR OPPORTUNITIES TO PRAY WITH OTHERS:

- **Church Family Prayers** over Zoom (873 2048 1612), every Friday at 9.30am for 15-20 minutes. We gather to pray together for ministry over the weekend ahead, and other things happening in the life of the church and the world and would love you to join us.
- **Saturday Morning Prayers** alternate in person on 1st & 3rd Saturdays at P&P with Zoom gatherings on 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturdays each month!
- **Wednesday Evening Prayers** monthly at St Philip's, 7.30pm on 1st Wednesdays of the month!

Any queries, please contact the Parish Office.