The Parish of St Peter & St Paul Tonbridge

Parish Profile

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St George's Day parade on Tonbridge castle lawn

INTRODUCTION

Tonbridge is an old Kentish market town in the Medway Valley with a population of about 40,000. The original part of the town is on the north bank of the river and contains the Norman castle, the parish church and Tonbridge School.

With the arrival of the railway in the 1840s the town expanded southwards across water meadows via the High Street to the railway station. Fast and frequent trains services to London Charing Cross, London Bridge and Cannon Street mean that it is a popular centre for commuters.

There are a number of excellent secondary schools which draw students from both Sevenoaks to the north and Tunbridge Wells to the south. Right Move's 'Happy at Home' index recently declared Tonbridge to be the happiest place to live in the south east. The population covers a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds, with some areas of significant deprivation, but there is relatively low ethnic diversity. See page 35 for further information.

The parish of St Peter & St Paul was once the largest parish in the Diocese of Rochester. It now occupies the larger section of the town north of the river Medway. The southern part of the town comprises the neighbouring parish of St Stephen's. The parish is part of the Tonbridge Archdeaconry, led by the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, the Ven. Julie Conalty. The Area Dean of the Tonbridge Deanery is the Rev'd. Miriam Barker, Community Chaplain.

At St Peter & St Paul we are members of a lively, evangelical parish. We worship in four churches; St Peter & St Paul, St Andrew, St Philip and St Saviour, which are geographically separated and have varied styles of worship. As a single parish we are committed to serving God through Jesus Christ, growing in knowledge and love of him, and serving our local community as his Holy Spirit leads us. We are looking for a new vicar to lead us, teach us and help us grow as an outward-looking fellowship. We hope you will help us widen the scope of our service to the community and enable us to share the gospel with the growing number of young families and others in our town.

The Ven Julie Conalty

FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF TONBRIDGE

This is one of the larger parishes in the Tonbridge Archdeaconry (and, indeed, the wider Diocese) and the churches have great potential to grow further through the ongoing nurture of missional disciples and by mission and community engagement. It is therefore a significant and exciting role.

In Rochester Diocese, we maintain a strong commitment to parish ministry. Our strategic vision - **Called Together** - was launched in November 2017. We discerned its core themes after engaging widely across the Diocese, seeking to hear what God is calling us to in this place and time. Its three themes – Growing Disciples, Enriching our Communities, Resourcing our Mission and Ministry – will direct our priorities until the end of 2022. Every parish in the Diocese is invited to support the shared vision in a way that fits their local context, working towards the same goals. Though we recognise that Covid-19 has changed the way we minister, we are also excited to see how our churches will rise to the challenges ahead as we emerge from lockdown.

For more information please contact the Ven Julie Conalty, Archdeacon of Tonbridge

archdeacon.tonbridge@rochester.anglican.org

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

As the vicar of Tonbridge, you will find a warm welcome from a fellowship which hopes you will bring the following essential qualities:

- Biblical preaching and teaching
- Proven experience in parish leadership, team involvement and encouragement of lay ministry
- Clear vision and initiative, stemming from your own love of God and openness to the working of His Holy Spirit
- Energy, a pastoral heart and warmth of personality
- Experience in youth and children's ministry and outreach
- Encouragement of evangelism and wide community involvement
- Support for the role of women in ordained ministry
- Committed to safeguarding and a safer church for all

Your role will encompass leading a parish of four congregations and church buildings, with a ministry team and staff team and a single Parochial Church Council (PCC). As vicar of Tonbridge you will also be patron of the adjoining Parish of St John, Hildenborough.

We are sure that you will appreciate this unique community; clearly one parish but with four active worship centres which attract a wide variety of parishioners. We value biblical exposition which will enable us to be nurtured in faith and confidence and to be encouraged in our practical witness and evangelism to our friends and neighbours. It is important to us that children, young adults and families are encouraged and drawn in and brought to personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Holiday Club music

We look forward to getting to know you and we hope that you will enjoy learning about the many groups and activities which use our buildings. Music, for example, is very important to us and we celebrate many different styles of musical worship. We expect you to support this strength and variety. As vicar of this parish, you will have key opportunities to work with the many other churches in the town. Our Member of Parliament and the Borough Council also value close contact with our parish.

We hope you will appreciate the many blessings there are in this parish and relish the challenges which undoubtedly await us as a fellowship. We will provide support for you by friendship, prayer and in practical ways.

OUR VISION

Our calling is to be a Christian community with worship at the heart of all that we do. We believe that our life together and our shared mission in the world should flow out of our worship of the God we see in the face of Jesus. We aim to be in tune with the work of the Holy Spirit of God as we participate in God's mission today. This is who we are:

Multi-congregational and multi-media

Rooted in our local community, we are a church family of all ages, diverse in our needs, callings and aspirations. We value our unity as a single parish as well our individuality as fellowships. Newcomers relate best to the church and congregation they join, then become aware of and are absorbed into the wider parish fellowship. The variety of our worship styles suits a wide range of people and makes for a rounded whole.

Inevitably, with the exception of a relatively short period in mid-2020, most of our recent worship has been via the online platforms YouTube and Zoom. We are looking forward to the challenges that will face us post-pandemic as we merge online services with open buildings and the more widespread use of social media and other digital means for outreach and ministry.

Games at the parish church

Evangelical

Our commitment to scripture, mission, evangelism and discipleship are the foundations of our faith. We welcome Christian disciples from other traditions and want to learn from them, growing together in passion and love for God. We aim to work out our faith in practical service to our community as well as witness to God's love. We welcome those who are less sure of what they believe and want to make space for those who doubt or disagree.

Wholeheartedly Anglican

We express our love for the living God through a breadth and depth of spirituality and worshipping styles. We give thanks for the generations who have gone before us, we wholeheartedly belong to the Diocese of Rochester and we value the Anglican ordering of mission, ministry and worship.

Life-giving Questions

In summer 2020, the parish undertook a substantial consultation exercise across the congregation called Life-giving Questions. The responses that were received have informed and shaped many of the comments in this profile. The full report is available on the parish website at https://tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk/Groups/358286/Life_Giving_Questions.aspx

The east window in the parish church

Lunch on a parish away-day overlooking the town

THE PARISH IN CONTEXT

The parish of St Peter & St Paul has a population approaching 24,000 and its oldest properties are grouped around the parish church, the castle and Tonbridge School. Rapid expansion of the town in the late 19th century after the arrival of the railway, and particularly in the 1930s, 1960s and 1980s, can be traced in greater distances from the river. Recent expansion of housing in the town south of the river has led to the opening of a new Church of England primary school in St Stephen's parish.

Light industry has developed east along the river and the centre of the town is bordered by extensive sportsgrounds which are an important amenity for the community. The castle, an original Norman motte and bailey construction, serves as a focal point for the town. Its commanding position overlooking the river and its well-kept grounds means it is a popular meeting point. River walks at the foot of the castle walls are centres for outdoor services, town fairs and enthusiastically supported annual Dragon boat races.

Dragon boat racing on the river Medway

The town is blessed with many community groups. The population is large enough for good-quality activities, yet small enough to maintain its own identity in its position between Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells. The local clubs and societies cover community, cultural and sporting areas. Music, art, drama, athletics, soccer and rugby union all have large followings. Both Tonbridge Philharmonic Society and Tonbridge Music Club use the parish church for concerts and recitals. The church is a centre for Jane Austen Society meetings as a result of her family's connections with the parish and Tonbridge School. We hope that you will continue and extend our good relations with the societies in Tonbridge.

We have contacts with the many schools and thousands of children attending them in the town. We trust that you will continue with our ministry of engagement with both maintained and independent schools, primary and secondary. The town is an outstanding centre for education with seven secondary schools and numerous state and private primary and junior/preparatory schools. The internationally known Tonbridge School is a major employer. West Kent College, based in south Tonbridge, is a college of further and higher education with thousands of students, full time and part-time. Tonbridge also has an adult education centre.

For further details, please see page 35.

Other churches in Tonbridge

Our parish is part of Tonbridge Area Churches Together, which also includes Tonbridge Baptist Church, The River Church, Christ Church URC, Hillsong Tonbridge, St John's Church Hildenborough, Hope Church, St Mary's Hadlow, St Stephen's with St Eanswythe's, Corpus Christi RC, the Redeemed Church of God and Tonbridge Methodist Church. The ministers meet regularly for fellowship, encouragement and sharing. The young people across the churches engage in joint services and activities.

Churches have combined to organise summer Fundays which have been well attended and hugely appreciated by the whole town community.

PARISH OVERVIEW

Meet the team

Our team at St Peter & St Paul currently consists of an Associate Vicar (the Revd Wendy Carr), a Youth and Children's Minister (Andy Page), a Youth and Children's Worker (Emily Speed) and a full-time Licensed Lay Minister (Dr Sally Musson). Together with the Parish Church Administrator (Jane Higgs) and the Vicar's PA and Finance Administrator (Yolanda Roberts), these form the staff team. We also have a strong group of LLMs, readers and pastoral assistants who work across the parish in leading, preaching and caring roles.

There are many lay volunteers who support the work of the parish in a wide variety of ways, including the parish treasurer and a finance team, churchwardens for the parish (Adam Calvert and Paul White), deputy and assistant wardens, caterers, flower arrangers, sacristans and many others.

Wendy Carr

Sally Musson

Andy Page

Jane Higgs

Yolanda Roberts

Emily Speed

Adam Calvert

Paul White

Parish finances

The parish finances are in good health. We have assets of more than £2m, consisting mainly of parish housing. The accounts for 2020 show funds to the value of £320,000 of which £195,000 is restricted to specific uses such as ministry, youth and mission. Half the remaining funds (non-restricted) are dedicated to church repair funds for the four church buildings. The other half is mainly used to for repair and maintenance of the housing stock.

The general fund turns over about £375,000 in a normal year, but this was reduced last year to £300,000 due to the impact of the Coronavirus crisis. The major source of income is regular donations from about 120 main donors. The remaining income (about 20 per cent) is generated from rental of the houses, event hire of the church buildings and takings at the café. Payments to the Diocese are subject to an offer system based on covering clergy and other diocesan support costs, plus a contribution to the poorer parts of the Diocese. The other main costs are staff (consisting of administrators, youth workers and cleaners), the tithed allocation to our mission partners, building maintenance and utilities.

The financial affairs are managed by the parish treasurer, a finance assistant and a bookkeeper. A finance committee meets four or five times a year to help develop financial and fundraising plans and produce a budget.

The upper foyer and kitchen in the parish church

Organisation and administration

The parish has an electoral roll of 440 with the following breakdown:

St Peter & St Paul – 271

St Saviour – 75

St Andrew – 31

St Philip – 63

The PCC meets five to six times a year, with the standing committee meeting in the intervening periods. The standing committee comprises the incumbent, associate vicar, the churchwardens, the parish treasurer and PCC secretary. The PCC has also established a finance committee, a mission action group, a property group and a Kondoa sub-committee. The finance committee consist of a church warden, stewardship adviser, parish treasurer and co-opted members of congregations. The mission action group meets quarterly, consists of a representative from each church, and is responsible for the distribution of the parish tithe. The property group, established by the PCC, meets regularly and has input from individual church representatives.

Tonbridge
St Peter and St Paul

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The parish office handles requests for life events as well as the day-to-day running of the parish in liaising with the many groups and different activities that take place in our church buildings (pre-pandemic) and communicating with our parishioners and wider community via our website www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk and various platform media (Facebook, Instagram). The quarterly full colour magazine 'Perspectives' is distributed free across the parish as well as to subscribers and is outward-looking in its aim.

1. St Peter & St Paul
2. St Saviour
3. St Philip
4. St Andrew

Morning service at the parish church

Our buildings

The parish estate consist of four churches, a vicarage and car park, plus three houses which are owned by the parish.

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church

With an interesting history, dating back to before 1100, the parish church has been extended and modified several times over its history and is now well equipped for everyday use. A large foyer, two floors of side rooms, offices, two kitchens and a café and toilets were constructed within the building in the 1980s. Recently the chancel has been refurbished, cleared and extended as a stage into the nave, while modern lighting and an AV system have been installed. There is a fine pipe organ and space for music groups.

With a capacity of between 350 to 450, it is the largest building in the parish, and it hosts parish-wide services, as well as more intimate services in the chancel.

Regular groups meet during the week, and special community events are held at weekends. The chancel and stage area accommodate full orchestras and choirs as well as hosting world-renowned musicians organised by our local musical organisations.

St Saviour's Church

St Saviour is a Victorian church in Dry Hill Park Crescent. Originally built in 1875, it underwent re-ordering in 2010, replacing the Victorian pews with chairs and removing the choir stalls to provide a flexible space. Now 150 can be seated in comfort, up to 200 if necessary. There is also a kitchen and toilet with disabled access within the church and a small undercroft fitted out as a prayer room with an adjacent toilet.

The congregation is older rather than younger, with a few young families. It is a welcoming and caring fellowship which, in recent years, has attracted new members.

The church is close to Tonbridge School and to a couple of preparatory schools. Its closest school link is with Hilden Oaks, who use the church building for various purposes and it is hoped to develop this relationship further.

The church is increasingly used for concerts and by outside groups as well as for parish meetings. The future vision is for increased engagement with the local neighbourhood. Part of this vision is a plan to develop a community space within the grounds where people can sit and chat.

An outreach supper at St Saviour

St Philip's Church

St Philip was established as a response to the northern expansion of the town in the 1960s. The current building was constructed in 1969 in the centre of developing estates, a proportion of which is social housing. It was designed to be a dual-purpose church and community centre. The hall has a large kitchen and smaller adjacent rooms.

Services are slightly more informal than elsewhere in the parish, using a worship group favouring modern worship songs.

The building is also extensively used by the local community for activities, being a good-sized hall without fixed pews. It fulfils many needs and hosts a pre-school, Brownies and other local clubs. There is also on-site parking. In front of the church, a community garden has been developed in conjunction with the local council to provide a peaceful place to sit for the community and a venue for occasional outdoor services.

St Andrew's Church

St Andrew is the smallest of the four churches, situated near the north-eastern boundary of the parish on the edge of a commercial orchard. It is an early 20th century wooden structure, carefully maintained and much loved by its congregation. Recent connection to mains water and drainage has enhanced the facilities and now offers the possibility of wider use.

As a result of these changes after-service refreshments can now be provided. The building now offers potential for use for staff meetings, prayer meetings, youth group meetings, quiet days, etc. The leadership team is also keen to develop occasional openings when refreshments and quiet prayer time could be available to the many people who use the adjacent footpath.

The vicarage and garden from the parish church tower

The vicarage

The vicarage, a 1960's construction next to the parish church, currently has a kitchen, two reception rooms, breakfast room and cloakroom downstairs. Upstairs are five bedrooms, bathroom and shower room. The coach house, adjacent to the vicarage, contains a large study for the vicar, plus a room and services for the vicar's PA. There is a small car park in front of the vicarage for the use of the parish.

The Diocese has planning permission for an extension to the vicarage to provide a study and other enhancements. Planning permission is also held for the construction of a house in part of the existing vicarage garden. Any completion of this development is also expected to include the sale of part of the car park in order to provide access to the new property. Under the Diocese's current plans, some of the proceeds from the sale will be used to fund the vicarage extension.

As part of the development plans, the Diocese intends to transfer the remainder of the car park and the coach house to glebe land.

12 & 14 Salisbury Road

These two detached, four-bedroom linked houses were built in 1970 next to St Philip's church and have housed either church staff or are let commercially. The land on which they are built is owned jointly with the Diocese.

13 Dry Hill Park Crescent

This substantial, semi-detached house was constructed by the parish on allotment land owned by the parish next to St Saviour's church. Built to a high specification, it has five bedrooms and a visitor area and currently houses the associate vicar.

PARISH WORSHIP, MINISTRY and ACTIVITIES

Response to Covid-19

As with all other parishes across the country, we have had to adapt all our activities over the past year in response to the restrictions of lockdown and social distancing. Fortunately, we have been able to draw upon the talents of many parishioners to keep our church active even though our buildings have been closed.

Services

Pre-pandemic we had a range of services across our four churches and these are detailed in the Appendix, together with the lockdown programme of services provided online.

In normal times members of the parish lead short services for residents in Chestnut Lodge Care Home, Castle Court and Holmes Court retirement apartments. Several parishioners are involved in the ministry of taking home communion to the housebound.

Prayer

Prayer across the parish is vital to our life and growth. We have various groups that meet weekly and monthly linked by a prayer coordinator. On Mondays two groups meet, one to pray for children and youth and the other to pray for ministry in the parish. Every Saturday and also on the first Wednesday of the month in the evening a group prays for the parish. There are also prayer walks, plus a confidential prayer chain that prays by request for individuals and families. Prayer teams are available to offer prayer ministry after services.

Young people and children

The team, our Youth and Children's Minister and our part-time Youth and Children's Worker, are also joined by a number of skilled volunteers.

Groups covering all age groups, for example; Sunday Club, Refresh, Grub and Connect experience Bible-based teaching and a variety of social events. Fun Club runs in one of the local primary schools as a partnership between High Hopes (a local evangelistic charity) and the parish, while Experience Journeys helps primary aged children walk through special times in the church year.

Holiday Club all together

Holiday Club

In recent years a summer holiday club has run for a week at the start of the school holidays. Up to 170 children of primary age have enjoyed activities, bible teaching and outdoor fun. The youngest children used St Saviour's church, with school years one to six in the parish church. Leadership came from adults and teenagers. The final session for everyone, was followed by a barbeque in the vicarage garden.

Pastoral care

Pastoral care is an essential ingredient of the parish's ministry and one we are continually seeking to improve. Pre-pandemic we introduced 'Who's in Your Pew?' as a practical way of looking out for those around us. There are go-to points of contact in each church if we spot that someone is missing from the congregation or if there is a pastoral need.

All four churches have a strong, informal pastoral caring network and, during the pandemic, a comprehensive pastoral database was established to reach beyond our regular congregation members. Very swiftly more than 600 people were receiving weekly calls from around 70 callers to ensure that both their practical and prayer needs were being met. New relationships have been established, alongside inspiring stories of answered prayer.

Some members of the parish serve as volunteers on the chaplaincy team at Tunbridge Wells Hospital, engaging in ward visiting and undertaking on-call duties.

Others have special care for the elderly as Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends. We will be seeking to establish a more co-ordinated and effective approach to caring for the elderly, the lonely, the bereaved, those living with dementia and those in need more generally.

Life events

Marriage preparation classes are held, as well as baptism and confirmation classes. Several of our lay ministers are trained to take funerals and engage in ministry to the bereaved.

Courses

Various outreach events are held throughout the year, including lunchtime concerts, invitation services and evangelistic evenings. We held a very successful Big Questions series and this was used subsequently as a springboard for outreach.

We held a popular online Alpha in autumn 2020 and a follow-up group has emerged from that. A further Alpha course ran from January to March 2021 with more than 20 participants.

We have run the Diocesan Caring Concerns course on two occasions for both parishioners and others in the deanery.

Music

Worship through music is important to us across all four churches, with a great many parishioners involved as individuals or as members of choirs and worship groups. It is a feature of the parish music that all styles of music are used and welcomed. During the lockdown periods several of our IT specialists have helped record montages of hymns and songs provided by singers in the parish. Re-establishing our choirs and groups is a much-anticipated aim for the good of us all and our worship. Two of our buildings are served by well-maintained pipe organs and these are used in conjunction with choir and music groups of different shapes and sizes.

The parish church building in particular is used for our own occasional lunchtime concerts and a wide variety of town-wide musical activity (in which many parishioners are involved), which can often provide good opportunities for outreach.

Part of the Hope for Justice family

HOPE FOR JUSTICE

Change lives. End slavery.

Mission partners, overseas links and charitable giving

The parish tithes 10 per cent of donations to the general fund for charitable giving. Of the tithe, 80 per cent is allocated to our nominated mission partners and the remaining 20 per cent is distributed to other charitable causes.

Hope for Justice (St Peter & St Paul's partner) is an international Christian charity seeking to prevent human trafficking by rescuing victims and street children.

High Hopes (St Philip's partner) is a local charity that has been working for more than 25 years in the Tonbridge area. It holds assemblies at local schools with the aim of reaching children with the life-giving revelation of the person of Jesus Christ and His teachings.

Overseas Mission Fellowship (OMF) The Gelsthorpe family (St Saviour's partner) the Gelsthorpes and their three children are originally from the UK, but moved to Japan in 2014 to train and work as church-planters with OMF.

Bishop Ken Barham OBE (St Andrew's partner) Bishop Barham has been active in the growth of the Anglican Church in East Africa for much of his life. He served as the Bishop of Cyangugu Diocese in Rwanda from 1996 before retiring in 2001.

Langham Partnership (parishwide partner) founded by John Stott, actively promotes Bible knowledge in the Majority World. Chris Wright, the International Ministries Ambassador, is a former curate in our parish.

Kondoa school pupils and teachers pictured with a youth team from St Peter & St Paul Tonbridge, August 2019

Kondoa, Tanzania (parishwide partner and overseas link) The parish is hugely privileged to be part of a growing link with the cathedral congregation at the Church of the Good Shepherd in the Diocese of Kondoa, Tanzania. As a parish we have made more than 10 trips to Kondoa, including three youth visits, as we seek to be with our friends in Kondoa, to encourage the link and inspire both young and old. Similarly, Bishop Given Gaula and his wife Lilian have made several trips to visit us.

Community engagement

The picture both within the church family and in the wider Tonbridge community is one of arms outstretched to engage with each other and with the local community.

Pre-Covid there were two weekly groups for babies and parents (Tiny Acorns) and pre-schoolers (Teddies) and their carers. Tonbridge parish is the sponsoring authority for a Scout group (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) and a Brownies and Guides group.

Open House took place every Saturday morning at St Philip. Local families and individuals were welcomed for cake, coffee, conversation, table tennis and workshops including bike repair and sewing. Christmas and Remembrance Day offered opportunities for engagement with all ages in the local community.

FEAST (Families Eating and Sharing Together) is an initiative started in December 2018, offering hot lunches to low-income families in the holidays across Tonbridge churches. During Covid, FEAST has evolved into a regular provider of food for low-income families through a community larder based in the nearby Methodist Church. Future plans include closer links between FEAST and Open House to extend our outreach into the community around St Philip's Church.

A weekly Coffee Break gathered at St Saviour's church while St Peter & St Paul's coffee lounge was open Monday to Saturday mornings. Weekly needlework and knitting groups were held while annual church events such as Shrove Tuesday and All Hallows' Eve opened up to non-churched children in the form of pancake parties and light parties. The annual Heritage Weekend invited all to celebrate the skills of the community including craft and music making, poetry reading and cake making.

Coffee Break at St Saviour

Fundraising events, including two parish musicals *Joseph* and *Do You Hear the People Sing?* where auditions were open to all and where the public were also invited to come and enjoy the performances. A town-wide Passion Play, staged on the castle lawn was a remarkably moving and evangelistic event.

Post-Covid, we plan to resume the FEAST holiday lunches and to develop support for the community in other ways besides food provision, through events and workshops held at Open House or at other times. We also hope to link up with other agencies such as Citizens Advice Bureau and Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services.

Joseph musical

Fellowship groups

As of March 2020, our 12 Home groups quickly morphed into Zoom groups and the warmth of hospitality in the home was exchanged for the joy of continuing to meet face to virtual face. The many different groups meet during the week for mutual encouragement, bible study, prayer, fellowship or other activities.

In addition, there is a men's group, a women's fellowship, Stepping Stones - reaching mainly women and including an active crèche - and a book club. Together, these groups are contacting regularly a further 100 or so participants. Most but not all those attending are church members, but the groups are also a means of connecting with many different people and are the way in which much pastoral care is done across the parish.

Living Stones, informal fellowship groups launched in January 2021, builds on the contact-caller system and complements the existing home groups. Each will develop in its own way and the initiative will be reviewed after six months.

BLESSINGS AND CHALLENGES

Blessings

- We are a large, supportive fellowship with strong pastoral connections, which looks outwards. We want to help our local community by serving it through practical support and spiritual witness

- We have a large and capable ministry team supported by many volunteers

- Our four churches attract a variety of new members as a result of their different locations and styles of worship

- We live in a varied and friendly community which is expanding by the addition of young families who need to know the love of God in their lives

- Our fellowship has responded generously to appeals for financial support, including mission activity, youth work funding and improvements to our buildings

- Our parish finances have remained sound and we have contributed significantly to the funds of the diocese through the annual pledge

Challenges

- Managing a complex parish and four churches while maintaining unity of fellowship
- Encouraging involvement by every member through using their time and talents in the Lord's service and in the building of this part of his church
- Attracting and keeping in touch with busy young families with so many competing activities on Sunday mornings
- Providing genuine leadership in caring for one another, particularly:
  - young adults in their early twenties
  - the increasing number of elderly single members, many of whom are often isolated and lonely
- Reviewing the administration of the parish and possibly recruiting an operations manager
- Encouraging visible unity among the churches in Tonbridge as a witness to the town
- Widening the scope of our social action in the local community, which has areas of deprivation, as we recover from the pandemic
- Reducing our carbon footprint as part of our care for the planet
- Reflecting as a parish on the Living in Love and Faith discernment project

FIND OUT MORE

Parish website:		tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Associate vicar:	Rev'd Wendy Carr	wendy@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
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	Paul White	paul@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
PA to vicar:	Yolanda Roberts	yolanda@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
Parish office:	Jane Higgs	parishoffice@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk
PCC secretary:	David Robins	davidrobins@blueyonder.co.uk
Parish treasurer:	Les Naylor	treasurer@tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

Local information

TMBC	tmbc.gov.uk
	ukcensusdata.com/tonbridge-and-malling-e07000115
	kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/facts-and-figures-about-Kent
	ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-tonbridge-kent-38874.html
Tourist info	tonbridgecastle.org

Appendix: pre-pandemic services in the parish

St Peter & St Paul

8am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month)

10am Morning Service (4th Sunday – Holy Communion)

6.30pm Evening Service

St Saviour

8am Holy Communion (2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays in the month)

10am Morning Service (1st Sunday – Holy Communion)

St Andrew

10am Morning Service (2nd Sunday – Holy Communion)

St Philip

10.30am Morning Service (3rd Sunday – Holy Communion)

In the period between lockdowns, we held a reduced number of services in our four churches, observing Covid-19 restrictions. The main focus throughout the pandemic period has been the 10am Sunday livestreamed service on our YouTube channel and we envisage this continuing in some form post-pandemic. In addition, we are broadcasting a short Compline service with a Thought for the Day at 6.30pm and a reflection at 10am on Wednesday mornings. These are supplemented by additional or different offerings for major festivals and special days in the church calendar.

Post-pandemic we are exploring the various options for live-streaming services and for services aimed particularly at families, such as some form of outdoor church. We see this as a real opportunity to develop new forms of service provision within the parish.

A phone line service provides the Sunday morning sermon and other reflections as well as a Timely Thought. This offers a reading, short reflection and prayer and is updated twice weekly.