

Support through partnership Tim Hill, Chairman, outlines the work of the ECT



Eden Christian Trust

The Eden Christian Trust (ECT) has run in its present form for nearly 30 years with the key objectives being to: work in partnership with local churches and support them in all areas of youth work and to encourage an understanding of the Christian faith among young people, while providing activities and opportunities that bring them together and encourage 'Community'.

The Trust is an inter-denominational Christian, non for-profit charity, which receives funding through local churches, grant applications, business and personal donations. Anthony Shipwright is our Youth Worker, supported by a committee of Trustees from the local churches.



Youth Club (*above left*) runs every Friday night during term time at the Edenbridge Primary School, led by Anthony and Team Leader volunteers. Regularly 30–40 young people attend and enjoy a planned activity programme. This summer 16 young people and adults will attend the Satellites Festival (*last year, above right*) and we are planning day trips to Go Ape and Chessington.

Importantly, we offer One-to-One weekly mentoring to those young people who need and want extra support from a designated adult. Anthony organises these sessions supported by an experienced team of adult volunteers.

There are many, many other areas where we are involved, be they with the local schools, the Church groups, attending Village Fetes etc, etc.

In the future, as Edenbridge continues to grow with a possible 2,000 homes anticipated, the need for a safe space for young people to relax and socialise will become even more important. We as ECT need to ensure we continue to assess venue opportunities; we value the use of the school but it is not an ideal location.

We have a very loyal and supportive group of volunteers and trustees but always welcome new people, so if you would like to become involved by the giving of your time or financially, then please speak either to me or Anthony or visit our website: ectyouth.com.

God Bless and thank you for taking the time to read this article.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul Edenbridge Pentecost 2026



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Come, Holy Spirit Pentecost marks a turning point, says Anthea Staples

In my childhood, we knew Pentecost as Whitsun – an abbreviation of White Sunday referring to the practice of wearing white clothes to reflect the liturgical colours of the Easter season, celebrating the Day of Pentecost, Church renewal, Holy Baptism and acknowledging God's goodness. (I was confirmed at Ascension and remember wearing a white dress and white shoes – which were soon dyed black as white was an extravagant expense!)

For the Jews, the Day of Pentecost marked the end of the Barley Harvest and the beginning of the Wheat Harvest – both endings and new beginnings – and marked the time to offer the first fruits of everything to God, in accordance with Mosaic law.

For Christians, Pentecost, which occurs seven weeks after Christ's Easter Resurrection, is also a new beginning and marks the birth of the Christian Church.



Before His Ascension, Jesus promised his disciples they would receive a Spiritual Companion to guide and sustain them as they bore witness to the truths of His life on earth and of His Resurrection. I have no reason to think they weren't trusting Jesus' promises, yet I doubt they had any inkling of what was about to happen.

The companion that Jesus had promised, the Holy Spirit, came rushing in like a whirlwind. It brought tongues of fire that rested on each of them; and suddenly they were speaking out in unfamiliar tongues so that each listener heard them in their own language. No wonder some of the crowd thought they were drunk!

These were not highly-educated scholars; they were fishermen and workmen; they represent ordinary everyday people like us. Their sincerity burst forth to share the Good News of Christ's death and resurrection with anyone willing to listen. And their sincerity and courage empower us, as 21st-century Christians, to speak out our faith, to honour Christ's sacrifice, and to invite others to come to know Jesus.

The disciples later faced adversity and obstacles of every kind, but their faith sustained them and kept them strong. The troubles they suffered strengthened their faith and showed others how God can be depended upon no matter what.

Pentecost is a turning-point, it is a door-opening; it is an opportunity to be our best selves in our faithfulness to God. We are the Christian church; we were born in that moment of the Holy Spirit's coming upon the Apostles. Celebrate Pentecost!

A lifetime of service George Lincoln looks back on nearly 60 years at the church

In 1966 I bought a plot of land in Edenbridge and our family building firm, Alan Lincoln Ltd, built the bungalow that I designed and still live in. That was also the year I married my late wife Edna.

I started coming to the church straight away with Edna but she could take communion and I couldn't so she persuaded me to be confirmed. I was prepared by David Bartleet, the Vicar then, and confirmed at Rochester Cathedral in 1967.

I have been attending ever since! Over the years I have been involved in the Sunday School, the Cubs and Scouts, and Christian Aid, and I have been Baptism Co-ordinator for about 30 years. I still see some of the Sunday School children and they often have children of their own now!

I am also the longest serving chalice assistant. Back in the 60s chalice assistants were voted in for two years. We put on a black cassock and sat on a choir stall by the entrance to the vestry. The first time I did it was Midnight Mass one Christmas Eve – my knees were knocking!



I was asked to become a Pastoral Assistant by Richard Ames-Lewis, the Vicar at the time, so I did the two-year training course. I was



Left: *George's Sunday School group outside Church House in 1979.* Right: *George with the painting presented to him by the church in thanks for his long ministry* Below left: *the church magazine of April 1975 with George in the centre of the picture.*

still working in the family building company then – as Company Secretary, doing the estimating and the books; I also did manual work and some of the design work too. Training at the same time was very challenging.

I feel that I am drawn to baptism ministry because I believe that it is a very important sacrament. But also



from my own experience: I was born on 12 March 1936 and baptised on 17 March at the bedside because I wasn't expected to live. However, 90 years later I am still here!



The Coffee morning and plant sale on 9 May was a great success, raising £2,300 for church funds. Many thanks to all those who grew plants and baked cakes – and to those who bought them! The next fundraising event will be the Autumn Fair on Saturday 5 September in the churchyard when once again the Rotary Club will be running the Beer Tent and the Scouts will be running the games

Getting to know... Mavis Walters

I came to Edenbridge 16 years ago after the death of my husband, from South Africa where we had lived for 40 years. I enjoy what I have here now, though to begin with I was very lonely and homesick.



I went to boarding school from the age of eight and after school I lived in London and had a ball in the 1960s! I lived in flatshares in Earls Court and met my husband over my typewriter at work! You are not very aware of the outside world in your teens and twenties; life is very free and great fun.

I only had boarding school friends here and have lost a lot of them but for our 80th birthdays some of us met in London. I feel sad that I have lost my old friends from South Africa. My daughter is an oboist and has played around the world. She has married and come back to the UK so I am not too far from her now but my son lives in Australia. I have four grandchildren, two here and two in Australia.

I love walking and nature and I am passionately crazy on craftwork. I also really love my car, to get me around and to meet up with friends.