

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE ACROSS OUR PARISHES

**Rev Canon Julie is retiring on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April.**

Dear Friends,

This year I will have been in full time ministry for 25 years both lay and ordained. I have been with you in the parishes for over 12 years and I have loved being your parish priest - your rector, and I hope you will feel we have grown and journeyed together in our worship and spiritual growth, becoming a Church family. Over the years our building projects have enabled us to grow our mission and vision in our parishes and it has been a privilege to serve you.

Trevor and I have been thinking and praying for a couple of years about the next stage of our lives. After nearly two years of praying and in discussion with the Bishop, we feel the time has come for me to step back from full time ministry. To have a sabbatical for a while before finding out what next for us and for our family.

This has been a very hard decision to make as after twelve years this Rector has grown to love our church family. It is never easy to leave but the Lord has provided a good team across the benefice and I know He has plans for our future and your future. It will be a time to work together.

Fortunately, the growth of a church isn't just down to the Rector, the church is all of us, praying and serving together. I really want to thank all of you for the many ways you have blessed me over the years.

I am sorry if this comes as a shock to some of you.

During our time here, our own children have married and given us five Grandchildren. We have walked through a pandemic and seen incredible provision to help our churches grow and flourish. Honestly, there is so much to be thankful for. I also know all of you will step up in new ways, working together with those who will support the parishes in prayer.

I want you all to know that the next few months will not change the way I care about each parish. There will be lots to say and do in the coming weeks. I have already begun the process and will make sure we leave with some strong foundations. I also hope our time together will be full of thankfulness and celebration.

When we move, at the end of April, the parish will enter what is called an interregnum. In the interregnum there will be a need for everyone – the whole body of Christ here – to play your part and in praying and preparing for the person that God will call to minister here in the future. It takes time and all our church wardens along with the Archdeacon will work together. We are blessed with a strong team but they will need your support and prayers.

At our three churches PCC meeting on Monday evening, I used the words from 1 Thessalonians 1 where Paul reminds the church of the work of faith, the labour of love and the steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Faith and example lived out together.

Please don't underestimate the emotion I feel about this decision. There will be lots more to say in the coming weeks. Come and talk to me. I am still here! If you have any questions, please do talk to me or one of the **churchwardens**. My last weekend with you all will be the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April.

With love from Rev Canon Julie Sear.

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## Worship this Sunday

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

Candlemas

At St Mary's Hartfield

9.30am Holy Communion

(with Sunday Discoverers or Sunday Connect)

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

At St Mary's, Cowden

10.30am Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

At Holy Trinity Coleman's Hatch

11am Matins

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Lead: Rev Julie Sear

Preacher: Donna Dewar

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## News from the 3 Churches

### Hope Explored

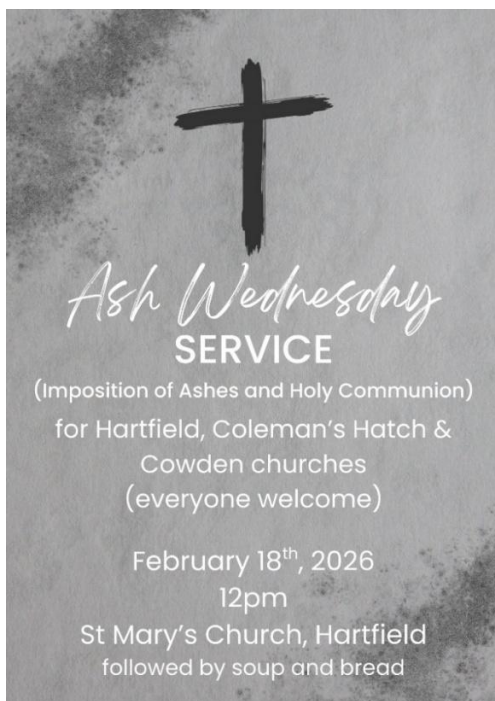
Over three sessions, **Hope Explored** presents the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and provides an opportunity to discover how he fulfils three great longings we all experience: the longing for hope, peace, and purpose.

The structure of each session is simple: a short Bible study, a talk with a film and a discussion about it.

We will be running this at a venue to be decided with the first 2 sessions on **17<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> April from at 20.00-21.00**. If you are interested please speak to Rachel Reid on 07971 979115

### Ash Wednesday

Please see the flyer below for details on the **Ash Wednesday Communion service, 18<sup>th</sup> February at 12pm in St Mary's in Hartfield.**



### Save the dates

Following the recent announcement from Rev Julie, we ask you to save the dates of 25<sup>th</sup> April and 26<sup>th</sup> April so we can have an opportunity to celebrate the time that Julie and Trevor have spent in our churches and wider community; give thanks for all they have done and wish them all the very best for their retirement.

### Hartfield Village Fete

This may seem like a long way off, but preparations are already underway...

**Hartfield Village Fete AGM - Monday 23rd February, 7.00pm Good Station Yard.**

All welcome - please come along and find out how you can support/ help at this important annual village event.

### World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer 2026 will be held on **Friday 6th March at 2pm at St Mary's Church, Hartfield**, followed by refreshments.

Our sisters in Nigeria welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2026. Join us as we pray together and reflect on the theme 'I Will Give You Rest: Come'. World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

Do come and join us!

For more information contact Joanne Griffin on 07941 856715 or [msjoannegriffin@gmail.com](mailto:msjoannegriffin@gmail.com)

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February

2pm-4pm Church Street Community Café  
Homemade cake, tea & coffee. Everyone welcome!

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February

### The Second Sunday Before Lent

#### 9.30am Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February

### The Sunday Next Before Lent

#### 9.30am Holy Communion

(NO Sunday Discoverers and Sunday Connect)

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

## Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

### Ash Wednesday

#### 12pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion

followed by soup and bread

(see flyer in "News from the 3 Churches")

Lead: Rev Julie Sear

Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

## Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February

2pm-4pm Church Street Community Café  
Homemade cake, tea & coffee. Everyone welcome!

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

### The First Sunday of Lent

#### 9.30am Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

## Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February

7.30pm – Praise and Prayer  
(see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

### The Second Sunday of Lent

#### 9.30am Holy Communion

(with Sunday Discoverers and Sunday Connect)

Lead: Rev Nigel Hinton

Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

### Save the Dates:

#### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 3.30pm

Forest Church at Cowden Church (see details in "St Mary Magdalene's Diary")

#### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm

Trinity Talks – Driving Defensively with David Stewart at Trinity Hall. (see details in "Holy Trinity's Diary")

## Children and Youth Corner



5pm-6.15pm Connect at Hartfield Village Hall  
Youths aged 10+. Games, food, and fun!

- 5<sup>th</sup> February
- 5<sup>th</sup> March



5pm-6pm Connect Extra at The Oast  
for youths aged 13+. Read, question, and explore the Christian faith together!

- 12<sup>th</sup> February



#### 9.15am-10.45am Little Stars

Parent and toddler group, tea & coffee provided

- 2<sup>nd</sup> February
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February
- 9<sup>th</sup> February
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March

There will be NO session on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.



#### 9.30am Sunday Connect

at The Oast for Youths aged 10+ for breakfast and chat to build a relationship with Jesus – during the Sunday Communion service

- 1<sup>st</sup> February
- 1<sup>st</sup> March

There will be NO session on 15<sup>th</sup> February.



#### 9.30am Sunday Discoverers

Children up to 10 years to learn more about our Creator – during the Sunday Communion service

- 1<sup>st</sup> February
- 1<sup>st</sup> March

There will be NO session on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February

#### The Second Sunday Before Lent

##### 11am Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am-12pm Trinity Café at Trinity Hall

Serving hot chocolate, coffee, tea & cake.

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February

10.30am, The Holy Trinity Bible Study Group.

To be held at the home of Caroline and Tony Daszewska.

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February

#### The Sunday Next Before Lent

##### 11am Matins

Lead: Donna Dewar

Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

6pm Driving Defensively with David Stewart at Trinity Hall. See details on the flyer below.

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

#### The First Sunday of Lent

##### 11am Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am-12pm Trinity Café at Trinity Hall

Serving hot chocolate, coffee, tea & cake.

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

#### The Second Sunday of Lent

##### 11am Matins

Lead and Preacher: Donna Dewar

##### 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

### Save the Dates:

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 3.30pm

Forest Church at Cowden Church (see details in "St Mary Magdalene's Diary")

#### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 12pm

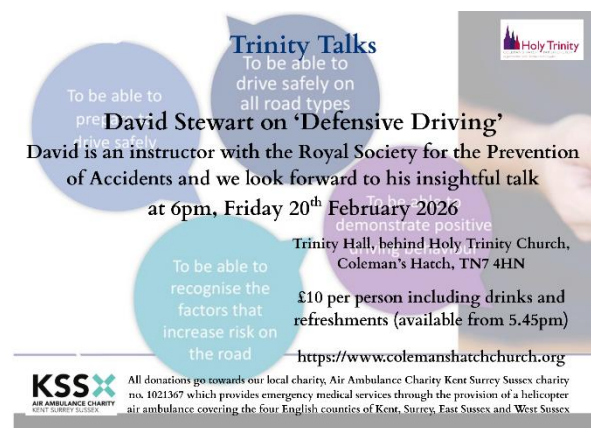
Ash Wednesday Service at St Mary's, Hartfield.

(see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

#### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm

Praise and Prayer at St Mary's, Hartfield.

(see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")



**Trinity Talks**  
To be able to drive safely on all road types

**David Stewart on 'Defensive Driving'**  
David is an instructor with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and we look forward to his insightful talk

at 6pm, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

To be able to recognise the factors that increase risk on the road

To be able to demonstrate positive

Trinity Hall, behind Holy Trinity Church, Coleman's Hatch, TN7 4HN

£10 per person including drinks and refreshments (available from 5.45pm)

<https://www.colemanshatchchurch.org>

**KSS**  
AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY  
KENT SURREY SUSSEX

All donations go towards our local charity Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex charity no. 1021367 which provides emergency medical services through the provision of a helicopter air ambulance covering the four English counties of Kent, Surrey, East Sussex and West Sussex



## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February

10am-12pm Cowden Community Café  
at Cowden Village Hall

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February

### The Second Sunday Before Lent

10.30am Sunday Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February

### The Sunday Next Before Lent

10.30am Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills



## Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

10am-12pm Cowden Community Café  
at Cowden Village Hall

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

### The First Sunday of Lent

10.30am Sunday Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills



## 3.30pm Forest Church

(See flyer below)

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

### The Second Sunday of Lent

10.30am Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

## Save the Dates:

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm

Trinity Talks – Driving Defensively with David Stewart at Trinity Hall, (see details in “Holy Trinity’s Diary”).

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm

Praise and Prayer at St Mary’s, Hartfield.

(see flyer in “News from the 3 churches)



A family time of worship and activities in church and outside, as we celebrate God’s creation

Songs, crafts, story prayers, tea and cakes

4th Sundays at 2.30-4.30pm

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026  
22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

Come dressed for the great outdoors!

Meet in church at 3.30pm

## Prayers and Contacts



### This week we are praying...

For peace and justice in our world, for all caught up in war and conflict, and for peacemakers. For Israel and Gaza, that the fragile peace will hold, and that as the “Board of Peace” is established, that a way forward with the 2nd stage of the peace plan will commence. For Ukraine, that following recent discussions there will be renewed efforts to compel Russia to enter peace negotiations with real intent, so that a just and lasting peace acceptable to Ukraine may be negotiated.

For Greenland, that the troubling US Government rhetoric will cease, and that negotiations between the US and NATO to address security concerns will hear and respect, the will of the Greenlandic people, and the Kingdom of Denmark.

For Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and our government, that there will be renewed focus on policies to help those most in need in our society and build social cohesion.

For those across the world suffering from the impacts of climate change and for greater urgency from politicians and industry to tackle the causes and consequences.

For Dame Sarah Mullally - The Church of England has sworn in Sarah Mullally as its first female Archbishop of Canterbury at a historic ceremony on Wednesday. We pray for her and all who will prayerfully advise her in the coming months.

For those in distress, who feel anxious, who have lost loved ones or are facing difficulties – to know God’s love.

We remember the family of Angie Hough who sadly died last week. Angie’s service of thanksgiving

will take place at St Mary's Church on Saturday 7th March at 2pm followed by tea in the church.

We continue to pray for Sandra Owen, Joyce Maddocks, Frances Stuttaford; Ros Cope: Laurie Kuhrt:

Pray for our Church Wardens, PCC's and new Archdeacon Russell Dewhurst.

With every blessing,  
Rev Julie

### Contacts

**Rev Canon Julie Sear - Rector**

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[revjuliesear1@gmail.com](mailto:revjuliesear1@gmail.com)

(Friday – day of rest)

**Rev Stephen Hills – Associate Vicar**

[hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk)

Rectory Number: 01342 643069

Mobile Number: 07896 971723

**Donna Dewar – Lay Reader**

[dewardonna@googlemail.com](mailto:dewardonna@googlemail.com)

01342 326424

**Rev Nigel Hinton – Retired Clergy**

**Matt Marriott – Hartfield Church Youth Worker**

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07582 054880

**Lisa Gibbs-Murray – Church Administrator**

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**Andrea McGlew - Safeguarding Officer for Hartfield**

01342 850992

**CJ Payne - Safeguarding Officer for Coleman's Hatch**

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**Hilary Clarkson - Safeguarding Officer for Cowden**

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