

A Lenten pace of life . . .

Matthew 4:1

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Luke 5:15-16

The news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

This month we are in the heart of the season of Lent – a time for reflection, and perhaps a ‘re-charge’. Following his baptism, I expect that Jesus wanted to get on with the work he had been called to and to accomplish as much as He could in the time he had available. Yet as well as - and in fact always before - the ‘doing the deeds’ of the King, came the ‘being the beloved’ of the Father. It took six weeks in the wilderness at the beginning, and then the regular withdrawing to places of solitude as time went on.

To use a modern but imperfect analogy - when you take your shiny new phone or gadget from its box it will usually say ‘charge fully before use’, and that may take a long while. From then on, you will probably plug it in regularly for a short time, to ensure that there is always power in the battery. Charging up will involve the gadget stopping for a while from ‘doing’ all the things it is created to do, and ‘being’ in the presence of the power that it needs to do them.

After a service at a cathedral a while ago, I lingered in the majestic space that was built to the glory of God, and sat for a while. I didn’t pick up a Bible, or check my phone, or even pray very much - I just sat in the sacredness of a space dedicated to worship and prayer. After half an hour or so, when it was time to go, I felt my soul a little more charged.

There is no getting away from the need for time spent alone with God. If we think that reading a Bible passage, or a reflection, or hearing a sermon, is enough to resource us for rushing out to fulfil our ministry, whatever that may be, we may find that we still feel as though we are running on empty. Few of us will take 40 days, or even 40 hours. But I can imagine, as they walked from village to village, Jesus stepping aside from the group for a while - perhaps 40 minutes - and then re-joining them, recharged and refreshed through time spent in relationship with his Father.

As part of our Lenten discipline, are there ways and times that we can be recharged? Can we, perhaps, take a slightly different Lenten pace of life?

Rev Stephen Hills.

Worship this Sunday

Sunday 1st March 2026

The Second Sunday of Lent

At St Mary’s Hartfield

9.30am Holy Communion

(with Sunday Discoverers or Sunday Connect)

Lead : Rev Nigel Hinton

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: Donna Dewar

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

Friday 6th March

2pm World Day of Prayer

Saturday 7th March

2pm Service of thanksgiving for the life of Angie Hough

Sunday 8th March

The Third Sunday of Lent

9.30am Morning Worship
with Baptism

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

Sunday 15th March

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday

9.30am Mothering Sunday Holy Communion
(with Sunday Discoverers and Sunday Connect)

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

Sunday 22nd March

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.30am Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear



Sunday 29th March

Palm Sunday

9.30am Morning Worship
with Procession of Palms

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear



Friday 3rd April

Good Friday

9.30am All Age Service
with Prayer Stations
including making an Easter Garden

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear



Sunday 5th April

Easter Day

Time tbc Sunrise Service

at the Four Counties Car Park on Ashdown Forest
Watch out for emails/website/facebook for timings

9.30am Easter Celebration All Age Communion
(NO Sunday Discoverers and Sunday Connect)

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

Save the Dates:

Friday 20th March at 6pm

Trinity Talks – The Road to Equality with Lesley Holland at Trinity Hall. (see flyer in “News from the 3 churches”)

Save the Dates (cont/d):

Sunday 22nd March at 3.30pm

Forest Church at Cowden Church (see flyer in “News from the 3 churches”)

Tuesday 24th March at 7.30pm

Praise and Prayer at Trinity Hall (see flyer in “News from the 3 churches”)

Thursday 2nd April at 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday Supper at Cowden Village Hall (see flyer in “News from the 3 churches”)

Children and Youth Corner



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

- 5th March
- 19th March



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

- 12th March



9.15am-10.45am Little Stars

Parent and toddler group, tea & coffee provided

- 2nd March
- 16th March
- 9th March
- 23rd March

There will be NO session on 30th March.



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

- 1st March
- 15th March

There will be NO session on 5th April.



9.30am Sunday Discoverers

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

- 1st March
- 15th March

There will be NO session on 5th April.

Sunday 8th March

The Third Sunday of Lent

11am Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

Thursday 12th March

9.30am-12pm Trinity Café at Trinity Hall

Serving hot chocolate, coffee, tea & cake.

Saturday 14th March

10.15am for 10.30am, The Holy Trinity Bible Study Group.

The Holy Trinity Bible Study group will be meeting for Lent on Saturday morning, at the home of Caroline and Tony Daszewska

There will be no meeting in April

Sunday 15th March

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday

11am Mothering Sunday Songs of Praise

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

Friday 20th March

6pm The Road to Equality with Lesley Holland at Trinity Hall. (see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

Sunday 22nd March

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

11am Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

Friday 24th March

7.30pm Praise and Prayer at Trinity Hall. (see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

Thursday 26th March

9.30am-12pm Trinity Café at Trinity Hall

Serving hot chocolate, coffee, tea & cake.



Sunday 29th March

Palm Sunday

11am Holy Communion with Procession of Palms

Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton



Friday 3rd April

Good Friday

2pm Meditations at the Foot of the Cross

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear



Sunday 5th April

Easter Day

Time tbc Sunrise Service

at the Four Counties Car Park on Ashdown Forest
Watch out for emails/website/facebook for timings

11am Easter Celebration Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Julie Sear

Save the Dates:

Friday 6th March at 2pm

World Day of Prayer at St Mary's Church in Hartfield. (see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

Sunday 22nd March at 3.30pm

Forest Church at Cowden Church (see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

Thursday 2nd April at 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday Supper at Cowden Village Hall
(see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")



Friday 6th March

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

Sunday 8th March

The Third Sunday of Lent

10.30am Sunday Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Donna Dewar

Sunday 15th March

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills



Friday 20th March

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

Sunday 22nd March

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

10.30am Sunday Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills



3.30pm Forest Church

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



Sunday 29th March

Palm Sunday

10.30am Palm Sunday Morning

Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills



Thursday 2nd April

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Supper
at Cowden Village Hall



Friday 3rd April

Good Friday

11am Good Friday Reflection

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills



Sunday 5th April

Easter Day

Time tbc Sunrise Service

at the Four Counties Car Park on Ashdown Forest
Watch out for emails/website/facebook for timings

10.30am Easter Sunday Family Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

Save the Dates:

Friday 6th March at 2pm

World Day of Prayer at St Mary's Church in
Hartfield. (see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

Friday 20th March at 6pm

Trinity Talks – The Road to Equality with Lesley
Holland at Trinity Hall, (see flyer in "News from the
3 churches").

Tuesday 24th March at 7.30pm

Praise and Prayer at Trinity Hall.

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

 **News from the 3 Churches**

 **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. See flyer below for details:



World Day of Prayer
Friday 6th March
2pm
St Mary's Church,
Hartfield

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.

After the service, refreshments will be served. Do come and join us!

For more information contact Joanne Griffin on 07941 856715 or msjoannegriffin@gmail.com



 **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 **17th March and 21st April from at 20.00-21.00**. If you are interested please speak to Rachel Reid on 07971 979115

Websites: hartfieldchurch.org colemanshatchchurch.org
Facebook: hartfield and colemanshatch

 **Mothering Sunday – 15th March**

There will be a Holy Communion service at **9.30am at St Mary's Hartfield** with flowers distributed at the service.

A Songs of Praise service will be held at **Holy Trinity at 11am** with flowers distributed at the service.

 **Praise and Prayer**

The next Praise and Prayer will be held at **Trinity Hall in Coleman's Hatch on 24th March**. See below for details:



Praise and Prayer
FOR OUR THREE CHURCHES

We are holding our next monthly praise and prayer evening for our three churches. Everyone is welcome.

We will meet at 7.30pm on:
24th March at Trinity Hall in Coleman's Hatch to pray together as a church family.

We will have tea and coffee on arrival.

The evening will start with a short bible thought and a time of sung worship. The evening will then continue with several slots praying in small groups on various topics covering the life our church and communities.

Prayer is the powerhouse of the church.

01892 770436
REVJULIESEAR1@GMAIL.COM

 **Forest Church**

See below for the details of the upcoming March Forest Church held in Cowden.



 **Cowden Forest Church**

4th Sundays at 2.30-4.30pm
22nd March 2026

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

Come dressed for the great outdoors!
Meet in church at 3.30pm

Songs, crafts, story prayers, tea and cakes

St Mary Magdalene at aChurchNearYou

News from the 3 Churches

Save the dates

Please see below an invitation for all three churches to the events on the weekend of 25th and 26th April:



RSVP to Lisa Gibbs-Murray at admsmht@gmail.com, or on 07927 939116

APCM Details

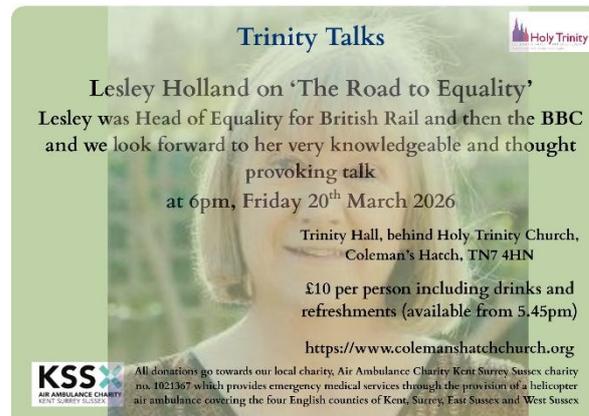
Please pray for the upcoming APCM for each church. The dates for these are shown below:

- **St Mary's Hartfield** – Sunday 19th April during the service
- **Holy Trinity** – Sunday 19th April after the service
- **St Mary Magdalene's** – Sunday 19th April during the service

Websites: hartfieldchurch.org colemanshatchchurch.org
Facebook: [hartfield](https://www.facebook.com/hartfield) and [colemanshatch](https://www.facebook.com/colemanshatch)

Trinity Events

See below for the details of the upcoming March 'Trinity Talk'.



Trinity Talks 

Lesley Holland on 'The Road to Equality'
Lesley was Head of Equality for British Rail and then the BBC and we look forward to her very knowledgeable and thought provoking talk
at 6pm, Friday 20th March 2026

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
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.

Maundy Thursday Fellowship Supper

St Mary's Magdalene are hosting a Maundy Thursday Fellowship Supper for all three churches. Please see details on the flyer below:



Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Fellowship Supper

Thursday 2nd April
7.30pm
at Cowden Village Hall

Join us for
A simple supper of soup/bread/cheese/wine and reflections on the evening of the Last Supper and the night that followed.

Please email Rev Stephen Hills at hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to attend

You will find a sign-up sheet at the back of your church. If you are intending to attend can you please put your name on the list so that we can ascertain numbers or email Stephen Hills at hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk

St Mary Magdalene at [aChurchNearYou](https://www.facebook.com/aChurchNearYou)

News from the 3 Churches

Easter Services

In addition to the Maundy Thursday event above, there will be Palm Sunday (29th March), Good Friday (2nd April) and Easter Sunday (5th April) services at each church.

Please see flyer below of details in Hartfield and Coleman's Hatch:




Easter Services for St Mary's Hartfield and Holy Trinity



Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday
9.30am – Morning Worship – St Mary's
11am – Holy Communion – Holy Trinity
(both services include a Procession of Palms)





Thursday 2nd April – Maundy Thursday
7.30pm – Maundy Thursday Fellowship Supper
at Cowden Village Hall
for Hartfield, Coleman's Hatch and Cowden Churches
A simple supper of soup/bread/cheese/wine
and reflections on the evening of the Last Supper
and the night that followed
(sign-up sheets at back of church)





Friday 3rd April – Good Friday
10am – All Age Service with Prayer Stations – St Mary's
(and making the Easter Garden)
2pm – Meditations at the Foot of the Cross – Holy Trinity





Sunday 5th April – Easter Day
Sunrise Service at Four Counties Car Park on the Forest
time to be confirmed
9.30am – Easter Celebration all age Communion – St Mary's
11am – Easter Celebration Holy Communion – Holy Trinity



And the flyer below of those at Cowden:




Easter Services for St Mary Magdalene's Cowden



Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday
10.30am – Palm Sunday Morning Worship





Thursday 2nd April – Maundy Thursday
7.30pm – Maundy Thursday Fellowship Supper
at Cowden Village Hall
for Hartfield, Coleman's Hatch and Cowden Churches
A simple supper of soup/bread/cheese/wine
and reflections on the evening of the Last Supper
and the night that followed
(sign-up sheets at back of church or
speak to Rev Stephen Hills, hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk)





Friday 3rd April – Good Friday
11am – Good Friday Reflection





Sunday 5th April – Easter Day
Sunrise Service for the three parishes at
Four Counties Car Park on the Forest
time to be confirmed
10.30am – Easter Sunday Family Communion



There will also be a sunrise service for all churches on the Ashdown Forest on 5th Apr (weather permitting). Details on this will be made available on emails/websites/facebook as soon as the timings are known.



This week we are praying...

For our Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, our government and parliament, that there will be renewed focus on policies to help those most in need in our society, and build social cohesion; and that following the unsettling revelations in the Epstein files, those engaged in criminal behaviour would be prosecuted, there would be a renewed focus on trafficking, and that more rigorous procedures would lead to higher standards in public life.

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 stage 2 of the peace plan will start. For Ukraine, that despite Russia's continuing bombardment, a way would be found to bring a just and lasting peace acceptable to Ukraine. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Iran, that in the face of US political and military pressure, they would seek a deal concerning their nuclear programme and address the problems behind the huge protests that were brutally suppressed.

For those across the world suffering from the impacts of climate change, particularly remembering those who have suffered from flooding in the UK and across Europe, and for greater urgency from politicians and industry to tackle the causes and consequences.

Pray for our Church Wardens and PCC's. For our upcoming APCM's, that they might be a time of thankfulness and prayer.

During this season of Lent, we pray for small acts of kindness to make a difference to our neighbours and communities.

For those in distress, who need our prayers.

For Sandra Owen; Frances Stuttaford; Jean Nutt; Ros Cope:

For those recently bereaved. The family of Toni Pigott; Allan Lewis; Angie Hough.

With every blessing,

Rev Julie

Contacts

Rev Canon Julie Sear - Rector

07562 838448

revjuliesear1@gmail.com

(Friday – day of rest)

Rev Stephen Hills – Associate Vicar

hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk

Rectory Number: 01342 643069

Mobile Number: 07896 971723

Donna Dewar – Lay Reader

dewardonna@googlemail.com

01342 326424

Rev Nigel Hinton – Retired Clergy

Matt Marriott – Hartfield Church Youth Worker

studio4.121@outlook.com

07582 054880

Lisa Gibbs-Murray – Church Administrator

admsmht@gmail.com

07927 939116

Andrea McGlew - Safeguarding Officer for Hartfield

01342 850992

CJ Payne - Safeguarding Officer for Coleman's Hatch

safeguarding@colemanshatchchurch.org

Hilary Clarkson - Safeguarding Officer for Cowden

hilaryclarkson27@icloud.com