

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE ACROSS OUR PARISHES

What a wonderful weekend of celebrating Julie's ministry, and of thanking God for the way He has taken her gifts and character and blessed our parishes and communities through her 12 years as Rector. We wish her and Trevor the very best as they move into the next stage of their lives together.

Whilst some of you will have experienced an interregnum before (or perhaps more than one), for many of you this may be the first time your local spiritual leader has moved on. On Sunday Julie spoke from the gospel lectionary reading in John 10, where Jesus talks about sheep and shepherds, as she reflected on her ministry at St Mary's and Holy Trinity. When a pastoral leader moves on, a church can feel rather like a flock of sheep without a shepherd, which can be a little unsettling. However, it is worth looking at the other scripture reading given for the day, which is one of my favourites – Acts 2:42-47 – which describes what the early church looked like, and it seems to me is a blueprint for all churches. Here are some excerpts from that reading –

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . . All the believers were together and had everything in common . . . Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*


It is a wonderful description of a group of Christians simply 'doing life' together – meeting, worshipping, praying, sharing and caring, and being blessed by God as they did so. Over the centuries that our churches have served our villages, Rectors and Vicars have come and gone, taking their turns to provide leadership, but the heart of God's presence in these communities has always been local gatherings of Christian men, women and children who have 'devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship'.

For the months ahead, perhaps we might keep this biblical image of the church, read to us on the first day of this interregnum, central in our minds and hearts, and allow it to shape our life together as a church family whilst we wait and pray for the new leader God is preparing for us. And as we do so, may we *enjoy the favour of all the people*, and may *the Lord add to our number daily those who are being saved*.

Every Blessing, Stephen

PS – Please see the 'Rectory Reflections' box below and get in touch if you are interested.

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 **Worship this Sunday**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**At St Mary's Hartfield**

**9.30am Holy Communion**

**(with Sunday Discoverers and Sunday Connect)**

Lead and Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

**At St Mary Magdalene'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 Stephen Hills

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May

### The Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May

### Ascension

7pm Holy Communion for Ascension Day

Lead and Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

### The Seventh Sunday of Easter

9.30am Holy Communion

(with Sunday Discoverers and Sunday Connect)

Lead and Preacher: Rev Trevor Harrison

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May

### Pentecost

9.30am Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May

### Trinity Sunday

9.30am Morning Worship

(Maycamp service)

Led by Matt Marriott & Rachel Reid

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June

### The First Sunday After Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion

(with Sunday Discoverers and Sunday Connect)

Lead and Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

### Save the Dates:

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm**

Praise and Prayer at Cowden Church  
(see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm**

Trinity Talks – Town Place Garden talk with Barney McGrath at Trinity Hall. (see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30pm**

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

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

Trinity Outing to Town Place Garden (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!

- 7<sup>th</sup> May (in church)
- 21<sup>st</sup> May
- 4<sup>th</sup> June



5pm-6pm Connect Extra at The Oast

for youths aged 13+. Read, question, and explore the Christian faith together!

- 14<sup>th</sup> May



9.15am-10.45am Little Stars

Parent and toddler group, tea & coffee provided

- 11<sup>th</sup> May
- 18<sup>th</sup> May
- 1<sup>st</sup> June

There will be NO sessions on 4<sup>th</sup> May or 25<sup>th</sup> May.



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

- 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- 17<sup>th</sup> May
- 7<sup>th</sup> June



9.30am Sunday Discoverers

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

- 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- 17<sup>th</sup> May
- 7<sup>th</sup> June

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May

#### The Sixth Sunday of Easter

##### 11am Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am-12pm Trinity Café at Trinity Hall

Serving hot chocolate, coffee, tea & cake.

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm

Trinity Talks – Town Place Garden talk with Barney McGrath at Trinity Hall. (see flyer in “News from the 3 churches”)

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

#### The Seventh Sunday of Easter

##### 11am Matins

Lead and Preacher: Donna Dewar

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May

#### Pentecost

##### 11am Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am-12pm Trinity Café at Trinity Hall

Serving hot chocolate, coffee, tea & cake.

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Trinity Outing to Town Place Garden (see flyer in “News from the 3 churches”)

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May

#### Trinity Sunday

##### 11am Holy Communion

##### Patronal Festival

Lead and Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June

#### The First Sunday after Trinity

##### 11am Matins

Lead and Preacher: Donna Dewar

##### 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

### Save the Dates:

#### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm

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

#### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm

Ascension Day Holy Communion at Hartfield Church (see flyer in “News from the 3 churches”)

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30pm

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



## Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

10am-12pm Cowden Community Café  
at COWDEN CHURCH this week

## Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May

7.30pm Praise and Prayer

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May

### The Sixth Sunday of Easter

#### 10.30am Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May



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

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

### The Seventh Sunday of Easter

#### 10.30am Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May

### Pentecost

#### 10.30am Morning Worship

Led by: Rev Kevin Scully

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May

### Trinity Sunday

#### 10.30am Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills



## 3.30pm Forest Church

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

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June

### The First Sunday after Trinity

#### 10.30am Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

## Save the Dates:

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm

Ascension Day Holy Communion at Hartfield Church (see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm

Trinity Talks – Town Place Garden talk with Barney McGrath at Trinity Hall. (see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Trinity Outing to Town Place Garden (see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

## News from the 3 Churches

### From Julie and Trevor

Dear Lovely Friends,

Trevor and I would like to thank you all for the wonderful farewell celebrations. So much hard work and love was poured into all the events.

A huge thank you to the Trinity cafe team who provided us with a splendid tea. We really enjoyed the food and having time to sit down and chat to all of you. Thank you so much for the memory book and the beautiful Camelia. You really have been an amazing team and we wish you every blessing for the rest of the year with all the planned events.

After my final Matins service and APCM at Holy Trinity, we were then treated to an incredible lunch. It was so good seeing everyone enjoying themselves. The food was delicious. I haven't eaten jelly for years! Thank you for the beautiful flowers and wine.

The 'farewell' party on Saturday evening was so joyful. We felt rather overwhelmed coming through the doors and seeing you all sat round your tables.

Thank you to all who prepared and cooked. To those who made the church look so beautiful. It was really lovely and we felt very spoilt. The children had a great time outside in the glorious sunshine.

On Sunday morning, I began to feel very emotional. When preparing the service, I had decided to keep it joyful, with songs and hymns that mean something to me and with moments for us to smile. I hadn't expected to get so tearful during communion. It was so special having all three churches under one roof for the breaking of the bread and the wine with blessing.

The gifts you gave us are very precious. The book of photos of both churches. The lovely photo frame to hold my final service photograph. The incredible bowl made by the children with the words from Isaiah 55 will be put somewhere in our new home

for others to see. Your incredible generosity to us both as we find a new rhythm and pattern to our lives.

Thank you for the many ways you have allowed us to be part of your lives over the past 12 years. We take all those memories and prayers with us as we seek God's direction for the future.

With all our love and prayers.

**Julie and Trevor. - Not forgetting Georgie!!**



## News from the 3 Churches

### From your churchwardens

All the Churchwardens from Hartfield, Colemans Hatch and Cowden, thank everyone who came to say goodbye to Rev Julie and Trevor during last weekend. It was a wonderful time full of sunshine, good food and laughter. They will both be sorely missed but have many new adventures ahead of them. Please continue to pray for them both and for our communities as we begin our interregnum.

### Praise and Prayer

The next Praise and Prayer will be in **St Mary Magdalene's in Cowden on 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.**



*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:  
5<sup>th</sup> May at Cowden Church  
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  
REVJULIESEART1@GMAIL.COM

### Forest Church

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



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 3.30-4.30pm

31<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Come dressed for the great outdoors!

Meet in church at 3.30pm

### Rectory Reflections - An Invitation

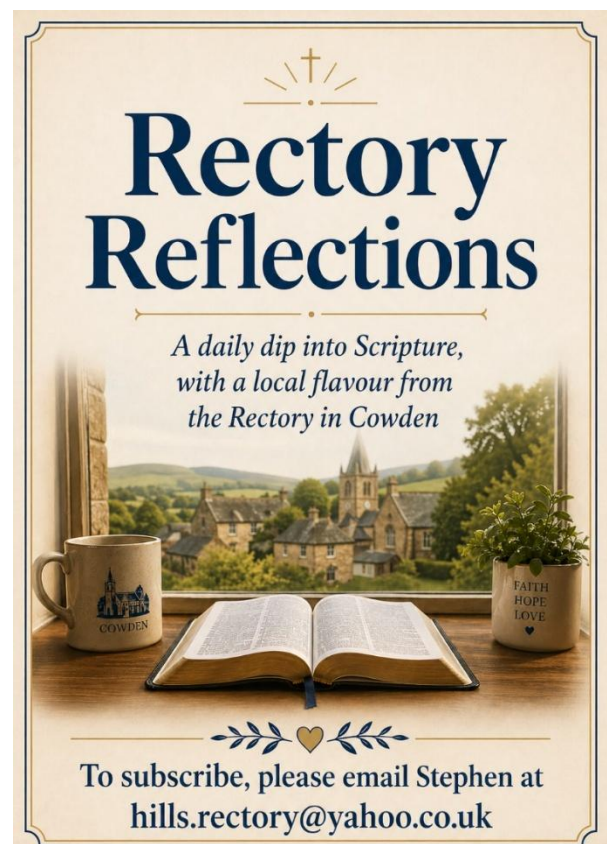
Many of you may already use a daily Bible reading programme in your devotional time with God. If you don't, and would like to read and reflect on scripture for a few minutes each day, in community with others in our three churches, and with a 'local touch', then I would be glad to add you to the email list for the Rectory Reflections I write most mornings. They are posted on a blog-site that you can find at

<https://sah9999.wixsite.com/rectoryreflections> .

The Reflections have been taking a short post-Easter break, and will resume next week and will be following a Bible overview – stopping off at least once in every book – for the next few months. If you would like to receive a daily link to Rectory Reflections drop me an email at

[hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk) or [sah9999@yahoo.com](mailto:sah9999@yahoo.com)

and I will include you (just email again if you would like to come off the list). Thank you. Stephen



*Rectory Reflections*

*A daily dip into Scripture,  
with a local flavour from  
the Rectory in Cowden*

To subscribe, please email Stephen at  
[hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk)

### Ascension Day

A communion service is planned for Ascension Day, 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm at Hartfield Church.



*Ascension Day*  
**SERVICE**  
for Hartfield, Coleman's Hatch &  
Cowden churches  
(everyone welcome)  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
7pm  
St Mary's Church, Hartfield

### Holy Trinity Bible Study Group

The Holy Trinity Bible Study Group intend to continue to meet, possibly on 23<sup>rd</sup> May on a topic yet to be decided. Watch out for the details in upcoming weekly bulletin.

The group is always open to new members, please speak to Donna Dewar if you are interested.

### Trinity Events

Please see below for details for the upcoming talk and trip around Town Place Gardens

#### Town Place Garden Talk and Private Garden Visit with Cream Tea

**On May 15<sup>th</sup>** Barley McGrath will describe how he and his wife transformed Town Place into a stunning 3acre garden with a growing international reputation for the quality of its design, planting and gardening. The garden has over 400 roses, herbaceous borders, herb garden, white garden, topiary inspired by the sculptures of Henry Moore, an 800yr old oak, potager, and a unique ruined Priory Church and Cloisters in hornbeam.

**On May 30<sup>th</sup>** we have a private view of the Town Place Garden with a tea served in the White Garden.



Talk held at Holy Trinity Church  
Hall Colemans Hatch £10

Private Garden Visit and Cream  
Tea £15

To reserve a place email  
colemanshatchevents@gmail.com



If you would like to donate to East Grinstead food bank, there are boxes in both St Mary's Hartfield and Holy Trinity churches.

Here is a list of the items they are currently are in urgent need of (in date, not homemade and non perishable please):

- Basmati Rice 550g
- Cooking Oil 1ltr
- Long-life Fruit Juice (not chilled and not squash)
- Instant Mash Potato
- Washing Up Liquid
- Porridge 500g
- Shaving Foam
- Toothbrush (Adult)
- Toothpaste

For more information visit [eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk](http://eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk)

## Prayers and Contacts



### This week we are praying...

For peace in the Middle East, Sudan and Ukraine and the holding of any ceasefires. For the wisdom of leaders as they work on finding diplomatic solutions.

For the churchwardens at St Mary and Holy Trinity as they take on extra duties.

That our church, school and wider communities will grow closer together during this time.

For those in distress, who need our prayers.

- Sally Kuhrt
- Ros Cope
- Sandra Owen
- Jean Nutt
- Frances Stuttaford
- Andrea Johnson

Pray for all who have recently been bereaved.

### Contacts

As we are now in vacancy please contact Lisa Gibbs-Murray, or if urgent and out of office hours please contact the churchwardens

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**Rev Nigel Hinton – Retired Clergy**

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**Lisa Gibbs-Murray – Church Administrator**

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**Andrea McGlew - Safeguarding Officer for Hartfield**

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

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**Hilary Clarkson - Safeguarding Officer for Cowden**

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