

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE ACROSS OUR PARISHES

The approach of autumn is a poignant and reflective time for many. The evenings draw in, the leaves start to turn – nature is slowing down. One of the highlights of autumn for me, every year, is the arrival of shiny nature-veneered conkers on the ground. I have loved conkers since I was a child, so imagine my delight to find, when we moved to Cowden, a large horse chestnut tree in the front garden. It was as though God had smiled on our move here.

At a Harvest Service 24 years ago in my previous parish, we gave thanks for God's provision for us through the year, and I gave each person one of nature's tiny mahogany marvels – examples of the brilliance and loving-care of the Creator. I asked each one, young or old, to think of somebody who was special to them, and then to carry their conker with them in their pocket through the week – and to pray for that person whenever the presence of the conker reminded them to.

My father went in to hospital that Thursday for a routine hip-replacement operation. All went well – then a touch of chestiness the day after – a little oxygen just to help – frustration that he couldn't get back on his feet straight away. Then an awful night – a rushed ambulance journey to a bigger hospital – a heart attack – and suddenly he was gone forever. I heard the news as I walked in from the 8.00am service on the next Sunday. In my shock and disbelief, just one thought came into my mind...

... but he's my conker ...

It had sat on my desk as I worked during the morning of the operation, and as I had taken it in my hand I had thrown prayers up to God – for safety, and success, and swift recovery. What had happened? How could he have died? Why? All questions for another time – but on that day it was enough to hear my thought echoed clearly back from God...

...it's alright, for he's my conker too.

Perhaps this time of year is poignant for you too, as you remember loved ones no longer with us. If so, we invite you to join us at the 'Service of Memories' in Cowden on October 11th at 10.30am, or the 'Time to Remember' service in Hartfield on November 1st at 4.00pm, and of course the Acts of Remembrance in all our churches in November.

And know that whatever you are going through right now – God has you safely in His hand.



Interregnum Update

The PCCs are working together to finalise the Parish Profile which essentially advertises the parishes to a potential new rector.



Worship this Sunday

Sunday 4th October 2026

The Eighteenth Sunday After Trinity

Harvest Festival

At St Mary's Hartfield

9.30am Harvest Festival Holy Communion

(NO Sunday Discoverers or 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

Saturday 3rd October, 6pm to 8pm

Harvest Supper; bring and share simple supper focussing on boreholes in Uganda

Sunday 11th October

The Nineteenth Sunday After Trinity

9.30am Morning Worship

Lead by: Rev Nigel Hinton

Preacher: Matt Marriott

Saturday 17th October, 11am to 4pm

Art for All – see flyer in “News from the 3 churches”

Sunday 18th October

The Twentieth Sunday After Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion

(with Sunday Discoverers and Sunday Connect)

Lead and Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

Sunday 25th October

The Last Sunday After Trinity

9.30am Morning Worship

Lead by: Rev Nigel Hinton

Preacher: Matt Marriott

Sunday 1st November

All Saint's Day

9.30am Holy Communion

(NO Sunday Discoverers or Sunday Connect)

Lead and Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

4pm A Time to Remember

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

(see flyer in “News from 3 churches”)

Save the Dates:

Tuesday 6th October, 7.30pm

Praise and Prayer at Cowden Church

Friday 16th October at 6pm

Trinity Talks – Solving the Longitude problem with Marc Ter Kulie at Trinity Hall (see flyer in “News from the 3 Churches”)

Sunday 24th October at 3.30pm

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

Friday 13th November, 7pm

Quiz Night at Hartfield Church

Children and Youth Corner



5pm-6.15pm Connect at Hartfield Village Hall

Youths aged 10+. Games, food, and fun!

- 8th October
- 22nd October
- 5th November



5pm-6.15pm Connect Extra at The Oast

for youths aged 13+. A monthly meeting for our older Connect crew to chat, eat and have fun!

- 15th October



9.15am-10.45am Little Stars

Parent and toddler group, tea & coffee provided

- 5th October
- 12th October
- 19th October
- 2nd November

There will be NO session on 26th October due to school holidays



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

- 18th October
- 15th November

There will be NO session on 4th October due to Harvest Festival.

There will be NO session on 1st November due to school holidays



9.30am Sunday Discoverers

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

- 18th October
- 15th November

There will be NO session on 4th October due to Harvest Festival.

There will be NO session on 1st November due to school holidays

Thursday 8th October

9.30am-12pm Trinity Café at Trinity Hall
Serving hot chocolate, coffee, tea & cake.

Saturday 10th October

10.30am Holy Trinity Bible Study Group, at Frank Dean's home.

Sunday 11th October

The Nineteenth Sunday After Trinity

11am Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Peter Francis

Friday 16th October at 6pm

Trinity Talks – The Cooperation and Competition between Holland and England to Solve the Longitude Problem with Marc Ter Kulie at Trinity Hall. (see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

Sunday 18th October

The Twentieth Sunday After Trinity

11am Matins

Lead by: Donna Dewar
Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

Thursday 22nd October

9.30am-12pm Trinity Café at Trinity Hall
Serving hot chocolate, coffee, tea & cake.

Sunday 25th October

The Last Sunday After Trinity

11am Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Nigel Hinton

Sunday 1st November

All Saint's Day

11am Matins

Lead and Preacher: Donna Dewar

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

Save the Dates:

Saturday 3rd October, 6pm

Harvest Supper at St Mary's, Hartfield.

Tuesday 6th October, 7.30pm

Praise and Prayer at Cowden Church

Saturday 17th October, 11am to 4pm

Art for All St Mary's, Hartfield (see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

Sunday 24th October at 3.30pm

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

Friday 13th November, 7pm

Quiz Night at Hartfield Church



Friday 2nd October

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

Tuesday 6th October

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

Sunday 11th October

The Nineteenth Sunday After Trinity

10.30am A Service of Memories

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills
(see flyer in "News from the 3 Churches")



Friday 16th October

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

Sunday 18th October

The Twentieth Sunday After Trinity

10.30am Holy Communion

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

Sunday 25th October

The Last Sunday After Trinity

10.30am Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills



3.30pm Forest Church

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

Sunday 1st November

All Saint's Day

10.30am Morning Worship

Lead and Preacher: Rev Stephen Hills

Save the Dates:

Saturday 3rd October, 6pm

Harvest Supper at St Mary's, Hartfield.

Tuesday 6th October, 7.30pm

Praise and Prayer at Cowden Church

Friday 16th October at 6pm

Trinity Talks – Solving the Longitude problem with Marc Ter Kulie at Trinity Hall (see flyer in "News from the 3 Churches")

Saturday 17th October, 11am to 4pm

Art for All St Mary's, Hartfield (see flyer in "News from the 3 churches")

Friday 13th November, 7pm

Quiz Night at Hartfield Church

News from the 3 Churches

Pastoral Care

At all 3 churches we are committed to providing pastoral care. During the interregnum this continues to be important. If you or someone you know would like a visit by a member of the church or perhaps you or they are unable to get to church for communion and would like to receive home communion please contact Stephen Hills (hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk or 01342 643069 or 07896 971723) if you are in the Cowden parish, otherwise Lisa Gibbs-Murray (admsmht@gmail.com or 07927 939116) and they will facilitate this.

Children and Youth

Those of you with children and/or youth who attend the following groups and have yet to complete their registration forms please look in your emails and complete as soon as possible:

- Little Stars
- Sunday Discoverers
- Sunday Connect
- Connect and/or Connect Extra

Registration forms need to be completed each year for each of the groups so even if you did one last year you will need to re-submit a form. You do need to submit a form for each group they attend so even if you have done one for one group you will need to do another one for each group they attend.

Holy Trinity Bible Study Group

The Holy Trinity Bible Study Group will next meet on intend to continue to meet on 10th October at Frank Dean's home.

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

Funeral – David Graham

The funeral for David Graham is taking place on **13th October at 10.30am** at **St Mary's in Hartfield** with refreshments after the service in The Bear Inn, Hartfield.

Trinity Talks – The Longitude Problem

The next Trinity Talk is in Trinity Hall on **16th October from 6pm (refreshments from 5.45pm)**.

See details below:



Praise and Prayer

The next Praise and Prayer will be in **Cowden Church on 6th October at 7.30pm**.



News from the 3 Churches

Service of Memories - Cowden

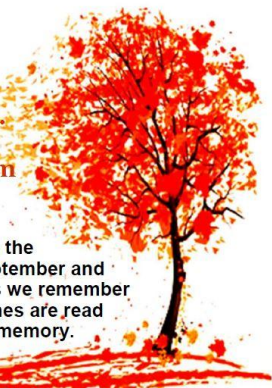
Cowden will be holding a Service of Memories on **11th October at 10.30am**, where you can place the named of a loved one on the Memory Tree.

'Tree of Memories'

A special time of remembering the loved and lost ones in our lives.

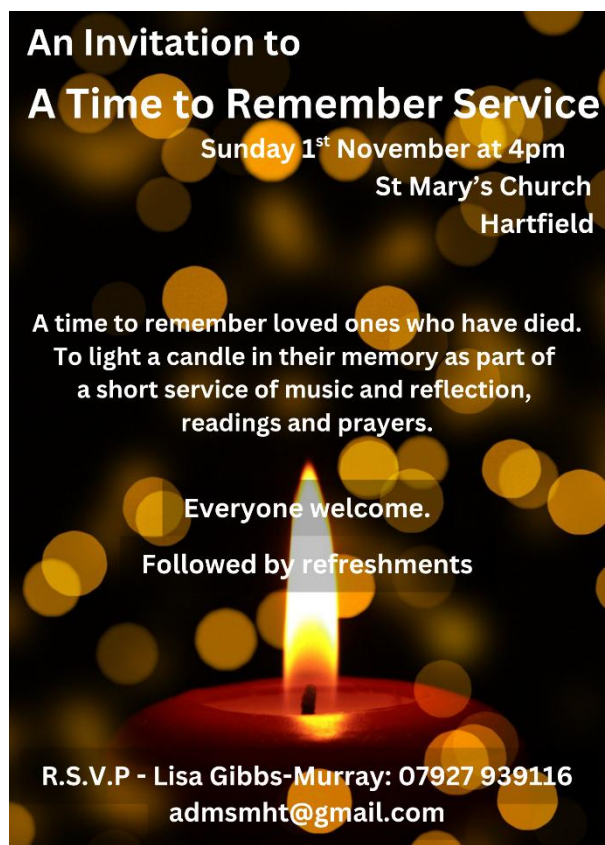
**Sunday Oct 11th - 10.30am
Cowden Church**

Add a name to a leaf on the tree in the porch any time from Mon 28th September and do join us that Sunday morning as we remember our loved ones together, their names are read out, and we light a candle in their memory.



A Time to Remember – Hartfield & Coleman's Hatch

Coleman's Hatch and Hartfield's annual service to remember loved ones who have died will take place on **1st November 2026 at 4pm** at St Mary's church in Hartfield. If you wish to attend can you please RSVP to Lisa Gibbs-Murray, 07927 939116, or admsmht@gmail.com.



**An Invitation to
A Time to Remember Service**
Sunday 1st November at 4pm
St Mary's Church
Hartfield

**A time to remember loved ones who have died.
To light a candle in their memory as part of
a short service of music and reflection,
readings and prayers.**

**Everyone welcome.
Followed by refreshments**

**R.S.V.P - Lisa Gibbs-Murray: 07927 939116
admsmht@gmail.com**

Harvest Supper @ St Mary's, Hartfield



This Harvest, you are invited to...



Harvest Supper Saturday, 3rd October,
6pm-8pm
for all 3 churches and our communities,
hosted at St Mary's Church, Hartfield.

This will be a "bring and share" style supper, where you are invited to bring along something to eat (NO NUTS) that can be shared with everyone. Bring a drink of your own choice, however, glasses and jugs of water will be provided. The evening will be focused around the churches' drive to raise enough money for International Needs to sink a borehole in an area of the world where water is scarce.

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

Harvest Festival Sunday 4th October

St Mary's Hartfield - 9.30am, Holy Communion (all age)
Cowden - 10.30am, Morning Worship
Holy Trinity - 11am, Matins &
6.30pm, Harvest Choral Evensong

An opportunity to give thanks to God for all we have this harvest time.
Food donations will go to Foodbank.

All financial contributions this year will be going to:
International Needs, charity no: 1175526, a worldwide development agency working to help families suffering through poverty and crises to create a sustainable future. The money raised will go towards a borehole.

There will be a simple "bring and share" Harvest Supper on **Saturday 3rd October at 6pm at Hartfield**, focussing on the drive to fund at least one borehole, via International Needs, in an area of the world where the lack of water is an on-going risk to health.

All are welcome. Please RSVP to Lisa Gibbs-Murray at admsmht@gmail.com or 07927 939116.

Everyone is asked to bring something to share or donate an equivalent towards the borehole. A sign-up sheet for this will be at the back of the churches.

All financial contributions on the night and during Harvest Festival services will go to International Needs to fund a much needed, life-changing and life-saving borehole.

News from the 3 Churches

Food Donations at Cowden

Any food donations from Cowden will be going to the Edenbridge Foodbank. See flyer below for details:

Groceries needed for Edenbridge Food Bank - all in date please

- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetable
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned soup
- Custard – ready made or powder
- Tea and Coffee. Squash
- Any Breakfast cereals
- Long Life Milk
- Ready meals
- Cook in sauces
- Biscuits / Crackers
- Rice and Pasta



Food Donations at Hartfield and Coleman's Hatch

Any food donations for Holy Trinity and Hartfield will be for East Grinstead Foodbank.

Any food donations will be for:



Currently there are in urgent need of the following:

- Porridge (500g)
- Instant Mashed Potato
- Orange Squash (1ltr)
- Coffee small/medium
- Toothbrush single (adult)
- Toothpaste
- Bar of soap
- Jam
- Surface Spray Cleaner

Please note items must be in date and not homemade.

Art for All

Hartfield's annual community art event, Art for All, will be held on Saturday 17th October in St Mary's Church, Hartfield between 11am and 4pm.

Free and open to all ages, everyone is encouraged to have a go! The theme this year is WATER – an opportunity to create art with water in strange and wonderful ways.

Drop in any time and try any or all the activities:



Art for All

11am-4pm Sat 17th October
St Mary's Church, Hartfield

Hartfield's FREE art event for all ages
WATER THEME!

RAINDROPS - create a rainshower from 100s of raindrops
WATER SOUNDS - draw to thunder storms or lapping waves
CLAY SCULPTURE - sculpt frogs, water voles, newts
WATER PAINTING - watch paint drops bloom into creatures
GIANT RIVER DRAWING - celebration of our River Medway

and much more.....

Drop in and try as many activities as you like

Lunch & snacks stall - bring cash

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED

01892 770714 / 07763 188538
ajberryartist@gmail.com
www.hartfieldarts.wordpress.com

Organised by St Mary's Church and HARTS Hartfield Arts & Theatre Society

St Mary's HARTS Life is for Living

Forest Church

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



Cowden
Forest Church

4th Sundays at 3.30-4.30pm

25th October 2026

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

Songs, crafts, story
prayers, tea and cakes

Come dressed for the great outdoors!

Meet in church at 3.30pm

Websites: hartfieldchurch.org colemanshatchchurch.org

Facebook: hartfield and colemanshatch

St Mary Magdalene at aChurchNearYou

Prayers and Contacts



This month we are praying...

For peaceful solutions to conflict throughout the world. For those directly affected by the conflict particularly civilians and children whose daily lives are in turmoil. For those indirectly affected, particularly those finding the increasing energy prices challenging and unaffordable. For those working to find a peace, that they may look at the bigger picture and show humanity and compassion.

For our new Prime Minister as he looks at how to tackle the rise in inflation, particularly around fuel; how to prevent people falling into poverty; and how to solve the issue of social care. May he be a strong and wise leader with a sense of equality and humility who provides political stability.

For those currently living with the lack of sufficient clean water, for those made ill by the drinking of dirty water and for those literally carrying the burden of bringing water to their families and villages. For the success of our borehole and sanitation appeal and for those who help bring and maintain solutions to these water-deprived areas.

For the churchwardens, Rev Stephen, Rev Nigel and Donna and all they are taking on to ensure smooth running churches during the interregnum and the PCCs as they finalise the advert for a new rector.

For the elderly, sick and vulnerable and for all medical staff and carers; in particular, for those who need our prayers.

- Sally Kuhrt
- Sandra Owen
- Jean Nutt
- Frances Stuttford
- Andrea Johnson

For all who have recently been bereaved, including:

- Linda Graham
- the Stenhouse family

Contacts

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

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

nigelk.hinton@gmail.com

07756 664743

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