

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE ACROSS OUR PARISHES

Isaiah 43:19

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Our screens have been too full of 'wastelands' in recent weeks – whether they be the multi-million dollar homes of the Palisades razed to the ground by fire, the once leafy suburbs of northern Gaza flattened by bombs, or, more chillingly, the horror that met the liberating forces as they discovered Auschwitz-Birkenau hidden in the forest.

Apologies if that is a gloomy way to start a cheery newsletter, but it is only perhaps when we understand how 'wilderness and wasteland', and 'darkness and despair' are all products of a fallen and fractured humanity and world, that we grasp just how powerful and transformative is 'the Living Water' and 'Light of the World' that is the Christ, our Lord Jesus.

Wherever Jesus went, he 'did a new thing', for wherever he went, he himself was the answer to the prayer that he taught us to pray – 'your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven'. He brought in the Kingdom – the blind saw, the lame walked, the demons were cast out, the dead rose. He taught his disciples to do the work of the Kingdom too, and when he left them he told them to make more disciples, and he empowered them with the Holy Spirit.

That is our heritage, and that is our mission as Christ's body, the church, in Hartfield, Coleman's Hatch and Cowden – to bring the living water and the light of Christ to our communities, today. That mission and the ministry that goes with it will look a little different in every 'season', as context, communities and churches change over time.

For us, right now, that means our three churches working in prayerful partnership to support and encourage one another. I hope that you will find that this monthly newsletter 'inSPIRES' you to want to get involved in the life of our three churches - each building standing with its tall spire centrally in our villages, and each church family bringing light and hope to those who live there, in the name of Christ.

'See, I am doing a new thing . . . ' It is an exciting new season! **Rev Stephen Hills**

Worship this Sunday

Sunday 2nd February 2025

Candlemas

At St Mary's Hartfield

9.30am Holy Communion

Led by Rev Julie Sear

Preacher Rev Julie Sear

Save the Date(s) –

at St Mary's Hartfield (everyone welcome)

Tues 4th Feb, 7.30pm – Prayer and Praise

Fri 7th Mar, 2pm – World Day of Prayer

Tues 11th Mar, 7.30pm – Alpha starts

At Holy Trinity Coleman's Hatch

11am Matins

Led by Donna Dewar

Preacher Donna Dewar

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Led by Rev Julie Sear

Preacher Rev Julie Sear

At St Mary's, Cowden

10.30am Morning Worship

Led by Rev Stephen Hills

Preacher Rev Stephen Hills

St Mary's Diary

(all events held at St Mary's Church unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 2nd February

9.30am Sunday Connect at The Oast
Youths aged 10+ for breakfast and chat to build a relationship with Jesus – during the Sunday Communion service

9.30am Sunday Discoverers
Children up to 10 years to learn more about our Creator – during the Sunday Communion service

Monday 3rd February

9.15am-10.45am Little Stars
Parent and toddler group, tea & coffee provided

Tuesday 4th February

11.30am Funeral of David Holland

Wednesday 5th February

9.30am – St Mary's School Service

Thursday 6th February

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

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

Sunday 9th February

Fourth Sunday Before Lent

9.30am Morning Worship

Led by Rev Julie Sear
Preacher Rev Julie Sear

Monday 10th February

9.15am-10.45am - Little Stars
Parent and toddler group, tea & coffee provided

Wednesday 12th February

9.30am – St Mary's School Service

Thursday 13th February

5pm-6pm Connect Extra at The Oast
Youths aged 10+. Read, question and explore the Christian faith together

Sunday 16th February

The Third Sunday Before Lent

9.30 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Julie Sear
Preacher Rev Julie Sear

Thursday 20th February

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

Sunday 23rd February

The Second Sunday Before Lent

9.30 Morning Worship

Led by Rev Nigel Hinton
Preacher Matt Marriott

Monday 24th February

9.15am-10.45am – Little Stars
Parent and toddler group, tea & coffee provided

Wednesday 26th February

9.30am – St Mary's School Service

Sunday 2nd March

The Sunday Next Before Lent

9.30am Holy Communion

Led by Rev Julie Sear
Preacher by Rev Julie Sear

9.30am Sunday Connect at The Oast
Youths aged 10+ for breakfast and chat to build a relationship with Jesus – during the Sunday Communion service

9.30am Sunday Discoverers
Children up to 10 years to learn more about our Creator – during the Sunday Communion service

Websites: hartfieldchurch.org colemanshatchchurch.org St Mary Magdalene

Facebook: hartfield and colemanshatch

Holy Trinity's Diary

(all events held at Holy Trinity Church unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 9th February

Fourth Sunday Before Lent

11am Holy Communion

Led by Rev Julie Sear

Preacher Rev Nigel Hinton

Thursday 13th February

9.30am-12pm Valentine's Day Café at

Trinity Hall, including Special Cinderella Shoe

Sale event plus the usual refreshments.

Sunday 16th February

The Third Sunday Before Lent

11am Matins

Led by & Preacher Rev Julie Sear

Friday 21st February

6pm – Trinity Talk at Trinity Hall

Phrase, Fable and Nonsense Words by

Chris Senior

Sunday 23rd February

The Second Sunday Before Lent

11am Holy Communion

Led by Rev Nigel Hinton

Preacher Donna Dewar

Thursday 27th February

9.30am-12pm Trinity Café at Trinity Hall

Serving hot chocolate, coffee, tea & cake

Friday 28th February

7pm – Scottish Country Dancing at Trinity Hall

£5 per person to include a glass of wine

Sunday 2nd March

The Sunday Next Before Lent

11am Matins

Led by & Preacher Rev Julie Sear

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Led by & Preacher Donna Dewar

Save the Dates:

Mar 21st - Trinity Talk; David Tate - Mercers

Livery Company.

Apr 11th - Trinity Talk; Joy Wilson - Ice skating with the Stars.

May 10th - BARN DANCE - details TBA.

May 17th - TRINITY FÊTE; PLEASE START SETTING ASIDE ALL DONATIONS – Bottles for Tombola, Gifts, Good Quality BRIC-A-BRAC, Collectables, Clothes etc.

May 31st 7pm - Margaret Watson, harpist

St Mary Magdalene's Diary

(all events held at Cowden Church unless otherwise stated)

Friday 7th February

10am-12pm Community Coffee Morning /

Drop In at Cowden Memorial Hall

Sunday 9th February

Fourth Sunday Before Lent

10.30am Morning Worship

Led by & Preacher Rev David Tidswell

Sunday 16th February

The Third Sunday Before Lent

10.30am Holy Communion

Led by & Preacher Rev Stephen Hills

Sunday 23rd February

The Second Sunday Before Lent

10.30am Morning Worship

Led by & Preacher Stephen Hills

Sunday 2nd March

The Sunday Next Before Lent

10.30am Morning Praise

Led by & Preacher Rev Stephen Hill

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Alpha Course 2025

The Alpha Course gives us an opportunity to unpack the Christian faith together. You're invited to join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

At each of the 12 sessions you'll be able to watch an episode on a different question of faith – then have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all.

Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your viewpoint. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.

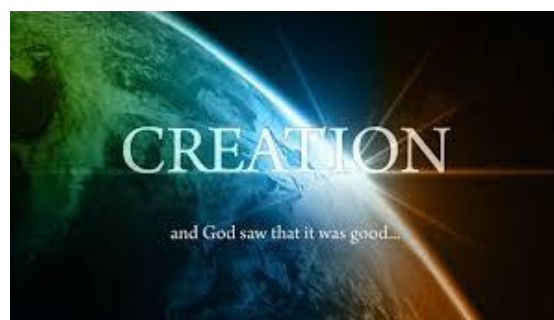


Curious? Why not give it a try.

Alternatively, who could you invite to go on the course with you?

Our Alpha Course takes place at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church in Hartfield. The first session is on Tuesday 11th March which includes a supper. Sign-up sheets and invitations can be found at your church.

ECO Church



On Sunday 9th February, as part of our morning Praise service, we will be hearing something about A Rocha and how St Mary's has recently gained a Bronze award.

In recent months, we have begun talking about how we as a church can work with the school and community to make us more aware of our care for the planet as Christians. More information will follow.

A Rocha UK's Eco Church programme equips churches in England and Wales to care for creation.

It provides a framework to support your church and its leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth, through the Eco Church survey. The survey covers five key areas of church life.

For more information see <https://arocha.org.uk/>

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World Day of Prayer

Friday 7th March at 2pm

St Mary's Church, Hartfield

Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2025. This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean has a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection to nature. Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme 'I made you wonderful'.

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



If you would like to donate to East Grinstead food bank Winter Appeal, there are boxes in both churches.

Here is a list of the items they are currently are in need of:

- Tinned Custard
- Surface Spray Cleaner
- Kitchen Roll
- Coffee Small/Medium
- Shower Gel
- Porridge 500g
- Long Life Fruit Juice (not chilled, not squash)
- Microwave Rice (2 mins)
- Long Life UHT Milk (screw top)
- Washing-up Liquid

Please note items must be in date, not homemade and non-perishable

For more information visit eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk

Prayers and Contacts



This week we are praying...

For peace and justice in our world. For Israel and Gaza, giving thanks for the ceasefire, praying that it will hold, and that all hostages and political prisoners will be freed. For the war in Ukraine and Russia, that ongoing hostilities would cease and a just peace arise.

For Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, our government, and all who have responsibility in making decisions for society and our nation.

For an end to persecution based on race and prejudice as the world marked Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January on the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

For those across the world suffering from the impacts of climate change particularly remembering those affected by the fires around Los Angeles. For a greater sense of urgency from politicians and major companies in tackling the causes and consequences.

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

We pray especially for Sandra Owen; Tim Clarke; Freya Hodge; John Chalke; Cameron Burns.

Remembering all who have been bereaved.

The family and friends of Helen Elizabeth Ashton; Alex Gardiner; David Holland; Tim Leeney.

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For all our children and youth work and the staff and pupils at St Mary's School.

For our Alpha course as we begin to invite people to come and hear more about who Jesus is and what it is we believe.

With every blessing,

Rev Julie

Contacts

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