

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS **KEYS** HILDENBOROUGH

Oct 2025

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From the Church

When most people think of St John's, they picture our Sunday services—the singing, the prayers, the gathering of familiar faces

week by week. Many have visited the church for funerals and weddings. Yet outside our church doors lies another part of our parish's story, often unnoticed: our churchyard.

For over 180 years, the churchyard has been more than a resting place for the departed. It is a living witness to faith, community, and continuity across generations. Every headstone, every worn inscription, every moss-covered slab tells a story. These stones are not only monuments to individual lives but also markers of the enduring presence of the Church at the heart of this village.

Walking through the churchyard, one is struck by its beauty. In springtime, wildflowers scatter colour among the graves. In autumn, fallen leaves create a tapestry of gold and red over the paths. The natural cycle of the seasons reminds us that, even in death, God's creation sings of life and renewal. It is no wonder that many who visit our churchyard say they find there a sense of peace and sacred stillness.

But our churchyard is also part of the heritage of the whole community. Some of the memorials date back to the 19th Century, carrying names long forgotten by living relatives but not forgotten by God. This heritage is more than stone: it is a piece of parish history. It reminds us of the many people who have lived in the

village and the generations who built, sustained, and handed down the faith we now share.

Heritage projects across the country are beginning to recognise how valuable these sites are, not only to the Church but to local history. Churchyards are open-air museums, chronicling the lives of ordinary men and women alongside the prominent and respected. They speak of infant mortality, wars survived, and wars endured, of faith kept in difficult times, and of hope in resurrection.

For us at St John's, caring for our churchyard is not just maintenance; it is ministry. When we tend a grave, clear brambles, or polish a memorial, we are honouring both the past and the future. We are saying that this place matters, that those who went before us matter, and that their story is bound up with our own.

I would like to encourage you, next time you visit St John's, to linger in the churchyard. Read a name, say a prayer of thanks for a life lived, and allow yourself to be reminded of the great "cloud of witnesses" who surround us (Hebrews 12:1). Let the churchyard speak to you of faith that endures, hope that never fails, and love that connects generation to generation.

Our Sunday worship is the heartbeat of parish life. But our churchyard, standing quietly beside it, is the memory of the body. Together they tell a story: Christ with us in life, Christ with us in death, and Christ with us in the hope of resurrection.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Tim Saiet

ST JOHN'S CHURCH - Directory

Tel: 01732 833 596 Website: www.stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

Please ring the church office or email any time, if you would like to discuss any pastoral or administrative matter.

Office Hours - Monday to Friday 10am till 4pm

Role	Name	Contact Details
Vicar	Rev Tim Saiet	07973 136 968 tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Children and Youths Pastor	Lisa Glasscote	lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Church Administrator	Emma Joynson-Hicks	01732 833 596 office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Church Volunteers		
Lay Readers	Trevor Long	07513 420 509
Warden (Acting)	Steve Wood	stevewood@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Treasurer	Rich Lake	07579 210 122 treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Safeguarding	Kate Lake	07579 821 956 safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Church Centre Bookings	Cynthia Fawcus	01732 833 397 cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
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WHATS ON IN OCTOBER?

ST JOHN'S CHURCH
MIDLEBOROUGH



Church Services	What's On?
Sunday 5 October 10am	Harvest Service including Forest Church.
Sunday 9.15am – 10.30am	A contemporary service with a programme for children and youth. Breakfast is served from 8.45am and everyone is welcome.
Sunday 11am – 12.15pm	A more traditional service with hymns, regular Holy Communion.
Tuesday 11.15am – 12 noon	Morning prayer – a peaceful time for connection with God.
Community	What's On?
Wednesday 1 October 7.30pm in the Church	Prayer & Praise
Regular community events	
Monday - weekly 10-11.45am Church Centre £3/family.	Bright Sparks Toddler Group A fun filled haven for little ones providing a safe space for play and a chance for carers and parents to connect.
Tuesday - weekly 11am -1pm, weekly Church Centre	Food Bank If you know someone who needs a helping hand with some essentials, please contact the Food Bank. Donations gratefully accepted of non-perishable food in jars and cans.
Wednesday 8 October 11am – 12.30 Church Centre 2 nd Wednesday of the month	Forget-me-not Café Whilst some of those who come to the café live with dementia, others may have memory loss or care for a person with dementia. Join us for coffee and cake.
Wednesday – from 1 October 12-2pm, Church Centre	Warm Hub Free homemade soup & bread roll, tea & coffee. All welcome.
Thursday & Friday 9am – 2pm Church Centre	Angel Café A welcoming space for all ages, perfect for a delicious treat and a chat.
Saturday 4 October 9.30am-11am, Church Centre 1 st Saturday of the month	Who let the dads out? A fantastic opportunity to meet other dads, enjoy great food and share the joys and challenges of fatherhood.
Children & Young People	What's On?
Sunday 9.15-10.30am Term time only	Generation Creation For primary school aged children and young people years 6 and above. Start in the church and move to the Church Centre.
Sunday 12 October & Sunday 26 October Church Centre	The HIVE Youth Group For school years 6-13, £1 per session
Friday 31 October 5-7pm, Church Centre	Light Party – alternative to Halloween Theme: You are one in a minion
Future Dates	What's On?
Sunday 9 November	Remembrance Sunday
Saturday 29 November 1pm – 6pm, Church Centre	Christmas Fair Food & drink, Father Christmas Grotto, arts & crafts stalls
Wednesday 10 December	Dementia Friendly Carol Service



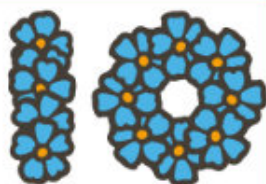
For the Café in September we welcomed back the fabulous Annalene Beechey. Annalene has a beautiful voice and has sung in many of the West End musicals. This time Annalene sang

songs from the Sound of Music (which is her favourite) and we all joined in with "Do-Re-Me", South Pacific and many more finishing with "Don't Rain on my Parade" from Funny Girl. Leaving the musicals Annalene also sang a James Bond number, Goldfinger, which was amazing.

I know that many of us do not want to even begin thinking about Christmas but just a reminder and a date for your diary – our Café on Wednesday 10th December will be our Traditional Dementia Friendly Carol Service starting in the Church and finishing in the Family Room in the Church Centre for coffee and mince pies.

If you or someone you know ever needs support or are worried about a diagnosis of dementia, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Elaine on the number or email below. Alternatively, you can contact the Alzheimer's Society on their Dementia Support Helpline on 03331 503

Forget -me- not Cafés



10 Years 2015 - 2025

Companionship over a cuppa



456 or email
dementiafriends@alzheimers.org.uk.



We look forward to seeing you for a coffee, cake and a chat on the second Wednesday of the month. We meet at 11.00 am – 12.30pm in the Family Room of St. John's Church Centre. There is plenty of free parking and disabled facilities on site. The room is all set up with tablecloths and flowers and we welcome anyone to come along and join us for a couple of hours, to get out of the house and enjoy each other's company. Whilst some of those who attend live with a diagnosis of dementia, others have mild memory loss or care for a person with dementia. There are also some who are lonely and would like some company. Come along and give us a try.

If you would like more information about the Forget me not Cafés or would like to be put on the mailing list for the monthly programme of all the Cafés in the area, please contact Elaine on forgetmenot.sadfc@gmail.com or 07946 534 476.

Julie Rhodes



BRIGHT SPARKS

Baby and Toddler group



**Mondays during term time,
10:00- 11:30am.**

From the Parish records

Burials

Ron Woodgate buried on 27
August 2025

Weddings

Shanelle Veli and Tyson
Husbands were married on
23 August 2025

CHRISTMAS FAIR



Church Centre, Foxbush
Sat 29th November 2025

1pm-6pm



22 Hand Crafted Gift Stalls

Santa's Grotto

Hot Drinks and Refreshments

Christmas Lights Switch On

Live Music



**Free
Entry**



St John's Light Celebration

YOU ARE ONE IN A MINION

Calling all primary school-aged children and families!

You're invited to an exciting 'Despicable Me' themed party at St John's Church on Friday October 31st, from 5-7 pm. No Tricks just Treats! Come dressed as your favourite character, or wear your brightest, most colourful clothes and shine with us! Please do join us for this fun-filled

HOT DOGS ^{evening.} **SMORES** **PUPPETS**

SWEETS TO COLLECT **CRAFTS** **GLOW STICKS**

OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

The family ticket is £6, payable on the day.



To book please scan the QR code.
For more information, please e-mail Lisa Glasscote — at lisa@stjohnshildesborough.co.uk

Meet the volunteer (campaigner) – David Vanns - chairman of The Hildenborough Village Preservation Association

Q: What is your name and how long have you lived in the village?

A: My name is David Alan Vanns, and I have lived in Hildenborough since May 1986.

Q: What is your voluntary role, and what does it involve?

A: I am the Chairman of the Hildenborough Village Preservation Association. My involvement with the association has no set hours and varies depending on the local demands. The main focus is responding to proposals for new housing developments that could affect the village. When significant events occur, the committee gets involved, and we liaise with local councillors and sometimes call a public meeting.

Q: What is the best and worst part of your role?

A: The best memories come from achieving positive outcomes for matters that could have had a detrimental effect on the village. Conversely, the not-so-good memories are when things don't go our way.

Q: What is the best way to contact you if someone wants to learn more about your role?

A: The best way to reach me is through the Hildenborough Village Preservation Association website or by emailing hildenboroughvpa@gmail.com.

Q: What is an interesting fact about you?

A: When I was 8 years old, my cousin shot me in the head at close range with an air rifle. I subsequently failed my 11+ exam but went on to earn a degree and two postgraduate diplomas. Another fact is that when I was 49, I was diagnosed with a malignant tumour and was given a 50% chance of living for another five years, but thankfully, I am still here at age 73.

Q: What is your favourite section of Keys Magazine?

A: I don't have a favourite section; I like it all.

Q: Which three people, dead or alive, would you invite to a dinner party?

A: I would invite David Attenborough, Billy Connolly, and Carlos Santana.

Q: If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?

A: I would use it to stop the human race from destroying each other and the planet.

David Vanns



Volunteer interview - your chance to feature! If you volunteer your time please get in touch with me at editor@keysmagazine.co.uk. My aim is to celebrate those who give up their time to make our community better. I hope this will inspire more people to get involved, as we have a wide variety of organisations in our village which are often in need of new volunteers.

Rob Mansfield



HIVE
HILDENBOROUGH VILLAGE
**The Hive
Youth Group**

For school year
6-13
**£1 for this
session**

**Sunday 12th
October
Movie Night**



**5-7pm at St John's Church
Centre**

**All youth leaders
hold a valid DBS**

For more information please
contact

Lisa Glasscote
lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk



Warm Hub



Our Warm Hub is back this October!
**Come and enjoy homemade soup and good
conversation in a warm and welcoming
space. Wednesdays from 12 pm.**
All are welcome – we'd love to see you there!

What's on in and around our village?

Arts and culture are flourishing in the local community often with little by way of external funding - please read through the following events and try and get to one if you can!

Volunteers Needed for Flier Distribution - Christmas Fair

Enjoy walking? Want to meet some new friends?

I'm looking for a group of people to help me put fliers through letterboxes in Hildenborough promoting our forthcoming Christmas fair on 29th November. Please contact Kate on 07579 821 956 if you're interested in knowing more.

Tonbridge Community Singers - Appearing at St John's Christmas Fair

Would you like to sing with us at St John's Church Christmas Fair? Tonbridge Community Singers sing a wide range of music and welcomes new members throughout the year. No auditions, ability to read music not essential. Next term starts Wednesday 10th September, 7pm – 8.30 pm at St Peter & St Paul Church, Tonbridge. Free 6-week trial. Contact us at tonbridgecommunitysingers@gmail.com

Hildenborough History Society – Hilden Manor update

In last month's edition we reported that the Hilden Manor had been sold to Elite Pubs and that they were proposing to change the name to "The Never Say Never". Following discussions, we regret to have to inform you that new owners are unwilling to reconsider this decision but will for an initial short period include the words "at the Hilden Manor". We still feel that this new name is meaningless and inappropriate but sadly there is no more that we can do.

However, we will be having further discussions with them and are hopeful that we might persuade the new owners to include in the refurbishment an area in the restaurant depicting the history of the building.

Howard Dolling

**High Hopes - Cake and Prayer
days in the Foyer of Christ
Church URC Tonbridge
starting at 7:30pm**

High Hopes ➤

26th February 2026

23rd April 2026

11th June 2026

30th October 2025

8th January 2026

Hildenborough Conservation Group - West Wood Coppicing

We will undertake the annual coppicing in West Wood in November. This takes place on the first four Saturdays in November (1st, 8th, 16th and 22nd this year).

We meet at 10am and finish around 4pm. Instruction on tool usage and coppicing techniques will be given by experienced group members. Children under 10 years must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian. Children under 16 years must have written permission from a parent or guardian.

Sausages are cooked over the fire embers at lunchtime so bring some and rolls if you wish to partake.

You will get mucky and smoky so old clothes are a must.

Contact: Lynne Flower 01732 355 080

Tonbridge U3A – 25 Years in Tonbridge

Special Open Afternoon Wednesday 1st October 2pm - Tonbridge Angel Centre

Meet some of our members. Come along to our *Coffee Mornings* on the 3rd Friday of the month at **Christchurch** (Tonbridge High Street) from 10:30 am.

Not working full time? – TU3A may have something for you. Find out about us at www.tonbridgeu3a.uk.

Jeni Brennan



Hildenborough Historical Society – Sir Paul Britton “Defending Kent” 17th October 7.30

Our next meeting in the Village Hall on Friday 17th October at **7.30pm** has a double bill with **Michael Calamito**, Governor at Hildenborough Church of England School, talking about an exciting partnership with us to create and fund a **History Timeline Wall Art** project at the school. There is an opportunity for donations on the evening.

This is followed by our well-known main speaker **Sir Paul Britton** CB CVO who will talk on the intriguing and significant topic: ‘**Defending Kent**’. He has been a senior civil servant and has important roles in MIND, the National Churches Trust and other charities. He has a special interest in local architecture. Free to members and open to all for £2.

Tony Atkinson



Age 18+ Hildenborough
Wildlife - Jean Selmes



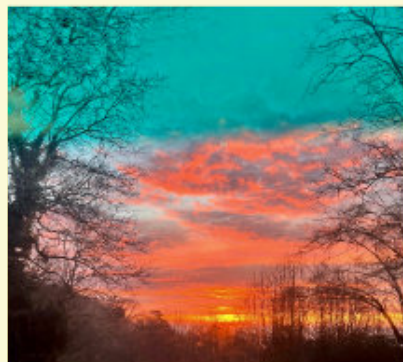
We were delighted with the response that we had to our Photographic Competition held during the summer and congratulate all of you who submitted a photo. The competition asked for photos under the titles "Hildenborough Wildlife" and "Hildenborough Village Life". Our customers throughout the summer voted for the photos they liked the best.

Congratulations to our winners:

Under 11
Hildenborough
Wildlife - George
Webb



Age 11-17 Hildenborough Wildlife - Anna
McMurtie



Age 18+ Hildenborough Village Life -
Matt Watts



All our winners received Hildenborough
Farmers' Market Gift Vouchers. We
thought that you would like to see the
winning photos:

Contact the Market manager: Nick
Aldridge on: -
managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com

Also follow us on social media for your
weekly update on what stalls will be at the
Market.

We are open from 8.30am to 11.00 am
every Tuesday at the Hildenborough
Village Hall in Riding Lane.

... back by popular request

"The Book of Life"

'A musical for such a time as this'

by the

INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING
Absolute Gospel Company Choir

"Absolutely brilliant"

"Your best musical yet"

*"This musical, moved me to
tears"*

Is
YOUR
name in the
Book of
Life?

Saturday 11th October 2025
3:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

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FREE Admission by ticket
[donations gratefully received]

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www.absolutegospel.org

Further info: 07549 830906 / 01732 364517



Hildenborough Cricket Club



Hildenborough Cricket Club went into the final month of the season on course for their most successful in the club's history.

At the time of writing they had won 12 of their 15 matches this season.

The latest victory over Petts Wood by 83 runs in late August was their eighth in a row -

a sequence stretching back to mid-June.

Three batsmen - Richard Sparks (55), Mark Davies (52) and Greg Smith (51) all retired not out in a total of 219-3 in thirty-five overs.

Simon Clark then took three for eight and Matt Richards 2-25 in as the visitors ended on 136-9

Mark Davies' hundred was the highlight in a 23-run win over Kent Ramblas.

Back in action after a blank weekend due to opponents being unable to raise a side, they profited from another good all-round display.

Davies led the way, reaching his ton off 89 balls with 14 fours and two sixes, before retiring supported by 48 not out from JP Martens in Hildenborough's total of 215-5.

Ramblas' reply started well, reaching 93-0, but Matt Richards checked their progress dismissing the top three batsmen.

Martens then held three catches before Richards Sparks (3-19 in five overs) and two by Tom Collier reduced the visitors to 192-7.

Pete Wood

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

The gardening year is coming to a close, and our garden store is now closed for the winter. Next year we do need some member volunteers to help with running the store on Saturday mornings. It is only a couple of hours and can usually be organised on a monthly basis, so 2 hours per month is not an onerous task. Please let me know if you feel you could contribute - either as the cashier or the loader. Without more help we will have to consider closing the store, which is a lifeline for members without their own car.



On a brighter note, the society will be 130 years young in 2026 - surely the oldest organisation in the village. We are hoping to arrange at least one event to mark this anniversary, and a few more active committee members would assist with this. Our current committee is diminishing as age creeps up on members, and some new younger blood would be more than welcome.

Don't forget the quiz evening on 3rd October - you can still get tickets for this.

David Haugh

The Night Sky in Hildenborough – October 2025

Experience tells us that anything appearing in the media about astronomy is, in general, either vastly over exaggerated or vastly over simplified. One example of this is the regular hype we hear about “supermoons”. It is true that because the Moon orbits the Earth in an ellipse, there are instances of a full Moon occurring when sometimes it is nearer and at other times further away from us. This obviously causes variations in the apparent size of the Moon but not to the wild extremes that the news would have us believe. It has to be remembered that a full Moon when viewed with foreground objects, such as houses and trees, always looks bigger thanks to an optical illusion. The proof of this is that when you look an hour or two after it has risen, and the Moon is clear of foreground objects, it has miraculously returned to its normal size.

This month there is a “Supermoon” on the 7th when our satellite will be 361,608½ km away. Full Moon occurs in the early morning at 4:48 am when it is about to set but if you look the evening before or the one after then you will get the same effect. Incidentally, on November 5th we will see this year’s largest Supermoon which will be over 4,000 km closer than this month’s. It will be the largest because full Moon coincides very nearly with “perigee”, which is the point in its orbit when it is closest to Earth.

Saturn was at opposition towards the end of last month which is the time when it is closest to us and therefore larger and brighter. It is also the time when it is visible throughout the hours of darkness, rising as the Sun is setting. During the early part of the month, Saturn is close to the south east at an altitude of around 25°

at 9pm. Looking later in the night, and in the month, will mean the ringed planet is higher in the sky. If you are looking with binoculars or a telescope, the higher in the sky it is, the steadier the image should be because you are looking through a thinner layer of the atmosphere. However, do remember that whatever optical aid you are using, it will give substantially better views if it is mounted on a tripod or somehow supported. On the evening of the 5th, an almost full Moon is just 3° to the north west of Saturn.

On the night before, 4th October, NASA invites everyone to take part in “International Observe the Moon Night” where they encourage us all to observe our nearest celestial neighbour and take part in a number of activities. Go to <https://moon.nasa.gov/observe-the-moon-night/> to see what they have planned for budding astronomers.

It’s hard to believe but it’s 50 years ago this month since the first ever spacecraft from Earth touched down on another planet. Russia sent Venera 9 and 10 as a pair which seemed common in those days to overcome problems of unreliability. As it turned out, both craft made it to the surface of Venus and both transmitted data back (including a surface temperature of 485°C) to an orbiter which acted as a relay station to Earth.

If you’re unlucky enough to have to get up at an unsocial hour, you might see Venus low down and due east around 6am in early October. Incidentally, the bright object considerably higher in the sky and towards the south east is the gas giant Jupiter. Venus is slowly moving back into the twilight so expect to see it getting closer to the horizon as time passes. By the end of October, it is much lower in the ESE at a similar time in the morning.

Brian Mills FRAS

T.M.B.C. News

Local Plan.

There is movement towards some crucial dates for the preparation of the local plan. Regulation 18: Second stage of consultation Q3 2025/26 (starting October 2025) and Regulation 19: Publication of the draft local plan Q2 2026/27. Sites put forward for development should be available to view. I would encourage anyone with an interest to view the TMBC website, go to 'Planning', then 'Planning Policy and Local Plan'.

Town Council.

For the Tonbridge part of Hildenborough Ward, the results are in for the consultation on Tonbridge gaining a Town Council. Now you might have heard that there was overwhelming support for a Town Council. Well, there was by the 12% (3,257) of Tonbridge residents who responded. 72% were in favour and 23% against, 5% did not know. Of the respondents, 53% learnt of the consultation by email, 31% by direct leaflet and 700 by word of mouth. For the no's the extra cost was a concern.

Tonbridge Town Regeneration.

Briefly 1,500 residents responded to the regeneration consultation, which I am told is a 'fair' response. There was support for Warders move to somewhere near to the rear of Sainsbury's and as much parking for the town as possible. Further work is being conducted on resident's responses.

New Angel Centre.

A concept design is being drawn up and of course the big question is, 'What goes inside'.

The design will be using the Royal Institute of British Architects rules. This is also being guided by 47 groups who book to use the present Angel Centre. Next September 2026, the Council will have to decide whether to proceed with the project. The Council will have to borrow money for construction. An

opening date sometime in 2028 is possible.

Task Force.

In Tonbridge visible patrolling has been enhanced by the addition of the Neighbourhood Task Force Town Team, which has added two police constables to the team and provided further resources. Unfortunately, regular patrols are required to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour at the Town Lock area, (Medway Wharf Road).

U3A

A plug for U3A, whose motto is 'Learn, Laugh, Live'. Get Social, Get Active, Get Learning, Escape the Everyday, Get Out and Be Unique. There are 1500 groups in Kent's 32 U3A's. www.kentnetwork.u3asite.uk/join_a_u3a/ will reveal all.

Swimming Pool.

From this October the outdoor pool at Tonbridge will remain open during the autumn and winter months as part of a seasonal trial. Opening hours are Weekdays, 06.30-09.00 and 16.00-19.00. Weekends 08.00-11.00 and 19.00-20.00. The pool will be heated to 18-20°C.

Contact me.

Please do not hesitate for one minute, about contacting me on Borough Council matters. If you would prefer a home visit in private, just let me know.

Council Meetings.

Please remember Council meetings are still streamed on You Tube, however public attendance is permitted in the Council Chamber.

Cllr Mark Rhodes

Borough Councillors

Kath Barton

c/o TMBC, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive,
Kings Hill, ME19 4LZ

Kath.Barton@tmbc.gov.uk

Mark Rhodes 01732 914 166

39 Cranford Road, Tonbridge

mark.rhodes@tmbc.gov.uk

TMBC - 01732 844 522

Kent County Councillor

Harry Rayner 03000 421 606

harry.rayner@kent.gov.uk

Contact the Parish Council via

clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

or by telephone (07818 329 029)

**Hildenborough PC, Riding Lane,
Hildenborough, TN11 9HY**

From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

I have a strong desire for more buses serving our community. One of the ways you can ensure our bus services are as good as they can be is by letting me know any issues or concerns you may have. I am always interested to hear the experiences of anyone who uses our local bus routes, including our children.

That's why I run a School Bus Survey each year. With the new academic year having now started I have opened my 2025 survey to find out which services are working well, and which need improvement over the first few weeks of term. If you, or someone you know, has children of secondary school age, please ask them to complete my annual survey so they can have their say. I also would like to hear from anyone who has children of secondary school age who could get the bus to school but choose not to. Why is that, and what would make you consider getting a bus to school instead?

Autumn is always a tricky time for any parent, with our children going into a new school year and sometimes a new school entirely. This brings a change to the routine, and our travel plans too. With

this being the case it's more important than ever to let me know your thoughts so that I can raise these with the relevant operators and Kent County Council. I meet regularly with our local bus companies, and I can raise these issues with them directly.

The 2025 School Bus Survey is available on my website or directly using this link – www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025SchoolBusSurvey.

Please do share this with any friends and neighbours who have children who get the bus to school, or who might wish to use one of our local bus services but hasn't yet. If you can't access the survey but would like to share your thoughts with me, please use the contact details below:

You can reach me using these details:

E-mail: tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk

Phone: 01732 441 563

Post: 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent,
TN9 1SP

Tom

"Hilden Manor Roadhouse". (This is from an article in the local paper of 1944 with locations still disguised.). The original was built by ten men in only 24 days (typically it takes five to seven months to build a basic new home today). It was welcomed as being a totally flexible design, new owners could order the size and shape they required. The first to this new design are houses in Leigh Road at the end of Brookmead. Following the success of the prototype 220 houses were built. Some far sighted people were starting to look to the future. The design process was so quick that some units had long running problems. The technique also proved to be flexible and many of the original houses have had major modifications.

George Gorham - with thanks to Tim Asquith's research

Evening WI: For our September meeting Derek March came along to give us his talk "The Story of the Honeybee".

Derek was a commercial beekeeper for many years; he only has three hives now which he looks after with some help as he has what he called "beekeepers back" from his years of bending over the hives and lifting the honey laden frames.



Derek talked about the healing properties of honey and how it has been used for centuries. Alongside the honey the wax has also been used for making candles and for a time was as valuable as the honey.

He talked us through the life cycle of a bee and the different areas of the hive and showed us some of the equipment he uses. Derek also gave us some information about the issues that have been affecting the bee population in recent years. It was a fascinating talk from a man who is clearly passionate about bees and protecting them now and in the future.

Following Derek's talk, we stopped for tea and some lovely cake kindly provided by Jan.

We then shared general WI business and discussed forthcoming events and activities.

We were also joined by Becky Mackay who came along to talk to us about Tonbridge Harvest. We had a chat with her about some different avenues she could explore in order to develop her project, some of us also signed up for her and her team to come along and pick excess fruit we have in our gardens. Such a great idea.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 14th October 2025**, when we will share our Harvest supper.

The evening WI meets once a month and gives members the opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills, and have fun. We always welcome new members, so please feel free to just drop in and say hello, even just for one evening to see what we are all about.

Please note our meeting time, we meet in the family room at the Church Centre at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

Lorna Stapley-President

Centre Piece

From Hildenborough Parish Council - <https://www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Contact: Louise Jenner (Clerk) - 07818 329 029 clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

Postal Address: Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Riding Lane, TN11 9HY

Every Voice Counts in Hildenborough – Add Yours Today to make a difference

Hildenborough Parish Council is inviting all local residents to take part in an important survey that will help shape the future of our parish.

With the upcoming Local Plan from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council expected to bring changes - including new housing developments - your views matter more than ever. This survey is your chance to tell us what's important to you and how we can best serve our community.

Complete the survey now: <https://bit.ly/HPCsurvey25>

Whether you're responding as an individual, a family, or a local group, every voice counts. Let's build a better Hildenborough—together.

Local plan – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

You can find comprehensive information about the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) Local Plan on their official website. This includes

updates, key documents, consultation stages, and their evidence base materials:
www.tmbc.gov.uk/local-plan

To view the current sites put forward for housing development

in Hildenborough (outlined in red on the map), please use the below website address and click on the placemaker interactive map (Extract shown below).

www.tmbc.gov.uk/local-plan/land-availability-assessment

Hildenborough Parish Council Update

Hildenborough Parish Council extends its heartfelt thanks to Councillor Coles for her many years of dedicated service to our community. Her commitment and contributions have left a lasting impact, and we are deeply grateful for all she has done.

With her departure, the Parish Council now has a vacancy for a new councillor. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone passionate about local issues and community wellbeing to get involved and make a difference.

If you're interested in learning more or considering the role, please contact the Parish Clerk at:
clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk





Hildenborough Parish Council

QUICK SURVEY

Complete our short Hildenborough Parish Community Survey about the TMBC Local Plan and help influence the future of Hildenborough for all.

TMBC have created a Local Plan for Hildenborough that is due to be Published in October 2025, outlining their vision for delivering several new housing sites in the Parish.



Filling in our survey gives your Parish Council the opportunity to inform TMBC of your views, so that we may influence the development in the area.

Your parish, your view, your voice - it really matters!

Scan the QR code to access the survey or use the following link:

<https://bit.ly/HPCsurvey25>

If you would like a paper copy of the survey please contact the Parish Clerk on: **07818 329029**

Crossword clues

Across

1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)

7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)

8 Relieved (5)

10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)

11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)

13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)

15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)

17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)

18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her —' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)

21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an —, — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)

22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)

23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)

2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)

3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)

4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)

5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)

6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)

9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)

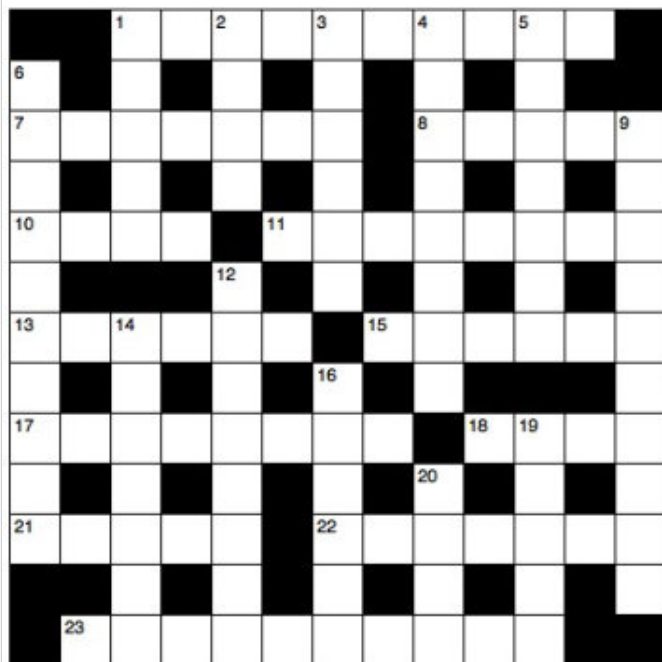
12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)

14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)

16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)

19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)

20 See 18 Across



Wordsearch

Andrew
Patron
Saint
Scotland
Fife

First
Disciple
John
Baptist
Lamb

God
followed
Jesus
Come
See

Peter
Apostolic
Band
Message
world

P	F	I	F	E	W	L	A	M	B	D
N	A	D	E	I	E	J	M	E	P	D
J	S	M	W	I	R	E	E	S	W	N
P	O	I	R	R	D	S	I	S	O	I
C	R	H	E	O	N	U	T	A	R	L
P	A	T	N	I	A	S	E	G	L	B
J	E	F	O	L	L	O	W	E	D	A
P	S	B	A	P	T	I	S	T	O	N
S	R	N	T	N	O	R	T	A	P	D
I	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	W	O
C	I	L	O	T	S	O	P	A	A	G

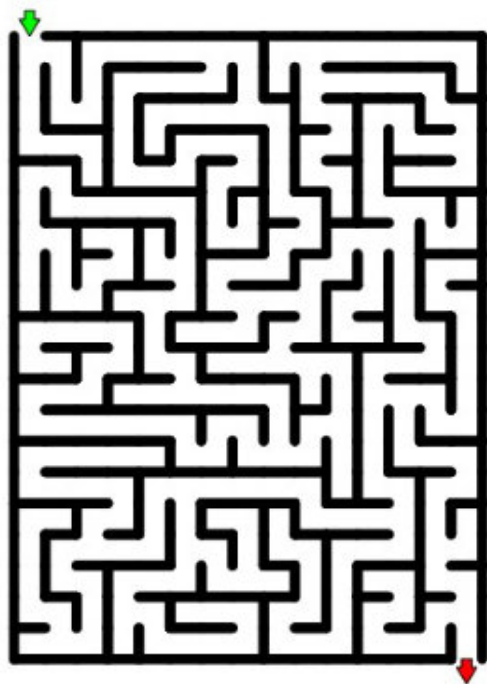
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5	2				4			7
	3	9		8				
4	8	7	6					
7			2		6		4	1
9		1				3		2
8	4		3		1			
					2	7	1	8
				1		4	9	
6			9				3	5

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2		5				8		
			6	5	3			
9							6	
			4		6			1
3								4
7			2		9			
	2							9
			5	7	4			
		4				6		5

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Local Directory

Church Contacts

Home (Connect) Groups
Prayer Chain
Bright Sparks, (Mondays, term-time)
Generation Creation (Sundays)

Church Office **01732 833 596**
Cynthia Fawcus **01732 833 397**
Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**
Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**

Community Groups

Evening Women's Institute
Beavers (Ages 6-8) Thurs 5.15-6.30 pm
Cubs (Ages 8-10.5) Monday 6.30-8 pm
Scouts (Ages 10.5-14) Friday 7.30-9 pm
Guides

Miss Lorna Stapley - **07960 174 789**
hildenboroughbeavers8thtonbridgescouts@hotmail.com
hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com
8thtonbridgescouts@gmail.com
Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**

Brownies

hildenbrownies@outlook.com

Hildenborough Amateur Dramatics

Rich Lake - **07579 210 122**

Hildenborough Conservation Group

Mrs Lynne Flower **01732 355 080**
managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com

Hildenborough Farmers' Market

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

David Haugh **01732 832 869**

Hildenborough History Society

Tracy Chandler **01732 838 353**

Village Preservation Society

David Vanns **01732 835 289**

Hildenborough Litter Pickers

Emily Simons **07715 113 899**

Hildenborough Parish Council

Louise Jenner **07818 329 029**

Hildenborough CofE Primary School

www.hildenborough.kent.sch.uk - 01732 833 394

Stocks Green Primary School

www.stocksgreenprimary.co.uk - 01732 832 758

Stocks Green Pre-School

www.stocksgreenpreschool.co.uk - 01732 834 115

Village Hall Bookings

Hilary Macnamara - **07598 927 953**

West Kent Concert Band

wkcb@muzodo.com

Floodline

0345 988 1188

Southern Water (spillage reporting)

0800 952 1001

Hildenborough Speedwatch

jonathan.ashton.bidwriting@gmail.com

KENT POLICE (Non-emergency calls) 101

Hildenborough Sports

Badminton

Kathryn Stewart **07809 299 553**

Indoor (Short Mat) Bowls Club

David Chambers **01732 833 612**

Hildenborough Cricket Club

Barry Webb **01732 838 422**

Hildenborough Friendly Badminton Club

Ivan Kirkpatrick **07730 888 429**

Stoolball Club

Lauren Welch **07999 604 213**

Tennis Club (membership)

www.hildenboroughtennis.co.uk

Hildenborough Road Races

Amy Pay - **hildenroadrace@gmail.com**

Tonbridge Swimming Club

chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk

Tonbridge Bridge Club

Lionel Shields **01732 355 919**

Hilden Park

Chartered Accountants



The High-Income Child Benefit Charge (HICBC)

From 7 April 2025, families receiving Child Benefit will see an increase in their payments. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) announced that the weekly rate will rise to £26.05 for the eldest or only child and £17.25 for each additional child. This means an annual payment of £1,354.60 for the first child and £897 for each subsequent child.

You may have to pay the HICBC if your income exceeds £60,000 and child benefit is being paid in relation to a child that lives with you, regardless of whether you are a parent of that child. If you are living with another person in a marriage, civil partnership or long-term relationship, you

will only be liable to the HICBC if you are the higher earner of the two of you.

For 2025/26, the HICBC is calculated at 1% of the child benefit received for every £200 of income above £60,000. This means that child benefit is fully clawed back where income exceeds £80,000.

From summer 2025, if you are an employee who is liable to pay the HICBC, you will be able to use a new digital service to declare the charge and opt to pay it directly through PAYE, without the need to register for self-assessment.

If you would like any advice,
please contact us on 01732 838877

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MORE OF YOUR LEGACY, TO THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE

The Inheritance Tax trap is catching more families than ever.

Rising property values, frozen thresholds, and the inclusion of pensions in estates from 2027 mean more people could face a 40% tax on what they leave behind.

The good news? With the right advice, there are ways to reduce the impact and keep more of your wealth where it belongs – with your loved ones.

Let us help protect your legacy

Call us for a free initial consultation and we'll explain what's changing, and how you can act now to protect your legacy.

Inheritance Tax/Estate Planning is not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Mortgages | Pensions | Financial Planning | Investments | Insurance



01732 834834



advice@citrusfinancial.co.uk



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