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# From the Church



## Could It Really Be True?

When many people first hear the Christian story, it can sound

a little like a fairy tale. The message is so extraordinary it's almost too hard to believe.

Like every really good story, there are heroes and villains. There are dramatic moments and unexpected turns. Amazing miracles appear throughout the story. Storms are calmed with a word. Blind eyes are opened. A small meal feeds thousands of people. At the centre of it all stands Jesus. The claim is that God became a human being and he walked the dusty roads of the Middle East, spoke about love and forgiveness, welcomed the overlooked, and challenged the powerful.

More astonishing, is that Jesus is executed on a cross and three days later his followers begin claiming that he rose from the dead. For many modern people that feels like a step too far. We live in a world shaped by science, evidence, and explanation. Resurrection does not easily fit into the categories we are used to. So, it is understandable that some people place the Easter story alongside myths or legends. And yet we cannot ignore the impact this man called Jesus made in the world.

For two thousand years people across every culture and generation have been drawn to the story of Jesus. The message has crossed continents, languages, and centuries. Even historians continue to wrestle with the same question: why did the early followers of Jesus suddenly begin proclaiming that he was alive again after his execution?

Just days earlier they were frightened and hiding. Yet soon afterwards they were speaking openly and boldly about the resurrection. Many of them faced persecution and hardship because of what they believed, and yet they held onto their conviction that Jesus was alive.

Of course, believing the Easter story does require openness. It asks us to consider that reality might be larger and more mysterious than we sometimes understand or imagine. The Christian faith is not simply a collection of moral teachings or spiritual ideas. At its heart is a claim about something that happened in history, that God stepped into the world through Jesus, that his death on a cross was not the end, and that the resurrection revealed a deeper hope at the centre of existence.

That is a remarkable claim. Perhaps even an uncomfortable one. But if it were true, even if there were the slightest possibility that it was true, then it would surely be something worth reflecting on. Because it would mean that God has not remained distant from the world.

And it would mean that hope greater than we could ever imagine, is not just wishful thinking, but something grounded in reality.

Easter invites us, at the very least, to pause and consider that possibility. Sometimes the most important questions in life begin not with certainty, but with curiosity. The Easter story still carries that quiet invitation today:

What if this story, surprising as it may seem, is actually true?

We would love to welcome you to any of our services this Easter and beyond, to hear more about Jesus.

*Rev Tim Saiet*

# ST JOHN'S CHURCH - Directory

**Tel: 01732 833 596 Website: [www.stjohnshildenborough.co.uk](http://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 Saiset	07973 136 968 <a href="mailto:tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
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# Easter

## SERVICES AT ST JOHNS HILDENBOROUGH

Sunday 29 March 2026

Palm Sunday

9.15am and 11am services as usual

Thursday 2 April 2026

7pm Maundy Thursday service

Friday 3 April 2026

2pm Good Friday service

An hour at the Cross

Sunday 5 April 2026

10am Easter Service

11.15am Holy Communion





**HIVE**  
HILDENBOROUGH VILLAGE

For school year  
6-13  
£5 for this  
session



# The Hive Youth Group April 2026

Only one Youth Group in April due to the school Easter break. We return on ...

April 26th – Dino Golf, Tonbridge.  
4-5 pm

Booking onto this event is essential. If you would like to join us email or collect a booking form from Lisa

All youth leaders  
hold a valid DBS

For more information please  
contact

Lisa Glasscote

[lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk](mailto:lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk)



ST JOHN'S CHURCH, HILDENBOROUGH

## READ THE BIBLE IN HOLY WEEK

29 MARCH - 5 APRIL 2026



SIGN UP SHEETS WILL GO UP ON ABOUT  
1 MARCH 2026



SIGN UP SHEETS NOW UP  
AT THE BACK OF CHURCH

WE HAVE HUNDREDS OF 15  
MINUTE SLOTS. HOW MANY  
WILL YOU TAKE?

WE WILL READ THE WHOLE BIBLE ALOUD DURING HOLY WEEK IN CHURCH IN 15 MINUTE RELAYS FROM 6AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT (EXCEPT DURING SERVICES) UNTIL WE HAVE READ EVERYTHING FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION.  
SIGN UP SHEETS IN CHURCH FROM 1 MARCH

Wide range of  
kids play  
equipment



# WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

**2026 Dates.**

**Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, Mar 7<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup>,  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup>, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Aug 1<sup>st</sup>,  
Sep 5<sup>th</sup>, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**£3 per family; includes hot breakfast  
roll and refreshments**

Meet other  
local Dads and  
have fun

For  
children  
aged 0-6

**9:30-11am**

**Church Centre, Foxbush TN11 9HT**



# GOOD FRIDAY

## HOPE IN THE GARDEN

**Friday, 3rd April 2026. 10:00-11:30am**

Come and join us this Good Friday for a relaxed, family-friendly drop-in morning!

**Easter Trail** - Complete the trail and win a chocolate prize.

**Make an Easter Garden** - Hands-on craft for all ages.

**Refreshments** - Enjoy a drink and a Hot Cross Bun.

**Free Event** - No booking required, just drop by and stay for as long (or as little) as you like.

FIRST STOP: THE CAFÉ

VISIT THE CAFÉ IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH CENTRE TO COLLECT YOUR EASTER TRAIL STAMP SHEET AND START YOUR TRAIL.



# VOLUNTEERS *Needed!*

A number of members of the Parochial Church Council are retiring this year and we would be very grateful for volunteers who will stand for election.

Benefits	Responsibilities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Your voice will be heard.</li><li>2. Do you have ideas on what St John's should be doing better?</li><li>3. Should St Johns do something new?</li><li>4. Can you lend your expertise to St Johns? Areas needed include risk, compliance &amp; HR.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Directing the mission and finances of the parish church,</li><li>2. Acting as charity trustees, complying with charity and church law</li><li>3. Ensuring building maintenance,</li><li>4. Overseeing safeguarding</li><li>5. Making informed decisions in the parish's best interest.</li><li>6. Collectively oversee the church's spiritual and practical wellbeing, working with the <u>incumbent</u> (vicar) to ensure the church serves the community effectively.</li></ol>

For more information speak to Tim, or contact the Church Office at [office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk](mailto:office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk)



# Forget-me-not Cafés

*Companionship over a cuppa*



At the March Café we welcomed a retired RAF Police Sergeant to speak to us. Philip Waite served Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II between 1970 and 1992. His military service saw him stationed in the UK and Germany and he worked in a special squadron undertaking Royal Visits, Ministerial, VIP duties, and ceremonial occasions. He flew as support crew worldwide on RAF operations and served during the first Gulf War. He regaled us with some interesting tales using a slideshow to illustrate his stories. Philip does not charge a fee for his talks as all proceeds go to the Babons Cancer Support in Tonbridge.

This month our Café will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm in the Family Room of the St. John's Church Centre.

Whilst some of those who attend the Café live with a dementia diagnosis, others have mild memory loss, others care for a person with dementia. There is plenty of



free parking and disabled facilities on site.

The Café is also open to anyone who would like to get out of the house for a couple of hours and meet other people for some conversation. If you are feeling lonely and would like someone to chat to please come along.

If you would like more information on the Forget-me-Not Café or would like to be put on the mailing list for the monthly programme of all the Cafés please contact Elaine on [forgetmenot.sadfc@gmail.com](mailto:forgetmenot.sadfc@gmail.com) or 07946 534 476.

**Julie Rhodes**

**HADS invites you to audition  
for:-**

# **Fiddler on the Roof**

**Audition Dates**  
**April 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm**  
**April 26<sup>th</sup> 2pm**

Auditions take place at St John's  
Church Centre, Hildenborough

Open to everyone—from seasoned  
performers to absolute beginners.

Please email Rich for an audition pack  
[richielake@googlemail.com](mailto:richielake@googlemail.com)

## 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!

### Hildenborough History Society AGM – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 7.15pm

We have one of our favourite speakers, **Gilly Halcrow**, presenting on **The History of Shops**.

I expect many of us remember how shops in Hildenborough have changed. The photos are a reminder that we used to have two post offices and several village stores not so long ago.



Now is the time to renew your annual membership of £5, and a great time for new members to join. We have at least 4 meetings a year, free for members, with non-

members paying £2 per meeting. Full details, and lots of local history, are on our website [www.hildenboroughhistorysociety@weebly.com](mailto:www.hildenboroughhistorysociety@weebly.com)



**Tony Atkinson, Chairman** [atkinsontony@btinternet.com](mailto:atkinsontony@btinternet.com)

### Tonbridge Lions Events:

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May:** 7am at Tonbridge School Centre

**Tonbridge Triathlon:** Various triathlon / duathlon options raising money for good local causes. Enter here: [tonbridgetriathlon@hotmail.com](mailto:tonbridgetriathlon@hotmail.com)

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May:** 10am-4pm at Angel Centre

**Free Prostate PSA Testing:** For men aged 40-80. Online bookings only via: <https://pcaso.mypsatests.org.uk/> search for event @TONBRIDGE and follow the booking instructions. Or scan the QR code on the right.



## West Kent Autism Parents' Support Society

**Parent Network Sessions** Connect with us at The Family Room, St John's Church, Hildenborough. **Mondays (12–1.30pm):** 13 Apr, 11 May, 8 Jun.

£2 donation | Tea/Coffee provided | Bring packed lunch.

**More info:** [info@wkapss.org.uk](mailto:info@wkapss.org.uk)

## 'The Filling Station' - West Weald

**Wednesday 8th April | Eden Centre, Edenbridge** Join us for worship, prayer, and hospitality. **Time:** 7:30pm for 8pm start (ends 9:30pm). **Guest Speaker:** Julie Sheldon on "The Power of Forgiveness." **Future Dates:** 22 Apr (Fordcombe), 27 May (Fordcombe), 10 Jun (Edenbridge).

**More info:** [thefillingstation.org.uk/station/west-weald](http://thefillingstation.org.uk/station/west-weald)

## Win a 10-Night Costa Rica Escape!

Support **Hildenborough CE Primary School PTA** by entering our raffle to win a stay at 'High Nest,' Playa Hermosa. Features include an ocean-view King suite, private plunge pool, and stunning sunsets.

- **Tickets:** £5 each
- **Draw Date:** Saturday 9th May 2026
- **To Enter:** Scan the QR code



All proceeds benefit **Hildenborough CE Primary School (Charity 1004222)**.

## The Oast Theatre: The Good Life

18th–25th April | A funny, feel-good stage adaptation of the classic 70s sitcom. Join Tom, Barbara, Jerry, and Margo for an evening of nostalgic, self-sufficient chaos!

Times: 8pm (Sunday Matinee 3pm)

Tickets: £14

Book Online: [www.oasttheatre.com](http://www.oasttheatre.com) Phone: 0333 666 33 66 (fee applies)

## Coffee with a Copper

Monday 20th April, 10am–11am

Ridings Café, 2 Riding Lane, TN11 9HX

Meet your local Beat Officer, Thomas Mead, at this community police surgery. Drop in to raise local concerns, hear about neighbourhood safety work, or just have a chat. All residents are welcome!



for choice with fresh produce. Carrying on down the middle stalls, if you are in need of a photo or picture frame then stop here and have a browse. Our next stall may be a visiting charity, **Science Kits** or **Hey Macrame**, depending on the week. We

Do you know where Hildenborough Farmers' Market is? Let me take you there: in Hildenborough, as you turn into Riding Lane from the B245, the market is on the right, in the Village Hall every Tuesday from 8.30 – 11.00 am.

Come with me on a quick tour. At the outside entrance to the Hall, if you look to your left, you will see the first of our stallholders, **Wills Plaice Grimsby**, all things fresh fish straight from the docks. Looking right, you will see wooden planters for sale, just in time for your spring gardening projects. Head inside and you will see lots of stalls, but where to start? At the beginning of course. On the left is a table of tasty sausages and pies from **Independent Trotters** and then you are hit with an array of colour with a table full of bedding plants, shrubs and herbs from **John and Norman**. What's next? – Lego! Visit **The Little**

**Brickshop** stall for everyone who loves to build. Turn the corner and you will see plates of delicious cakes from **Lou & H Cakes**. I don't think you will be able to walk by without being tempted by something. Do you like jam and pickle? Then our next stall is the one for you – **Ivydene Preserves** – if you can't decide you can always have a taste-test.

Forgotten a birthday or that special occasion and need a card? **Lynn** is your go-to-stall and if you want something specific, Lynn will make a card especially for you. Into the middle stalls and what is that lovely smell? Bread freshly baked that morning, sticky buns and baguettes are a must from **Dave**. The next two stall holders could be hand-made candles, jewellery and when in season, olive oil.

Another bright array of colour as we reach **Mocketts Farm** and **Vanda**, with everything fruit and veg, you will be spoilt

finish in the middle with the **Crafty Hospice Gardeners** with lots of material craft from aprons to hair scrunchies. Now we are going to go up the other side of the Hall, starting with **Fay** and her beautifully knitted toys and cardigans. Then **Hever Flowers** for beautiful bouquets. Are you a coffee connoisseur? If so, the **Daily Grind** is the stall for you with specialist coffees and teas. Finally, we finish our tour with **Curd and Rennett**, where you can choose a piece of cheese and even try before you buy.

Sometimes we have different stalls and a visit from our local police force, Hildenborough Parish Council or our TMBC Councillors, plus our local financial advisor from Rootes Wealth Management and our Keys Editor.

Goodness, if you have spent time browsing all these stalls, you have had a good morning of retail therapy and will be in need of refreshment. Look towards the stage for the **Market Café**, where you can grab a coffee, a biscuit and sit down for a well-earned rest, while maybe having a chat with a welcoming volunteer or friend.

Now you have had a tour of the Market, why not come and visit us in person? We would love to see you!

**We hope you have your Keys Magazine delivered in time to see that during the school Easter holidays we will be having FREE children's activities: April 7<sup>th</sup> - will be Card Craft and April 14<sup>th</sup> - will be Giant Games on the stage. Come and join us!**

## The Night Sky - April

As I mentioned last month, Jupiter is very much the major player in the evening sky at the moment. By 9pm at the start of the month it is exactly south west with an altitude of  $55^\circ$ . As the angular measurement from the horizon to the zenith (overhead point) is  $90^\circ$  then Jupiter is a little over half way "up". However, Jupiter's supremacy is being challenged as Venus makes its presence felt a little earlier in the evenings. Have a look at 8pm or a little after, close to due west early in April, and you should see Venus, the evening star, at an altitude of  $10^\circ$ . In the middle of the month look around 9pm in the WNW and at the end of the month at 9:30pm, again in the WNW around  $10^\circ$  high.

There are a number of factors at work that influence how well the planets can be seen with their *apparent* distance from the Sun having a huge impact on visibility. This is not their *actual* distance, which remains roughly the same, but how far away from the Sun, in line of sight, they *seem* to be. Tiny Mercury orbits so close to our parent star that it can never be seen far away from it or in a properly dark sky and must therefore, by definition, be close to the horizon. Incidentally, when it's on one side of the Sun it's visible in the morning sky before sunrise and when it's on the other side, it's visible in the evenings after sunset. The ancients used to think they were looking at two entirely different objects!

If we look at Jupiter, in contrast to poor Mercury, at its best it can be seen in dark skies a long way from the Sun and remain visible throughout the night for months at a time. The simple reason for this is that it orbits beyond the Earth and is very

much more distant from the Sun than Mercury.

Another factor in how well we can see the planets is the position of something astronomers call the "ecliptic". The ecliptic can be considered in two ways, one of which is to think of it as the plane of rotation of the Earth around the Sun. All the other planets also rotate in very nearly the same plane but differ by a few degrees. It can be said that if you drew the Sun on a sheet of paper along with the orbits of the planets around it, and then held it up and looked at it edge on, it would be very close to reality.

The other way to define the ecliptic is to think of it as the Sun's path across the sky over the course of a year. This is not the arc it draws with its daily rising and setting, but the very gradual *apparent* journey it makes through the constellations. Of course, this isn't immediately obvious to us because we can't see the stars that surround the Sun, but if we could we would note it moving slowly eastwards with relation to them. This has nothing to do with the Sun but is due to us moving in our orbit and seeing the Sun against a slightly different background each day until a year later it is back where it (or, more correctly, we) started.

The reason the ecliptic is important is because its position above the horizon varies with both the time of day and time of year. When the ecliptic is low down, the planets will be nearer to the horizon and more difficult to see, whilst when it's higher any planets will naturally be at a greater altitude and remain visible for longer.

**Brian Mills FRAS**

## Meet the volunteer – Keith Roshier of Tonbridge Swimming Club

**What is your name?** Keith Roshier

**How long have you lived in the village and who do you live with?**

Since 1999, with my wife Kate and now grown-up children, Michael and Ellen.

**What is your role, how long have you been doing it and what does it involve?**

I've been on Main Committee for 15 years and Chairman of Tonbridge Swimming Club for 12 years. I am busy with the Club in other roles such as officiating, team managing, coaching and I also swim as a Masters swimmer.

**How many hours a week do you spend doing it?**

Oh, that can vary from a few hours to a few dozen hours per week, depending on what is on the schedule.

**What skills have you picked up in this role?** I used to run my own business, so many organisational and management skills were transferable. However, working for a community club, with loads of volunteers and dealing with parents and children was all new to me and where success is not measured in ££££. On route I have picked up on how to communicate out of

a "business" environment and with sensitivity to Safeguarding and Welfare needs. I am often mentoring other parents and volunteers in the many roles I am now experienced in to keep the Club ticking. Many hands make light work! Finding those "many hands" though can be challenging sometimes.

**What is the best thing or your best memory about your role?**

Oh, I have so many good memories. I am proud of the journey the swim club has made in the last 12 years. When I started, the swim club had just 1 Kent County Championship qualifier and in 2020 we had 55. As from December 2025, we now even boast TWO Para World Record holders in the Club. Yes, swimmers at a smallish local swim club can do that if they are given the support they deserve!

**What is the worst thing or your worst memory about your role?**

It is part of life that things can go wrong sometimes, and that can be frustrating. It is how you respond I feel that often matters more and sets you back on track.

Navigating Covid was especially tough, but strangely rewarding in that I feel the Club was stronger afterwards!

The hardest thing each year is when swimmers, that you have seen grow as both swimmers and individuals, leave the Club. Sometimes they move on to university, or employment, at the age of



18 and we always hope to see them back, maybe swimming still or teaching? Sometimes, we willingly see younger swimmers off to other regions or other clubs that can offer them what they need at their stage of athlete development. Whilst it is sad to see them leave, we are proud of our part in making them what they have become.

In one instance we expect an ex-swimmer of ours to make it to the LA Olympics in 2028. I'll tell you in 2028 if my prediction came true!

**If someone wants to learn more about your role, what is the best way of getting in contact with you?**

Email [chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk](mailto:chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk)

**What is an interesting fact about you?** I was once "Keeper of the Queens' Balls".

**If you were Prime Minister for the day, what would be the first law you passed?** I would not want to be PM. I can't see how I can play by their (lack of) rules nowadays!

**What is your favourite section of Keys Magazine?** The adverts and mentions of other local good causes and businesses.

**Which 3 people, dead or alive would you invite for a dinner party and why?** My wife Kate and my 2 children - it's good to have some family time and I sometimes need to be reminded to make that time (I'll cook).

**If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?** To be able to breathe underwater ... because I am scared of heights, so flying is out.

*Keith Roshier*

**Would you like to be featured for your volunteering?**

Keys is here to champion those that give up their time to improve our community. If that's you then I'd love to feature you in our volunteer interview. You can use it to raise awareness for a cause or to try and attract new volunteers. Please get in touch at [editor@keysmagazine.co.uk](mailto:editor@keysmagazine.co.uk) or meet me at the Farmers' Market on the first Tuesday of the month.

*Rob Mansfield*

**Crossroads Care Kent** are looking for a variety of volunteers to support with running our Hub Club hosted at the Six-In-One Club. The club runs every Wednesday from 10am-3pm. We're looking for friendly people who can offer transport, support with setting up, serving refreshments, and getting involved in activities with our members. Volunteers can support weekly, either all day, mornings or afternoons, depending on your availability.

If you'd like to make a difference in your community, we'd love to hear from you on **03450 956 701** or email [enquiries@crossroadskent.org](mailto:enquiries@crossroadskent.org).

*Megan Ladd*

# T.M.B.C. News

## Planning.

In the North of the Borough, straddling two Area planning committees, an application for 1,300 homes on land west of Hermitage Lane was presented to members. The majority of the development is in Area 3 so they debated the application first and after a 3 hour debate, the committee deferred the application to enable investigation into potable water supply. Immediately after the closure of that meeting, Area 2 debated the application; their decision was also to defer and first consult with the water supply company. (Water supply companies are not consultees during the initial application.).

## The Barrier/Bund.



The EA report that the new North gate was successfully installed in the barrier at Leigh. The cabling and control mechanisms for the gates are almost complete. The barrier system prevents Eels from naturally migrating upstream, so a new eel pass has been constructed to improve ecological connectivity. The pass has been specially designed with roughened surfaces and slow water so that young elvers (baby eels) can grip and move steadily against the flow. The pictures are of a general view of the Leigh barrier (above) and the eel pass (right).

The pumping station at the bund site now has trash screens, hand rails, pumps and platforms all installed. The system has

been tested, reinstatement works are progressing and those gardens affected fully reinstated. Pictures courtesy of the E.A.

## Water Supply.

The Cabinet member for Infrastructure wrote to South East Water enquiring as to the likelihood of them supplying water in the future, he highlighted their response to TMBC's Regulation 18 where they say that;

1. They confirmed that "they cannot accommodate additional growth beyond what was assumed in their Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (WRMP24) in areas where they do not have a supply-demand surplus"
- 2 "Specifically, in the Tonbridge and Malling area, where they currently lack available headroom in their supplies, they would be unable to accommodate any growth exceeding their WRMP24 forecast assumptions throughout the entire planning period."
3. "The housing numbers proposed in TMBC's latest IDP (Infrastructure Delivery Plan) in the period 2025-42 are considerably higher than they have in their WRMP24 forecast. Due to the current supply-demand situation in WRZ1 (Tunbridge Wells), WRZ6 (Maidstone) and WRZ7 (Cranbrook) water resource zones, this increase causes significant stress to the supply system."



Well I'm not sure what happens next, but as I stated above, water companies are not statutory consultees for planning purposes and developers have a right to connect to a potable supply under the Water industries Act.

### Thermal Imaging Camera.

And a reminder that TMBC residents are making use of the TIC, which can help to show, cold spots and heat loss in homes, and due to demand a second camera has been purchased. Please contact TMBC (Climate Change Officer) if you wish to borrow a TIC.

### 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](mailto:Kath.Barton@tmbc.gov.uk)

Mark Rhodes 01732 914 166  
39 Cranford Road, Tonbridge  
[mark.rhodes@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:mark.rhodes@tmbc.gov.uk)

TMBC - 01732 844 522

### **Kent County Councillor**

Harry Rayner 03000 421 606  
[harry.rayner@kent.gov.uk](mailto:harry.rayner@kent.gov.uk)

Contact the Parish Council via  
[clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
or by telephone (07818 329 029)

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

**Hospice in the Weald - Open Gardens Season 2026** - Take the opportunity to visit some of the most attractive and interesting gardens in West Kent and East Sussex. The owners are opening their gates this spring and summer to raise funds for Hospice in the Weald.

Twenty-eight gardens will be open; take in the sights, sounds, and scents of some of the finest private gardens. Enjoy refreshments and pick up a few gardening tips along the way.

Each garden provides a different experience - from the formal gardens at Tonbridge School, to the cottage garden at the 18th century thatched cottage at Little Walkhurst, Benenden; from the three acre garden at the magnificent 14th century Long Barn, Weald, to the nine gardens at the Tunbridge Wells in Bloom event. New this year is Bailiffs House in Hever with its wonderful arts and crafts garden.

The first garden opens on the 19th of April, with the season going through until 8th of September. All funds raised help us to support adults and children with life-threatening or life-limiting illness when they need it most.

As ever, we give our sincere thanks to all the garden owners, volunteers, and visitors who make the open season an attractive and successful event.

For full details of all participating gardens, opening dates and times, and to book tickets, please visit the events section at [hospiceintheweald.org.uk](http://hospiceintheweald.org.uk). Alternatively, you can email us at [fundraising@hospiceintheweald.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@hospiceintheweald.org.uk). or call our fundraising team on 01892 820 533.

## From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

April brings with it a sense of new possibility for our community. Trees and fields are coming into bloom, farmers sow their crops, the days grow longer, and preparations for local events and activities begin across our area to get ready for Easter.

The renewal of Spring is something we see reflected in our towns and villages too.

In March, we welcomed the long-awaited expansion of Sainsbury's in the heart of Tonbridge - a significant milestone, first discussed four years ago. In Edenbridge, the 3G sports pitch campaign aims to invest in sport and leisure facilities at the centre of the community. In New Ash Green, conversations about reimagining the village centre remind us how important it is to listen to residents and shape a stronger future together.

These are just some of the ones I have been working on elsewhere. But in Hildenborough, I'm interested to hear your thoughts. What do you think needs improving in our parish?

Many of the ideas that become reality across our community begin with local ideas and community actions. Residents know their area best, its strengths, its needs, and its potential. Real change

often starts with a simple suggestion, a conversation, or a willingness to get involved.

If you have an idea, whether large or small, about how we could improve our community, I would love to hear from you. While I cannot promise every idea can be delivered, I will always do my best to support where I can. Whether that means helping to raise awareness, connecting you with the right people, or guiding you through the next steps. You are welcome to contact me through my email below.

Thank you to all those who give their time, energy and imagination to our towns and villages. Our communities are stronger because of you. As we move into this new season, may the hope of Easter inspire us all to play our part in building places where others can flourish.

E-mail – [tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk)

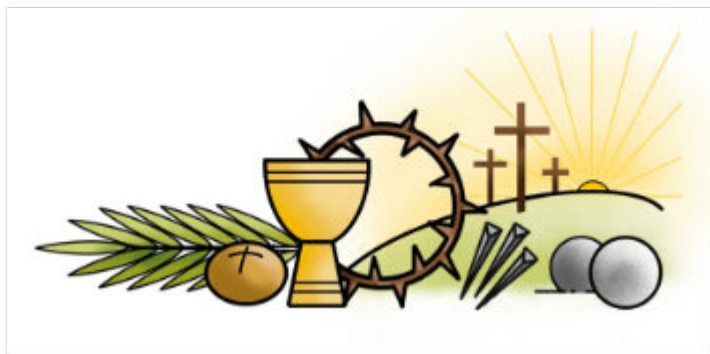
Phone – 01732 441 563

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

Website – [www.tomtugendhat.org](http://www.tomtugendhat.org)

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - @tomtugendhat

**Tom Tugendhat**



**Evening WI:** For our February meeting we welcomed Dean Caston who gave us his talk- “Queen Elizabeth II-A Lifetime of Service.”



Dean talked to us about Queen Elizabeth and her life before she was crowned as well as during her long reign. In that time there were many changes that she witnessed, such as a man on the moon, many medical advances, and the televised Coronation.

She was third in line to the throne but following the abdication of Edward VIII in 1936 everything changed when her father was crowned. She met her future husband, Prince Phillip, in 1939 and they married in 1947. She was only 25 years old when she was made Queen on the death of her father, which she found out when she was overseas. Following the Coronation in 1953 she embarked on a tour which would last five and a half months, going to places such as Sydney and North Africa.

There were many celebrations during the Queen's reign for the Silver, Golden and then Platinum Jubilees where the nation came together with parties and concerts. Dean showed us the changing styles and fashions that The Queen wore over the years, lots of unique styles of hats, and particularly in her later years always lots of colour in her clothes. The Queen owned a vast collection of stunning jewellery, much of which she inherited from her grandmother. These pieces have since been handed down to present members of the royal family. The Queen saw many changes in her lifetime, but she remained true to her faith and the duty she was given as a young woman.

After Dean's talk we had some refreshments and time for a chat. We had 3 visitors who had joined us for the evening.

We then covered all the WI business and shared information of any upcoming events.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026** when we will be having a talk from Helen Kendal-Tobias called Lipstick – The history in your handbag.

Hildenborough 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 drop in and say hello.

**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](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

The Parish Council's green post box is located at the rear of the Pavilion Building

## Annual Parish Meeting – Thank You to Everyone Who Attended

Hildenborough Parish Council would like to thank to all the residents, community groups, and local clubs who attended the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 12th March. The evening was a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the many organisations that contribute so much to village life.



Speakers shared updates on their activities, achievements, and plans for the year ahead, highlighting the wide range of voluntary work that supports our community. The meeting also provided a chance for residents to ask questions, exchange ideas, and learn more about how these groups help enhance Hildenborough.

The Parish Council is grateful for the time and enthusiasm shown by everyone who took part, and we look forward to continuing to work together.

## Hedgerow Planting for Hildenborough Village Green

Hildenborough Parish Council is pleased to share that the council has been successful in securing hedgerow plants through the Woodland Trust's community planting scheme. This funding will allow a new native hedgerow to be established along the fence line of the Village Green.

The project will bring several long-term environmental benefits to the area:

- A new wildlife corridor that links existing habitats and supports birds, insects and small mammals.
- Increased biodiversity, with a mix of native species providing food and shelter throughout the year.
- Improved water absorption.

Planting will take place in November where Medway Valley Countryside Partnership will lead the planting.



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## **New Bike Storage Rack Coming to the Pavilion and Recreation Ground**

Hildenborough Parish Council is pleased to confirm that funding has been secured for a new bike storage rack at the Pavilion and Recreation Ground on Riding Lane. This improvement will make it easier and safer for residents, visitors, and sports clubs to cycle to the site and securely store their bikes.

The project has been generously funded through a Members Grant from KCC Councillor Harry Rayner, and the Parish Council would like to express sincere thanks to Harry for supporting this valuable new facility for the community.

**Kent  
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Council**  
[kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk)



The installation will take place shortly, and further updates will be shared once the rack is in place.

## **Westwood Ash Dieback Works**

Hildenborough Parish Council would like to update residents that essential works will shortly begin in Westwood to address the ongoing issue of ash dieback. The woodland has been experiencing decline, with many ash trees deteriorating rapidly despite regular tree surveys. Trees that appear healthy can die within just a few months, creating significant safety risks for woodland users.

To ensure public safety and protect the long-term health of the woodland, the Parish Council plans to remove all affected ash trees. The felled material will be chipped and used to improve pathways throughout Westwood, helping to manage footfall and maintain safe access for visitors. Please be aware there may be

short-term restrictions on access to some areas of Westwood, for public safety.

## **Ecological Benefits and Biodiversity Recovery**

The restoration work is designed to support the woodland's long-term ecological resilience. Removing diseased ash will increase the amount of light reaching the woodland floor, allowing suppressed native ground flora to re-establish. This will encourage natural regeneration of a wider mix of broadleaf species, including oak, birch, hazel and hawthorn. Over time, this will create a more diverse and structurally varied habitat, reducing the risk of future disease-related decline.

The project will also enhance biodiversity through the creation of deadwood habitats. Chipped material used on pathways and retained brash piles will support fungi, invertebrates, amphibians and small mammals, contributing to a richer and more balanced woodland ecosystem.

## **Improved Access for the Community**

Improved pathways will help reduce soil compaction, protect regenerating areas and ensure that residents can continue to enjoy Westwood safely.

By addressing ash dieback proactively and guiding Westwood toward a more diverse and resilient future, this project will secure long-term ecological benefits, improve habitat quality and enhance public enjoyment of this valued local space.

[www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Contact Hildenborough Parish Council Parish Clerk at 07818 329 029 or email [clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk).

The Parish Council's green post box is located at the rear of the Pavilion Building on Riding Lane.

**Louise Jenner**

## **Hildenborough Tennis Club Open day - Monday 4th May 10am-12pm**

Come and join us at our annual open day and discover everything your friendly community club has to offer. From 10am to 12pm we are offering free tennis and pickleball coaching plus fun cardio tennis for both Juniors and Adults, led by our fantastic Hotshotz coaches. Whether you're new to racquet sports or haven't played in years, this is the perfect opportunity to give it a go in a fun and welcoming environment.

Pickleball is the UK's fastest-growing sport and we have two newly marked pickleball courts with free equipment available - come and give it a go!

There'll also be free refreshments and snacks, so bring the family!

To ensure we have the right coaching cover, simply sign up with our coaching team at [hotshotztennis.co.uk](http://hotshotztennis.co.uk) to let us know you're coming

We also run Junior Camps with Hotshotz - a great way to occupy the kids with fun and energetic outdoor activities.

Easter Junior U12s Tennis Camp (April 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, 9am-1pm) at Tonbridge Tennis Club.

May half term Junior Multi-Sports Camp (May 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>) at Hildenborough Tennis Club.

Summer camps will be running at both clubs - see our Facebook posts for details

Regular coaching at HTC

Fridays 4pm - 6pm - Junior Coaching

Tuesdays 7.30 - 8.30pm - Adult Intermediate Coaching

On-going - 1:1 or 1:2 private Coaching available

Tennis club play - throughout the week for a variety of standards of play - see our website [hildenboroughtennis.co.uk](http://hildenboroughtennis.co.uk)

Pickleball club play. Tuesdays 10am - 12pm. It's quick and easy to learn - and very sociable too!

NEW 6-week courses planned for April/ May 2026



**Pickleball Club Play.** Tuesdays 10am - 12pm. You can join in at any point during this 2hr session. It's quick and easy to learn - and very sociable too!

**Cardio Tennis.** Wednesdays 7pm - 8pm, April 29th - May 20th. Come and get fit for summer with this fun and friendly activity

**Adult Beginners Tennis** . Wednesdays 7pm - 8pm, June 3rd - July 8th. Don't wait any longer! Our Adult classes are welcoming and rewarding.

All courses are open to non-members, with a reduced Club joining fee available during the course if you wish to continue.

**Come along on May 4th and see how easy it is to get involved with your local community club!**

## Wordsearch – April 2026

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with his disciples, he warned them he was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and his blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethesmane that this fearful cup might be removed from him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. From Easter onwards we can only approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ, not on our own merit.

Jesus

Ate

Last

Passover

Meal

Disciples

Warned

Betrayed

Bread

Blessed

Wine

Thanks

Drink

Covenant

Law

Old

New

Body

Blood

Gethsemane

Cup

Removed

Will

Easter

Approach

God

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

## Sudoku - easy and medium puzzles

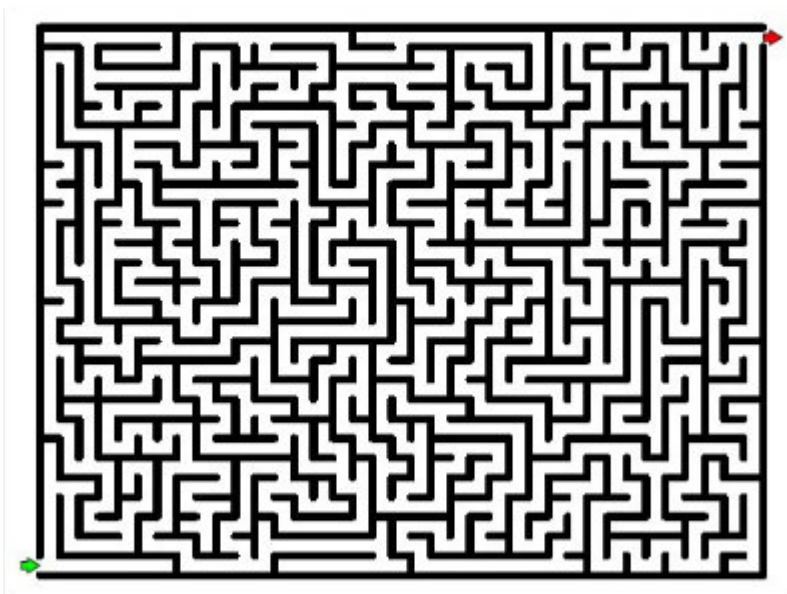
				5	3	2		
				3	8	7	5	
			8	7	1		6	
4			1		2	9		7
	6		9		8		5	
3		9	7		4			8
	1		5	8	6			
5	4	7	3					
	8	2	4					

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

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**Maze - can you find your way from the green arrow to the red?**



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IFA: Rob Mansfield DipPFS

**Investing Basics: Diversification** - In the last two parts, we looked at Bonds (lending) and Equities (owning). This month, we look at the most important rule of all: **Diversification**.

**What is it?** It is the simple practice of spreading your money across different types of investments. Instead of betting on one "horse," you bet on the whole race.

### Why do it?

- **Smooths the Ride:** Different investments usually react differently to news. When share prices are falling, bond prices might be rising. This helps balance your total value.
- **Reduces "Single Point Failure":** If you invest in only one company and it goes bust, you lose everything. If you invest in 1,000 companies, one failure is just a tiny ripple.



### How do you do it?

- **Mix your Asset Classes:** Don't just own shares; own some bonds and cash too.
- **Go Global:** Don't just invest in the UK or US; spread your money across different countries and industries.

Diversification is often called "the only free lunch in investing." It doesn't guarantee you won't lose money, but it is the most effective way to lower your risk while still aiming for long-term growth.

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The advertisement for Bouncy Castle Hire features a vibrant orange and red background. At the top center is a colorful illustration of a bouncy castle. To its right is the Rodmill Castles logo, which includes a small castle icon and the text 'RODMILL CASTLES'. On the left side, there are three circular icons: 'Local Business', 'Public Liability Insurance', and 'All Pipe Safety certified equipment'. The main text reads 'BOUNCY CASTLE HIRE' in large, bold, white letters. Below this, it says 'Affordable Bouncy Castle Hire' and provides the phone number '07768367534'. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner with the text 'Let's Start!'. At the very bottom, the website 'RODMILLCASTLES.COM' is listed.

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## 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**  
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## 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](mailto:hildenboroughbeavers8thtonbridgescouts@hotmail.com)  
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Brownies

Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**

[hildenbrownies@outlook.com](mailto:hildenbrownies@outlook.com)

Hildenborough Amateur Dramatics

Rich Lake - **07579 210 122**

Hildenborough Conservation Group

Mrs Lynne Flower **01732 355 080**

Hildenborough Farmers' Market

[managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com](mailto:managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com)

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

David Haugh **01732 832 869**

Hildenborough History Society

Tracy [hildenboroughhistorysociety@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hildenboroughhistorysociety@yahoo.co.uk)

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](http://www.hildenborough.kent.sch.uk) - **01732 833 394**

Stocks Green Primary School

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Stocks Green Pre-School

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Oaks Nursery

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Village Hall Bookings

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## Hildenborough Sports

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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](http://www.hildenboroughtennis.co.uk)

Hildenborough Road Races

[hildenroadrace@gmail.com](mailto:hildenroadrace@gmail.com)

Tonbridge Swimming Club

[chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk](mailto:chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk)

Tonbridge Bridge Club

Lionel Shields **01732 355 919**



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This means that a couple can now pass on up to £5 million of agricultural or business assets between them tax-free, in addition to the standard inheritance tax allowances that apply.

The proposed reforms to inheritance tax on agricultural and business assets were first announced as part of the 2024 Autumn Budget, and this is now the second amendment to the original proposals. The first amendment was included in the 2025 Autumn Budget and the new allowance can now be transferred between spouses or civil partners.

HM Treasury has said that the increase in allowance will halve the number of estates that will be affected by the reforms, and that around 85% of estates will pay no more inheritance tax than they would have done without the reforms.

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