

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS  
**KEYS**  
HILDENBOROUGH

**May  
2026**

[www.keysmagazine.co.uk](http://www.keysmagazine.co.uk)

**APCM - 19th May 7:30pm - p6**

**Local events - p12-13**

**Puzzles - p24-26**



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# From the Church



## The Things We Miss That Are Right in Front of Us

Have you ever spent five minutes looking for something... only to realise it was right in front of you?

I've done it more times than I care to admit. Looking everywhere for my glasses, only to discover they were on my head the whole time. Searching for my keys... while holding them in my hand. It's almost embarrassing when it happens. You laugh, shake your head, and wonder how you could possibly have missed something so obvious.

And yet, it's not just small things we miss.

Sometimes, we miss what matters most.

Life has a way of filling up quickly. There's always something demanding our attention: work, family, pressures, responsibilities, the constant noise of news and notifications. We move fast, think fast, and often live on autopilot. And in the middle of all that, it's surprisingly easy to overlook things that are right in front of us.

Peace, for example. Many people are searching for peace, longing for a sense of calm, of steadiness, of being able to breathe again. But often, peace isn't found by chasing it harder, but by receiving it. The Bible puts it like this: *"Be still, and know that I am God"* (Psalm 46:10). Stillness is not something our world is very good at, but it may be the very place where peace begins.

Or purpose. It's easy to think we need to go somewhere else, become someone else, or achieve something more before our life really counts. But what if purpose isn't

always "out there" in the distance? What if it's closer than we think, in the ordinary moments, the small acts of kindness, the quiet faithfulness of everyday life?

And then there's God. For many, God feels distant, somewhere far off, hard to find, perhaps even absent. But the surprising message at the heart of the Christian faith is this: God is not far away. He is nearer than we realise.

When Jesus walked the earth, people were often looking for something extraordinary—someone powerful, impressive, unmistakable. And yet, many completely missed Him. Not because He wasn't there, but because He didn't look the way they expected. After His resurrection, even His own followers didn't recognise Him at first as He walked alongside them (Luke 24). He was right in front of them—and still they didn't see.

It makes you wonder how often we might be doing the same. Missing moments of love and connection. Missing opportunities to be with those significant others. Missing the quiet ways God might be at work in our lives, because we're looking for something louder, bigger, or different.

So perhaps the invitation this month is simple, but not easy.

Pause.

Take a few moments each day to slow down, no phone, no noise, just stillness. Notice what's around you. Notice the people in front of you. And perhaps, quietly, say a simple prayer: "God, if you are near, help me to see you."

Because it may just be that what we've been searching for... isn't far away at all.

In fact, it might be right in front of us.

**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>
Children and Youths Pastor	Lisa Glasscote	<a href="mailto:lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
Church Administrator	Emma Joynson-Hicks	01732 833 596 <a href="mailto:office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
<b>Church Volunteers</b>		
Lay Readers	Trevor Long	07513 420 509
Warden	Vacant	01732 833 596 <a href="mailto:office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
Treasurer	Rich Lake	07579 210 122 <a href="mailto:treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
Safeguarding	Kate Lake	07579 821 956 <a href="mailto:safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
Church Centre Bookings	Cynthia Fawcus	01732 833 397 <a href="mailto:cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk">cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk</a>
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## What's on in May?

Church Services	
Sunday 9.15am – 10.30am Communion 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month	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	
<b>Monday - weekly</b> 10-11.45am Church Centre £3/family	<b>Bright Sparks Toddler Group</b> A fun filled haven for little ones providing a safe space for play and a chance for carers and parents to connect.
<b>Tuesday - weekly</b> 11.30am -1pm, weekly Church Centre	<b>Community Larder</b> For people who need a helping hand with some essentials. Donations gratefully accepted of non-perishable food in jars and cans.
<b>Wednesday 13 May</b> 11am in the Church Centre (Second Wednesday of the month)	<b>Forget-me-not Café</b> 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.
<b>Thursday &amp; Friday</b> 9am – 2pm Church Centre	<b>Angel Café</b> A welcoming space for all ages, perfect for a delicious treat and a chat. <b>Closes during school holidays.</b>
<b>Saturday 2 May</b> 9.30am-11am, Church Centre	<b>Who let the dads out?</b> Play time for Dads and kids up to 6, soft play and breakfast included.
<b>Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)</b> Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 7.30pm In the Church Centre	<b>The APCM is like an AGM</b> for a charity or company. Reports are made on activities and elections are held for the Parochial Church Council (PCC).
Children & Young People	
<b>Sundays, 9.15-10.30am</b> Term time only	<b>Generation Creation</b> For primary school aged children and young people years 6 and above. Start in the church and move to the Church Centre.
<b>Sunday 17 May</b> 5-7pm in the Church Centre 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month	<b>HIVE Youth Group</b> For school years 6-13.





HIVE  
HILDENBOROUGH VILLAGE

## The Hive Youth Group

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

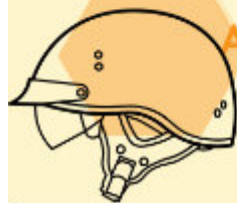
From 5-7pm at St John's Church Centre

A visit from a Scooter instructor to teach  
Scooter tricks and skills

For school year  
6-13  
£1 for this  
session

All youth leaders hold a valid DBS

For more information please contact  
Lisa Glasscote  
[lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk](mailto:lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk)  
5-7pm at St John's Church Centre



## THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH *Meeting*

7.30PM ON TUESDAY 19 MAY 2026  
IN THE CHURCH CENTRE

ST JOHN'S CHURCH,  
HILDENBOROUGH



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**



# Forget-me-not Cafés

*Companionship over a cuppa*



The Forget-me-not Café in April was held on a very hot day, but it did not stop everyone who came enjoying the wonderful singing of Annalene Beechey. Annalene has been to the Café before, and we always look forward to her coming. Annalene has starred in many West End musicals from new to old. So, we went from South Pacific – Honey Bun to Tell me on a Sunday – Take That Look Off Your Face with plenty in between: Paint your Wagon – They Call the Wind Maria, Calamity Jane – The Black Hills of Dakota, Mary Poppins, the Sound of Music and many more. Everyone enjoyed the morning and the selection of songs.

This month includes Dementia Action Week where national awareness is raised by many charities and groups to encourage action to support those living with dementia. In our local area the Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Dementia Friendly Community will be holding a Dementia Information Day on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm at the Southborough Civic Centre where there will be advice and support. If you would like more information, please contact [dementiafriendlytonbridge@gmail.com](mailto:dementiafriendlytonbridge@gmail.com).



We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 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**

# 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)**

# HILDENBOROUGH FARMERS' MARKET

April was a busy month for the Farmers' Market as it included the school Easter Holidays and the Market had free activities for the children. Our first week of the holidays included a craft activity. Annie Hawkins very kindly organised card craft, making different birds and animals with buttons,

feathers and googly eyes. They were such fun and our young folk enjoyed making them as you can see from the pictures. This is something you can easily do at

home too with a nature treasure hunt before making the pictures. It's amazing how googly eyes make the pictures fun.



Our second week of the school holidays was quite noisy with giant games. When the giant Jenga (wooden blocks) tower collapsed there was a loud clatter on the stage! We had a bunny who had lost its tail and blindfolded the children had to try and put it back on. Tin Can Alley and hoopla were also very popular.



Do you have green fingers? Our free children's activity for the May school holiday will have a gardening theme: decorate a flowerpot, choose your plant to put in it and watch it grow.

Hildenborough Farmers' Market has been awarded the logo at the

top of the page by the Kent Dementia Action Alliance for being a dementia friendly market. Dementia Action Week is from the 18<sup>th</sup> May to 24<sup>th</sup> May and on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May there will be a table

with a variety of leaflets on how to support those living with dementia.

The Farmers' Market is held every

Tuesday in the Village Hall in Riding Lane from 8.30 am to 11.00 am. If you have any queries or questions, please contact the Manager Nick on [managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com](mailto:managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com).





**BRING THE  
WHOLE  
FAMILY**

# STOCKS *Fest*



**LIVE MUSIC | BAR | FOOD**

**SATURDAY 27 JUNE | 1:30 - 9PM**

#### **MUSIC LINE-UP**

1:30 - West Kent Concert Band  
2:30 - Stocks Green Cheerleading & Dance  
3:00 - WKCB 40's Revival  
3:30 - The Locals  
4:30 - The Woodshop Quartet  
5:15 - Toby Charlton  
5:30 - Glam-Bam Band  
6:45 - The JT Band  
8:00 - DJ

#### **FAMILY FUN**

Fairground Rides  
Bouncy Castles  
Face Painting  
**PLUS**  
Ice cream van  
Games and Toy Stall  
Police & Fire Truck  
And a whole lot more!

**STOCKS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, LEIGH ROAD, TN11 9AE**  
**ADULTS £5 | KIDS £1 | BABES IN ARMS FREE**

Alcohol bought from outside sources is prohibited on school premises. No smoking or vaping. No dogs allowed.



## *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!

### **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):** 11 May, 8 Jun.

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

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

### **Art in June - Penshurst Village Hall 6<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June**

Explore an inspiring showcase by nine local artists featuring paintings, ceramics, glass, jewellery, and more. Part of the annual **Art in June Open Studios**, this exhibition offers a unique chance to meet makers and buy original work.

- **Times:** Daily 10am–5pm (Weekends until 6pm).
- **Extras:** Bookable creative workshops available all week.

**Free entry.** For workshop details and info, visit: [www.artinjunekent.org](http://www.artinjunekent.org)

### **Chiddingstone Open Garden Tour - Sunday 14th June | 2pm – 6pm**

Discover nine beautiful hidden gardens across the parish of Chiddingstone. Enjoy a summer stroll with **Pimms** available at one garden and **afternoon tea** at two others.

**Tickets:** £10 (Children FREE).

**Available at:** Chiddingstone & Chiddingstone Causeway stores, or at the gardens on the day.

**Come and wander through some of these hidden gardens!**

### **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.



**Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra - Sunday 17th May | 7.30pm | Pamoja Hall, Sevenoaks School**

Join the Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra for an evening of masterpieces, featuring **Prokofiev's Classical Symphony**, **Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto**, and **Mendelssohn's Scottish Symphony**.

**Venue:** Pamoja Hall, Sevenoaks School.

**Tickets:** Available online at the Pamoja Hall Box Office (<https://www.thespacesevenoaks.co.uk/upcoming-events/>)

**Phone:** 01732 467 765 (Please leave a message for a callback).

**A must-see performance for classical music lovers!**

**The Oast Theatre, Tonbridge - The Master Builder – 16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

We present David Hare's brilliant adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's classic. Successful but insecure master builder Solness finds his life upended by the arrival of Hilde Wangel, a mysterious young woman from his past. A stimulating evening of high-stakes drama.

**Times:** 8.00pm (Sunday Matinee: 3.00pm).

**Tickets:** £14.

**Online:** [www.oasttheatre.com](http://www.oasttheatre.com)

**Phone:** 03336 663 366 (Booking fee applies).

**A powerful exploration of ambition, fear, and the haunting nature of the past.**

**Hospice in the Weald: Moonlight Walk 2026**

**Saturday 27th June | 6pm – Midnight | Sevenoaks Rugby Club**

Join hundreds of walkers for a memorable night under the stars to support local hospice care. Whether walking in memory of a loved one or just enjoying the outdoors, everyone—including well-behaved dogs—is welcome!

**Routes:** Choice of 4, 8, or 13 miles through Sevenoaks and Knole Park.

**Highlights:** Musical warm-up, a glass of fizz at the finish, plus food, coffee and tea for purchase.

**Impact:** All funds raised provide vital care for those facing life-limiting illness.

**Sign up today:** [www.hospiceintheweald.org](http://www.hospiceintheweald.org) | 01892 820 533



## **Meet the volunteer – Emma Fennessy of Hildenborough Community Farm Project**

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

I have lived in the village for 47 years with a small gap away doing my first of two degrees. After bringing both my children up in the village with my husband, I currently live with my Husband, wonderful Chihuahua and two beautiful little black Kitties.

### **What is your Role, how long have you been doing it and what does it involve.**

I am the founder, coordinator and lead of Hildenborough Community Farm project. However as is in the title, this is a community farm, so all members equally decide and vote on all farm matters, I am the 'Go Between'.

I have been doing this role now for roughly 7 months. Beginning my search for land in late August last year, contacting local landowners and people with large unused gardens. Dealing with emails, telephone conversations and doing investigative work to find the contacts we need. I have also been running weekly Farm meetings for the young people getting involved, designing adverts for potential sites and new members. Delivering 100s of flyers. Contacting potential companies that may be able to help with tools etc, alongside researching the different types of soil ahead of time, so we can start working quickly.

Recently I held our first open meeting to the village and currently run 2 weekly meetings for both the youth and adult groups, sending out weekly emails with updates to all members

A month ago, we started planting the first seeds inside, with pure faith that land will appear in time.

### **How many hours a week do you spend doing it.**

It varies, but on average the hours I do in a week add up to about 3 days.

### **What Skills have you picked up along the way.**

Patience, determination and perseverance. This was a tricky project to take on, but one that is probably the most important I have ever done, so motivation through the disheartening times.



### **What's the best thing or your best memory in this role**

Working with young people outside of School or lessons. Getting to see that our future at the hands of our youth looks very promising.

I have also felt blessed to meet some genuine and interesting people, members of the village community that support the ideas of an inclusive, accessible to all, activity for the village. One that will join all different types of people together. Eliminate isolation, bringing self-worth and friendship to many.

**What is the Worst thing or worst Memory of your role**

Trying to find land to begin our project; at times it has been quite disheartening to the two amazing young people (teenagers) who have helped in the work and planning of finding our land. Delivering 100's of adverts through doors, throughout winter, never put off even by rain.

We have been close to obtaining a plot to use three times, each falling through because of practicality. I want to see the children witness their hard work paying off.

We can start on a smaller spot of land and grow, possibly moving sites. So, while we are looking for the perfect spot for the small Vegetable Farm and Garden, we would also be happy and grateful to be offered a smaller, short-term site.

Most disheartening to us all is that we pass so many empty/unused plots of land and large neglected gardens, while there are people in the village who dream of such a space, just want to get gardening and building the community and support network.

Although I don't want to put a dampener on this article, as time goes by it saddens us all that people do not want to help their neighbours, who struggle with isolation, poverty, mental or physical health issues. People not wanting to support the whole village community working together, connecting people without boundaries across the whole of our village.

We are still on the search for a small piece of land to begin our project.

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

You can call me on 07711 921 768, or email me direct on [emma.fennessy@sky.com](mailto:emma.fennessy@sky.com).

**What is an interesting quirk about you**

Unless there are mitigating circumstances, I dance and sing every day without fail.

**If You were Prime Minister for the day, what would the first law you passed be.**

That the education system is reformed, With an equal balance of academic work and life, practical skills being taught. I have worked in the education system my whole life and know that basic life skills are left out or allocated very little time. We should be teaching our children how to grow and cook their own food. They should be able to leave school with basic skills needed for adult life, such as being able to repair things and a working knowledge of nutrition to name just a few. Making sure that their school experience should be enjoyable and not focused around passing exams and meeting impossible deadlines, leaving space for children to enjoy exploring the world around them and making friends.

**My Favourite Section of Keys is**

Centre piece, it is an easy way to get an overview of what is currently going on in the village. However I especially enjoy the Historical section, learning the history of the village I have lived in most of my life as social history is one of my big passions.

**What three people Dead or alive would you invite for a dinner party and why.**

Jesus, Einstein and Buddha. I would love to get to know who these figures were as people. Not to discuss what they did but find out who they were, what they liked and how it felt to hold such knowledge.

**If you had a superpower, what would it be and why?**

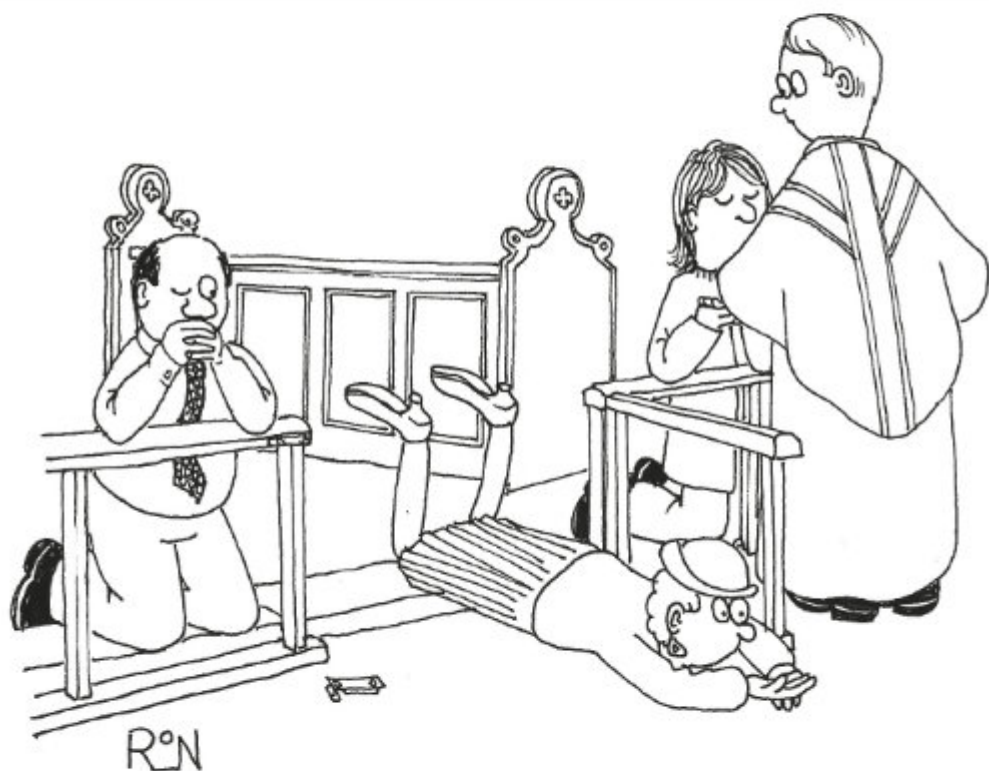
Ability to time travel. So that I could learn firsthand what really happened in History and rediscover hidden knowledge.

*Emma Fennessy*

## 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**



*Terry made a note to fix the bolt*

## The Night Sky - May

How many planets are there in our solar system? If you guessed 8 then you're right, but if you said 9 then you're way out of date!

The planets, as we know them, stretch from Mercury, that orbits so close to the Sun that at times it's difficult to see, out to Neptune that marks the furthest reaches of the Sun's planetary family.

If we look out into the depths of the solar system, beyond Neptune, we find Pluto that used to be classed as a planet but isn't any longer. It's hard to believe the furore that change of status caused and that it came about 20 years ago, this year. So, what was it that happened that would result in Pluto's demotion?

In the opening years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a body (later named Ceres) was discovered between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter that was immediately classified as the "missing planet". However, in the following years more such bodies were found out beyond Neptune.

Then in 1978 Charon, Pluto's largest moon, was discovered and with knowledge of how long it took to orbit its parent body it was possible to calculate the mass of Pluto. This turned out to be less than expected. Also, Eris a body beyond Neptune was found in 2005 and revealed itself to be more massive than Pluto which left astronomers with a growing dilemma and one which many had seen coming for years. The problem was that there was no agreed definition of what a planet was although there was a vague understanding which had existed for some time. With telescopes and associated technology improving rapidly, the number of new discoveries would surely grow at a similar rate and ultimately, we could end up with dozens of planets in our solar system some of which could be nothing more than small, irregular chunks of rock.

To address this issue in 2005 the International Astronomical Union (IAU) set up a committee to put forward suggestions on how to define a planet. There were a number of proposals but ultimately, in 2006 a vote was taken with the result that a planet must conform to the following three rules:

- It must be a body in orbit around the Sun and not a body that's in orbit around something else that is in orbit (such as a moon around a planet).
- It must contain enough mass to have become roughly spherical (a process called hydrostatic equilibrium).
- It must have cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit. It may have either absorbed smaller bodies in its orbit or gravitationally ejected them into another region or captured them as satellites.

The issue for Pluto was that it adheres to the first two but not the last one so, for that reason, it cannot be classed as a planet which begs the question "What is Pluto?"

The answer from the IAU was that it was a member of a new class of solar system bodies called "Dwarf Planets" of which we now have 5 confirmed members. They are, in order from the Sun outwards, Ceres, Pluto, Haumea, Makemake and Eris. Ceres, is found in the asteroid belt and is the only member of the group located within the inner solar system. The other four lie beyond the orbit of Neptune in the Kuiper Belt. This is a torus (doughnut) of small bodies suggested by the astronomer Gerard Kuiper as far back as 1951. It is highly likely that there are a large number of similar bodies in that region just awaiting discovery.

**Brian Mills FRAS**

# T.M.B.C. News

## Planning.

TMBC currently has the unique situation of running 3 separate planning committees: Area 1 for the wards of Cage Green & Angel, Higham, Hildenborough, Judd, Trench and Vauxhall, Area 2, for the wards of Birling, Leybourne & Ryarsh, Borough Green & Platt, Bourne, East Peckham, West Peckham, Mereworth and Wateringbury, Kings Hill, East Malling, West Malling & Offham, Pilgrims with Ightham and Area 3, for the wards of Aylesford North & North Downs, Aylesford South & Ditton, Larkfield, Snodland East & Ham Hill, Snodland West & Holborough Lakes and Walderslade.

Each Area Planning Committee has been appointed to make decisions on planning applications and related matters and exercise all functions of the Council as the Local Planning Authority relating to their respective wards as specified in Schedule 1 to the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 except where recommended for approval in fundamental conflict with the plans and strategies which together comprise the Development Plan.

The 3-area committee system allows for all local members of the above-mentioned wards to serve on the respective committee, after all they do represent and know the local area, unfortunately this is very likely, about to change.

The Labour Government has consulted on having just one planning committee, this would possibly comprise of between 8 and 14 Councillors, however any application under about 10 houses would not be brought to the planning committee, but would be decided by planning officers.

I can see that future planning meetings are going to be longer with more members attending as members will want to have their say on any applications in their ward, but unless they serve on the planning meeting, they will not be able to vote.

## Regulation 18 Consultation.

During the consultation period the Council held a programme of in-person drop-in sessions at Kings Hill and Tonbridge. In addition, the Leader of the Council attended 27 community group and parish and town council meetings, supported at many of these by the Cabinet Member for Planning. Virtual drop-in sessions were also held for Parish Councils.

In terms of reach, the online consultation platform received over 14,000 visitors. The Local Plan pages on the website were viewed 36,000 times; social media posts reached over 55,000 people and the virtual exhibition boards received over 5,000 views. Approximately, 2,150 people attended public meetings. Responses to the Regulation 18 Local Plan Consultation were a total of 6,456 contributions received from 2,206 respondents. The previous Regulation 18 Local Plan Consultation in 2021/2022 received over 4,000 representations from 2,228 people. For the latest consultation, the majority (71%) of responses were received via the consultation platform. The remaining 29% of responses were submitted via email (963), with a very small number of responses received by post (38).

All responses received by email or post have been entered into the consultation system by officers where the submissions related to a specific question / topic. The Council received 76 email repeat representations relating to draft allocations in and around Hildenborough (H12, TO4, H11, TO3). Hildenborough Parish Council provided a questionnaire with 120 signatures. 15 responses in relation to the Draft Active Travel Strategy Consultation were also acknowledged. Next is Regulation 19, publication of Draft Local Plan followed by Regulation 20 Consultation of Draft Local Plan.

## 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**

## **Hildenborough Cricket Club**

A new season dawns for Hildenborough this month and looks to repeat the good results in 2025.

A full fixture list begins on May 3 at Hadlow.

Other games include home games against Lamorbey Park (May 17) and Kent Ramblas (May 31)

The two other games are away at Telston and Mereworth (May 24) and Kent

Ramblas (May 31).

The club's Pete Wood says: "One thing we have been looking to do is get a roller on the whole outfield to cure a few bumps. Playing wise we have lost one player who regularly opened the innings for the past STC years. JP Martens looks set to replace him at the top of the order."

Two new players have joined the club - young and eager to make an impression.

**HILDENBOROUGH INDOOR BOWLS CLUB** would like to say a big THANK you to the *HILDENBOROUGH SPORTS ASSOCIATION* for their generous donation towards the purchase of a new mat. This came with the news that the Association is being wound up, so we must be one of the last beneficiaries of the help the association has given the clubs and community over the last 40 years.

*Gillian Bumstead*



Pentecost

**Evening WI:** For our April meeting we had a guest speaker-Helen Kendal-Tobias who gave us her talk, *History in your Handbag - lipstick*.



Helen is an image consultant and has spent her career helping women to find clothes that suit them, this includes the colours and their choice of make-up. She spoke to us about the history of lipstick through the centuries.

Before individual items of make-up people used ochre, from rocks, to cover their whole bodies. This continues to be seen being used by Maasai tribes in Africa.

The first lip colour was made from ground gemstones, then Cleopatra used Carmine, crushed beetles with beeswax. In Ancient Greece lipstick was seen as being a sign of a fallen woman. Several cultures used lipstick as part of a ritual, even for religious purposes.

New packaging was created in the 1920s which enabled lipstick to be more portable.

Helen spoke to us about the changes in attitudes towards lipstick through the ages, from Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> to Queen Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup> having a lipstick made for her for her Coronation, named Balmoral by Clarins.

She said the most important thing is to know what colour to wear. Take time to choose the right colour for your skin tone. It was a really interesting talk with some fun facts along the way.

Following our talk, we stopped for tea and a chat before moving to the formal part of the evening.

We welcomed two new members who joined today. The secretary and treasurer shared all the WI information and WI activities.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026** when we will be holding our AGM.

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.**

## **From our MP: Tom Tugendhat**

“Water is a very basic thing that we should be able to provide to all of our homes across the country.” That was the Minister’s response when I hosted a debate in Parliament on the inadequacy of our local water system, particularly in light of the housing targets being imposed on our councils. Yet, as many residents will remember, parts of our community went days without water as recently as January.

Water is the most essential resource we have, and yet plans are moving forward for thousands of homes across our villages without the necessary supporting infrastructure. This isn’t the fault of our Councils, the housing targets are mandated by the Government and they don’t take into account water infrastructure constraints.

In a letter to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, South East Water confirmed that current infrastructure can support drinking water for just 6,318 homes between now and 2042. This stands in stark contrast to the Government’s housing target of 19,620 homes for the same area. Quite simply, the numbers do not add up.

In Sevenoaks District Council area South East Water are one of four suppliers. However, each of them fails to engage in detail with the Council on planning proposals. This is a system which must change.

When questioned about their legal obligations under the Water Industry Act 1991, South East Water acknowledged that they do not have sufficient supply to meet this level of demand. They also warned that the likelihood of further outages, like those experienced in January, would increase as more homes are built.

Even with planned improvements set out in the Water Resources Management Plan, South East Water has stated that they will still fall short of meeting the Government’s targets.

While the Government has indicated an intention to address these issues, the proposed solutions are long-term and fail to account for the fact that many of these homes are already being built now.

I will continue to press the Government to bring housing targets in line with infrastructure capacity. In the meantime, I encourage residents to share their experiences so I can continue to represent your concerns. You can watch the full debate on my YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/@tomtugendhat](https://www.youtube.com/@tomtugendhat)

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

Phone – 01732 441563

Social Media - @TomTugendhat

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

***Tom Tugendhat***

# 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

## Get Involved in Your Community – Volunteers Needed!

We wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to the amazing individuals who already give their time, skills, and energy to support our community – and to let you know that **there are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved too.**

Many of the groups who spoke at the Annual Parish meeting are actively looking for new volunteers. Whether you can offer a regular commitment, help once a month, or simply lend a hand occasionally, there is a place for you.

Perhaps you have a skill, craft, or hobby you'd be happy to share?

Local groups such as the Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers would love to welcome guest speakers or demonstrators. Even a one-off session can make a huge difference and inspire young people in our village.

### 🌟 Why Volunteer?

Volunteering isn't just about giving back – it's also about what you gain:

- **New skills**
- **New friendships**
- **New experiences**

If you're thinking about returning to the workplace, have recently finished education, or simply want to try something new, volunteering can open doors and build confidence.

Drop us an email with a few details about yourself and any interests you have, and

we'll help connect you with the local groups in our community.

**The Parish Council also has a vacancy for a new councillor (co-option) and is also seeking volunteers to join the Flood Warden team.**

[Clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Pedestrian Priority for new footpath.

It's been great to hear the positive feedback about the first section of the new footpath in the Recreation Ground. As more people begin to use it, we'd like to gently remind everyone to stay mindful of each other, with pedestrians having priority at all times.

A few residents have mentioned some near misses involving cyclists, so a little extra care from all users will help keep the path safe and enjoyable for everyone.

## Pedestrian priority



## You are eligible for free PSR services if you:



### Parish Council Encourages Residents to Join the Priority Services Register

With ongoing water shortages continuing to affect Kent, the Parish Council is urging residents to sign up to the Priority Services Register (PSR). This free service offers additional support during water, electricity, or gas outages, ensuring vulnerable individuals receive timely help when it's needed most.

The PSR provides several key benefits, including:

#### • Support and information during supply interruptions

Residents on the register can contact UK network operators at any time and receive priority updates during power cuts. If essential maintenance requires electricity or gas to be temporarily switched off, those registered will receive advance notice to help them plan ahead.

#### • Connection to local emergency services

Energy companies work closely with local authorities, emergency services, and organisations such as the British Red Cross to offer extra assistance to those on the PSR.

#### • Emergency power and water support

For individuals who rely on medical equipment or aids that use electricity or water, the PSR helps prioritise support during prolonged outages. This may include the delivery of portable generators or bottled water when necessary.

The Parish Council encourages residents to check the eligibility criteria below and to help spread the word—particularly to neighbours who may benefit from being registered but are unaware of the scheme.

[www.thepsr.co.uk](http://www.thepsr.co.uk)

[www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Contact Hildenborough Parish Council Parish Clerk at 07818 329029 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*

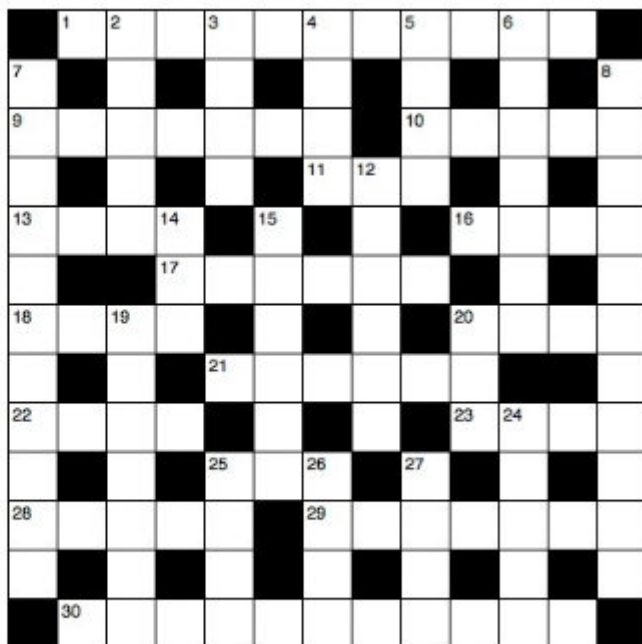
## Crossword Clues

### Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)  
9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)  
10 'Each man—a sword to his side' (Exodus 32:27) (5)  
11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)  
13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7) (4)  
16 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)  
17 Stir up or provoke (Acts 13:50) (6)  
18 Burden (Luke 11:46) (4)  
20 'As far as the east is from the—, so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)  
21 Sign (Luke 23:38) (6)  
22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)  
23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)  
25 Has (anag.) (3)  
28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, —sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)  
29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)  
30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

### Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)  
3 'A bruised — He will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)  
4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)  
5 Slip (anag.) (4)  
6 'Take an awl and push it through his — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)  
7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)  
8 'Therefore, as we have —, let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)  
12 Acquire (2 Timothy 2:10) (6)  
14 Container cover (Numbers 19:15) (3)  
15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on—!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)  
19 Refrain (1 Peter 2:11) (7)  
20 'She began to—his feet with her tears' (Luke 7:38) (3)  
24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)  
25 'Give to everyone who—you' (Luke 6:30) (4)  
26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)  
27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)



## Wordsearch for May 2026. A prayer for the Middle East

Lord, we pray for the conflict in the Middle East, and how it is damaging the lives of so many millions of people. You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; You break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. Through Your Holy Spirit, move upon the leaders of the nations to de-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6), but You Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in You. Let Your name be exalted among the nations; may You be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10]. *Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.*

Middle  
East  
Conflict  
Pray  
Damage

War  
Cease  
Earth  
Break

Bows  
Shatter  
Spears  
Burn  
Shields

Fire  
crisis  
many  
Lives  
millions

Lord  
Our  
Rock  
Fortress  
Deliverer

Hope  
Kyrie  
in  
You  
mercy

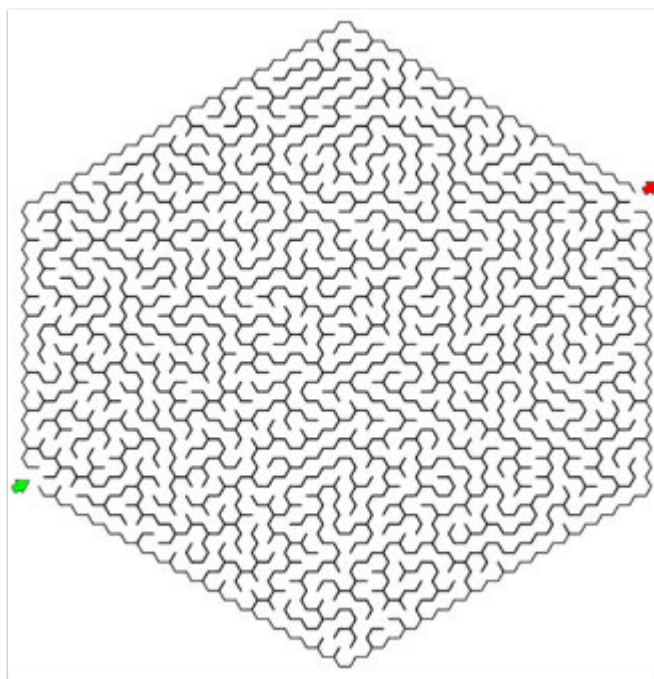


## Sudoku - easy and medium puzzles

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

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

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





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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)  
[hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com](mailto:hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com)  
[8thtonbridgescouts@gmail.com](mailto:8thtonbridgescouts@gmail.com)

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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West Kent Concert Band

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Floodline

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**KENT POLICE (Non-emergency calls) 101**

## Hildenborough Sports

Badminton

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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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## EXTRACTING DIVIDENDS FROM YOUR COMPANY

If you are a shareholder, from 6 April 2026, the tax you pay on dividends has increased, as follows:

- Basic rate moved from 8.75% to 10.75%
- Higher rate moved from 33.75% to 35.75%
- Additional rate remains at 39.35%

For shareholders of owner-managed companies, dividends are still one of the most tax-efficient ways to take money out of the company. But with these increases, it may be worth taking a fresh look at your extraction strategy.

While there are several options for drawing profits from

a company in a tax-efficient way, it often comes down to a combination of salary and dividends. For many individuals, taking a small salary equal to the £12,570 personal allowance and then taking dividends as the balance of the income required, can be a good approach.

This will continue to apply in 2026/27, even though the tax on dividends will be higher. However, the additional tax involved may mean you need to increase the amount of your dividends to retain the same amount of income. There are situations where taking a higher salary could be advisable, including where the employment allowance is available to offset any employer's national insurance arising on salaries.

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