



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

KEYS

HILDENBOROUGH



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Summer Fair – 25th July

June 2026

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From the Church



Rest for Weary Souls

As summer approaches, life often becomes busier rather than

calmer. Diaries fill up, events multiply, and the longer evenings somehow become just as crowded as the days. School activities, holidays to organise, gardens to tend, people to see.

And yet, beneath all the activity, many people are tired. Not just physically tired, but inwardly tired.

There is a kind of weariness that sleep alone cannot fix - a heaviness that comes from carrying too much for too long. Sometimes we become so used to rushing, coping, and managing that we hardly notice how exhausted we really are.

The strange thing is that our culture often rewards exhaustion. Being busy can feel important. Productivity becomes a measure of worth. We hurry from one thing to the next and call it normal.

But I wonder whether we were ever designed to live this way. One of the most overlooked invitations in the Bible comes from Jesus himself:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
(Matthew 11:28)

Notice what he does not say. He does not say, "Come to me once you've sorted your life out," or "Come to me when you're stronger." He simply says, "Come to me."

Rest, in the Christian understanding, is not merely stopping activity. It is something deeper - a rediscovery of trust,

the ability to lay down the weight we were never meant to carry alone.

Many of us spend our lives trying to hold everything together: our families, our finances, our worries, our image, our fears. After a while, it becomes very heavy indeed.

Perhaps this is why stillness can feel strangely uncomfortable at first. When the noise stops, we finally hear how tired we really are.

The ancient practice of Sabbath was never simply about religious duty. It was about remembering that we are human beings, not machines - that our value does not come from endless output, and that the world continues turning even when we stop.

There is something deeply healing about sitting quietly in a garden, walking slowly, praying honestly, or simply being present without needing to achieve anything. These are not wasted moments. They are, perhaps, the most important ones.

And maybe this month, that is something we all need permission to do again. To pause. To breathe. To rest without guilt.

You do not have to earn rest.

Sometimes the most spiritual thing a person can do is simply slow down enough to remember that they are loved by God before they are useful to anyone else. That their worth is not measured by what they accomplish, but by who they are.

So perhaps the invitation this June is not to do more, but to be still enough to receive what God may already be offering:

Peace. Strength. Grace. And rest for weary souls.

Rev Tim Saiet

ST JOHN'S CHURCH - Directory

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

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

Office Hours - Monday to Friday 10am till 4pm

Role	Name	Contact Details
Vicar	Rev Tim Saiset	07973 136 968 tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Children and Youths Pastor	Lisa Glasscote	lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Church Administrator	Emma Joynson-Hicks	01732 833 596 office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
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Lay Readers	Trevor Long	07513 420 509
Warden	Vacant	01732 833 596 office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Treasurer	Rich Lake	07579 210 122 treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Safeguarding	Kate Lake	07579 821 956 safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
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What's on in June?

Church Services	
Sunday 9.15am – 10.30am Communion 3 rd 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	
Monday - weekly 10-11.45am Church Centre £3/family	Bright Sparks Toddler Group A fun filled haven for little ones providing a safe space for play and a chance for carers and parents to connect.
Tuesday - weekly 11.30am -1pm, weekly Church Centre	Community Larder To help reduce food waste and stretch weekly household budgets.
Wednesday 10 June 11am in the Church Centre (Second Wednesday of the month)	Forget-me-not Café Whilst some of those who come to the café live with dementia, others may have memory loss or care for a person with dementia. Join us for coffee and cake.
Thursday 4 June 2.15pm, Hyllden Heights Service	Monthly service at Hyllden Heights Care Home
Thursday & Friday 9am – 2pm Church Centre	Angel Café A welcoming space for all ages, perfect for a delicious treat and a chat. Closes during school holidays.
Saturday 6 June 9.30am-11am, Church Centre	Who let the dads out? Play time for Dads and kids up to 6, soft play and breakfast included.
Children & Young People	
Sundays, 9.15-10.30am Term time only	Generation Creation For primary school aged children and young people years 6 and above. Start in the church and move to the Church Centre.
Sunday 14 and 28 June 5-7pm in the Church Centre 2 nd and 4 th Sunday of the month	HIVE Youth Group For school years 6-13.

Would you like to write something for Keys?

The deadline for content is the 15th of the month.

If you have an idea for an article or a piece for the magazine, please let me know. I'd be happy to discuss it. You can email me on editor@keysmagazine.co.uk or meet me at the farmers' market on the first Tuesday of the month.

Rob Mansfield - Editor

Confirmation at St John's

We're excited to announce that our Confirmation Service will be held at St John's Church on:
Sunday 13th September 2026

Interested in Being Confirmed?

Confirmation is a special opportunity to affirm your faith, deepen your relationship with God, and take the next step in your Christian journey.

To help the **youth** prepare, Lisa will be leading a short course. From Tuesday 2nd June to Tuesday 7th July, 5pm - 6pm in the Family Room at St Johns Church Centre.

To help prepare **adults** Tim will lead two preparation sessions on Tuesday 16 June and 23 June 2026, 7.30pm to 9pm

Want to Find Out More?

If you're interested or would like to sign up, we'd love to hear from you! Everyone is welcome—whether you're exploring faith or ready to take this next step.

lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk





HIVE
Hildenborough Village
The Hive
Youth Group
JUNE 2026

For school year
6-13
£1 - Movie
£5 - Canoes



14th June - Movie Night 5-7pm

28th June - Canoeing - times to be confirmed at booking- At the Water Activity Centre, Tonbridge.

Spaces will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a place and receive a consent form, please email
Lisa.

All youth leaders hold a valid DBS

For more information please contact
Lisa Glasscote
lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk



Wide range
of kids play
equipment

WHO LET THE DADS OUT?



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

**Next 3 Dates.
June 6th, July 4th, Aug 1st,**

Meet other local
Dads and have
fun

**For children
aged 0-6**

9:30-11am

Church Centre, Foxbush TN11 9HT



St John's Community Larder opened to all Hildenborough residents in November 2025. Our focus is on reducing food waste and supporting the community with affordable groceries. We collect food nearing its use-by or best-before dates from local businesses and supermarkets. We also work with Fareshare; this charity redistributes surplus food that would otherwise be thrown away.





Forget-me-not Cafés

Companionship over a cuppa



The big event for the Forget-me-not Cafés returns this month, on the 14th

June at Knole Park in Sevenoaks. The Run Walk or Push Against Dementia Event raises money every year to sustain the seven local Forget-me-not Cafés, including Hildenborough. There will be a 3k, 5k and 10k course and it is organised by Sevenoaks Area Dementia Friendly Community (SADFC). All monies raised will go towards the dementia-friendly singing sessions, cafés and other community events. You are very welcome to go along to Knole Park to support the event (no parking within the park).

Heasman will be entertaining us.

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 Cafés 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 or 07946 534 476.



Run, walk or push against dementia

How far will you go?

3k, 5k
or 10k

Sunday 14 June 2026

For the May Café in Hildenborough we welcomed Gary King to entertain us. Many of the songs were by Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Perry Como, Bobby Darin, Nat King Cole and Andy Williams. We sang along to Come Fly with Me, That's Amore, Let There be Love, I Left my Heart in San Francisco and many more with the big finale of My Way.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 10th June from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm in the Family Room of the St. John's Church Centre where Iris

Julie Rhodes



St John's Presents:-

The All-New Summer Fair

Sat July 25th 12-3pm

**Giant
Inflatables**



Cream Teas

**Crafts &
Produce
Stalls**



**Popcorn &
Slushies**



BBQ

**Free
Entry!**



Live Music

St Johns Summer Fair 2026

Volunteers Needed

- Bric-a-brac
- Glitter tattoos
- Hook a duck
- Balloons
- Bottle tombola

Saturday 25 July 2026
12 noon to 3pm

We need some people to help us by staffing these stalls. Can you help?
If so, please contact the
Church Office at
office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

- Chocolate tombola
- Craft area
- Lucky dip
- Soft play
- Stocks and sponge
- Teddy tombola



Summer Fair donations wanted

Would you like to donate some items to be sold or gifted?

We're particularly looking for Bric-a-brac, bottles, chocolate and teddy bears.

Please contact the office - 01732 833 596 to make arrangements.

We hope to see you at the fair!

barnabas
brekkie

**You can bring hope,
one plate at a time.**

Could you host a delicious meal to raise funds to support suffering Christians worldwide?

 barnabasaid



Sign up now! Saturday 13 June 2026
9.30am at St John's Hildenborough



HILDENBOROUGH



FARMERS' MARKET



I have been listening to the weather forecast and the lady presenter has just said that there could be a frost tonight (this is the second week of

May!) so I was very pleased that I had not started to put my bedding plants out in the garden. Did you know that the Hildenborough Farmers' Market has a plant stall? John and Norman, pictured, have a stall full of different plants - shrubs, herbs, perennials, vegetables and much more. They are also full of knowledge about gardening so if you have any queries of what can grow where they will be able to help you.



We also have Hever Flowers at the market where you can buy a beautiful bouquet of flowers, and I know from experience that they last a long time. All their bouquets are unique as they use fresh, seasonal and homegrown flowers and foliage.



Do you need something to put your plants in? Then we have the stall just for you. Outside the hall there are a variety of wooden planters of all different sizes for sale. Take a look when you are next visiting – they are good value for money.



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

Hildenborough Farmers' Market is open every Tuesday morning from 8.30 am to 11.00 am in the Hildenborough Village Hall in Riding Lane.

St John's Church Model Railway Exhibition

Saturday 11th July
10:00 - 16:00



Church Centre
Foxbush
Hildenborough
TN11 9HR

Enquiries to:
valeriemarsh1947@gmail.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!

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):** 8 Jun.

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

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

The Oast Theatre, Tonbridge - "The Brilliance In The Room" by Phil Porter - 20th – 27th JUNE 2026

Welcome to an amazing, full-on period costume extravaganza. Dozens of familiar Dickensian characters battle the vagaries of fate, living dangerously near the edge of survival while an indifferent and heartless authority looks on. In turns, compassionate, deeply poetic and often comic, full of stunning images, special effects and original music, this is a MUST-SEE SHOW!

Performances: 8.00 p.m. (Sunday Matinee 3.00 p.m.) - tickets: £14

Book online at www.oasttheatre.com or on 03336 663 366 (booking fee applies)

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir - West End Musicals 27th June, 7:30pm at the Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks

Conducted by Robyn Sevastos, Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir presents an evening of hit songs from iconic West End shows, including *Mamma Mia*, *Frozen*, *Les Misérables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *My Fair Lady*, and *South Pacific*.

- **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Tickets:** £19 (Over 60s: £18 / Students & U21: £7) *Includes £2 Stag Development Fund levy*
- **Book:** stagesevenoaks.co.uk / 01732 467 765

Can you help deliver Keys in Bank Lane?

Keys distributor Clem is trying to find a new deliverer for Bank Lane. The round consists of 23 houses at the top end of Bank Lane, over half of which are in the small development Oakhurst park gardens. If interested please contact Clem on 01732 833 543 or 07756 585 549 or clemgiles@hotmail.com

If this isn't the route for you but you'd like to get involved, please get in touch with Clem as it would be wonderful to have back up and options for all routes.

Meet the volunteer – Amanda Lamper - breakfast team at St John's and on the organising team for the Summer Fair



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

We've lived in the village for nearly 16 years now, so it definitely feels like home. I live with my husband Steve and our two daughters, Sofia (14) and Charlotte (12), who are growing up far too quickly!

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

We have a fantastic family service on Sundays, it's friendly, relaxed and a bit more contemporary than people might expect. There's always breakfast, tea and coffee, which helps everyone feel at home.

I lead the breakfast team, which is made up of a brilliant group of women who generously give their time. I've been doing this for about

seven years now, and it's such a joy to be part of.

I'm also helping to organise this year's summer fair, which will be bigger and better than ever, with more games, more food, more entertainment and plenty for families to enjoy. It's on 25 July, and we'd love people to get involved, even for just an hour. It's a great way to meet people and keep the kids entertained in the holidays!

How many hours a week do you spend doing it?

For Sunday breakfast, we use a rota, so most people help about once a month. It's very manageable and flexible, which makes it easy for people to get involved.

What skills have you picked up in this role?

I've definitely grown in confidence. I wouldn't naturally describe myself as the most outgoing person, but this role has gently pushed me out of my comfort zone in a good way. It's helped me connect with more people and be more open, which has been really rewarding.

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

One moment that really stayed with me was when Val, who comes to church, invited me to her Saturday breakfast group. She said she'd noticed my welcoming smile and thought others would enjoy getting to know me. That meant so much; it made me feel truly seen and part of the community.

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

Honestly, there isn't much! The worst might be turning up on a Sunday and realising we've run out of something and having to dash to the shop, but even that usually ends up being quite funny in hindsight.

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

If anyone would like to volunteer for the breakfast team or the summer fair, please contact Emma in the church office, and she can pass your details on. We'd absolutely love more people from the community to get involved.

What is an interesting fact about you?

I can organise a breakfast for lots of people without breaking a sweat... as long as no one asks for anything too fancy!

If you were Prime Minister for the day, what would be the first law you passed?

I'd make kindness a priority, provide more support for communities, and make sure no one feels alone.

What is your favourite section of Keys Magazine?

I love how it brings together such a wide range of things happening in our community it's a great reminder of how much is going on right on our doorstep.

Which 3 people, dead or alive would you invite for a dinner party and why?

I'd invite Nelson Mandela for his incredible wisdom, humility and passion for equality.

I'd also invite Mother Teresa for her compassion and dedication to serving others.

And for a bit of fun and laughter, probably Jennifer Saunders (because every dinner party needs someone who will keep things light and joyful!)

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

I'd love the ability to remove hatred and division, so people could see each other with more understanding and kindness. The world would feel a lot more peaceful and a lot more like the community we try to build here.

Amanda Lamper

Would you like to be featured for your volunteering?

Keys is here to champion those who 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 or meet me at the Farmers' Market on the first Tuesday of the month.

Rob Mansfield

T.M.B.C. News

Planning

Well it's finally happened and I don't believe it, Area 1 planning committee, no longer exists, neither does Area 2 or Area 3.

Area 1 has been like an old friend, a real nice feeling committee. On 26 March 2026, the Government published a consultation on the draft regulations required to implement a national scheme of delegation and set a limit on the size of planning committees. Alongside the draft regulations the Government also consulted on the draft statutory guidance which local planning authorities must follow in implementing the final regulations.

The draft regulations set out the changes to the size of planning committees, proposing to set a maximum size limit of 13 members for a planning committee which reflects best practice highlighted during a previous consultation. Area 1, 2 and 3 all had more than the now required 13 members. But there is more...

The draft regulations also set out the government's preferred two-tier approach to the determination of planning applications. Schedule 1 to the draft regulations sets out the types of application which must in all circumstances be delegated to officers.

These include applications for planning permissions for householder, minor residential (up to 9 dwellings) and minor commercial development, as well as a number of supplementary and technical consents. Schedule 2 sets out the types of application which may be referred to a committee (10 dwellings and above) subject to the Gateway Tests which are set out in Regulation 5 and this requires agreement between the nominated member (e.g. the chair of the committee) and officer (usually the Chief Planner or equivalent), but which otherwise must be delegated to an officer. If we did not introduce the single planning committee now, the Government is due to bring the regulations into force on 30 September 2026 anyway.

When I was first given the privilege of serving Hildenborough on the Council, Area 1 met in the Council Chamber at Tonbridge Castle. The chamber is an L shaped room with wood paneling all around, some members of the public had to peer around the corner to hear the debate. It was always interesting when members of the public were accommodated on extra seats along the wall with the windows; cosy or what? We would often debate 7 or 8 items a meeting.

Then a move to the Angel Centre using the Riverside room, which gave us the bonus of a sound system and much more room for members of the public, we all sat around a square table setup. Public speaking for 3 minutes was introduced. One year, eleven Area 1 planning meetings were cancelled due to lack of business. Our last move was to the Council chamber at Kings Hill. This move allowed for YouTube streaming, but personally it never really felt like planning meeting. So, I bid farewell to Area 1, a trusty friend. The new planning committee dates are available via the TMBC website under calendar of meetings or contact me.

Waste Contract

We are continuing with the current provider for waste collection services. The new contract has been awarded for 12 years which should align with the transition to the Local Government Review. The service already meets the Government's Simpler Recycling requirements so no changes to how collections operate.

New Mayor

We have a new Mayor, Cllr Kim Tanner, who represents Kings Hill ward, Kim's husband will be her Consort. The Deputy Mayor is Cllr Sarah Hudson who represents East and West Peckham, Mereworth and Wateringbury ward.

Finally

I am very appreciative of the grammatical advice from a resident, to remove the full stop after my headings. I have been using full stops for years, but it does look better already. Thank you.

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. Even, if it's about planning.

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

Hildenborough made a winning start with a 98 run victory at Petts Wood. Having had to pull out of their season opener at Hadlow the previous week due to lack of numbers - they had a full side thanks to new player Rob Owens - the oldest XI fielded in recent seasons with an average age of 57.

Greg Smith made 56 and JP Martens 45, in an opening stand of 98, Barry Webb finishing 44 not out in a total of 204-2 in 30 overs.

Matt Richards then took 3-14 in six overs supported by Digby Russell - 2-4 -in six overs, including three maidens, as the hosts finished on 107-6.



June Fixtures:

June 7: Brasted Invicta (A)
June 14: Kilndown (A)
June 21: Capel Development (A)
June 28: Horsmonden (H)

Peter Wood

The Night Sky in Hildenborough – June

It isn't very often that we get to see the two planets that orbit closest to the Sun, together in the evening sky but that is the treat in store for anyone who goes out to look this month. Actually, that isn't all because the gas giant, Jupiter, is there with them as well as a very slim crescent Moon, as the whole ensemble gathers to offer a great photo opportunity.



Venus has been visible for a few months now and is still reasonably well positioned although, purely in terms of altitude, it is a little past its best. Mercury is visible for comparatively short periods of time and is always close to the Sun, being its nearest planetary neighbour. Jupiter, on the other hand, has been visible in the evenings since October last year when we saw it rising in the north east at midnight. Now, of course, in common with other celestial bodies, it has almost completed its journey towards the west in preparation for setting.

The June planetary parade takes place between the west and north west (NW) just after sunset so you will need a good horizon in that direction. I would reference the positions of the planets to when the Sun is 6° below the horizon which corresponds to the end of civil twilight and the beginning of nautical twilight. That should give you the best chance of seeing all three planets together.

If we begin on 1st June, at around 9:45pm when all three planets will be visible, Jupiter has the greatest altitude (19°) and is a little to the NW (right) of west. Venus is slightly further NW and lower in the sky at 16° whilst Mercury is further NW still at $7\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ high. If you can't see Mercury, draw a line through Jupiter to Venus and continue it onwards for twice the distance between them. The line will pass 2° or 3° above Mercury.

If you watch the nightly progress of the three, you will see that Jupiter and Venus are getting closer together and will, on the 9th, pass within $1\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ of each other. By the 15th, Venus and Jupiter have swapped places with the "evening star" being furthest west followed by Jupiter and Mercury as we move downwards and to the NW (right). The three

lie, very roughly, in a line which, extended to the horizon (almost exactly NW), might bring you to an extremely slim crescent Moon. Around 10pm would be a good time to look on either of those nights. Two days later, on the 17th, the 10% crescent Moon is less than 1° below Venus.

The map shows the situation at 10pm on the evening of the 15th. A few bright stars in the area are named in italics to avoid confusion.

After that the Moon moves further east (left) and Mercury and Jupiter dip towards the horizon although Venus will maintain its current altitude for longer and remain visible into August although with a much-reduced altitude in the west.

Please remember that due to the proximity of some of these planets to the Sun, you should not search for them with optical aid until after you are sure that the Sun has set. Should you accidentally look at the Sun, your eyesight could be permanently damaged.

Brian Mills FRAS

From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

Like many parents, I am deeply concerned about the impact smartphones and social media are having on our children.

Technology brings many benefits, but conversations I have had with parents, teachers, and schools across our community, along with what I've seen with my own two children, highlight the effect smartphones are having on young people's wellbeing, education, and safety.

Ofcom's latest research found that nearly one in three children aged 8–17 had experienced bullying through technology, while many had seen worrying or harmful content online. This is a problem we must face.

Sadly hateful comments online are all too common. For some of us it seems to come with the job, but for children and teenagers, constant exposure to online bullying, harmful content, and social pressure can have a far greater impact on confidence, mental wellbeing, and development.

One specific concern I have is TikTok. 83% of 16-17 year olds are using TikTok, a platform whose content is determined by

the Chinese Communist Party, and their aim is clear: to cause division and polarisation.

I have supported stronger protections for children online in Parliament, including proposals to restrict social media access for under-16s. While the Government has passed legislation which moves towards schools becoming phone-free during the school day, many parents ask whether this goes far enough.

I was incredibly grateful to Katherine Myatt, Regional Leader, Smartphone Free Childhood, for her insight into this issue of social media and smartphone usage for children, and she has kindly given her consent for me to share some of her resources.

Please let me know if you would like me to share them with you. I will continue to work on this issue on your behalf, but in the meantime, please let me know your thoughts and concerns.

E-mail – tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk
Phone – 01732 441563
Social Media - @TomTugendhat
Letter – 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP

Tom Tugendhat

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society 130 year Anniversary!

2026 sees the 130th anniversary for the Gardeners' Society. Our records go back to the original meeting held in 1896, hand-written, of course, but saved for posterity. We are trying to encourage more member participation in our shows and events, to help celebrate the year, and build up a better community experience. Many of our members join to make use of our local store in Riding Lane – a useful place to obtain gardening materials and advice (open on Saturday morning from 10-12).

Membership for the year is only £7 (barely 2 cups of coffee these days), and can be paid at the store or at any of our talks and shows.



David Haugh

Centre Piece

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

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

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

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

Important Update: UK Landline (PSTN) Switch-Off

The UK's traditional copper landline network (known as the PSTN) is being switched off and replaced with a new digital phone system. This change is happening area by area across the country, and some households have already been switched, with the remainder expected to complete by January 2027.



To make sure you stay connected, we strongly encourage all residents to contact their landline provider. Your provider can confirm when the switch-off will affect your home and what steps you may need to take.

Update: Priority Services Register – Thank You to Residents Who Got in Touch

Following our recent article about the Priority Services Register (PSR), the Parish Council has been pleased to hear from several residents seeking more information about how to join. It's encouraging to see our community taking steps to ensure extra support during water, gas, or electricity outages.

If you haven't yet registered, and especially if you or someone in your household may be vulnerable during

supply interruptions, we strongly urge residents to join the PSR.

If you are unable to register online, you can simply call your gas or electricity provider, who can add you to the register directly over the phone.

For more information about eligibility and benefits, visit: www.thepsr.co.uk

Recreation Ground Footpath Works – Update

We are pleased to confirm that Arnold Tarmac will be returning to carry out further footpath works on the Recreation Ground, with work due to begin in late July 2026. The works are expected to take approximately four weeks to complete. We will keep residents updated as the project progresses.

Local Plan Update

Residents will be aware that the Local Plan's Regulation 19 Consultation was anticipated for publication this summer. We can confirm that this has been pushed back and is now expected in late October to November. The Parish Council will keep residents informed of progress and any opportunities for community input as the process develops.

Who to Contact – New Page on Our Website

Did you know the Parish Council website now has a dedicated "Who to Contact" page? Whether you need to report a

pothole, a streetlight fault, a planning concern, or any other local issue, this page brings together all the right contacts in one place – so you can quickly find who to get in touch with. Visit www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk to find the page, and feel free to print a copy to keep at home for handy reference.

SID Survey – Resident Responses So Far

Thank you to all residents who have taken the time to complete the SID (Speed Indicator Device) questionnaire. As a reminder, The Parish Council has been looking into installing a SID at 3 KCC approved locations within the 30mph speed limits.

Your feedback is greatly appreciated and helps guide the Parish Council's decisions on future traffic-calming measures.

As of **12th May**, we have received 69 responses to the consultation. Below is a summary of the feedback gathered so far.

85% of respondents supported the installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) with 10-15% opposed.

Around 65% of respondents were very concerned about speeding in the village with another 20% somewhat concerned. Fewer than 5% were not concerned at all.

Over 70% of respondents were confident that Speed Indicator Devices would help reduce speeding with 15% unsure.

Almost 100% of respondents were residents with the rest stating they drive through regularly.

www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk
Contact Hildenborough Parish Council Parish Clerk at 07818 329029 or email 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

Evening WI: Our May meeting was our AGM. We started with some general WI business and a catch up with the information that the secretary had received since last month.

We then had the formal part of the evening when the treasurer, secretary and president read their annual reports to the members. It was lovely being reminded about all the different guest speakers we have had throughout the year.

Once the AGM was complete there was time for members to chat and share some refreshments before our meeting closed.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 9th June 2026** when we will have a guest speaker Richard Winston who is a photographer.

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



Hildenborough Community Farm – Update

Following my volunteer interview last month, I thought you might be interested to receive an update. Over the past year, something quietly beautiful has begun to grow in Hildenborough.

What started as a simple idea, a small community farm where people could reconnect with nature and one another, has slowly become something far more meaningful. In a world where so many of us live side by side yet rarely truly connect, this project has reminded me how deeply people still long for community, purpose and shared spaces that feel real.

Since first speaking publicly about the idea, different people have stepped forward. Teenagers have spent evenings helping promote the project, designing planting plans and helping clear land. Retired residents have offered gardening knowledge, encouragement, tea and friendship. Parents, professionals, carers, tradespeople, creatives and those facing physical or mental health challenges have all found themselves drawn to the same vision.

What has touched me most is that the Farm is not simply about growing vegetables. It is about creating a space where people feel welcome exactly as they are.

One of the most moving parts of this project so far has been watching people participate in their own ways and at their own pace. Recently, while planting together, I found myself watching people of different ages, backgrounds and life experiences working side by side in the soil without judgement or labels. Some joined the group uncertain at first, yet in just a short time were, planting, sharing stories and completely absorbed in the simple joy of being outdoors together, in that moment, it felt like a glimpse of the kind of village spirit many of us thought had been lost.

The project is still evolving slowly and organically, and we intentionally wish to keep that sense of calm, inclusion and shared decision making at its heart. We are incredibly grateful to local residents who have already offered support, practical help, tools, encouragement and even land to use. What has unfolded so far has reminded us how much kindness still exists within a community when people are simply given a reason to come together.

Our hope is that the farm will become a place where anyone in the village feels welcome to join. Whether you are young or old, experienced or completely new to gardening, working full-time or retired, struggling or thriving. A place where people who may never normally meet can share conversations over planting seeds, building beds, drinking tea, or simply being outdoors together.

We are still welcoming new members, support, practical help and local knowledge as the project continues to grow at its own gentle pace.

If anyone would like to get involved, offer support or simply learn more, I would love to hear from you.

Emma Fennessy (emma.fennessy@sky.com)

Wordsearch clues & answers - Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Mary - the virgin mother of Jesus. Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving account of two humble, ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of His will, shine through.

After Jesus is born, Mary makes few appearances: when the family visits Jerusalem and she loses her Son on the way home; when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana with its wine problem; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is dying on the cross. Mary's last appearance is in Acts, just before Pentecost.

Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in history. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary - and well deserved it is. "All generations shall call me blessed..."

Mary
Virgin
Mother
Elizabeth
Pregnant

Ordinary
World
History
Great
Event

Family
Jerusalem
Wedding
Cana
Wine

Beloved
Disciples
Dying
Cross
Keeping

Unique
Place
Centuries
Church
blessed

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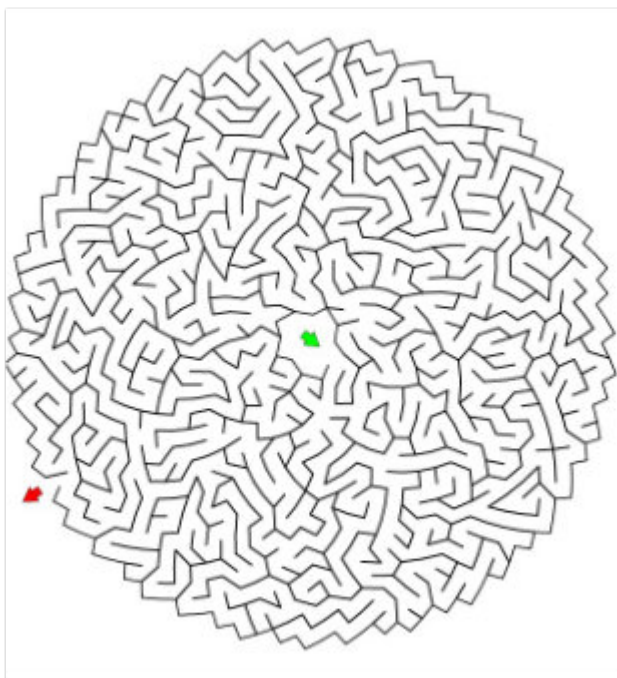
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							8	6

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





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Local Directory

Church Contacts

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

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

Community Groups

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

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

Brownies

Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**

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

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

David Haugh **01732 832 869**

Hildenborough History Society

Tracy 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 - **01732 833 394**

Stocks Green Primary School

www.stocksgreenprimary.co.uk - **01732 832 758**

Stocks Green Pre-School

www.stocksgreenpreschool.co.uk - **01732 834 115**

Oaks Nursery

www.oaksnursery.org.uk - **01732 834 401**

Village Hall Bookings

Hilary Macnamara - **07598 927 953**

West Kent Concert Band

wkcb@muzodo.com

Floodline

0345 988 1188

Southern Water (spillage reporting)

0800 952 1001

Hildenborough Speedwatch

jonathan.ashton.bidwriting@gmail.com

KENT POLICE (Non-emergency calls) 101

Hildenborough Sports

Badminton

Kathryn Stewart **07809 299 553**

Indoor (Short Mat) Bowls Club

David Chambers **01732 833 612**

Hildenborough Cricket Club

Barry Webb **01732 838 422**

Hildenborough Friendly Badminton Club

Ivan Kirkpatrick **07730 888 429**

Stoolball Club

Lauren Welch **07999 604 213**

Tennis Club (membership)

www.hildenboroughtennis.co.uk

Hildenborough Road Races

hildenroadrace@gmail.com

Tonbridge Swimming Club

chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk

Tonbridge Bridge Club

Lionel Shields **01732 355 919**



Hilden Park

Chartered Accountants



APRIL 2026 CHANGES TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SCHEME (CIS)

As outlined in Autumn Budget 2025, several changes took place on 6 April that may affect those who use the Construction Industry Scheme.

From April 2026, contractors are required by law to either:

- file a CIS return every month, including nil returns in months where they have not used a subcontractor; or
- inform HMRC in advance that they will not pay subcontractors that month by submitting an inactivity request.

From April 2026, with the nil filing requirement back in place, HMRC have reinstated a full CIS late filing penalty regime. If you file a late CIS return, a £100 fixed penalty will apply. You may also subsequently be charged:

- A second fixed penalty of £200 after two months.
- A tax-gearred penalty at six months of a minimum of £300 or 5% of any liability which should have been shown on the return.
- A further tax-gearred penalty at 12 months.
 - o The amount of this penalty will depend on why the return was late.

In situations where a business makes or receives a payment they knew or should have known was connected to fraud, HMRC now have enhanced powers to immediately remove Gross Payment Status (GPS), assess for lost tax and charge a penalty of up to 30%. If GPS has been immediately removed, the time limit for reapplication is increased from one year to five years.

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

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