

Newsletter 1st December 2024



Hartfield, Colemans Hatch & Cowden
Heart for the Community



Rev Julie writes...

Dear friends,

This week we begin the season of Advent – often known as the season of waiting. We all know what it is like to wait... but it is true that not all waiting is the same. Waiting for a train or a bus entails a passive waiting.... waiting for a diagnosis may incur anxiety and worry.... waiting for a holiday is often

happy and exciting... waiting to see children or grandchildren may be infused by longing and expectation.

Advent waiting is also expectant. It is filled with an anticipation of something beautiful ahead ... of wondering ... of listening ... of anticipated discovery ... and sometimes of uncertainty.

We may have already made plans for Christmas. Perhaps you are going to be on our own or see family and friends. I know that Christmas can often be a lonely time. The loss of a loved one or an ongoing situation can make the celebrations feel very unwelcome. That first Christmas as Shepherds were out in the dark looking after their sheep must have been an extraordinary experience. In the darkness and the cold these ordinary men experience the wonder and love of God. Luke 2: 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news

that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying.14

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom
his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Although we may know what Christmas Services we will attend... and what company we will keep at Christmas... we do not know how Jesus will come to us this Christmas. Prepare to be surprised. Prepare to see God, in perhaps a new way... in a surprising place... in surprising people.

Advent waiting is also hopeful – and oh, how we need hope at the moment! Our world can seem very dark for much of the time... not only with the shortening days but by the terrible consequences of war and unrest across the world. In John's Gospel we are told: "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." I wonder what that sentence means to you... in your life and your context? Mary and Joseph might not have fully understood the significance of their baby about to be born... but with hindsight, we do. We know the hope that Jesus brings... the hope and light which his life, death and resurrection revealed. We have read the stories and heard the testimonies of the faithful who have gone before us. We can draw upon our own experiences of Christ's light shining in our past or present darkensses. All these add to our hope... the hope which the incarnation brings.

We hold onto all of this as we journey through Advent. And I hope and pray that it will be a fulfilling time for you... a time of expectation, space and hope.

It is the time of looking for our Emmanuel, 'God-with-us', the promise of which will be fulfilled. And so, we wait. We wait. But thankfully we do not wait alone... we wait with one another... we wait together as Advent people and people of faith.

I look forward to welcoming you to some of our Christmas services in December. There is something for all ages.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a prayer for a peaceful New Year.

Rev Canon Julie Sear. 01892 770436 & 07840021909



Advent

On this 1st Sunday of Advent we will be lighting the candle of Hope.

Advent is a wonderful time to reflect on the coming of Christ. If you would like to join Rev Julie, you can read and listen to the Advent and Christmas reflections through the Everyday Faith App, the new daily devotional app from the Church of England, which is available to [download here](#).

Rev Stephen Hills writes a daily advent reflection, if you would like to receive this by email please contact him on hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk

Upcoming Services from Hartfield, Coleman's Hatch and Cowden



Sunday 1st December – The First Sunday of Advent

9.30am	A Service of Holy Communion for all ages. This will be a quiet reflective service with Sunday Discoverers	St Mary's
11am	Matins	Holy Trinity
11am	Advent Service - All age Worship	Cowden Church
6.30pm	Advent Choral Evensong With music and readings Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service	Holy Trinity

Sunday 8th December – The Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Christmas Praise Service for all ages with St Mary's School	St Mary's
11am	Holy Communion BCP	Holy Trinity
11am	Sunday Morning Worship	Cowden Church

**Sunday 15th December – The Third Sunday of
Advent**

9.30am	Holy Communion with Sunday Discoverers	St Mary's
11am	Matins with carols	Holy Trinity
6pm	Carols by Candlelight	Cowden Church
6.30pm	Joint service of Nine Lessons and Carols, with mulled wine and mince pies	St Mary's

Friday 20th December

9.30am	St Mary's School, End of Term Christingle Service	St Mary's
--------	---	-----------

**Sunday 22nd December – The Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

9.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's
11am	Holy Communion BCP	Holy Trinity
11am	Christingle Service – all ages	Cowden Church

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4pm	Crib Service	St Mary's
6pm	Carols around the Christmas Tree in the Churchyard	Cowden Church
11.15pm	Joint Service of Midnight Holy Communion	St Mary's

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

8am	Holy Communion BCP	St Mary's
9.30am	Celebration Christmas Service for all ages (no communion)	St Mary's
10.30am	Christmas Day Service – Family Communion Service (all ages)	Cowden Church
11am	Christmas Celebration Communion Service	Holy Trinity

Sunday 29th December – The First Sunday of Christmas

8am	Holy Communion BCP	Cowden Church
9.30am	Holy Communion (no Sunday Discoverers)	St Mary's
11am	Matins	Holy Trinity

Sunday 5th January – The Second Sunday of Christmas

9.30	Holy Communion (no Sunday Discoverers)	St Mary's
10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Cowden Church
11am	Matins	Holy Trinity

Dates for Your Diary



Thursday 5th December – Christmas Café

2pm – 4pm Church Street Community at St
Mary's Church

Christmas Café with Christmas crafts and
homemade cake, tea and coffee



Friday 6th December @ Cowden

10am to 12 noon Christmas
Community Coffee Morning /

Drop In at the Cowden Memorial Hall
Come and join in the Christmas Quiz - prize
for the winner!!



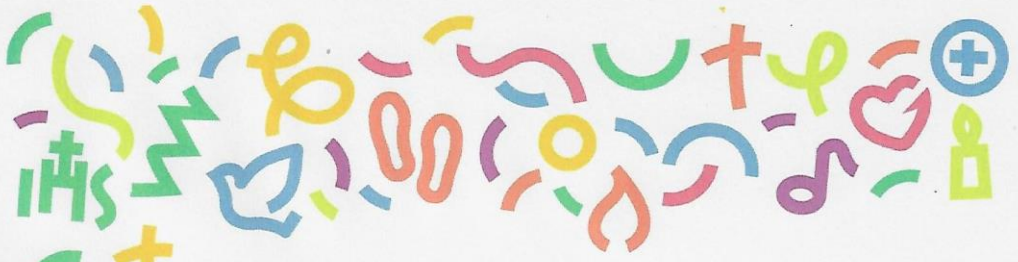
Friday 13th December – Live Nativity with real donkey

6pm-8pm – Meet in the Bear Inn
car park to begin the journey. Final
destination is in St Mary's Church for
refreshments



Friday 13th December – St Mary's School Nativity

9.30am & 2pm – St Mary's School
Nativity Play



Celebrating
Faith

Rotherfield

Deanery Celebration

A service celebrating the history
and Christian faith in our Deanery
with Bishop Martin and Bishop Will

Tuesday 21 January @ 7:00pm
St Mary's Church, Hartfield

www.celebratingfaith.co.uk



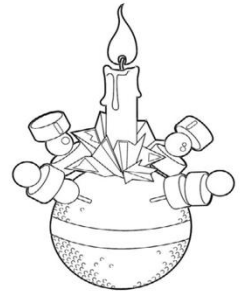
Christmas at Cowden Church

Sunday Dec 15th - 6.00pm
Carols by Candlelight

Christmas at Cowden Church

Sunday Dec 22nd - 11.00am

Christingle - the story of Christmas for children. With carols, puppets and a chance to make a Christingle



Christmas at Cowden Church

Christmas Eve 6.00pm

Carols in the churchyard around the tree

Christmas Day 10.30am

Family Festival Service with Communion

(Opened your stockings?
Bring something along!)



Praise and Prayer

FOR OUR THREE CHURCHES

We are starting a monthly praise and prayer evening for our three churches. Everyone is welcome.

We will meet at 7.30pm on the 7th January, 4th February & 4th March to pray together as a church family. Further dates to be arranged.

We will have tea and coffee on arrival at St Mary's Church.

The evening will start with a short bible thought and a time of sung worship.

The evening will then continue with several slots praying in small groups on various topics covering the life our church and communities.

Prayer is the powerhouse of the church.

01892 770436

REVJULIESEAR1@GMAIL.COM



Trinity Cafe December 2024 Christmas!

Our First Café this month is on Thursday 12th by which time we will have decorated the Hall, and Christmas Tree.

Our cakes and pastries will also reflect the festive season, so please join us to indulge!

The following week on **19th December** we will be having our **Christmas Party** and invite you to join us as we celebrate the Yuletide. Children are welcome and particularly included. A special children's table with seasonal crafts and pictures to colour. We will be presenting a cheque to Crawley Open House on your behalf, for all your generous donations throughout this year. We also have some **special guests** so expect a few fun items as well as our visiting choir who will lead us in a few Carols around the Christmas tree.

Details of our events for 2025 will also be available.

For more information contact:
Caroline Daszewska: 07513 290482
Sheila Van Maurik: 01892 770273

A collection of macarons in various colors (pink, green, orange) and small pink heart-shaped confetti scattered on a light blue background.

Church Street Community Cafe

1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 2pm - 4pm.

Homemade cake, tea, and coffee.

Everyone welcome.

Table with crafts and games for children.

upcoming dates

Christmas café with crafts on



Thursday 5th December



There will be no café in church on

Thursday 19th December

Thursday 2nd January (usual café)

Thursday 16th January (usual café)

For more information contact Joanne Griffin on

07941 856715 or msjoanegriffin@gmail.com

A black magnifying glass with a wooden handle, positioned on the left side of the yellow background.

Sunday Discoverers

Discover us every 1st & 3rd Sunday morning at 9.30am, as we find out more about our Creator

Upcoming dates: 1st December, 15th December, 19th January, 2nd February

For more information please contact Rev Julie Sear at revjuliesear1@gmail.com or 01892770436

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

& LUNCH

Thursday December 5th

10am - 2pm

Holy Trinity Church Hall

Colemans Hatch **£35**



All profits will be donated to Crawley Open House – Supporting the homeless

All materials, fresh foliage, classic wreath decorations and tools will be supplied.

A fun, informal workshop with guidance, every step of the way, to ensure that everyone takes home a wreath or table decoration they can be proud of.

Lunch will be served at midday with mince pies and cake.

Tea & coffee served throughout the day.

please email deniseholland46@gmail.com.

or phone: 07534 933593 to reserve your place.



TRINITY—

— Talks



Trinity Hall, behind Holy Trinity Church,
Coleman's Hatch, TN7 4HN
Friday 20th December 2024, 6.00pm



Charles Dickens—
A very Festive Look at his
Life, Times and Music.
by
Mike Craft

The talk will begin at 6.00pm and last
for about 45 minutes

Tickets £10.00
profits to Crawley Open House
supporting the Homeless



Canapes and Wine served from 5.45 and also after the talk, when
our speaker will be happy to answer your questions.

Our next talk will be on Friday 17th January 2025 Living & Working in Japan By Richard Clayton

Hartfield Live Nativity

Friday 13th December 2024
Starts 6pm The Bear car park



Come along to Hartfield's very special and popular Live Nativity!

- Join the crowd following Mary and Joseph through the village knocking on doors trying to find room at the inn.
- Angels, shepherds, wise men, camels, a REAL donkey and carols.
- Procession ends in the church in a beautiful and heart warming nativity scene with baby Jesus.
- Refreshments in the church.

If your child would like to join in as an angel or shepherd
contact Sall Sugg - Email: sallyangela@icloud.com

Everyone welcome – a lovely way to start Christmas!



St Mary's Church, Hartfield



HARTSLife is for Living

Hartfield Arts and Theatre Society

CONNECT

For young people aged 10+

Join us for games,
food and fun
From 5-6.15pm in
the Village Hall

Thursday dates are
12th December
9th January
23rd January
6th February

For more information
please contact Matt Marriott at
m.marriott@btconnect.com

LITTLE STARS

Parent & toddler group
Mondays @ St Mary's Church, Hartfield



Upcoming dates

9th December
(with service in church)
16th December
6th January
13th January
20th January
27th January
3rd February

9.15 to 10.45am

Tea and Coffee Provided revjuliesear1@gmail.com

CONNECT Sunday

For young people aged 10+

Held in the Rectory from 9.30am, for breakfast and chats, before heading back to church for communion.

Sunday dates are:

1st December

15th December

19th January

2nd February

Come, relax and chat as we build relationship with Jesus and each other!!

For more information please contact Matt Marriott at m.marriott@btconnect.com

CONNECT EXTRA

Held in the Oast House in the Anchor car park from 5pm-6pm, A monthly meeting for our Connect crew.

For young people aged 10+

Thursday dates are

19th December

16th January

13th February

27th March

Where we read and question, while exploring the Christian faith together.

For more information please contact Matt Marriott at m.marriott@btconnect.com



Christmas Appeal

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

Iced Christmas Cake Bar (400g)

Laundry Capsules

Christmas Cadbury Selection box

Jam

Basmati Rice (500g)

Christmas Tubs Chocolate (600g)

Christmas Biscuits Family Circle

Christmas Chocolate Biscuits

Kitchen Roll

Long Life Fruit Juice

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

For more information visit eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk

Websites

Please take a look at the Hartfield,
Colemans Hatch and Cowden websites
at:

hartfieldchurch.org ,

colemanshatchchurch.org and

[St Mary Magdalene](http://StMaryMagdalene)



This week we are praying for...

For the ceasefire between Israel-Hezbollah.

For all politicians and community leaders
local and national.

For refugees, the international response to
the refugee crisis – and for our own response.

For those across the world suffering from the
impacts of climate change. For a greater
sense of urgency from politicians and major
companies in tackling the causes and
consequences. We pray especially for the
outcomes of the COP29 conference.

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

We pray especially for Freya Hodge; Sandra Owen; Cameron Burns; John Chalke; Pauline Maynard now recovering at home

For all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

For our choir and choir Director – Angela Ogle

Our local foodbanks.

Please pray for our services during the season of Advent and Christmas.

With every blessing,
Rev Julie

www.hartfieldchurch.org or
www.colemanshatchchurch.org or
[St Mary Magdalene](#)

RECTOR: The Rev Julie Sear, The Rectory, Hartfield

01892 770436

Mobile Number: 07840 021909

Email: revjuliesear1@gmail.com

*****The Rector's rest day is Friday*****

ASSOCIATE VICAR: The Rev Stephen Hills, The Rectory,
Cowden

Rectory Number: 01342 643069

Mobile Number: 07896 971723

Email: hills.rectory@yahoo.co.uk


ADMINISTRATOR: Lisa Gibbs-Murray - 07927 939116

Email: admsmht@gmail.com

LAY READER: Donna Dewar - 01342 326424

Email: dewardonna@googlemail.com

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Andrea McGlew – 01342
850992

A serene sunset scene over a beach. The sky is a mix of soft oranges, yellows, and pinks, with the sun partially obscured by a thin layer of clouds. The ocean is visible in the middle ground, with gentle waves lapping at the shore. The foreground is dominated by a large number of smooth, light-colored pebbles of various sizes, creating a textured and peaceful base for the image.

Cast all your
anxiety on him
because he cares
for you.

1 Peter 5:7