



# St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School

Hartfield East Sussex TN7 4AA

Executive Headteacher: Mr James Procter

Head of School: Mrs Jane Robinson

Email: [office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk)



Term 4 Week 1 2024

Friday 28th February 2025

## Headlines from the Head

### Focus on developing spirituality

This term the Ethos committee has been reflecting on our aim of developing the children's spirituality. It is an expectation that a school rooted in its Christian origins should, in part, be committed to developing spirituality in the lives of its staff, children and wider community. We have agreed that in order to do this we must first define what we mean by this.

At the moment the definition that is being discussed is:

*To define Christian Spirituality is, essentially, to define something which is beyond words. The language of Christian Spirituality begins from a Christian understanding that everyone is a valued creation, individually and uniquely made by God.*

*Christian Spirituality looks to explore our relationships and connections with; Ourselves, Each other, Our School & The World, and ultimately the God that is both in, of and beyond that world. It is to explore our experience of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*



Later in the academic year, Rev Julie is going to work with the Lilac class to work on this definition in a way that is meaningful for the children.

Many of you will have noticed that this year we have the 'Prayer and Reflection Shed' in the playground.

This is designed to be a quiet space that children can use to have a space to consider themes that have been discussed in collective worship during the previous week. For example, each week Matt Marriott the Youth Worker from St Mary's comes to our Collective Worship on a Thursday and shares a question or thought that is pinned up in the Prayer and Reflection Shed for children to write, draw and comment on.

It has been wonderful to see the children engage in their free time with the important themes and values we are exploring and making meaning for themselves.

We have been trialling a new way of involving our families in our collective worship - through the use of the 'prayer bags' home. We recently also changed the way we offer 'Class Assemblies' to parents each term to be able to come and be part of celebrating their child's class achievements. I would love to hear how parents are finding this new model!

If you need the newsletter, or any other school letter, to be in a different format, please speak with Mrs Miller in the school office.

If you need help or support with access to any information, please also contact Mrs Miller.

### Top Tips

Letters, emails and WhatsApp's home this fortnight. Please check below and let the office know if you have missed any:

#### **Whole School**

End of term update & staffing news  
NSPCC Speak out. Stay safe Programme  
Launch of Wrap Around Care After School Club  
World Book Day information

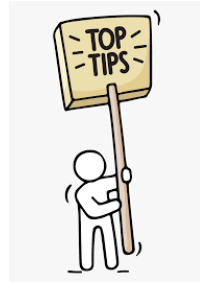
**Lilac**—Community Health NCMP screening

Visit to Parliament letter

**Willow**—Children's Forest information

**Cherry**—Class newsletter and spellings

**Maple**—Community Health NCMP screening



### **March**

3rd: Prayer Meeting 8.50-9.15am in the Prayer Space  
3rd to 5th: Willow class Children's Forest Planting  
6th: World Book Day  
6th: Community Café 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
7th: World Book Day Showcase 9.15am for all parents  
11th: Parent Consultations 3.30-6pm  
13th Parent Consultations 3.30-6pm  
13th: Forest School—Maple Class  
14th: Cherry Class Assembly 9am (**changed from 7th**)  
20th: Forest School—Cherry  
20th: Community Café 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
21st: Maple Class Assembly 9am  
26th: Lilac trip to London  
27th: Forest School - Willow Class  
28th: Community Health team in school (Y6 & YR)

### **April**

**1st:** Forest School extra session for Maple with GST & Nutley schools  
3rd: Forest School - Lilac Class  
3rd: Community Café 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
7th to 21st: Easter School Holidays

### May

1st: Forest School—Maple Class

### Price and Buckland Uniform

With the launch of the new website yesterday they are excited to share this fantastic new video resource with you! It's a useful tool to help parents navigate our new website. The video explains **everything they need to know** in a simple and engaging way.

We'd love for you to **share the link on your school's website or parent app** so that families can access it easily. This will ensure parents feel informed and supported every step of the way.

<https://youtu.be/-wg3-jEqOPg>



### Forest School change of dates due to World Book Day

Due to World Book Day celebrations being held on Thursday next week, Doormouse has been able to re-arrange this term's regular Forest School sessions for the classes by pushing them back a week.

Therefore, please note the new dates for your child's class this term.

Maple - 13th March  
Cherry - 20th March  
Willow - 27th March  
Lilac - 3rd April



If you need the newsletter, or any other school letter, to be in a different format, please speak with Mrs Miller in the school office.

If you need help or support with access to any information, please also contact Mrs Miller.



# St Mary's Star Skills



"Skills for learning, skills for life"



## Star Skills

Each week, one pupil from each class is recognised for their 'star skills' development. This year, to ensure we celebrate with clarity, certificates are given when a child has shown amazing growth in a particular area, which is then recognised in Celebration Assembly on Fridays.

Celebrations for this week:

Staying Positive— Rory has stayed positive while working on his handwriting and has made amazing improvements—Well Done!

Staying Positive—Evie for having an AMAZING first week at St Mary's. Evie has settled in so well and she has already become such an asset to Willow Class. Well done Evie :)

Speaking—Henry—What great learning you have done this week Henry. You have so many thoughtful ideas. We have been particularly impressed with your questioning and listening to others you are working with.

Aiming High—Henry—for putting so much effort into his letter formation this week.

## School Values

**Love:** love and respect yourself and all others, treating them as you would like to be treated.

Luke 10: 25-37

**Strength:** recognise people's strength and use your own to be resilient and the best you can be in all that you do.

John 6: 1-14

**Faith:** have faith in yourself and others, and be honest and truthful. Believe that you never know what you can achieve until you try.

Luke 5: 1-11



Each week, one pupil from each class is recognised for their engagement within our school values which underpin our vision of 'being the best we can be, in a thriving community, following the example of Jesus'. Again, these are recognised in our Celebration Assembly on Fridays but we want also to celebrate them with. This term:

Amelie—Love—for constantly being kind and lovely to everybody in the class and the whole school. Don't stop being amazing!

Cece—Love—for always showing love to others inside and out of the classroom. She always thinks of others and goes out of her way to make sure they are okay! You are an asset to our class Cece!

Ophelia—Strength—for having a fabulous first week at our school. You have worked so hard, and made many new friends. We are all really enjoying having you as part of Cherry Class. Well Done.

Love—Winnie—for showing so much love and care for children in our class.



## Headteacher Awards

When the children display extra-ordinary prowess through their time within school, they celebrate their success with our Headteacher Mrs Robinson and they will discuss whether it should receive a Headteacher Award.

This week, we have three children who have received this since the last newsletter!!



**Huge congratulations to Scarlett, Lottie and Winnie**

## FOREST SCHOOL

Maple class helped to carry all the equipment needed for Forest School today up to the top corner of the playground. Once there, the children helped to choose where to place the hammocks. The first one went up as a swing, the children took it in turns to see if they could throw the strap up over a branch. This wasn't easy but one child did manage to get it up in the tree.



The other hammock was going to go up between two trees however there was a bench in the way. As a team the children worked together to lift and move the bench. The class then took it in turns to enjoy the hammocks, helping to push their friends while they waited for their turn.



The children were able to make themselves a set of binoculars to use today at Forest School. They did this by using masking tape to attach two cardboard tubes together.

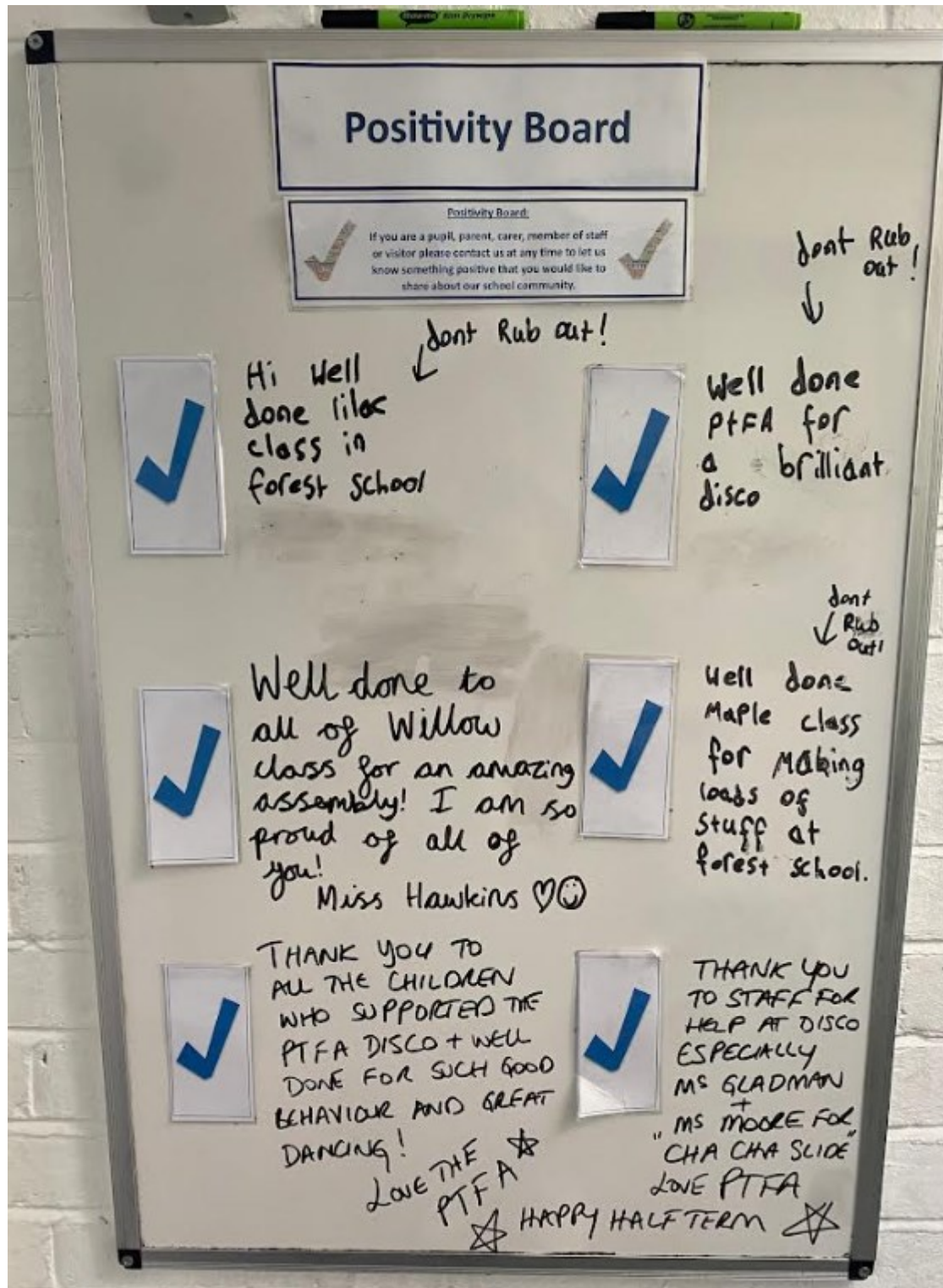
They then added a piece of string to make the binoculars wearable and used pens to add their own decorations. They then set off to scan the hedges of the playground and all the surrounding tree tops for any birds they may be able to see. It wasn't too long before they spotted a large group of bird sitting in the tree tops just outside of school.



To help feed the birds that they children share the playground with, the class made some apple and sunflower seed bird feeders. They did this by pushing as many sunflower seeds as they could into sections of apple. They then added a piece of string and found somewhere to hang it ready for the birds to enjoy. One child hung their apple in a tree and then positioned themselves with their new binoculars waiting to see a bird, unfortunate one never came. We talked about how the birds will probably wait for us all to leave so it is a bit quieter before they come to enjoy what the children have left for them.

## Positivity Board

This board enables us to write positive comments, or thoughts, from parents, carers, staff, children and visitors that they would like to share with others about the school, their classes, the children or events. Please contact us at any time (or come into school) to let us know something that you would like to share. In the newsletter every week, there will be a picture to share and celebrate the positivity within our school.



**easyfundraising**

**Support your child's future**

Sign up to online cashback site, easyfundraising, and select your child's school as your chosen good cause.

Then, when you shop online with over 8,000 retailers, the retailer will give the school a free donation as a thank you for shopping with them.

It's as simple as that. No matter what you buy, from food shops to holidays and everything in between - it's a free and easy way to support your school.





**How to get started**

Head to [easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause](https://easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause) and search for your child's school, or scan the QR code.

Registration is free and will take you less than two minutes to sign up!



17,000 schools and PTAs have raised over £12.5 million using easyfundraising.

**Sign up and support your child's future today.**

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**We are keen to increase visits to our school, and have spaces in many year groups, so please spread the word!**





**ST MARY THE VIRGIN CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**TOURS WELCOME!**

**FOREST SCHOOL**

**COME & VISIT OUR NEW & IMPROVED AREAS**

**WRAPAROUND CARE LAUNCHING FEB 2025!**  
 BREAKFAST CLUB - 7.40-8.40AM  
 AFTER SCHOOL - 3.15-6.00PM

**CONTACT US ON**  
 **01892 770221**  
 FOR MORE INFO VISIT  
[PIONEERFEDERATION.CO.UK/STMARYS](https://pioneerfederation.co.uk/stmarys)

**IN YEAR SPACES AVAILABLE**





## Opportunity



**LEGO CLUB**

**Kids aged 8-11**  
**BRIDGES, Edenbridge**  
**High Street, TN8 5AJ**  
**25/2, 4/3, 11/3, 18/3, 25/3, 1/4**  
**Tuesdays 3.30pm-4.30pm**  
**in term time**  
For more information & to book a place  
contact:  
07900 890 159 [mary@bridgescentre.org](mailto:mary@bridgescentre.org)

Sevenoaks

## Do you enjoy singing?



We are recruiting boys and girls aged 7 to 18 to join our thriving Junior Choir at Edenbridge Parish Church

No experience necessary – just an enjoyment of singing and an enthusiasm and willingness to learn

Benefits include:

- Working together as a team and making new friends
- Earning pocket money for every attendance
- Choir outings which have included bowling, rock climbing, crazy golf and pantomime
- Learning to read music whilst singing
- Helping to develop reading and mathematical skills
- Singing in Cathedrals
- Gaining medals and awards through the Voice for Life singing scheme
- Developing leadership and responsibility by helping younger singers

If you are interested come along to St Peter & Paul, Edenbridge at 6.30-7.30pm on a Friday. For further information please contact Fiona Glidewell by email: [fiona.glidewell@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.glidewell@gmail.com) or phone 07748 632160

## Parent & Carer



### Lunch and Learn Webinars with 'Me & My Mind'

Do you have an anxious child who worries a lot?

If you do, these FREE bitesize webinars maybe for you.

#### Supporting a Child Who Worries (ages 7-11)

50-minute webinar, 1:00pm to 1:50pm

Tuesday 22nd October 2024

Thursday 27th February 2025

Wednesday 11th June 2025

#### Moving up to Secondary School

50-minute webinar, 1:00pm to 1:50pm

Supporting a worrying child with transitions

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025

For more info and to book scan the QR code or visit:



[www.tickettailor.com/events/mentalhealthandwellbeingineducation](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/mentalhealthandwellbeingineducation)

If you have any questions please email [mhst.info@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:mhst.info@eastsussex.gov.uk)

These webinars are perfect to watch whilst eating your lunch, whether you are at work or home. You can keep your camera and microphone off.

All webinars are run using Microsoft Teams. You can access this on your phone or computer. You will be provided with the link when you book.



## Opportunity

### NEW! Harmony at home

For parents/carers that are still together, but are experiencing regular disagreements and conflict



Everyone has arguments from time to time - they are a normal part of relationships. How they are resolved is the most important thing. If they happen often, are intense or not resolved properly they can negatively affect children's mental health and wider development.



Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February  
To  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March  
10:00-12:00

Harmony at home is designed to help parents/carers to help themselves at the times when arguing and poor communication are overwhelming their relationship.

7 Sessions over 8 weeks,  
with a break for half term

## Fussy Eating

### Free online workshop



Join  
us!

Fed up with  
stressful  
mealtimes?  
We're here  
to help...



As parents we want our children to eat well  
– and to enjoy mealtimes together

Come along and get support and new ideas for:

- How to encourage your child to try new foods - and begin to enjoy them!
- Child-friendly foods that provide what they need to grow and be healthy
- Happier family mealtimes

#### Event details:

Delivered by the East Sussex School Health Service. To join Call: 0300 123 4062 Complete: Online referral form: <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/forms/school-health-ser vice-east-sussex-referral-form/>



### Lunch and Learn Online Workshops and In-person Family Hub Workshops with 'Me & My Mind'

Do you want to learn about children's mental health and how you can support your child with their wellbeing? If you do, these FREE webinars or our in-person small group workshops may be for you!

#### Lunch and Learn Webinars

How to support your child with worry and anxiety

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 1pm, to 2pm

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 1pm to 2pm

How to support a worrying child with transition to secondary

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025, 1pm to 2pm

#### Small group in-person sessions

Supporting primary school children with anxiety and worry

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, 10am to 12pm @ Sidley Family Hub

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 10am to 12pm @ Uckfield Family Hub

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 10am to 12pm @ Hailsham Family Hub

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 10am to 12pm @ Devonshire Family Hub

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 12pm to 2pm @ Sidley Family Hub

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 12:30pm to 2:30pm @ Peacehaven Family Hub

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 12:30pm to 2:30pm @ Lewes Family Hub

Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be available, and we will be providing activities to make some items to take home with you to do with your child/ren

For more info and to book scan the QR code or visit:



[www.tickettailor.com/events/mentalhealthandwellbeingineducation](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/mentalhealthandwellbeingineducation)

If you have any questions, please email [mhst.parentteam@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:mhst.parentteam@eastsussex.gov.uk)

## The Parenting Team



### EarlyBird Plus

from the National Autistic Society

Appropriate for parents of children aged 4-9 years who are diagnosed with autism or on the pathway to diagnosis

EarlyBird Plus is a programme for parents/carers of autistic children aged 4 to 9 years from the National Autistic Society. This programme empowers parents to understand more about autism in their children.

The aim of the EarlyBird plus programme is to equip parents/carers to develop a greater understanding of their child's needs whilst waiting for or following diagnosis. It also aims to develop a consistent approach across settings (e.g. home and school)

Thursday 30th January - Thursday 20th March  
10:00-12:00pm

7 sessions over 8 weeks, with a break for half term

To book your place, please contact us:

01424 725800

[EH.0-19parentingteam@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:EH.0-19parentingteam@eastsussex.gov.uk)



St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School, Hartfield, East Sussex, TN7 4AA

Tel: 01892 770221 Email: [office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk) Website: [www.pioneerfederation.co.uk](http://www.pioneerfederation.co.uk)

**Opportunity**

**STUDY SMART**  
Free Online Courses

**Aspire Education**

**ncfef | cache**

**Education & Skills Funding Agency**

**Fully Funded School Support Course**

**Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3**

\*Please go to our website for more detailed information.

**6 Week Course**  
**Mon - Fri**  
**Daily sessions**  
**1st session 9:30 - 11:30am**  
**2nd session 12:30 - 2pm**

**www.studysmartuk.online**

**CUES**  
Coping with Uncertainty in Everyday Situations

**Uckfield Family Hub**

Is your child experiencing feelings of anxiety? Are you looking for information on how to help them? CUES is a training course for parent/carers to support their children with the feelings of anxiety they are experiencing.

CUES workshops will be running throughout the year in Family Hubs across East Sussex. The workshops are once a week for the duration of five weeks. Please sign up to a workshop using the QR code below

“Supportive and safe space”

“Breath of fresh air”

“A community of parents”

“Helping you to deal with your child”

**Scan the QR code for more information**

Uckfield Family Hub,  
1 Manor Close,  
Uckfield, TN22 1DL

St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School, Hartfield, East Sussex, TN7 4AA

Tel: 01892 770221 Email: [office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk) Website: [www.pioneerfederation.co.uk](http://www.pioneerfederation.co.uk)

## Opportunity

### UK Rhino Challenge at Pippingford on the Ashdown Forest on 4th May 2025.

This cycle orienteering challenge will raise money for Rhino Ark's important conservation projects in Kenya. [See our work here](#)  
Families can enter individually or if two or more teams from St Mary's sign up collectively then your school could win the special Youth Group prize. More details on [www.ukrhinochallenge.co.uk](http://www.ukrhinochallenge.co.uk) or book at early bird prices [here](#)



Families from our school      Sunday 4th May 2025  
Teams of up to five cyclists required for the

# UK Rhino Challenge

A unique cycle orienteering adventure for all of the family. Test your teamwork with our unique challenges while having fun amid the bluebells in the Ashdown Forest.  
The entry fee will raise funds to save wildlife and protect habitats for future generations.  
[Find out more about Rhino Ark's projects](#)

More details on [www.ukrhinochallenge.com](http://www.ukrhinochallenge.com)

[Book here](#)

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### St Mary's Church Information



## World Day of Prayer

Friday 7th March  
2pm  
St Mary's Church,  
Hartfield

Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2025. This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean has a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection to nature. Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme 'I made you wonderful'.

World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

After the service, refreshments will be served. Do come and join us!

For more information contact Joanne Griffin on 07941 856715 or [msjoannegriffin@gmail.com](mailto:msjoannegriffin@gmail.com)



## Church Street Community Cafe

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

Homemade cake, tea and coffee  
Everyone welcome

Find us at St Mary's Church at the top of Church Street in Hartfield

For more information contact Joanne Griffin on 07941 856715 or [msjoannegriffin@gmail.com](mailto:msjoannegriffin@gmail.com)



## LITTLE STARS

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

Upcoming dates

- 3rd March
- 10th March
- 17th March
- 24th March
- 31st March

9.15 to 10.45am  
Tea and Coffee Provided [revjulieseal1@gmail.com](mailto:revjulieseal1@gmail.com)

**St Mary's Church Information (cont.)**



For young people aged 10+

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

Thursday dates are  
6th March  
20th March  
3rd April

For more information  
please contact Matt Marriott at  
[m.marriott@btconnect.com](mailto:m.marriott@btconnect.com)



## Sunday Discoverers

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

Upcoming dates: 2nd March, 16th March

For more information please contact Rev Julie Sear at [revjuliesear1@gmail.com](mailto:revjuliesear1@gmail.com) or 01892770436



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  
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](mailto:m.marriott@btconnect.com)



For young people aged 10+

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

Sunday dates are:  
2nd March  
16th March

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](mailto:m.marriott@btconnect.com)