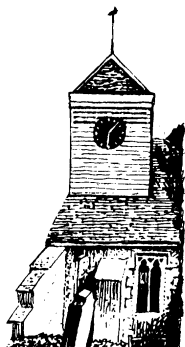


The

Parish

News



What's on and What you missed

In & around

Ninfield & Hooe

August/September 2026 50p



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

St MARY's & St OSWALD's

NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



St Mary's

2nd Aug	9.30 Parish Eucharist
9 th Aug	<i>No Service</i>
16 th Aug	9.30 Family Eucharist
23 rd Aug	<i>No Service</i>
30 th Aug	9.30 Parish Eucharist

6 th Sep	9.30 Joint Parish Eucharist
13 th Sep	<i>No Service</i>
20 th Sep	9.30 Family Eucharist
27 th Sep	9.30 Parish Eucharist

St Oswald's

11.00 Family Service
11.00 Joint Parish Eucharist
11.00 Parish Eucharist
11.00 Parish Eucharist
11.00 Parish Eucharist

<i>No Service</i>
11.00 Family Service
11.00 Parish Eucharist
11.00 Parish Eucharist

Opening times for Private Prayer

St. Mary's - Tuesday to Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm Where Possible

St. Oswald's - Open daily from 9.00am - 5.00pm

Any alterations or additions to these service times will be displayed on the church notice boards, the weekly sheet and can be found on the church website along with other church details ~ www.ninfield.org.uk

APPOINTMENTS

All enquiries about Baptism, Marriages, reading of Banns or any other Church matters should be made to The Church Wardens, details on the back page

PARISH NEWS

Views expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the writer and not of the Parish Churches or PCCs unless it so states. This publication is produced and distributed by Members of both Parish Churches.

Dear Friends,

I write this having just returned from taking Morning Worship at Ninfield School in a very hot school hall! I spoke to them about Growth, including physical, emotional and spiritual growth with the school motto being ‘Growing, Loving, Learning together’.

I am sure I speak for all of us when I say there are moments in life that shake us like an earthquake, unsettling the very ground on which we’ve built our sense of self. Having just conducted two very large and moving funerals at Hooe this last week it would be right to talk of events that shake us to the core especially for those two grieving families. Plans may evolve, expectations fall away and we are left to wonder: when all we imagined dissolves, am I still enough, just as I am? In these moments, it is easy to tie our worth to how we feel, what we can do, or what has happened to us. When our strength feels limited, or when life doesn’t unfold as we hoped, our sense of value can begin to feel uncertain. But our worth was never meant to depend on circumstances. It does not grow when everything goes well, and it does not disappear when life becomes difficult. It remains — steady, quiet, and unchanged beneath it all. Sometimes, we are reminded of this not from within, but through others. A kind message. A thoughtful gesture. Someone simply being there. These moments can gently reflect something back to us that we may have forgotten: that we matter, even when we are not at our strongest. “Always remember you matter, you’re important and you are loved, and you bring to this world things no one else can” said the horse to the boy in Charlie Mackesey’s now famous and inspiring book.

Psalm 139:14 reminds us, “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” This truth does not change depending on how we feel or what we are going through. It remains constant — even on the days when we struggle to believe it. This month as we enter the holiday season, you might pause and reflect:

- What would it feel like to believe that I am enough, just as I am today?
- Can I allow myself to receive kindness without needing to earn it?
- What small step could I take toward treating myself more gently?

Being “enough” does not mean having everything together. It does not mean being strong all the time. It means allowing yourself to be human — to rest, to feel, to heal. As we begin this holiday time, may we start from this simple, steady place: not from what we need to fix or improve,

but from the quiet truth that we are already worthy of care, compassion, and love. Enjoy this time of relaxation and if at times you don't feel enough in yourself, ask for help from God himself for as Charlie Mackesey also says in his book "Asking for help isn't giving up", said the horse. "Its refusing to give up".

Paul

PRAYER

Dear Father, In this summer months, help us to be aware of Your presence. If we are away on holiday, If we can't have a holiday, On our journeys, In our homes, With our families or friends, When we're alone, When life is sweet, When it's like an obstacle course.

At all times and in all circumstances, help us to know that You are in it with us, sharing our ups and downs, offering Your love and peace and hope when we connect with You through putting our trust in Your Son, Jesus.

Thank You Lord. In His name, Amen.

St Oswald's

*from the
Parish Records*

23rd June 2026 - Funeral of Carolyn Formby.

26th June 2026 - Funeral of Susan Pattenden

News from St Oswald's

The main event that we want to talk about is the Annual Garden Party but this takes precedence. After nearly ten years when the project was first mooted we have:

Planning permission for the Toilet extension

We are pleased to report, that we now have Planning Permission from Wealden DC for the toilet extension at St Oswald's Church. It has taken a long time, with quite a few complications that we had to overcome.

There are some pre-conditions, which mainly require an Archaeologist on site during the excavation to oversee and investigate any significant finds.

The Diocese of Chichester also have to agree that we can make changes to the church building. They have been aware of the Planning process and the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) have given their support. However, we need their permission, in order to proceed.

The Architect will provide detailed drawings, which will be sent out to 3 contractors to quote for carrying out the building work. The results will be shared with the Diocese and they may well have further questions before granting permission. We should soon have an idea of the building costs which we will need to share with the Diocese and for applying for grants.

Once all the permissions are in place the mammoth task of fund raising will begin

We look forward to sharing more news in the October magazine.

The Garden Party



It might be a bric-a-brac stall but still brought in the elegant ladies!

The Garden Party was great success with the crowds arriving and the sun shining. Many stalls and despite the weather the BBQ did a roaring trade. Inside cakes for sale, raffle tickets to buy, guess the weight of the cake and the longest queue for tea, coffee, scones and cakes. All beautifully hand made. We raised nearly £2,500 for the church and we would like to thank all the villagers who volunteered their time.

The Church will be hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning

Saturday 19th September at 10.30am

Jack & Nicki Churchwardens

' A Summer Wedding In Ninfield

On Saturday 20th June my daughter Holly married Keiran.

A huge thank you to Veronica Sergeant and Sally Parry for beautiful flower arrangements around the church. It was an amazing day to see the church looking wonderful and so many villagers turning out for a lovely Village wedding, the sun shone and everyone was in a very joyous mood. As Paul was away on holiday Steph stepped in to take the service and it was a beautiful service. The wonderful Friendly Voices kindly singing in the choir stalls. All their beautiful voices rung around the church and everyone commented on how lovely it was, I cannot thank them enough for making the day so special. Keiran's work mates had arranged a vintage bus to take all the guests to The Manor Barn for the reception, it was great to see everyone dressed up walking across the recreation ground to the car park at the Kings Arms to board the bus, it would be a struggle to get up Belle Hill, we had to go long way round, with everyone leaning forward up the hills as it chugged along. It truly was a beautiful Village wedding, thank you all.

Thank you Lord for truly blessing us all. **Lynda Scott**

P.S. Just had to add a huge thank you to Sami Guard and her team for a great clean up at St Mary's Church in June. A fantastic job done by so many friendly happy people all working together to make our Village church sparkle.



News from St. Mary's

Harvest and Pet Service 2026

Harvest in both churches will be on Sunday 27th September with the school Harvest in church on 29th September. This year I will make both churches Harvest and move the successful Pet Service at Ninfield to the following week 4th October as I am told some from Hooe would like to attend it. The Pet Service will be similar to last year and again will include an opportunity to remember our beloved pets who have died, remembering the joy they brought into our lives. There will be more in the October magazine but put the date in your diary now.

Linked to Harvest will be the **Michaelmas Fair** in and around St Mary's church on Saturday 27th September so it will be a real celebration of a weekend.

Ninfield Tower/roof repairs.

The cost of the repairs to the tower and roof of St Mary's has grown substantially and we are now looking at raising just under £100,000 including the VAT (This Government kindly removed the ability for churches to reclaim the VAT) and Architects fees. That is a huge sum of money for us to raise but I am applying for various grants that will hopefully help us to get nearer to that figure. I have already received some grant funding for the project. St Oswald's are also looking to raise an even higher amount for the toilet project, but I am sure there will be an update about that in the magazine.

Paul

Editors' Comment...

Well it seems that Summer has arrived, beautiful weather but some of us find the humidity a little difficult to cope with.

We haven't anything to add really as everyone has been so efficient and sent in their double articles and all the news. As we have said before it wouldn't be a magazine if it wasn't for you. Keep up the good work.



Enjoy your holidays

Carol & Nicki

Monthly Diary

	Venue	Page
JULY		
23 rd Lunch Club	Methodist Hall	19
23 rd Afternoon Tea	St. Mary's Church	29
26 th Songs across the decades	Working Mens club	29
31 st Men's Shed	Sparke Pavilion	29
31 st Ladies Lounge	Working Men's Club	29
AUGUST		
13 th Ninfield History Group	Methodist Hall	11
14 th Open Group	Methodist Hall	10
15 th Horti Summer Show	Memorial Hall	15
20 th Hooe History Society	St Oswald's Church	13
27 th Lunch Club	Methodist Hall	19
28 th Ladies Lounge	Working Mens Club	29
30 th BBQ	Working Mens Club	17
SEPTEMBER		
1 st Pre-Loved Sale	Methodist Hall	30
8 th Film Matinee	Memorial Hall	18
11 th Open Group	Methodist Hall	10
11 th Disco Night	Memorial Hall	30
14 th Horti	Memorial Hall	15
14 th Hooe Parish Council	Hooe Village Hall	19
19 th MacMillan Coffee Morning	St. Oswald's Church	6
24 th Lunch Club	Methodist Hall	19
25 th MacMillan Coffee Morning	Methodist Hall	22
25 th Ladies Lounge	Working Mens Club	29
27 th Michaelmas Fayre	St. Mary's Church	8

.Hooe & Ninfield Open Group

For a change we had an outing and went to Bexhill Museum and had a very interesting talk by the curator Julian Porter on the history of the museum. A very hot day but luckily Julian decided to give us a slide show so we could have the blinds down to keep the sun at bay. Tea, coffee, water was on hand along with a variety of delicious cakes. We then had the opportunity to wander around the museum to admire the exhibits.

Next month back to the Methodist Hall 2.00pm Friday 14th August.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Nicki & Heather

VOLUNTEERING

A lot is said about volunteering, groups asking for volunteers be that at a national, county or village level and overall there are thousands of people in every district that volunteer. Some do so on an annual basis, helping out at a particular event, others volunteer everyday while the vast majority are somewhere in between, occasionally, monthly or weekly.

All the groups in Ninfield and Hooe are run by volunteers and without them those groups would not exist, and that includes the Memorial Hall.

All of the Committee are Trustees and volunteers, we also have a number of people who turn out at various events to help set up and clear down tables and chairs, make teas, supply cakes and wash up!

The two ladies who do the hall bookings are volunteers but it has come to the time that one of them wishes to 'retire' so we are looking for someone, to work from home with access to a computer or laptop for preference but a large screen tablet is ok to look after the bookings of the regular hirers to the hall.

If you think you can help please email

ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com or phone Carol 07858 555343

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

It's an enduring historical mystery, isn't it? The Battle of Hastings, THE battle in English history, is reported to have taken place on 14 October 1066 near the current site of Battle Abbey. But did it really take place there? Unfortunately, there is virtually no archaeological evidence to pinpoint the site of the battle. It is this conundrum which was the subject of our July talk delivered by Simon Mansfield and entitled: "From Dives to Battlefield". Simon focussed on the build-up to the battle, the preparations and logistics of William's army, its journey across the channel and the industrial landscape and weather of the time. It's important to remember too, that the coastline was very different almost a thousand years ago. Using his analysis, Simon was able to propose several locations in addition to Battle where the battle may have taken place. You can find out more at his website: saxonhistory.co.uk.

On 13 August we will be welcoming Trish Jones who is going to reveal the extraordinary forgotten World War 1 story of Lady Mabelle Egerton and the Rouen Coffee shop. Later, for our annual outing on 10 September, we will be meeting at 11am by the Fisherman's Museum in Rock-a-Nore Road, Hastings, for a 90-minute walk around the fisherman's quarter, followed by an optional lunch afterwards at Maggie's (fish and chips).

Ninfield Local History Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Methodist Hall in Church Lane, 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. We welcome members and non-members, so do come along if you can! The group also opens its archives each quarter at the Sparkes Pavilion so that you can view photographs and documents relating to the village and the surrounding area, talk to a local expert and share your stories. Our next Resource Centre morning is on Monday 27 th July 2026, 10:00-12:00. We also have a range of publications for sale, and these can be viewed and purchased using our online store or in-person at one of our archive mornings. You can find out more about the group, see our talks schedule, view photographs, read stories and more on our website: www.ninfieldlocalhistorygroup.org.uk or get in touch using this email: info@ninfieldlocalhistorygroup.org.uk.

NINFIELD BOWLS CLUB

There is good news and there is some bad news. The good news is that the provision of the additional biscuit at our tea time as reported in the previous issue of the Parish News has produced wonders and has helped to enhanced our game and as a result I can report that we have good wins against Northiam and Winchelsea. The bad news is, and I mention no names, left the lid off the biscuit tin which resulted in the biscuits going soggy and stale. This disastrous and malicious act resulted in the biscuits unfit for human consumption, which meant only a simple cup of tea was consumed at tea time by our intrepid bowlers, who, with all the best will in the world suffered a bad defeat against Pett. However, we still maintain our seventh position in the league with two games in hand. Was the culprit of the biscuit tin incident apprehended and reprimanded, well no, only to say they were dispatched to 'Dells' shop to replenish the tin, only to return with a packet of ginger nuts! We hosted a Ladies Invitation in June which was attended by ten teams from local clubs. This event was so successful that we hosting Gents Invitation in July, again to be attended by ten team from local clubs. If you have ever wanted to have a go at bowls, here is you chance. Come along to the club (by the Kings Arms car park) any Tuesday or Thursday afternoon between 4 and 6 and we will give you all the tuition and help, and I am sorry to say a ginger nut biscuit. You have nothing to lose and a lot to gain.



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HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY

We have two speakers to talk about in this double issue of parish News. The first one, this month is Melanie Gibson-Barton, on Thursday, 20th August, with her talk on The Life of Eva Braun. Melanie is a full-time speaker and offers 17 talks in total. We have chosen the one entitled Eva Braun – Victim or Contriver? – a controversial figure – but Melanie says the talk is sensitively done. Our speaker on Thursday 17 th September is Dr. Owen Johnson who will talk on our Nature Reserve in Hooe which we call The Bogs. Dr Johnson is from The Powdermill Trust for Nature Conservation and helps look after The Bogs. In this informative talk, he describes exactly what his work involves – complete with display boards. Both talks are to take place in St Oswald's church at 7.30 p.m. on their respective days.

DID YOU KNOW... Following Dick Carey's talk last month I thought I would share the stories of two other prominent characters who lived and worked in Hooe and were from both ends of the social scale.

Oily Alice from the bogs (June 2000) ROUSER'S mention of Oily Annie, who used to deliver paraffin door to door in the Ninfield area, has brought a response from Geoffrey Holyoake of Hailsham. He knew her as Oily Alice (well, Rouser was close) and as a boy he used to help her push her cart, not a pram, when she delivered in Ninfield. She used to live in the bogs at Hooe, and said Geoffrey. She pushed her cart from there to Ninfield on a Saturday. She wore a long coat and a thick apron and mittens.; They were saturated with paraffin. If anyone had struck a match, she would have gone up in smoke!; I was born in Ninfield in 1928 in Church Lane. I remember her delivering to the cottages by the sweet shop which the Hendersons and then the Lamberts used to run. I remember her as a tall, thin lady who always wore lots of clothes and delivered whatever the weather.'

DEATH OF MR. J. E. BRAND. A PROMINENT EAST SUSSEX FARMER (June 1927). East Sussex agriculturists and former colleagues in his public work, will hear with much regret of the death of Mr. John Edmund Brand, which took place at Tenterden on Saturday. Until comparatively recently, when ill health compelled his retirement, Mr. Brand resided at the Grove, Hooe, where he carried on a large farm for many years. A man with a wide experience of agriculture, his opinions on matters connected with the industry commanded respect, and he exercised great influence in farming

being a member of the Hailsham branch of the National Farmers' Union, and a representative of agricultural interests on the County Council, of which he was until recently Alderman. He was also for many years a member of the Hailsham Rural District Council and Board of Guardians. Mr. Brand resided in Hooe for 48 years, and during nearly the whole of this long period, took a great interest in all local affairs. For nearly 40 years he was a churchwarden and chairman of the Parish

Council, while for many years he was a school manager. In politics he was a staunch Conservative, and took the chair at most meetings held in the village. He was 84 years of age. The Vicar (the Rev. C. A. Weeks) officiated at the funeral service at the Parish Church on Thursday afternoon, which was of a plain nature, and also read the committal prayers at the graveside in the churchyard. The mourners were. Mrs. Stevenson (sister) Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Brand (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Holmden (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. N. Brand (son and daughter-in-law), Messrs Cyril, Percy, Bert and Geoffrey Brand (grandsons). Among others present were: Mr. A. K. Burtenshaw, J.P. (Hailsham), Mr. H. Boniface. J.P. (Pevensey) Mr. S. Dodson, Mr. and Mrs S. Norris, Mrs. C. A. Weeks, Miss Hayward and Mr. F. Hayes (churchwardens).

Peter Hayward

Friendly Voices

By the time you read this, we would have sung at two village weddings - who would have thought it. We now have a regular booking at a local care home and we also sang at a Carers Cafe in Stone Cross for the Association of Carers. It's great fun and very rewarding when you see how much the audience are enjoying themselves and singing along. It isn't just the 'old' stuff - we include a bit of everything from the 1940's to 2000's (Elton John, Queen, Petula Clarke, The Beautiful South, Guy Mitchell and many more). At the Church coffee morning, we managed to encourage a few to join us in a couple of sea shanties - not easy when it was such a hot day and you couldn't see the sea, but worth a giggle. If this sounds like something you may enjoy (and you don't have to sing at events, just come along and sing with us on a Tuesday or Thursday) why not join us. There may be a song you really like that you would like to sing with a group - we'll try anything once! Until the end of September we sing in the church - Tuesday evening 7.30 to 8.30 and Thursday 2 to 3pm. All are welcome and, at £1 a session it's great value.- **Kaye Crittall**

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Its the big one! Our Summer Show is on Saturday 15th August and fingers are crossed that there is a roof on the Memorial Hall. We are also hoping that the heatwave followed by thunderstorms is not a re-occurring theme confusing theme resulting in vegetables coming early, flowers being 'over' and gardeners worn out with trying to cope with it all! If we have been spared the worst of the weather - then why not have a go at entering your dahlia's or a vase of annuals? Perhaps you have onions, courgettes, tomatoes or cucumbers that are looking ready for the show bench?

If not, you could try your hand at Bourbon Biscuits, Parkin, Bread Pudding or even Turkish Delight alongside your photographs of Fruit Picking or Your Plant Obsession. At the very least, there's the longest runner bean and heaviest marrow or courgette. So much choice. For those of you not quite ready to enter, then come along at 2pm and enjoy the display plus lovely homemade cakes, whilst telling your neighbour that your tomatoes at home were better than the winning entry.

Next in the calendar is a talk by Stephen Harmer on the History of Sissinghurst Castle on Monday 14th September. As usual, we will be in the Memorial Hall, doors opening at 6.30 for a 7pm start. You do not need to be a member to come along to any of our events (or enter the shows).

Kaye Crittall



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NINFIELD

WORKING MENS CLUB

FREE BBQ

on Sunday

30TH AUGUST 2026

2PM TILL 6PM



Good Food, Great Music, Great Company!

★ MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ★

Ninfield Health and Wellbeing Group aims to promote the health and wellbeing of people in the local community. Established in 2018, the NHWG is an umbrella organisation supporting a range of activities.

Film Matinees

Films start again on Tuesday 8 September with the romantic comedy Four Weddings and a Funeral. Films are held in Ninfield Memorial Hall. Screening and refreshments are free and films are dementia friendly and have subtitles. Doors open at 1.30 pm for the screening at 2 pm. Do come and join us for a friendly and relaxed afternoon. To ensure enough cake, please book a place by contacting Jackie or Rose on 01424 892422 or email Jackie jackie.langley1@btinternet.com.

Book Exchange and Community Café

Methodist Hall 10-11.30 on Friday. The Book Exchange Café will be on Friday 7 August and Friday 4 September with the community café open every other Friday morning. Donations asked for books and refreshments. There is a wide range of books and good company. You will be made to feel very welcome if you'd like to join us.

Contact David on 07989729 or dj_swales@hotmail.com

Men's Shed

Now an established friendly group meeting at Sparke Pavilion. 10 am last Friday of the month. Men putting the world to rights over free coffee. For more information contact Dave: 01424 892883.

Health Walks

Every Thursday. Trained local volunteers lead a gentle walk of about an hour. These walks are now part of 'The Ramblers' and are known as Ramblers Wellbeing Walks Ninfield. Brief details can be found on ramblers.org.uk. Meet 11 am at Sparke Pavilion at Ninfield Recreation ground near the main entrance off Church Lane. A few more walkers welcome. Please wear suitable footwear. Contact Robin: 07940 324601 or robin@plowmate.plus.com

Women's Crafting and Knitting Circle

Weekly 10.30 am – 12.30 pm on Friday. £5 per session. A well-established friendly group. Phone Jane on 892428 for more details.

Lunch Club

The next lunch club meetings will be on Thursday 27th August **and** Thursday 24th September in the Methodist Hall. If you would like a place, contact Sam White on 07484 847933.

Tea Dance

Hoping to put on a special event for each season, we are starting with an Autumn Tea Dance in the Memorial Hall on 31 October. Details to follow but put the date in your diary!--

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

email: clerk@hooe-pc.gov.uk Website: www.hooe-pc.gov.uk

As we move through the height of summer, it is a wonderful time to pause and appreciate all that makes our village such a special place. The gardens are in full bloom, the countryside is looking its best and there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy a walk, meet neighbours and make the most of our beautiful surroundings.

We would like to thank everyone who plays a part in keeping our village friendly, welcoming, peaceful and well cared for. Whether you volunteer, look after public spaces, support local events or simply take pride in your home and surroundings, your contribution helps make our community a lovely place to live.

One ongoing concern is the number of drivers who continue to ignore the 30mph speed limit while passing through the village. We would encourage everyone to slow down and help keep our roads safe for residents, walkers, cyclists and visitors alike.

Our next parish meeting will be held on 20th July. There will be no meeting during August, after which we look forward to welcoming everyone back at our meeting on 14th September.

As this edition covers both August and September, we would like to wish everyone a happy, relaxing and enjoyable summer. Whether you are travelling, spending time with family and friends, or simply enjoying all that our village has to offer, we hope you have a wonderful few months. We look forward to seeing you again in September. As always do contact a councillor with your ideas and questions. NMSW

SUE TRIMMER FITNESS

From 20th July 2026 for 6 weeks the Memorial Hall in Ninfield will be closed whilst a new roof is put on.

The following are the temporary times and places for classes whilst this building work is being done.

METHODIST CHURCH HALL, CHURCH LANE, NINFIELD

Tuesday:	9.30	Fit for Life
	10.30	Fitness Pilates

EITHER OF THESE CLASSES SHOULD BE BLOCK BOOKED
DUE TO EXTREMELY LIMITED SPACE - £48 FOR THE SIX
WEEK BLOCK

Wednesday: Drop-in classes

8.15	Fitness Pilates
9.15	Fitness Pilates
10.15	Fitness Yoga

Carol has offered her beautiful garden (subject to the weather) for Friday's class Elm Cottage, Marlpits Lane (right hand side if approaching from Manchester Road). Parking available. Sign for Flower Meadow Glamping, Marlpits Lane, Ninfield, TN33 9LD

Friday: Drop-in classes

9.00	Aerobics
10.00	Fitness Pilates

The drop-in classes are not subject to the block booking arrangement

Ninfield and District Art Group

Looking for a friendly place to enjoy art?

Whether you are an experienced painter or just wanting to pick up a brush and have a go, you'll find we are a very supportive group

What we offer - Weekly informal painting sessions. Meet every Wednesday afternoon at the Memorial Hall from 1.30 - 4.30pm.

A chance to develop your skills and enjoy time with fellow art enthusiasts. Friendly and Supportive Environment We like to share ideas, learn from others, so you can enjoy creating at your own pace.

Refreshments Available Tea/coffee and biscuits are available giving you the opportunity to mingle and chat.

This year's Art Exhibition will be held on 24th / 25th October 2026 Memorial Hall. Each year, we hold an Exhibition where members can proudly display their artwork if they wish to.

Why join?

Enjoy a relaxing and rewarding hobby * Meet like-minded people *
Develop your artistic confidence

* Spend a pleasant afternoon in good company.*

Come along and discover the pleasure of painting in a friendly, encouraging group. For more information

Contact Fiona Stedman on 07761961585

email flstedman@gmail.com venue Ninfield Memorial Hall

Owing to the roof repairs on the hall we have no meetings in August but will be back on Wednesday 2nd September

Looking forward to seeing you

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning

And you're invited



Let's do whatever it takes

To support people living with cancer

Place: Ninfield Methodist Church Hall

Date: Friday 25th September 2026

Time: 9.00 - 12.00

Contact: Veronica Sargent

07714 327117

CAKE DONATIONS WELCOME

All welcome

Ninfield Bonfire Society News

More than Just a Torch – Get Involved This Summer

Friendship • Fire • Tradition

Most people only see the finished spectacle on Bonfire Night – **the torch-lit procession, traditional bonfire and Guy, effigy and spectacular fireworks display**. What many don't realise is that the procession torches, the bonfire itself and the themed effigy have all been created by hand by volunteers! At Ninfield Bonfire Society, preparations for Bonfire Night begin long before October arrives.

Throughout the summer, members gather to cut and prepare around 300 torch bats, each measuring approximately three feet in length. After drying, hessian is carefully wrapped around one end and secured with nails before the torches are dipped in a traditional fuel mixture and left to drain for several weeks, ready for the procession. The use of flaming torches dates back thousands of years. The Ancient Romans used them for lighting, ceremonies and processions, and throughout history the torch has symbolised hope, life and enlightenment. Today, it remains one of the most iconic sights of a Sussex Bonfire celebration. Our preparations don't stop with the torches. During the spring and summer we also cut and make traditional brushwood faggots. In bonfire terms, a faggot is simply a tightly bound bundle of sticks, twigs and small branches. These are stacked to build the bonfire and, because they are made from dry brushwood, they ignite quickly, creating a bright blaze before burning away to provide the perfect base for the evening fireworks display. Alongside the bonfire, members also build two very different figures. The traditional Guy, made from old clothes stuffed with newspaper or straw, sits on top of the bonfire and continues the centuries-old Bonfire Night tradition associated with Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Separately, our members also design and build a large themed effigy especially for the fireworks display. The design remains a closely guarded secret throughout the summer and is only revealed on Bonfire Night, making it one of the highlights of the evening. Torch making, faggot making and building both the traditional Guy and our effigy are about much more than preparing for one night of the year. They are days and evenings where members of all ages work together, pass on traditional skills, enjoy a chat and help preserve a Sussex tradition that has been handed

down through generations. If you've ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes, why not come along and get involved? You don't need any previous experience, just a willingness to lend a hand. Whether you'd like to help make torches, tie brushwood faggots or simply meet new people, you'll receive a warm welcome. Keep an eye on the Ninfield Bonfire Society Facebook page, where Ash will post the dates for our summer torch and faggot making sessions. We'd love to see you there.

Ninfield Bonfire Night – Saturday 24th October 2026

Featuring our Torch-lit Procession, Bonfire, Traditional Guy, Effigy and Spectacular Fireworks Display. Remember, Remember the 5th of November...Let's keep the flames of tradition burning bright!
www.ninfieldbonfire.co.uk

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY

As I write this piece for the August and September issue we are currently in the grip of a heat wave, so where do you go to keep cool, undoubtedly the best place is our very own church wood with its cooling tree cover, ponds, water courses and peaceful places to sit and enjoy our little bit of the finest which nature has to offer. Having now had an opportunity to study a very positive recent report prepared by the county ecologist for the parish council it makes me even more aware of this wonderful semi-natural ancient wet wood. It lists much of the flora and fauna to be found there, much of which I would suggest is completely unknown to most of us. There are several species of plants which are indicators of an ancient woodland and in a few places evidence remains of the mediaeval ditch and bank method of marking a woodland boundary. We are indeed very lucky to have this little bit of old England right on our doorstep. The village Society, as the name might suggest, also does a few small jobs around the village from time to time, for example we have recently started work on stabilising and refurbishing the wooden lean-to shelter on the recreation ground which we hope to have completed by the end of this summer along with several other tasks which need attention. RG

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The Day that Hooe stood still

A farming funeral. I was privileged to have been a very minor cog in St Oswalds PCC helping marshal the enormous number of vehicles, very few with only a single occupant, at the funeral of an obviously well loved and respected lady, a pillar of the rural Hooe village community. Even on the hottest day on record, they were all there, from deepest black to skimpy white, from 92 years to babes and all in between. The Churchwardens and PCC were on hand, together with Pam and Peter Doodles, marshalling traffic safely down the narrow Church Lane and organised parking, a massive amount of extra seating was required and still they came. Cooling lemon infused iced water and paper cups for all in need and still more arrived, with some 40 outside in the shade of the tower. The bell ringers tolled mournful peal, feeling their own loss. The tractor drawn cortege, bearing a beautifully hand painted coffin slowly made its passage towards its destination. Inside, on packed pews and every space packed the family members and all friends awaited. The organ played out the hymns and all sang the well chosen words. Eulogies were read, and outside, where none could be heard, nonetheless all stood in respectful silence. Hooe mourned its loss.

A reflection on the funeral of Susan Pattenden by Kevin Regan

NINFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 19th September

FOODS & CRAFTS MARKET

9.30 - 12.30

Sorry, no market in August so come and see us in September to top up your fridge and freezer with meats, fruit & veg, cheese, jams, chutneys or honey as well as that delicious chocolate.

Pop in for tea or coffee and a bite to eat

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP

Our July demonstration was aptly titled. Angela Woodley gave us beautiful flowers with “Here comes Summer” - although most of us would agree that certainly the heat of summer has been with us for some time.

With the roof renovations in August we will not have a meeting that month, but resume on September 7th with Vanessa Jeffries from Willingdon Flower Club and “Memories”.

As usual, refreshments served from 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Visitors £5.

In October we have a return visit from Ellouise Hasler-Stott with “Autumn Leaves”. Ellouise is a very popular demonstrator who also runs her own business, greatly in demand for Wedding designs. She has also won a gold medal at Chelsea.

Save the date! Friday December 4th at 7pm is the evening of our Christmas spectacular. Tickets for this demonstration will be on sale in September - visitors £15. The wonderful Gill MacGregor will be bringing us her “Superbly, Sparkly, Sophisticated Festivities”. Gill is a highly experienced UK and International Floral Art Teacher and demonstrator and the author of many books on the art of floral design. We are sure to enjoy a wonderful start to the Christmas season.

Next year NFG celebrates its 50th anniversary and we have a full programme of demonstrators and events planned. Watch this space! I look forward to welcoming you to the Memorial Hall for an NFG event.

Helen Cunliffe
Chairman

Where are we?

When Columbus started out, he didn't know where he was going. When he got there, he didn't know where he was. When he got back, he didn't know where he had been. And he did it all on other people's money. Can't help thinking that Columbus reminds me of some teenagers who go on family holidays...

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News & Reviews etc!

Double bubble, the bumper Summer magazine covering all events for August and September, which have either been set in stone already, or are still in the stage of creation with fingers firmly crossed! Again, hopefully, this edition will be out for you well before the very end of July, so there are a couple of things to highlight at the end of this month!

AFTERNOON TEA GATHERING- SATURDAY 25th JULY! Following the success and appreciation of the Afternoon Tea at the end of May; Ninfield Health & Wellbeing Group are hosting another Afternoon Tea Gathering....open to everyone...from 2.30 -4.30pm at our beautiful St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Ninfield. All Refreshments and Cakes are FREE..!

Throughout History, the local Church used to be the 'Hub' of a Community, where people gathered to keep in contact, and be 'in the loop', so you don't have to be a worshipper! Why not pop in and say hello, see the beautiful, historic building, meet up with neighbours and friends, have a chat with different group and society members and find out what's going on in the Village! Please don't be a stranger- Everyone is welcome!!

ST MARY'S CHURCH: Have you been? -It's just lovely...an historic place, so many familiar names within and without...its a place to wonder at, to find calm in, to explore and to support. And, IT NEEDS HELP! Yes, that T.V drama classic-"The Roof needs repairing!" And the Clock Tower too! The finances are so limited, and the costs in excess of £68,000. One amazing Anonymous donation was made for £1,000 towards the cause - and the call is now out for any help to boost the fundraising please!!

NINFIELD WORKING MEN'S CLUB: Sunday 26th July, 3pm - "Songs from across the Decades"! LIVE MUSIC presented by Finley & Mathew. Great afternoon of fun, music, meat Raffle, and a lively, summer atmosphere! All welcome!

LADIES LOUNGE: FRIDAYS 31st July, 28th August, 25th September. Always the last Friday of the month - 4.30pm- 6 30pm- Ninfield Working Men's Club- an informal, and personal invitation to ALL LADIES , ALL AGES - Everyone welcome; it's a fabulous afternoon for chatter, laughter, support and friendship- and an opportunity to switch off and relax with like minded , marvellous women!! The Bar is open, there's coffee, tea, snacks and cake...! Come and join us, we'd love to see you! To all Ladies who are out working all week- If you're working til 5 ish...try and drop in for half an hour on your way home. You will be made SO welcome; and you might just find your essential 3rd Space....!!

SATURDAY 1st AUGUST A CHARITY PRE-LOVED SALE!

2pm - 4.30pm at Ninfield Methodist Hall.

Clothes, China, Glassware, Bric-a-Brac, Jewellery, Antiques,ALL pre-loved, some nearly new...Shoes - some new, in the box...

A Jones Sewing Machine...A 1950 Minton 6 piece Tea Service -(will split)- 'Ancestral Gold' design.. STUNNING...! Yes: bite the bullet, dry the tears...It's Time; to clear out some of our Stuff!! And to raise some fantastic funds for Mum's and my Charity - ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY - (MUSIC PROJECTS)....hope you can pop by and pick up some bargains! There'll be refreshments and entry will be free.

SEPTEMBER DISCO NIGHT!

Friday September 11th; I'm hoping that the Amazing Phil Golding will do the Music for us this time..so it'll be a slightly bigger event than normal! Apart from all Hall Hire, DJ and Bar costs, I'll be making a charity donation again, to ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY - (DEMENTIA DISCOS) and MND, so I'd love this Disco Night to reach out a bit further, and pack the dance floor!!

Usual timings...doors open 7pm- close at 11pm. Bar, Snacks, Charity Raffle, and the chance to relax , have a some fun, and dance like no-one is watching...exactly as we used to!! Entry only £7 - in advance or on the door- cash and card taken on the night.

LINE DANCE CLASSES- are a HIT, there's a great national outpouring of love for the Country Music genre at the moment, and we in Ninfield are just adding to the excitement!!! We're having SO much FUN!

A few spaces are still available- All classes are at the Memorial Hall; fortnightly on Tuesdays-2.30 pm, moving to 4pm at the end of July (see Classes list below) and fortnightly Fridays 6.30-7.30pm, all classes £7 pp/per class. Everyone is welcome, Ladies, Gents, youngsters, it's purely for Fun-but of course you can don the Stetsons, Rhinestones and Cowboy Boots if you want to! Beginners are very welcome, as are those who 'haven't done it for years!'

Oh yes...and, It's very good exercise too!

07970650321

Yeeeha!!

MOVEMENT & DANCE: VENUES UPDATE!!

All Dance classes will continue, running as follows on a weekly basis- but, due to Memorial Hall closures for roof repairs, I have had to revise session venues and costs, so please see any changes below. New advertising will also follow on social media and notice boards.

MOVEMENT 2 MUSIC class on Monday mornings will be moving to HOOE VILLAGE HALL - MONDAYS 20th July & 27th July, 3rd and 24th August -1st class 9.45am, 2nd class 10.45am- 11.45am.

NINFIELD METHODIST HALL - MONDAYS ,10th 17th August 9.45am & 10 .45am.

TUESDAY LINE DANCE class will start later, at 4pm, in the MEMORIAL HALL- after the workmen are clear.

Wednesday 22nd and Friday 24th July Dancercise in Methodist Hall 6.30pm & Line Dance in Hooe Village Hall 6.30pm. From 27th July, WEDNESDAY, & FRIDAY EVENING CLASSES will go back their original Halls at their usual times!!! It is hoped that the Memorial Hall will reopen at the end of August, so all will go back to normal from after the bank holiday. All participants will have full details of new venues; any new members, those wishing to start a class, please Call me on 07970650321 for full information.

.....
Please Note-

TUESDAYS (Alternates) LINE DANCING Memorial Hall 2.30-3.30pm (4pm after 27th July)

WEDNESDAY 6.30pm DANCERCISE Memorial Hall

THURSDAY 9.30am SILVERY SWANS BALLET Methodist Hall

FRIDAY (alternates) Memorial Hall

6.30pm BALLROOM,

7.30pm BURLESQUE/SHOW DANCE.

LINE DANCE- 6.30 - 7.30pm (alternates)

ALL these classes are NOW £7 pp per class.

Don't forget the Mantra...Move it, or Lose it...it's SO beneficial to Dance, Exercise or Move during the week...you'll feel better in mind, body and spirit!!!

Thanks for all help, interest, and continued support for all classes, shows, events.

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Chairman: Pam Doodes
Treasurer: Jenny Cosham
Secretary: Sally Durman

If you would like to receive news
and regular updates about our
forthcoming events
please email us your contact details

HVCG exists to
Encourage, Promote and Support
Village activities and charitable works



Summer holiday, see you in October, if not before.....

For three months of the year, July, August and September, we don't hold our regular coffee morning. In July we stand aside for the St Oswald Church Garden Party, August is a closed month and each September, for many a year, Jane Fuller and family have staged their own coffee morning raising funds for Macmillan Nurses. Come October 10th we will be raring to go and looking forward to catching up with everyone again. So please pop

October 10th – HVCG Coffee Morning into your diary.

June 13th/14th Open Gardens weekend

Even though we say it ourselves, the weekend was a blast! The weather was kind, the gardens looked fabulous, the visitors came in their hundreds, and the many volunteers worked happily and tirelessly, thoroughly enjoying the atmosphere. Visitors were not slow in expressing their gratitude. We received so many compliments, including 'the best Open Gardens I have ever been to, so well organised, such a variety of beautiful gardens' How about that – it makes it all worthwhile! OK – HVCG organised and managed the event under the direction of Gary, (we are grateful, Gary! xx) but without the gardeners and the volunteers we wouldn't have had an event. A big thank you to everyone involved, we are sure you enjoyed it as much as us and were as tired as we were on the Sunday evening! A few days after it was all over a local resident said 'That was exactly the kind of event we need in the village, Hooe is coming together again' **www.hooe-open-gardens.com**

We are hugely grateful to Athelas for sponsoring our event again this year. We are so fortunate to have their support and advice. If you have yet to visit the nursery, do pop along, you are in for a treat!



St Oswald's Garden Party

As usual, HVCG was delighted to be able to assist with this much-loved annual event. The weather couldn't have been better! The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly, a perfect day. As this is written we understand that not only was the event a huge social success, it was also a financial success.



We are on our way

HVCG was delighted to learn that, at last, after several years of hard work St Oswald's PCC has been granted Planning Permission to enable them to provide Loos at the Church

This will be such a relief to all those who use the church HVCG will be assisting St Oswald's fundraising activities, so watch this space!

We hope the project will soon be flushed with success

Planning: During the summer months we will be meeting up to discuss our future programme of events. Please let us know if there any events you particularly enjoy and would like us to consider staging.

and finally – The Parish News

HVCG would like to express thanks and gratitude to Nicki and Carol for the hard work and long hours they put in producing a regular Parish News for us all to enjoy. We know they have a hard task as I am sure we are not the only Group who leaves submitting Copy to the last moment! If one compares it to other similar publications, one realises just how much information it contains each month. We all look forward to receiving it

HVCG is delighted to, once again, give a donation towards the running expenses. At a cost of just £5.00 for a year's subscription, I am sure you agree that the publication is amazing value. We don't know how they manage it at that cost! Long may it continue. The only reason the charge is low is because all the work is carried out on an unpaid, voluntary basis

Hooe Village Community Group, enjoying working together for the good of everyone

Dark Skies

A group of us met up at the top of the path to Church Wood to watch the sun go down on the longest day. It was a beautiful evening and, although the tree line meant that we didn't get to see the sun drop behind the horizon, we did have a wonderful panoramic view of the changing sky.

Please keep your eyes on Ninfield Community Page and the Village Voice through September. We are attempting to organise a special event, but it's still in the early stages - just pencil in Friday 9th October.

Kaye Crittall

HARVEST

The liturgical calendar was relatively unchanged from Cranmer's 1549 Book of Common Prayer. It was the first to change prayers in English, not Latin. There was initially concerns, especially in the West Country, about the Reformations from Roman Catholic to Protestant forms of worship. The church year started with Advent and was followed by Christmas and the Epiphany season. Ash Wednesday began the season of Lent and was followed by Holy Week, the Easter season, Ascensiontide, Whitsun, and Trinity Sunday. It also reintroduced Lammas Day, which had originally commemorated the liberation of St. Peter but in England was an agricultural festival. Lammas Day also known as Loaf Mass Day, is a Christian holiday celebrated on 1 August.

August begins with Lammas Day, Loaf Mass Day, the day in the Book of Common Prayer calendar when a loaf baked with flour from newly harvested corn would be brought into church and blessed. It's one of the oldest points of contact between the agricultural world and the Church. The name originates from the word "loaf" in reference to bread and "Mass" in reference to the Eucharist. It is a festival in the liturgical calendar to mark the blessing of the First Fruits of harvest, with a loaf of bread being brought to the church for this purpose. On Loaf Mass Day, it is customary to bring to church a loaf made from the new crop, which began to be harvested at Lammastide, which falls at the halfway point between the summer solstice and autumn September equinox. We now know it better as Harvest Festival, but sometimes it's good to remember the origin of things. KR

Sky fright

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around in the sky. One very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. "Can't you do something?" she demanded.

"I'm sorry ma'am," said the reverend gently. "I'm in sales, not management."

NINFIELD METHODIST CHURCH
Minister: Reverend Ian Couchman
Tel: 01424 550427
email: office@hbrmethodists.org.uk
website: hbrmethodists.org.uk

Sunday Services for August / September 2026:

- 2nd 10.30am Café Church with local Team
9th 10.30am Family Worship with Revd. Ian Couchman
16th 10.30am Family Worship with David Hanson
23rd 3.30pm Circuit 'Songs of Praise' Alexandra Park Bandstand, Hastings
30th 10.30am Worship and Praise Family Communion with Jill Sayers
.....
6th 10.30am Café Worship with local Team
11th / 20th / 27th - all services at 10.30am - Details to be announced

Events for August 2026:

- 7th 10.00-11.30am Book Exchange & Café in Hall and
Fridays 10.00-11.30am Community Café
26th 1.30--3.00pm Summer Fun Club – 'Teddy Bears Picnic & Trail'

Events for September 2026:

- 4th 10.00-11.30am Book Exchange & Café in Hall and
Fridays 10.00-11.30am Community Café
30th 3.15 - 5.15pm Messy Church - 'Moses and a Burning Bush'

Summer Fun Club See details above for another special club. We look forward to all the excitement of a 'Teddy Bears Picnic and Trail' for all young people.

Alexandra Park Service ... We are all invited to this Circuit Service outdoor celebration on August 23rd at the Bandstand at Alexandra Park, Hastings. Should be great.

Messy Church 'Moses and a Burning Bush'. It was so hot when this Messy Church was planned in June so we had to postpone the event. We now have above new date in September when we hope The Bush will be a little cooler!!

Have a good summer.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 7:1-10, Matthew 8:5-13

When the Romans invaded Israel, they used soldiers to keep order. For the centurion in Capernaum it was more than just a job...

The centurion had a young servant who was in great pain and dying.



When he heard that Jesus was near, he asked the town leaders to ask Jesus for help.

The leaders told Jesus..



This man deserves your help. He loves our people.

He has even built us a meeting place!



This could have been a tricky situation, for Jews never went into the houses of non-Jews.



But Jesus said..

I will go and heal the boy.



But the centurion knew that, as a Jew, Jesus could not go into the houses of non-Jews so as Jesus got near, he sent some friends to him.



He says he isn't worthy enough for you to come to his house.

But he says he understands authority and knows you have it. You only have to say so and his servant will be healed



Jesus was amazed!



I have never met anyone in Israel with as much faith.

He said to the friends...



You may go now. What he has believed has happened.

When the friends got to the house they found the servant completely healed!



Directory of Groups & Clubs

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY Sarah Seymour 07809684488

NINFIELD BOWLS CLUB: Secretary: Mrs Val Smith, Bexhill 843436

NINFIELD CARNIVAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION:

Donna Powell 07812 670435

NINFIELD CRAFTING & KNITTING: Jane Dommersen 892428

NINFIELD AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY: Fiona Stedman 01424 892418

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP Jennifer Collett 892878 ninfieldflowers@gmail.com

NINFIELD HEALTH & WELLBEING GROUP Jackie Langley 892422

NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Kaye Crittall, 892883

NINFIELD LADIES BADMINTON GROUP: Rita Proctor 07879 024736

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

. •Corinne Gibbons •892612 corinnemgibbons@gmail.com

NINFIELD MUDDY BOOTS Early Childhood Centre

Sunshine Room 01424 892 037. Snowdrop Cottage 01424 892 600.

NINFIELD STOOLBALL Emma Kehoe 07565 010647

NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Sue Thompson 892294

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY: Robin Goldsmith 0 7 9 4 0 3 2 4 6 0 1

1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader)_ Glen Harrison gharrisonninfieldscountsgsl@gmail.com

Explorer Scout Leader:)

Scout Leader: Elaine Gausden ninfieldscouts@gmail.com

Cub Scout leader: Tracey Harrison tracey.harrison67@gmail.com

Beaver Scout Leader Sandra Creasey• 07908 558721 ninfieldkaa@googlemail.com

Group Chairman: Rosemary Cooper

WORKING MENS CLUB Debby Potheary 07814530783WMC_Secretary@outlook.com

DANCE & DRAMA CLUB: Samantha Guard, 893699 or 07970 650321

DARK SKIES GROUP Kaye Crittall 892883

THE FRIENDLY VOICES Kaye Crittall 892883

PILATES & YOGA Susan Trimmer 07977 872284

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HOOE BELL RINGERS : Peter Ballard 01424 210980 or 07891479554

HOOE HISTORY GROUP: Chairman Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE & NINFIELD OPEN GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE SPORTS CLUB Jay Skinner-Swain jay19942009@hotmail.co.uk or 07713 950161

HOOE STOOLBALL: Linda Smith, Holmes Farm, Whydown 845163

HOOE VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Jackie Scarff 07548 528754

1066 RINGERS (Hand Belleplates) Carole Ballard 01424 210980

PARISH WHO'S WHO

PRIEST IN CHARGE OF NINFIELD AND HOOE Rev Paul Frostick,
18 The Ridings, Bexhill on Sea. East Sussex. TN39 5HU. 01424 218126.

PARISH CHURCH of St. MARY the VIRGIN, NINFIELD

Churchwarden: Mrs Catriona Mary Owen

after 4.00pm 225421

Secretary:

Treasurer:

PARISH CHURCH of St. OSWALD'S, HOOE

Churchwarden: Mr Jack Rist 892576

Churchwarden: Mrs Nicki Murphy 893867

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HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

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MEMORIAL HALL

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HOOE VILLAGE HALL

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METHODIST CHURCH HALL

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