

Halling View

Issue 133 March 2026



Forge Green History Plaque

The Forge Green history plaque has now been installed near to the war memorial. The plaque is a welcome addition both to the Green and to the promotion of Halling's local history, and the Parish Council would like to record its thanks to the Historical Society for their research and help with the project.

The plaque details how Forge Green – or 'Halling Bottom' as it is traditionally known – was once the site of a blacksmiths, a builders' merchant, and Forge Cottage (which was demolished shortly after the Second World War). There is also reference to the junction being known as 'Four Wents Way' because in years gone by the main road to Rochester (today's Kent Road) diverged into two ways at 'Halling Bottom' before rejoining at Stake Lane. The old road led to a chalk pit and was lost by the 1880s. Fortunately this interesting history of 'Halling Bottom' and its surroundings can now be enjoyed by residents and visitors to the present-day Forge Green.



The new plaque at Forge Green

Easter in Halling: Services, Events and Activities at St John's Church

What's On at St. John's Church & Community
Everyone welcome. Come along and join the fun!

Special Events

- **Halling Youth Chess Club**
Starts Thurs 5 Mar | Ages 6-16
| Weekly | 6.00-7.15pm
- **World Day of Prayer Service**
Friday 6 Mar | 10.30am
- **Mothering Sunday Service**
Sun 15 Mar | 11.00am
- **Eco Church Launch Service**
Sun 22 Mar | 11.00am
- **Bell Ringing Practice at St. John's**
Wed 25 March | 7.30-9.00pm
- **Palm Sunday Service**
Sun 29 Mar | 11.00am
- **"Easter Saturday" Miniature Easter Garden Event**
Sat 4 April | 10am-12 noon
- **Easter Sunday Service**
Sun 5 April | 11.00am

Regular Activities

- **Holy Communion Service**
Every Sunday | 11.00am
- **Community Choir**
Every Tuesday | 6.30pm
- **Lego Drop-In Mornings**
Every 1st Saturday of the month | 10am-12 noon
- **Halling Youth Chess Club**
Every Thursday | Ages 6-16
| 6.00-7.15pm

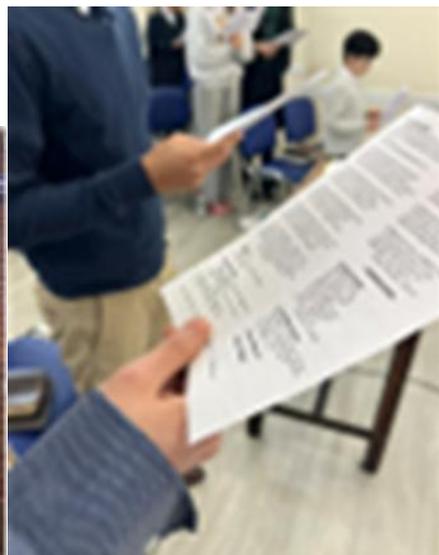
www.achurchnearyou.com

An Easter Message From Pastor Kevin Felix Hollington

Lord Byron once said “Tis strange – but true; for truth is always strange; Stranger than fiction.” Easter invites us to consider a life-changing question: Did Jesus really rise from the dead? His Resurrection is at the heart of Christianity.

Christians believe that through his death and resurrection, God acted in love to offer us forgiveness, hope and eternal life. In the Bible, the resurrection isn't presented as a legend, but as a real event that changed history and continues to change lives today. Jesus said “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

If you've been exploring faith or asking questions, you're warmly invited to come and hear more this Resurrection Sunday, 5 April, 11:00 AM, at Halling Baptist Church, Vicarage Road. Or visit: hallingbaptist.org.uk



Supporting Halling's Societies Clubs and Associations

If you would like Halling Parish Council to advertise your group's latest news, activities or plans in the next edition of Halling View please email: assistantclerk@halling-pc.gov.uk. The Council can also award grants to local associations, and in the last twelve months the Council has financially supported the PTA, Community Rail and the new Halling Youth Chess Club.

Youth Club continues to Serve Halling's Young People

After reaching its 20th anniversary last year, the Halling Youth club is continuing to provide the young people of Halling with a safe, fun and enjoyable place to meet up every Friday evening.

The club now has almost one hundred children on its books and regular activities include indoor sports, board games, darts, pool, arts and crafts, Lego, and table tennis. A recent special highlight was the visit of a bouncy castle and a bouncy bowling alley, supplied by Bouncyful Castles, which both proved extremely popular with the children.

A well-stocked tuck shop provides plenty of drinks and snacks – essential refreshment after an energetic session on a bouncy castle or bowling alley!

In the run-up to the recent half-term break the club organised its first chess tournament, and the children themselves are now planning to hold a darts tournament (with new software to calculate the scores) and a pool competition.

The Club is run by two Leaders, Natalie Luck and Councillor Leslie Hitchcock, who are assisted by several volunteer helpers. The Club also tries different activities to discover new talents within the children, and this summer skateboard lessons will be available in the Community Centre car park area.

Further details about the club can be found on Facebook or on the Clubs and Societies page of the Parish Council website. New volunteers are also welcome to get in touch, especially if you have an idea for a new activity.



The Saxon Hall at the Community Centre – all set for Youth Club



Pool Table in the Bishop's Room



Club Leaders Natalie and Les at the Tuck Shop

Halling Primary School prepares for its 150th Anniversary

This year marks 150 years of primary education in Halling, and the school's Dan Harrison and Kerrie Reid, coordinators of the celebrations, report on the preparations for the anniversary and plans for a day to remember in the school's history:

On Friday 8 May the children will begin the anniversary by sending up a drone and marking a 150 on the school field with all of the pupils.

Friday 15 May will be the celebration day, when children and staff are invited to dress up for the day, as Victorians, to reflect the dress of the very first Halling pupils from 1876. A special assembly will be held to commemorate the changes and influences the school has had on the community. Throughout the day there will be different activities for the children to participate in, themed around the Victorians.

A photo exhibition is planned and the school have already asked the local community for their stories/memories/photos of their time at the school. We hope to open this up to the local community and more details will hopefully follow. To complete the celebrations, our PTA have very generously purchased a commemorative gift for all pupils that will be handed out on the day.

As a school, we have already had a whole school photograph taken and other future events will be a 150-mile sponsored walk in March and the burial of a time capsule.



The 150 year logo was designed by Jodie Fitzgerald, a Halling pupil and is based on the current school badge. The four colours represent the school's houses: Gundulf, Lambarde, Harris & Scholey.

There are many ways my office can assist with local issues, and while I can't always guarantee the outcome of a case, I'll always do my best to help. Here are a couple of recent examples:

 **Community safety and maintenance:** After a local resident raised concerns about neglected greenery and the increased fire risk caused by dry, overgrown grass, I contacted Medway Council to confirm who was responsible for the land. Once the owner was identified, the area was cut back and made safe.

 **Supporting families in urgent need:** When a family with complex health and education needs were at risk of homelessness, I worked with Medway Council and helped identify suitable private rental options. A housing plan was agreed, and the family have now moved into secure accommodation that meets their needs.

Lauren Edwards
MP for Rochester and Strood



Get in touch:

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Phone: 0207 219 7667

Letter: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Scan for social media, newsletter sign up and more:



Stay & Play at the Community Centre

The Halling Play and Stay Group is a weekly session at the Community Centre for families and young children to play together, make new friendships, and to meet other families, mums, dads, and grandparents.

The sessions are held every Tuesday (in term-time) from 9.45–11am. Babies to school age and their families are welcome.

For further details about Play and Stay please contact: manager@hallingcommunitypre-school.co.uk



An activity all set for play

Community Adoption of Halling Railway Station

Following an initial meeting to discuss plans for the community adoption of the railway station in 2025, the Kent Community Rail Partnership has now arranged its follow-up meeting. This will be held on Tuesday 31 March, from 7pm to 8pm, at the Halling Community Centre.

Southeastern are offering Halling a community station adoption scheme which allows local groups to improve and enhance their local station. At the October meeting several ideas were expressed for improvements to Halling station and the meeting in March will build on these suggestions. For further information about the adoption of Halling station please contact Gary from the Community Rail Partnership at: gary.outram@sustrans.org.uk



Halling's Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting, a meeting of all residents organised by the Parish Council on their behalf, will be held on Friday 29 May 2026, at the Community Centre, starting at 7.30pm

Halling View

Halling View is produced and delivered by the Halling Parish Council. If you have any comments or suggestions for future editions of Halling View please contact the Parish Council on 01634 241551 or via email at: assistantclerk@halling-pc.gov.uk