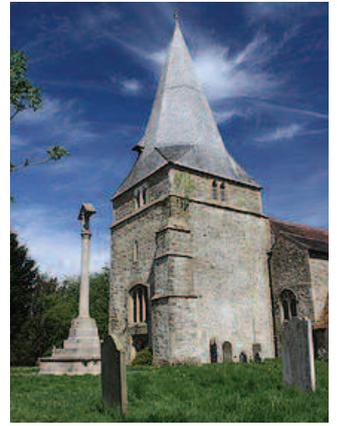


The Sundridge Village News

December 2017



The editorial team is taking a break over the Christmas period, so this issue covers services and events up to the end of January. As the circulation increases we are looking into the possibility of offering advertising to support local firms and businesses. A lot of people have said that, whilst they enjoy the publication, they miss the advertisers that used to be on the back page of the old-style magazine. Don't forget that if you have an event to publicise or an article you'd like included in the February edition, please email it to: sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

Christmas message from the Rector

Dear Friends,

A few days ago I took delivery of a number of 'Real Advent Calendars'. It was a great joy to go into the two primary schools in our parish to give each class one. As we prepare to celebrate the festive season it's easy to get wrapped up (excuse the pun!) in all the present buying, partying, visiting and eating but miss the real reason why we are celebrating.

Christmas starts with Christ - Jesus is the greatest gift that we could ever hope for. At Christmas we remember that God broke into space-time history and became a human being in the baby in a manger. He came to show us how to live and, by dying as our Saviour, he has given us a new way back to friendship with the God who created us.

Jesus is indeed "Emmanuel" - God with us - he came so that we might know and experience life in all its fullness. This is the real reason why we celebrate Christmas - it's the greatest story ever told and we can be part of it - if we let Jesus into our hearts and lives this Christmastime.

So by all means have a great time - but don't forget that Christmas starts with Christ. Do come and join us at St. Mary's Sundridge, Ide Hill and Toys Hill Village Hall as we worship him! He's the best gift you will ever receive.

My colleagues Angela and Ruth, the Churchwardens, the congregation of this parish, as well as my husband Trevor and myself, welcome you to our Christmas Services and wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Yours in Christ, Pam

Rev'd Pam Davies

Parish Services for December 2017 - January 2018

Sunday 3rd December		Advent Sunday
09.15	Toys Hill	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion
15.30	Sundridge	Christingle
Sunday 10th December		Advent 2
08.00	Sundridge	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Ide Hill	Carol Service
Sunday 17th December		Advent 3
08.00	Ide Hill	Holy Communion BCP
18.30	Sundridge	Carol Service
Sunday 24th December		Christmas Eve
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion
15.00	Sundridge	Crib Service
17.00	Toys Hill	Crib Service
23.30	Sundridge	Midnight Communion
23.30	Ide Hill	Midnight Communion
25th December		Christmas Day
09.15	Toys Hill	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion

Sunday 31st December

10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship

Monday 1st January New Year's Day

12.00 Sundridge Ringing in the New Year

Listen to the bells ring in the New Year. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served, followed by a 15 minute service.

Sunday 7th January Epiphany

09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion BCP

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

Sunday 14th January Epiphany 1

08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP

10.30 Ide Hill All Age Worship

Sunday 21st January Epiphany 2

08.00 Ide Hill Holy Communion BCP

10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship

Sunday 28th January Epiphany 3

08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP

10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

Rector

Rev Pam Davies

01959 467223

rev.pamdavies@sky.com

Sundridge Churchwardens

Althea Chapman

althea.chapman@btinternet.com

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01959 564249

Coffee is served at the 1030 service every Sunday. Everyone is welcome!

Sundridge & Brasted Primary School

On Friday 10th November all the pupils walked to the War Memorial to hold their Remembrance Day service. Maple Class children laid a wreath of stone poppies they had created and three pupils from Elm class read their very thought-provoking poems to mark the occasion. The children were very respectful and solemn - it was a peaceful and poignant service set against a glorious back-drop of colourful trees glowing and waving in the wind.

On Sunday, Molly and Charlie, the Head Girl and Head Boy, laid a wreath on behalf of all the pupils. The way they conducted themselves throughout the long service was a credit both to them, their parents and to the school where Christian values of respect are taught. The poppy stones that had previously been laid were once again placed around the Memorial and were greatly admired by the parishioners.



Remembrance poems from Sundridge & Brasted Primary School Elm Class

Remember the soldiers in the war,
Most of them were very poor,
But they did not guess,
They did not complain,
They just got on with it,
To make our day.

Losing the will to live,
They braced for disaster,
They tensed for sacrifice,
Fighting for survival,
They marched into battle,
Lots not to be seen again.

As we remember them today
Especially the ones that tried all day,
We are grateful to them now.



Walking through wet, dirty trenches,
Getting trench foot and getting shot,
Now the medic is helping me live
And fight for my life.

Seeing my friends die,
It's sad because it was right in front of me,
Now I'll never see him again.
I've now laid myself,
Claiming the land and died for England.

This is the reason we have Remembrance
Because the soldiers died for us and
Fought for us.

Did you know?

Did you know that for the past nine years there has been a Memorial service held along Main Road in Sundridge for Australian Fl Lt. Pat Hughes who lost his life on the 7th September 1940 in a Spitfire which came down near Bessels Green. He was 23 years old. The Memorial was dedicated on 23rd August 2008 by the Shoreham Aircraft Museum. The service is always well attended, with many standards, and this year the High Commissioner from Australia was also present.

In late August 1940, Fl Lt Hughes had a narrow escape when his tailplane was shot off by a Messerschmitt 109 and, in the pub afterwards, he jokingly told his wife "In case of accidents, make sure you marry again". On September 7th 1940, one month after his wedding, Pat Hughes was killed when the Dornier he was attacking blew up with such force that it wrecked his Spitfire. His Spitfire crashed in a field between Sundridge and Bessels Green. He baled out but his parachute failed to open. His body was found in a garden on Main Road not far from the wreck of the Spitfire. The Dornier came down in the Darent. In twenty-four days of intense combat, he had accounted for fifteen enemy aircraft and shared in the destruction of others. He was awarded the D.F.C. posthumously.



Geoff Nutkins from Shoreham Aircraft Museum told me about the Memorial project that they are embarking on. The plan is to erect a permanent stone memorial to all those young RAF pilots who lost their lives during the Battle of Britain within a 10 mile radius of the Museum in Shoreham. To date, they have completed 9 of them, but there is still a long way to go. They are a completely volunteer group and the £3,000 that is needed for each memorial comes from money raised at the Museum, plus donations. They try to arrange for a fighter of the type in which the pilot lost his life, be it a Hurricane or Spitfire, to fly overhead as an aerial salute on these occasions.

My thanks to 234 Squadron and Shoreham Aircraft Museum for the information.

The Shoreham Aircraft Museum

The Shoreham Aircraft Museum was founded in 1978 by local enthusiasts. It is home to hundreds of aviation relics excavated by the group over many years from crashed British and German aircraft, as well as items which have been kindly donated. The Museum is open every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from Easter until Remembrance Sunday. It also opens on Saturdays for anyone who would like a conducted tour.

Please visit the website for more information - www.shoreham-aircraft-museum.co.uk

The Flower Team

The Flower Team is again requesting the donation (or loan) of Poinsettias and greenery (in particular holly with berries) to make the Church look attractive for the **Carol Service on Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm**. This was an innovation last year and we had an excellent response. Please either contact me, or bring your plants or greenery to the church on Saturday 16th December between 10am - 11am, or even bring the Poinsettias for just the service and take them home again - all will be very welcome.

Anyone (and everyone) who would like to help with Christmas flowers would be welcome at the church on Saturday 23rd December from 10am.

Beryl Norman
01959 563585

Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society

If any of you are finding that, when mixing gin and tonic for yourself or your friends you are rapidly running out of gin, may I mention to you a tip given by Phil Redmond, Entertainments Manager on luxury cruise liners for 28 years. His brilliant talk to the Society, following our well attended AGM in Sundridge on Wednesday 8th November, was most enjoyable and certainly informative. It sounded like another world.

We were joined by several members of the Ide Hill Gardening Society and, following the talk, tea and cakes were enjoyed by all.

Anyone not at the meeting and hoping to economise on their consumption of gin can have this explained to them by any member of the Committee.

Mary Walford

Mobile Library

Did you realise that Sundridge has a mobile library? It visits fortnightly on Thursdays and parks in Chapmans Close between 10.30 and 11am. It has a very good range of books So why not make use of the mobile library?

A Day in the Life of

Two mycologists and the President of the George Washington Society. All in a day's work for a churchwarden!

The fungi and lichen specialists, from the Kent Wildlife Trust, have been surveying our churchyard over a number of years and wished to do a reappraisal. Having been on a few autumn fungi forays in the past, I was keen to join them (though, as always, not to eat whatever we might find). It turned out to be a lesson in Latin - possibly the lesser-known toadstools and the majority of lichen boast no name in English - but the beauty of a moss or lichen under a magnifying glass proved to be breath-taking. So now I view all those wonderful old headstones in an even greater light.

George Washington turned up as Richard, an American descendant of his. Richard's ancestors had married in St Mary's, Sundridge in 1634. I did just check that there wasn't another village of similar name in Kent in case he was coming all that way to the wrong place. When I introduced him to our Bishop Porteous, whose remains lie in grand splendour within the churchyard, his immediate reaction was, "Beilby? Yes, he was the youngest of a family of American colonists who returned to England and who supported the Abolition of Slavery Bill alongside William Wilberforce. *And he was also related to George Washington...*

Oh, and I mustn't forget to change the altar frontals which alter according to the seasons of the Church. White for All Saints, red for Remembrance and then purple for Advent.

What will you be doing in the New Year on dark wintry afternoons?

What will you be doing in the New Year on dark wintry afternoons?

Instead of sitting at home, would you like to enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake in the company of others? Meet together and chat together - perhaps play cards, or bring your knitting... Do you know someone who might benefit from this or might you be the person who can bake that cake or be a welcoming presence for a couple of hours?

For more information please get in touch with Revd Pam Davies

Anna Chaplaincy

At a recent service, Julia Burton-Jones came to talk to us about Anna Chaplaincy. Julia is a dementia specialist project officer and works for the Diocese of Rochester to support churches finding ways for people with dementia and their carers to stay connected with church and community life. It is ecumenically community-based and the name 'Anna' was chosen as a title because it echoes the work of Anna who, the Bible tells us, recognised the baby Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promises; the name Anna emphasises that this is a hope-filled ministry in the tradition of older people having prophetic voices and life lessons to share.

Julia gave us some basic facts about dementia: there are 100 different types of dementia, it is not caused by ageing, it is caused by diseases. Dementia is not just about losing a memory - it is possible to live well with dementia and there is more to the person than the dementia itself.

Every person with dementia has their own story to tell and each family is affected differently, but there are challenges with which faith and pastoral support can help.

If you feel you would like to find out more about Anna Chaplaincy in this area, please contact Revd Pam Davies 01959 467223

Dates for your Diary

December

2nd 19.30 Organ Recital, St Martin's Church Brasted
Tickets from Sevenoaks Bookshop, on the door, or they may be reserved via gloria.toplis@outlook.com

3rd 15.30 Christingle Service at St Mary's Sundridge
Followed at 17.00 turning on the Christmas lights—White Horse pub. This is to support Fundridge.

4th 19.00 White Horse Pub Clothing, scented candles, handmade cards to buy to support Fundridge

7th 20.30 Christmas Quiz Teams of 4- £10.00 entry per team. White Horse pub to support Fundridge.

8th 19.00 Talk by Bob Ogley, *Doodlebugs and Rockets*
St Mary's Church Sundridge Tickets £5.00 for members of the Friends and £8.00 for non-members available from Richard Dunckley richarddunckley@hotmail.com or on the door. There will be light refreshments after the talk.

17th 18.30 Candlelit Carol Service, St Mary's Sundridge

31st New Year's Eve Party, White Horse pub

January 2018

1st 12.00 Ringing in the New Year

With Christmas only a few weeks away

With Christmas only a few weeks away, the Editor would like to offer a word of advice to all men who are struggling with ideas for buying presents for their loved ones. Whilst acknowledging that the Screw Fix and Wickes catalogues have their place, I doubt whether these catalogues contain much in the way of suitable presents for the fairer sex. Last year I received a pair of oven gloves that would fit Frank Bruno's hands. According to the manufacturer, the oven gloves are made from tough heat and flame resistant material, used by firefighters, are non-slip silicone grip with five finger flexibility. According to their website they are 'currently unavailable' - well, I know where there's a pair gathering dust!

More Village Events brought to you by 'Fundridge'

Since May a group of villagers has organised a series of events to bring the community together. We still have a handful of events up our sleeves to share with you. Please see the Dates for your Diary page. To celebrate the fundraising, there will be a New Year's Eve party at the pub on 31st December. This is open to the whole community, there will be food, a live band and other entertainments. Please find one of the steering committee to get a free ticket which will allow you entry into the pub on that night.

Steering Committee Members: John Bambrook, Vicky Bambrook, Ali Macmillan, Kate Henry, Fiona Parkin, Ann Powell, Gill Dunseath, Jayne Spender-Seaman.

A talk by our own local historian

BOB OGLEY

Doodlebugs and Rockets

St Marys Church, Sundridge on
Friday 8th December 2017 at 7.00 pm

To bring a smile . . .

A notice spotted in a choir vestry

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones!

Wishing everyone a peaceful Happy Christmas and New Year