

The Sundridge Village News

December 2019/January 2020

In this issue we bring you all of our Christmas services in the Parish, pictures from our Act of Remembrance service, we proudly present our new facilities in St Mary's, and ideas for last minute Christmas gifts.



Christmas Giving in the Parish

All the offerings from the services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in the Parish will be shared between the Sharp Memorial School for the Blind in India and The Porchlight Trust – the homeless charity here in Kent.

The Sharp Memorial School for the Blind in North India has about 70 blind and partially sighted children who board there in the beautiful Himalayan foothills during term time. They attend school classes on the same campus, where local children also come in to join the lower classes.

There are several resident blind teachers and other sighted ones, who come in from outside each day, to

educate these children in preparation for college or further training in computer studies etc.

Porchlight is Kent's leading homeless charity working with people living on the streets, in its supported housing and in local communities. It helps people with their mental health, housing, education and employment so that they can get where they want to be in life. It is fighting for a fairer society and won't give up until everybody has a safe place to call home and the chance to make a positive contribution.

Ruth Barrow

Parish Services for December 2019

Sunday 1st Advent Sunday

09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion BCP
 10.30 Ide Hill Advent Christmas Tree Service
 All welcome
 15.30 Sundridge Christingle Service - All welcome
Followed by Carol Singing at the White Horse, Sundridge with mulled wine, mince pies plus switching on the lights!

Sunday 8th

08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP
 10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

Sunday 15th

08.00 Ide Hill Holy Communion BCP
 18.30 Sundridge Candlelit Carol Service
with mulled wine and nibbles

Sunday 22nd

08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP
 16.00 Ide Hill All Age Carol Service

Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve

17.00 Toys Hill Crib Service
 23.30 Ide Hill Midnight Communion

Wednesday 25th Christmas Day

09.15 Toys Hill Christmas Holy Communion
 10.30 Sundridge All Age Holy Communion
Children are welcome to bring a small gift to show in the service

Sunday 29th

10.30 Ide Hill Morning Worship

Parish Services for January 2020

Wednesday 1st January 2020

12.00 Sundridge Ringing in the New Year
A short 15 minute service with refreshments

Sunday 5th

09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion BCP
 10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

Sunday 12th

08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP
 10.30 Ide Hill All Age Worship

Sunday 19th

08.00 Ide Hill Holy Communion BCP
 10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship
Dedication of Project WaterLoo by the Bishop of Tonbridge

Sunday 26th

08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP
 10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

Rector

Rev Pam Davies
 rev.pamdavies@sky.com
 01959 467223

Sundridge

Althea Chapman
 althea.chapman@outlook.com

Churchwardens

Sundridge

Barbara Lockey
 hixmix@btoopenworld.com
 01959 564249

Ide Hill

Neil Arnott
 neil.d.arnott@gmail.com
 01732 750 221

Coffee is served at the 10.30 service every Sunday. Everyone is welcome!

News from Sundridge and Brasted Primary School

As many of you know, Mr Gaine has been unwell and is currently at home, resting and recuperating. We all send our love and prayers and wish him well and hope to see him soon. In the meantime, we have an excellent support team of local headteachers in school throughout the week.

As always, we have been busy. Cedar class have been to



Hever Castle on a 'Towers, Tunnels and Turrets' visit where they displayed excellent knowledge of their topic and immaculate behaviour. Our Head Boy and Head Girl



represented us at St Mary's Remembrance Service by laying a wreath on our behalf and on Remembrance Day itself, the whole school joined in a short service of prayers and a two minute silence by the War Memorial.

Elm class will be visiting Henley Fort Outdoor Education centre next week for a Home Front event, which will be filled with interactive outdoor activities linked to the term's topic of World War II.

We collected donations for Christian Aid at our Harvest Service this year and have also supported the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Box Appeal by sending 35 filled boxes to the charity, destined for overseas.

We now head towards Christmas with the Christingle Service at St Mary's Church, our Carol Service at St Martin's Church, our Nativity Production and, of course, our very own Carols Round the Tree on the last day of term. And then, a well deserved break for one and all!

As always, we thank you for your support and wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Sundridge & Brasted Senior Leadership Team

Christmas Decorations in St Mary's, Sundridge

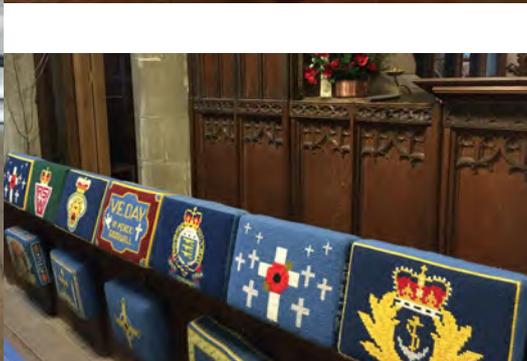
Arrangements for Christmas are now in hand and the Flower Team would welcome gifts of poinsettias for the Carol Service which takes place on Sunday 15th December at 6.30pm. Over the past few years poinsettias have added considerable colour to the Church on this occasion and many have been left for the Christmas services. Please bring poinsettias or any berried greenery that you may

have to the Church on Saturday morning, 14th December, after 10am. You are welcome to stay and help with the decorations.

We are always looking to enlarge our Flower Team so, if anyone would like to help on a more permanent basis, please contact me.

Beryl Norman 01959 563585

Our Act of Remembrance Lest we forget



Project WaterLoo

As promised in the October edition of the Village News, I am delighted to announce that the installation of the toilet and associated kitchen refurbishment in St. Mary's Church Sundridge is now complete. There are a few minor snagging issues which it is hoped will be resolved shortly. This project has been led by Jane Belle, as Chair of the Fabric Committee, and has required the co-operation and hard work of many people to keep the church functioning. In particular, The Friends would like to thank the Churchwardens - Althea Chapman and Barbara Lockey - for their patience and tenacity in dealing

with the inevitable dust and dirt emanating from the building work. We hope that, in future months, they and everybody else will feel that the disruption has been forgotten and that the benefit derived from these facilities was worthwhile. Diocesan permission is in place to create a community space at the rear of the church; the PCC is currently considering the way forward to achieve this and, once its decision has been made, a further round of fund-raising will need to start.

Kenneth Ludlam,

Chairman, the Friends of St. Mary's Sundridge



What's the right length for a sermon

According to a recent article in the Church Times, it is a question frequently searched on 'Google', presumably by trainee clergy. Apparently, the answer is between 10 - 15 minutes but a few weeks ago, in aid of charity, a priest in Ontario, the Revd Kevin George, preached for 55 hours straight with only short comfort breaks each hour - so beating the world record for the longest sermon. He preached for 55 minutes each hour, using sermon material borrowed from friends, as well as famous figures, including Martin Luther King.

Following the rules laid down by the Guinness World Records, he had to preach in front of an audience of at least ten people, a figure that he apparently reached easily. By the end of his marathon session, he was preaching to more than 200 and the church was packed for the finale. For some of the 55 hours, he preached on a stage outside to ensure that as many people as possible could hear. Each sermon in the marathon effort "55 Hours for Hope" focused on inclusion and welcome.

In his five-minute comfort breaks, others took to the stage or pulpit, including the local Imam and Mayor of London, Ontario and other faith leaders, as well as radio personalities.

I wonder if this should be the next fund-raiser for the Parish?

Last minute gifts for Christmas

If you're wondering what present to buy for a difficult relative, look no further. A pair of "Jesus Shoes" that contain water from the River Jordan has been created by a US creative-arts company, selling out in minutes after it was put on sale. The Nike trainers contain 60cc of water in the sole that was originally sourced from the River Jordan and then blessed, and also have written on them a reference to Matthew 14.25. The water, which is visible in the see-through sole, has some colouring added to enhance visibility. Among the other religious details are the frankincense-scented insoles, a crucifix threaded through the laces and a red sole, which makes reference to the red shoes traditionally worn by past Popes. The shoebox itself also displays an angel and a seal that resembles the official papal seal. Unfortunately, the shoes are currently out of stock but are available to buy on a re-selling website for around £2,000.



Go on, grab a pair!

The Community Land Trust

The Sundridge Village Community Land Trust has had a busy year and, after successful applications to grant-making bodies that support community housing schemes, we now have sufficient funds to complete an outline planning application. We are working with housing specialists, agencies and government bodies to develop the Main Road site scheme and hope to have proposals to bring back to a public meeting to consult with the residents of Sundridge in March 2020. The Committee feels it is important to have a developed proposal to share with residents and so this timetable is what we hope to meet but, if it takes a little longer, we will hold a meeting in the second quarter of the year.

At the public meeting we will present the proposals, request feedback and residents will be invited to become members of the Community Land Trust for a nominal fee and establish a register of members.

Following the public meeting and a consultation period, we will amend the proposals to incorporate changes to the scheme and present a completed outline planning submission to another residents' meeting before the end of June 2020 and ask the village to vote to support the scheme. Following a successful vote, the proposals will be submitted to the District Council for its consideration.

Assuming we receive a successful outcome to our outline planning application, we will still have a long way to go. We would then enter the next phase of the scheme which will involve raising further funds to secure detailed planning permission, creating the building schedules and awarding the building contracts to start the construction work.

In December the Community Land Trust will launch its website at www.sundridge.org which will keep the village informed of the ongoing progress.

Stubborn Traditionalists

You know the couple - **he** uses the word "proper" about Christmas lunch in a way that weaponises it as an insult against anyone who strays from the tried-and-tested formula. **She** buys a turkey the size of a Nissan Micra, despite only needing to cater for four, and so many trimmings and nibbles that Ocada calls to enquire if **she'd** like a corporate discount. **He** says things like: "You don't eat dairy? Can't you just pick the lactose out?" **Her** homemade mince pies are as dense as their eldest child. **He** sets the fire alarm off with the pudding every year; **she** performs the Heimlich manoeuvre on the dog when it chokes on the sixpence. Nothing about Christmas has changed for them since 1982, but that's fine, because neither have they.

Ed - Read somewhere but no idea where!



Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society

Albania left Russian influence some years ago. Albanian people are very friendly and welcoming to anyone who visits their country, inviting them into their homes and entertaining such visitors with generous samples of their local delicacies.

A recent visitor to Albania was Irena Fairless along with her daughter and Bruce. Irena gave us an inspiring talk, along with super pictures of towns and countryside in both Albania and the next-door country of North Macedonia, even experiencing a 5.6 earthquake during one night. Thank you so much, Irena. We all enjoyed your super talk. We are all now thinking of visiting.

As some of you know, your Committee is currently working on various aspects of amalgamating with Ide Hill

Gardening Society. A meeting of two Committees is due to be held shortly. The name suggested so far is to call the new Society - Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge. The two Societies do not bank with the same bank and their years run between different months. All this needs sorting. We will keep you all well informed as to progress. We are open to any advice or recommendations from our members (within reason).

The Committee of Sundridge and Brasted is planning to organise an event purely for our own members probably in about February, possibly at The White Horse in Sundridge. All info will follow. Watch this space!

Mary Walford



Fundridge

It's a busy few months for the Fundridge Team.

Christmas Cheese and Wine

On 16th November we held our Christmas-themed Cheese and Wine evening in the village hall. Fabulous evening had by all and the village hall was looking very festive. Everyone who attended got some great ideas for their Christmas wines, as well as what cheeses to pair them with. Thanks to all who came along and joined in the fun.

Christmas lights and carols

1st December 4:30pm sees the annual Christmas Carols at The White Horse followed by the turning on of the Christmas lights. Always a wonderful afternoon with mince pies and mulled wine available. Come on down and kick off the festive season with the village.

Christmas Market

4th December 7pm we will be holding our Christmas market in The White Horse. All the sellers are based locally. Come and support them, pick up some Christmas gifts and maybe win a prize in our raffle!

Seniors' Christmas Lunch

We will be doing our funded Seniors' Christmas lunch again this year. 16th December 12pm at The White Horse. Spaces must be confirmed in advance. Please contact Fiona Parkin (07722 150227) for details and to reserve a space.

New Year's Eve

The Fundridge Team will be celebrating at the The White Horse this year. Pop down, meet the Team and have a glass of fizz with us.

The Fundridge Team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope you have a wonderful time whatever you may be doing. We look forward to seeing some of you at events in the coming weeks. Look out for more events in 2020.

The Fundridge Team



December dates for your Diary

Wednesday 4th Christmas Market

7pm The White Horse pub - see Fundridge article for more information

Thursday 5th Mobile Library

09.45 - 10.15 Chapmans Close Sundridge
PLEASE NOTE THIS NEW TIME

Saturday 7th Christmas Fair

13.00 - 16.00 Sundridge Village Hall in aid of Sundridge United Juniors

Sunday 15th Candlelit Carol Service

18.30 St Mary's Church Sundridge

Monday 16th Seniors' Christmas Lunch

White Horse - see Fundridge article for more information

Thursday 19th Mobile Library

10.30 - 11.00 Chapmans Close Sundridge
PLEASE NOTE THIS NEW TIME

The February edition

If you have any information for the "Dates for your Diary" section or an article that you'd like included in the February edition please email by Friday 24th January 2020 to:-
sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

And finally . . . A seasonal joke

What happened to the man who stole an Advent calendar?
He got 25 days!