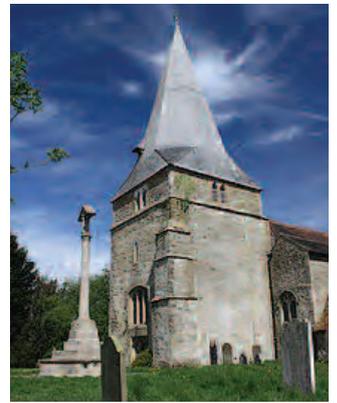


The Sundridge Village News

February 2019



In this issue we bring you pictures of celebrating Christmas at St Mary's, news from Sundridge & Brasted school, exciting events to tempt you out of your armchair from the Friends of St Mary's, plus all the parish services for February.

The Fundridge Senior Christmas Meal at the White Horse

Fundridge*organised a free Christmas meal for some of the senior citizens in the village who might enjoy getting together during the festive period.

We welcomed everyone with a sherry and had a lovely meal, discounted by Matt, the new Manager at the White Horse. Lunch was a highly convivial event with much chatting, where new friends were made and old acquaintances revived.

Our aim was to reach out to the community to make people feel better through this Christmas meal. The feedback has been very positive and we will be doing more events over the coming year.

If you would like to be involved and share our objectives to bring the community together, old and young, please get in touch.

People involved in Fundridge:-

Vikki Allgood, John Banbrook, Vicky Banbrook, Gill Dunseath, Kate Henry, Anne Lawrence, Ali MacMillan, Fiona Parkin, Anne Powell and Jayne Spencer-Seaman.

Anyone can join this group and suggestsome ideas for bringing the community together, call John Banbrook on 01959 561894.



*Fundridge is a group of local people who try to bring the community together through the school, the church, the pub, village hall and the Parish Council.

Fundridge will be raising funds throughout the year to make this an annual event.

Parish Services for February 2019

	Sunday 3rd	5th Sunday before Lent
09.15	Toys Hill	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion
	Sunday 10th	4th Sunday before Lent
08.00	Sundridge	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Ide Hill	All Age Worship

	Sunday 17th	3rd Sunday before Lent
08.00	Ide Hill	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Morning Worship
	Sunday 24th	2nd Sunday before Lent
08.00	Sundridge	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion

From the Parish Registers

From the St Mary's Sundridge Register

Burials

29th January 2019 Roland Charles Smith

Rector

Rev Pam Davies

rev.pamdavies@sky.com

01959 467223

Churchwardens

Sundridge

Althea Chapman

althea.chapman@outlook.com

Christmas services

Our Christmas offerings this year of just under £1,000 will be shared between our churches, Porchlight and the Sharp Memorial School for the Blind in India. Thank you to those who gave so generously.

Sundridge

Barbara Lockey

hixmix@btoopenworld.com

01959 564249

Ide Hill

Neil Arnott

neil.d.arnott@gmail.com

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

St Mary's Church Flowers

Grateful thanks are due to everyone who contributed to making the church look wonderful for Christmas, whether by their presence in helping or by providing greenery, cornus stems from their gardens or donating plants etc. It was so good to see many people giving their time.

The candles, which have been a feature of the church for the past 21 years, formed a great backdrop for the Carol Service and the Midnight Service on Christmas Eve. This year, the lighting in the Tower Room was enhanced by the white lights of an ornamental cherry tree, kindly donated by a parishioner. Also donated were many poinsettias which were placed on the font and in



various other places. The Christmas tree, kindly donated, was once again decorated by children from the School. Scattered around the church was holly (with berries!) found locally on a dog walk.

Several members of the Flower Team also created beautiful arrangements, one enhanced by some huge cones, which were admired by many, and another on the Tower Room table surrounded by cones collected locally.

Everything combined to create a warm and welcoming church for the whole of the Christmas period from the Carol Service through to the Ringing of the Bells on New Year's Day and Epiphany.

Beryl Norman



News from Sundridge and Brasted Primary School

Happy New Year to you all.

When I wrote the last report of 2018 we were about to embark on a busy schedule of Christmas events and so I will start by reporting on these. Being a church school Christmas is always a special time and we started the festivities with the children from Maple and Cedar classes making christingles with the Churchwardens and helpers from St Mary's Church. Both classes were reminded about the symbolism of the christingle and every child had the opportunity to make one. The christingles were then given out at the Christingle Service on the following Sunday which once again was extremely well attended by our children and their families. As always, it was a beautiful and joyous occasion.

It was also great to see so many of our families attending our Carol Service at St Martin's Church. There was a lovely atmosphere and the mixture of readings and carols took us through the Christmas story and included excellent singing from the congregation. Well done to our soloists and readers who were superb! We also managed to raise an excellent £106 for Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal.

Once again the whole school decamped to Westerham Village Hall to put on our nativity play: 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw'. The play was a resounding success and was watched by a full house. The singing this year was particularly good with the children really enjoying the experience.

Our Reception children created their very own tree decorations for St Mary's and walked up to the church to hang them on the tree themselves. We were grateful to Mrs Lockey for providing refreshments and making our children and parents so very welcome.

Mrs Taylor Hicks also managed to squeeze in a Christmas Maths challenge for the whole school during these various events with the children designing a maths themed Christmas decoration. Our Christmas festivities finished with our traditional last day of term Carols Around The Tree. As usual it was standing room only with everyone joining in with a rousing selection of carols.

In other news: continuing our emphasis on learning outside the classroom Elm class took a trip to the Science Museum in London to tie in with the term's topic of Space. They enjoyed a brilliant day exploring the space gallery where they learnt about space travel, how astronauts live day-to-day on their missions and they even saw a piece

of the moon! Later on, they were treated to a film in the museum's IMAX cinema, which was a 3D documentary about life on the International Space Station. At the same time Cedar class had a wonderful time at the Natural History Museum following their topic Dinosaur Planet. They spent the morning looking at all sorts of different mammals and exploring that part of the museum. In the afternoon the children were allowed to choose, in their groups, which part of the museum they would like to go to. They learnt a lot, from the anatomy of a dinosaur's leg to how earthquakes happen. All the children were brilliantly behaved and a real credit to the school.

Moving on to 2019: so far this term Cedar, Willow and Elm classes were visited by the Kent Fire and Rescue Service. Each class had its own presentation, where the children learnt about how to keep themselves safe in the event of a fire. The firefighters spoke to them about the importance of checking smoke alarms weekly, 'stop, drop and roll' and having an escape plan in place at home. The children were given age-appropriate handouts that detailed what they had learnt.

Last term, as mentioned in the last Village News, the children learnt about democracy with a UK Parliament week. Following this up we are delighted to welcome Michael Fallon MP to the school this term and I will provide a full report in next month's Village News.

At Sundridge and Brasted we believe in providing good-quality physical education for the children and are always looking at broadening the range of activities we provide. With this in mind, this term has seen us utilise a new venue for our hugely successful Forest School courtesy of Lady Plender. Each class can now use the field opposite the school which has really strengthened this hugely educational activity. The children have greatly enjoyed the increased space and multitude of flora and fauna.

We have also started the Golden Mile this term whereby the children go outside in their classes at different times during the day to run around the playground in addition to the usual play times. This is part of our effort to ensure all children are fit and active. The children have really enjoyed this and are beginning to challenge each other to greater distances.



Both the football and netball teams have also started playing competitive matches in their respective leagues with mixed results. However, it is great to see them developing into teams and supporting each other in the process.

We have a lot to look forward to this year and I look forward to sharing this with you in the months ahead. I would like to finish with an appeal. We are constantly looking to strengthen our community links and,



with that in mind, I am always looking for volunteers to help with various activities including hearing children read and our Big Read every Friday. If you feel you can help us or have a particular skill that might be useful then please get in contact with Mrs Prestage on 01959 562694.

I wish you and your families a happy and prosperous New Year.

Anil Gaiind, Headteacher

Maple class decorate the tree

Maple class and their parents were invited into church to help decorate the Christmas tree, kindly donated by Emma at the Sevenoaks Garden Centre. They brought with them decorations they had made using lolly sticks cut into the shape of a Christmas tree or a star. These had been painted and glued with sequins. Not only did they bring their lovely decorations but also a huge tray of mince pies that they had made earlier on in the day. Apparently, Mrs Cooper, the class teacher, had already sampled one, just to make sure that they were edible! Once the decorations had been placed on the tree, the children were sent off round the church to find the 3 Kings who had previously been hidden. It was lovely to have the church filled with laughter as they ran round trying to find them. The children sang and signed the first verse of "Away in a Manger" before consuming vast quantities of mince pies and cookies.



Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society

Happy New Year to you all. On an optimistic note we are now just past the shortest day and progressing very slowly towards Spring with bulbs and blossom starting their lovely season.

The Society commences the horticultural year with our customary Tea Party to be held in the Brasted Pavilion on Wednesday 20th February 2019, from 2.30 to 4pm.

You will need to join us to find out what great visits and talks have been arranged for the year. Estelle, our Programme Secretary, has been working on these special occasions and you will not find out what they are until you come along on that afternoon to enjoy tea and cakes at the same time as paying your subscription in order to be given your membership card and programme.

Please support this event. The more of you who come along, the fewer hours the Committee will have to spend walking around the villages to give you your programmes. We do not actually charge for our travelling time when collecting your subscriptions!! But we do appreciate not having to make too many calls.

Transport can be arranged for members or potential members coming to our tea party. For anyone driving to the Brasted Pavilion, we have been requested to park in the car park near to the entrance rather than by the actual pavilion but I think that exceptions can be made for those who would prefer not to have to walk too far.

Mary Walford



The Friends of St Mary's events

Thursday 21st March St Marys, Sundridge at 7.30pm

John Bailey will be giving a talk entitled 7th Century Girl Power. John is a brilliant speaker who presents his talks with enormous knowledge and great humour. It is about The Queens and Dowager Queens of the 7th Century and how they influenced events locally and throughout. It will be a hugely enjoyable evening and one not to be missed. Tickets £6.00 to members, non members £8.00
Tickets will be available on the door.

Wednesday 15th May 2019 from 2 - 4pm A guided tour by John Bailey of Rochester Cathedral

John is an Accredited Architect in historic Building Conservation and his knowledge of Rochester Cathedral is immense. He has the great gift of being able to explain both the obvious and the obscure with the clarity which only comes when you know and love the subject very well. His passion for the building is obvious and he is a wonderfully engaging and humorous guide.

Tickets £15.00 to members, non members £18.00

Tickets for both available in advance from Richard Dunckley, White Sheiling, Dry Hill Lane, Sundridge, TN14 6AA tel 01959 563421 email richard.dunckley@hotmail.com

Tickets for the Rochester Cathedral tour must be booked in advance

**Saturday 14th September 2019
John Rutter Come and Sing Day**

[Click here for more details](#)

Ide Hill Country Market

It is with great sadness that the closure of the Country Market at Ide Hill was announced in December. We had been going for over 50 years and had provided not just first-class home produce but also a warm and welcoming place for people to sit and chat. (Along with spectacular views over Bough Beech and wonderful views of raptors!) Maybe not the raptors but please be assured that

you can buy similar produce, much from the same cooks and providers, at the St Luke's market in Sevenoaks. This takes place on a Thursday from 9 - 11am at St Luke's Parish Hall, on Eardley Road, just off Granville Road.

Savouries, meat, eggs, cakes, preserves, vegetables and fruit, plants and high-quality sewn gifts.

Do come and visit us on Thursdays!

February Dates for your Diary

Thursday 14th & 28th Mobile Library

10.30 - 11.00 Chapmans Close

Wednesday 20th Sundridge & Brasted Horticultural Society

14.00 - 16.00 Brasted Pavilion. Afternoon Tea and subscription renewal.

The March 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 Monday 21st January 2019 to:-
sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

And finally . . .

Spotted in a church pew sheet (not ours!)

This Wednesday, the Ladies Liturgy Society will meet.

Mrs Jones will sing "Put me in my Little Bed" accompanied by the pastor.