

The Sundridge Village News

February 2020

In this issue we bring you Christmas in February with pictures from our recent Christmas services, news regarding the amalgamation of the Sundridge & Brasted Horticultural Society with the Ide Hill Gardening Society and a plea for volunteers to take part in the Great British Village Clean-Up.



The Christingle Service

What a sticky time we had transforming 100 oranges into christingles. Following an assembly given by Fi Parkin on the meaning of the christingle, the pupils then set about assembling them. They selected their favourite sweets, with strict instructions not to eat any, and carefully threaded them onto the cocktail sticks before sticking them into the orange. On the following Sunday, a congregation of pupils, siblings, parents and friends joined together to light a christingle symbolising Christ as the light of the world. Pupils performed a song from their

Christmas Production. Rev Pam led the service which saw Trevor (her husband) dressing up as a christingle which, as you will see from the photo, was quite a sight. It was a lovely service and a great way to begin the season of Advent. The collection from the service, including the candle money boxes that pupils had filled up at home, amounted to £134.53. This money has been sent to the Children's Society which will help to share the light with young people, giving them a brighter future.



Parish Services for February 2020

Sunday 2nd
 09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion BCP
 10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

Sunday 9th
 08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP
 10.30 Ide Hill All Age Worship

Sunday 16th
 08.00 Ide Hill Holy Communion BCP

10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship

Sunday 23rd
 08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP
 10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

Wednesday 26th Ash Wednesday
 10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

Rector

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Sundridge

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Churchwardens

Sundridge

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

Advent Fun with the School

It was a joy to see Maple class in church at the beginning of Advent, bringing with them their carefully-made clay decorations to adorn our magnificent Christmas tree, kindly donated by Emma Best at Sevenoaks Garden Centre.

Once the tree had been decorated and the lights turned on, the pupils raced round the church to find hidden bales of hay, animals, shepherds and all the other parts that go to make up our miniature Christmas crib for tiny hands. These were proudly brought to the back of the church where the crib was assembled.



In a magical quiet moment, the pupils then sang and signed the first verse of 'Away in a Manger'.

Unfortunately, Joseph has gone AWOL - the churchwarden either hid him rather too well in the church prior to the activity, or he just needed a kip - after all, newborns can make quite a racket! There is a small prize if anyone can find him - perhaps this is your chance to offer your services and become a member of the cleaning team in the church!



The Hygiene Bank

I have just received an email from the Hygiene Bank thanking our parish for supporting them during 2019. Their big campaign this Christmas was "It's in the Bag", in which one bought a bag and filled it with suitable toiletries, adding a Christmas card so the recipient knew that you cared and then dropping it off at one of the many collection points. In 2018 they distributed bags filled with essentials, luxuries and personal notes to around 3,500 people. In 2019 they were aiming for 5,000.

There are many partnerships who work with the charity, helping them to reach more people in need and many who work pro bono such as creatives,

media and legal services. The charity has set their sights on schools this year and sees teachers as essential on the frontline for seeing when a family is beginning to struggle.

Lizzie Hall set up the Hygiene Bank after watching a Ken Loach film - a harrowing depiction of UK lives ruined by the failing welfare system. Lizzie was recently announced as the winner of a prestigious Woman of the Year 'Wellness Warrior' award.

Please continue to support the Hygiene Bank in any way that you can. Both churches in the parish have yellow bins that are collected regularly by volunteers. One it could be us needing help.



LISTS

Every year at Christmas, my husband receives a little book of unpublished letters to "The Daily Telegraph". It is a small tome and resides with other books in the upstairs loo. Loud guffaws are often heard coming from that little room at certain times of the day.

I was glancing through it the other day when I came across the heading, 'My Father's house has many rooms'.

This is an often-used Bible passage at funerals. Having caught my attention, I read on:-

"Sir - My wife and I recently attended a funeral and queued to write our message of condolence in the book that had been set up in the entrance of the church.

At the end of the ceremony the church-warden approached us all to thank us for signing up for cleaning duties."

Friends of St Mary's Sundridge

The Friends of St Mary's held a very successful party on Thursday 16th January 2020 to celebrate the successful completion of Project Waterloo – the installation of the long-awaited toilet and facilities in the church. Despite it being a cold and wet evening, more than 40 people attended the event which included a very popular quiz devised and run by Nigel Belle. A raffle, with an infinite number of prizes very generously donated by members of the Friends, was extremely well supported and was drawn at the end of the evening by Sir Michael Fallon. There was plenty of delicious food and good wine and proceedings were accompanied by mood music with a sprinkling of water-themed melodies! Thanks to everyone who contributed to an excellent evening.



Fundridge

Fundridge, the group of people who bring the community together by holding events throughout the year, have some exciting plans for spring. They include a pub quiz, an Easter Egg Hunt and a music event, so plenty to look forward to - watch this space!

The Ide Hill Craft Fair

I hope that many of you were able to attend the Ide Hill Craft Fair in December. It was a real success with plenty of stalls and fun ways in which to spend your money, as well as refreshments. Over £700 was raised from the church stalls. In view of the success, the church has decided to take a stall next year. Marmalade was really popular, so since this is the time of year when Seville oranges are in plentiful supply, if you're a marmalade maker, could you please make some extra? Additional jars are available from Di Pickard. Many thanks to everyone - for those who came to spend, those who worked on stalls and for those who gave - we really couldn't have done it without you.

February dates for your Diary

Wednesday 12th Afternoon Tea

3pm - The White Horse pub, Sundridge & Brasted Horticultural Society (*see flyer*)

Thursday 13th Mobile Library

09.45 - 10.15 Chapmans Close Sundridge

Thursday 27th Mobile Library

10.30 - 11.00 Chapmans Close Sundridge

Save the Date

Saturday 14th March (*Date to be confirmed*)

The Great British Clean-Up in Sundridge organised by Fundridge (*see article*)

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 Friday 21st February 2020 to:-
sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

Artwork at Rochester Cathedral

Another piece of artwork is coming to Rochester Cathedral in February 2020. The "Museum of the Moon" will be installed in the Nave for three weeks from 12th February to 4th March and is the first time that the artwork has been displayed in Kent.

"Museum of the Moon" is a touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram. It measures seven metres in diameter and features imagery of the lunar surface. Each centimetre represents 5km of the moon's surface. Alongside the installation is a fusion of lunar imagery, moonlight and surround sound composition created by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award-winning composer Dan James.

Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society

Happy New Year to you all! I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas.

As most of you know we are planning to amalgamate this Society with the Ide Hill Gardening Society. We look forward to many brilliant talks, outings and other events which should be possible with a much larger membership.

As a 'last hurrah' prior to that, we are having a Tea Party. This is to be held at "The White Horse" in Sundridge at 3pm on Wednesday 12th February 2020. Do please join us. It will be free to all our members. Please read the accompanying invitation. Subs for the year at a reduced £5 per person will be collected at this event. Please let us know by 3rd February if you would like to join us. As usual transport can be provided.

The name of the new Society will be:

'The Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society'

The inaugural meeting will be on Wednesday 11th March at Ide Hill Village Hall at 8pm. We shall have an illustrated talk on hydrangeas by Maurice Foster. Maurice is one of the UK's most distinguished gardeners, holder of the Victoria Medal of Honour, the RHS's highest award and a long-serving member of Its Woody Plant Committee.

Later in the year, we shall be visiting his magnificent garden in Ivy Hatch - details in the new Programme available to members in February.

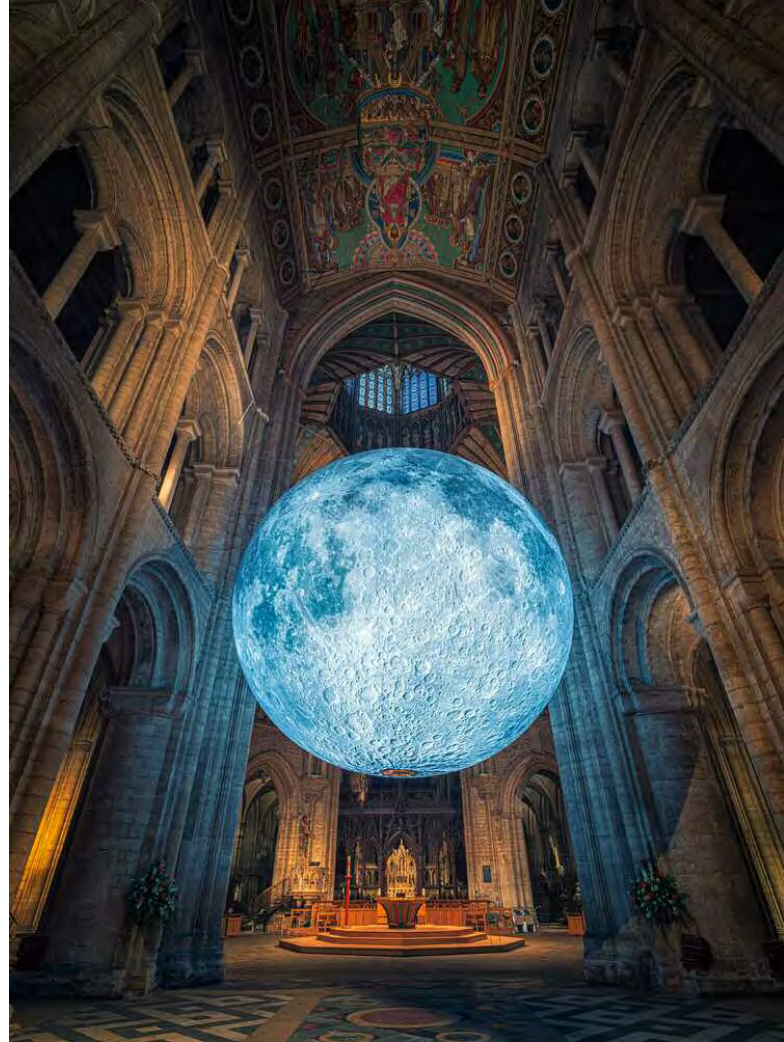
Please give the Committee your full support in this new venture.

Tips. Transplant pot-grown Christmas trees into the garden as soon as possible. Water regularly. Move any plants that need to be moved when the ground is dormant.

Weather permitting, it is a good time to plant new roses.
Mary Walford

Keep Sundridge Tidy

Once again, the Fundridge group is taking part in caring for our environment by taking part in the Great British Spring Clean. It is the country's biggest mass action environment campaign. The likely date is to be Saturday 14th March. For those of you who took part in the clean-up last year, look out for the posters advertising when it will happen. This national campaign shows that ordinary people do care about their environment and are willing to do something about it.



Dedication of the new facilities at St Mary's Sundridge

We welcomed the Bishop of Tonbridge, Bishop Simon Burton-Jones, who joined us to dedicate the new facilities on 19th January 2020.



Whitechapel Foundry

Campaigners fighting to conserve Britain's oldest bell foundry have condemned a council decision to let it be converted into a boutique hotel.

The Whitechapel Foundry, in east London, produced some of the world's most famous bells, including Big Ben, the bells of St Mary-le-Bow, and the Liberty Bell in Pennsylvania. It is listed in the Guinness World Records as the country's oldest manufacturing firm, dating back to 1570. At the end of last year, Tower Hamlets Council decided, by the casting vote of its development committee's chairman, to approve the creation of a 100 bedroom hotel on the site, despite a community-led campaign to save the foundry. The director of the trust said, "The committee seems to have been swayed by the developer's sketches of a small imitation bell workshop as part of a themed coffee shop space; their decision seemingly based on a few

unrealistic visualisations. The heart and soul of the building will be gone. Instead of being a revitalised place of pilgrimage of global interest and a huge boost to the local economy, it will be another boutique hotel of no interest to anyone but its transient clientele."

We have a history with the Whitechapel Foundry. In 2004, the bells at St Mary's and their frame were inspected and it was found that two bells were cracked, bearings were worn out and the whole assembly rattled around when the bells were rung. A quotation was obtained from Whitechapel Bell Foundry, one of only two foundries in England and the nearest to St Mary's. The repairs cost £53,000, which was a great deal of money for a small parish to find but, mainly by hard work and initiative on the part of the bell ringers themselves, the sum was found in about 9 months.



Confirmation - the next step in your Christian faith

We have heard and have been babies and children being baptised in our churches. Have you ever thought about taking the next step - confirmation?


Now is the time to come and explore whether if this is for you, or maybe you would like a refresher on your own confirmation many years ago. You may have a question about faith. Please speak to Rev Pam Davies if you are interested in being confirmed or baptised or have any questions.

email: rev.pamdavies@sky.com or telephone 01959 467223

And finally . . .

For those of you who might be unfamiliar with some of the terms used in the Church of England, I bring you a cartoon from "The Church Times" by Dave Walker.

CHURCH POLITICS EXPLAINED USING CHESS PIECES

 **BISHOP:**
MOVES DIAGONALLY.
COMES INTO PLAY
EVERY NOW AND
THEN FOR
CONFIRMATIONS
ETC

 **VICAR:**
FOR EVERY
STEP FORWARD
TAKES TWO
TO THE SIDE.
LOOKS A BIT
LIKE A HORSE

 **CHURCH
FIXTURES AND
FITTINGS:**
MAY NOT BE
MOVED
WITHOUT
A FACULTY

 **ORDINARY
CHURCHGOER:**
LOTS OF THEM,
MOVE SLOWLY
IN ONE
DIRECTION.
FAIRLY
DISPENSABLE

 **CHURCHWARDEN:**
MOST
POWERFUL
PIECE.
CAN ATTACK
IN ANY
DIRECTION

 **THIS PIECE
IS THE ONE WE
ARE TRYING
TO PROTECT.
I FORGET WHAT
IT IS CALLED**