

The Sundridge Village News

March 2019



In this issue we bring you a warning to all altar boys, the opportunity to try your hand at flower arranging, a loving tribute from the family of Roley Smith, and lots of dates for your diaries in the forthcoming months.

St Mary's Sundridge and the Bell Ringers

As you may have heard (over the past few hundred years), there are bells at St Mary's. Currently they ring out in practice on Thursday evenings for at least one Sunday service a month. But had you noticed the very narrow, steep and uneven stairway up which the Bell Ringers go to access the Ringing Chamber and its six bells?

On 13 December 2018, in just one day, the most beautiful twisted wrought-iron handrail was built into the Tower. It was designed and installed by RC Larkin of Tandridge, in consultation with the Bell Ringers, with the project undertaken by the Fabric Committee and paid for by the generosity of The Friends of St Mary Sundridge.

It was a delicate job since the handrail had to be fitted as close as possible to the uneven ragstone wall whilst also leaving enough space to be able to grip it. The brackets had been made in advance at the forge in Tandridge but the twisted square rail itself was curved on site and then welded to the brackets. We were enormously impressed by the craftsmanship and enthusiasm of the blacksmith who did the actual installation.

Our bespoke handrail looks as if it has been there since mediaeval times and all we spiral-climbers are absolutely delighted with it.

RC Larkin, Blacksmiths and Forgemasters, specialise in made-to-order wrought ironworks. The original firm was established in the 1870s by Mr Crowhurst and continued through three generations of that family. Roger Larkin



joined the forge as an apprentice in 1946 and later took over the business. His son, Simon Larkin, now runs the firm.

Althea Chapman

Parish Services for March 2019

	Sunday 3rd	Sunday before Lent
09.15	Toys Hill	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion

	Wednesday 6th	Ash Wednesday
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion

	Sunday 10th	Lent 1
08.00	Sundridge	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Ide Hill	All Age Worship

Rector

Rev Pam Davies

rev.pamdavies@sky.com

01959 467223

Churchwardens

Sundridge

Althea Chapman

althea.chapman@outlook.com

	Sunday 17th	Lent 2
08.00	Ide Hill	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Morning Worship

	Sunday 24th	Lent 3
08.00	Sundridge	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion

	Sunday 31st	Mothering Sunday
10.30	Ide Hill	

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!

What are you giving up during Lent?

During Lent, the parish of Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill is asking its parishioners not to give up something during Lent, but instead to give something to the 'Loaves and Fishes' Foodbank. Collecting boxes are available at both Sundridge and Ide Hill churches, with the added benefit that Ide Hill is open daily. Sundridge Church is now open every Saturday between 10am and 5pm, and the box is to be found in the Tower Room as you enter the church so even if you are not a regular attendee, there is no excuse! Of course, if you would like to attend a service, you will be made very welcome.

This charity supports up to 40 families with young children, giving them a large bag of non-perishable food every week of the year.



Advance Notice to anyone interested in flower arranging

A Flower Workshop – Wednesday, 15th May 2019 at 10.30am at St Mary's Church, Sundridge

Members of the Flower Group at Sundridge Church are very pleased that Carol Edmonds, who organises the Flower Festival at Ide Hill Church, has agreed to demonstrate easy flower arrangements at a Flower Workshop in Sundridge Church on Wednesday 15th May.

We would like to encourage more people to take an interest in floral art and, if this results in extra flower



arrangers for the church in due course, then that will be a bonus.

Although this workshop is open to all, places will be limited so please contact me to reserve a place. Coffee and biscuits will be served and no cost is involved. Just come and enjoy with no obligation.

Beryl Norman

01959 563585

Email: beryl.norman16@icloud.com

A warning to all Altar Boys

What started as a joke ended with an uncertain future for two altar boys from Spain. They were detained overnight, after being found guilty of putting weed in the censer-burner of the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. The censer-burner was being used to celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord.

One of the assistants thought that the burner didn't smell as usual. Apparently it was a familiar smell, "but I couldn't relate it to anything, apart but my son's bedroom that sometimes smells like that."

Following the Mass, the altar boys were arrested by the police after confirming that the strange smell was indeed marijuana. They said that it was a joke and that they had bought no more than half a kilo of weed to drop inside the censer-burner so as to ensure that people left the cathedral happier than they had arrived.

Finally the boys were released without charge but they will not be able to discharge their functions as altar boys anymore.

The Market at St Luke's

The market is within walking distance of Sevenoaks station and Blighs Meadow car park (by Marks & Spencer).

A friendly local market, it takes place every Thursday morning between 9am and 11am and sells a wide range of local produce: delicious home-made cakes, pastries, savouries and soups.

The market also takes orders for fresh food direct from its suppliers: fresh meat from traditional butcher Larratt & Co from Westerham; wholemeal, white and brown speciality breads from Rusbridge of Southborough; large free range eggs from Barradale Farm, Headcorn.

There are stalls for honey, jams, chutneys, fresh fruit and vegetables, flowers and plants, and arts and crafts.

St Luke's Church Hall, Eardley Road
(off Granville Road), Sevenoaks TN13 1X



Why not take advantage of the market's **FREE** local delivery service? Orders can be made by telephone to Jenny Ellis (01959 562422) or Estelle Hyams (01959 561673).

The Sundridge Community Land Trust

We have met twice since the successful public meeting in Sundridge Church .

We have now received donations towards our plan and, as a result, have appointed a firm of specialists to look at in detail the infrastructure and flood mitigation measures needed to finalise the plan. This will enable us to see what can be built and where.

The Company Limited by Guarantee is now set up and we await charitable status.

John Evans

March Dates for your Diary

Thursday 14th & 28th Mobile Library

10.30 - 11.00 Chapmans Close

Thursday 21st Talk by John Bailey

Tickets £6.00 members, non members £8.00

Tickets in advance and information regarding this and the Rochester Cathedral talk and tour on the Friend's website friendsofstmarys.co.uk or from Richard Dunckley on 01959 563421 or email: richarddunckley@hotmail.com

Keep 'em peeled

After a recent spate of incursions onto private property and subsequent thefts in our area, we appeal to everyone to be particularly vigilant.

If you should see a vehicle parked up in an isolated area where you would not normally expect to see one, please note the registration number and make and model and ring the Police.

This information is invaluable to the Police in the event of an incident and the Police do not worry if it transpires to be a false alarm.

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir The Creation

The Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir with Sevenoaks Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Robyn Sevastos will be performing 'The Creation' by Joseph Haydn on Saturday 6th April, 7.30 at St Nicholas Church Sevenoaks.

Tickets £14.00, £13.00 for over 60s; £5.00 for under 16s available from choir members, at www.sevenoaks-philharmonic.org.uk or on the door (subject to availability).

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir
with Sevenoaks Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by
Robyn Sevastos

The Creation

Joseph Haydn

Stefanie Kemball-Read, soprano
Greg Tassell, tenor
Peter Grevatt, bass

Saturday 6 April 2019, 7.30pm
St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks

Tickets £14; £13 over 60s; £5 under 16s
available from choir members,
at www.sevenoaks-philharmonic.org.uk
or on the door (subject to availability)

Registered Charity No 263930



A Tribute to Roley Smith

Roland, mostly known as Roley, was the eldest son born in a cottage on Main Road in Sundridge, followed by two brothers Keith and Terry and then later a sister.

He was a choir boy at St Mary's Church, attended Sundridge school and then Chevening school until he was fourteen.

As a young man, he made local deliveries on a bicycle for Pearce's in Sundridge, joining the boy scouts at Chevening and then the army cadets at Westerham where he first learned to box.

For a time he worked for French's dairies at Sevenoaks and for many years as a driver for West Kent Laundry at Sundridge. His National Service was two years in the RAF during which he met and waited on 'Pandit' Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India.

As a young man, Roley played for the local 'Robins' football team. He later managed the Sundridge and Brasted Football Club and became a committee member for the new pavilion.

For several years he was a keen member of the darts team for Sundridge Mens' Club.

Seventy-two years ago as a teenager, he met Betty and sixty-eight years ago they married in St Mary's Church; subsequently they had two daughters – Hilary and Vivienne. After their marriage he became a Grandfather and Great Grandfather. He loved the seaside and spent many a holiday with his daughters and their families, even venturing to Greece with them after retiring.

Roley was an ardent fan of the Arsenal Football Club, encouraging nephews and two of his grandsons to follow his love of the sport.

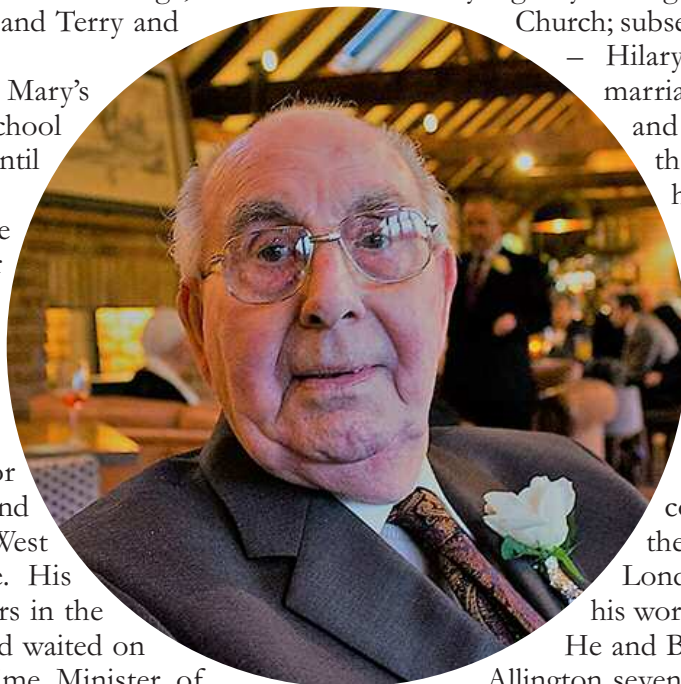
He went into business with colleagues, working at Polhill and then Peckham in South East London for the last twenty years of his working life.

He and Betty moved from Sundridge to Allington seventeen years ago but always kept in touch with 'home.'

He was always very interested in most sports and often helpful when sporting answers for quizzes and crosswords were needed.

Roley, very dear to and much loved by his family.

The Editor is grateful to the family for allowing use of their notes.



The Friends of St Mary's events

Friday 5th April Friends of St Mary's Annual General Meeting

The Friends of St Mary's will be holding their Annual General Meeting at 7pm, Friday 5th April in St Mary's Church, Sundridge, The AGM is usually a short formal occasion and will be followed by a talk 'Trekking in Nepal' kindly given by Nick White.

Entrance is free and all are invited.

Refreshments available after the talk.

Thursday 21st March St Marys, Sundridge at 7.30pm 7th Century Girl Power, a talk by John Bailey

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. The Queens and Dowager Queens of the 7th Century influenced events locally, throughout Europe and beyond. 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

Entrance to the AGM is free

Tickets for both the John Bailey events, the Talk and the Tour, are available in advance from Richard Dunckley, White Sheiling, Dry Hill Lane, Sundridge, TN14 6AA tel 01959 563421 email richard.dunckley@hotmail.com

Cheques to Friends of St Mary's Church Sundridge
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](#)

Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society

What a gorgeous sunny afternoon, both outside and inside Brasted Pavilion as so many of our members joined the Committee at our Tea Party in the afternoon of Wednesday 20th February.

Thank you all for joining us to enjoy the various cakes, cups of tea, to pay your annual subscription to the Horticultural Society and to be given the new membership cards which set out our programme for this year.



We have our Programme Secretary, Estelle Hyams, to thank for such a super number of talks and visits that she has arranged.

The first meeting of the year will be at 8pm at Brasted on 10th April, the next at Ide Hill on 8th May. You will find out the subjects when you pay your subscription and receive your programme for the year.

To what the appetites of those of you who do not currently belong to our Society, or others who have yet to pay their subs, we look forward to a visit to Hever Flowers at Bough Beech where we are joining the Ide Hill Gardening Society on 12th June at 7 pm.

On 17th July, there is an afternoon outing to Lavender Fields at the Hop Shop, Castle Farm, Shoreham. Well worth a visit to their Hop Shop where we can buy so much appetising food, as well as seeing the lavender in full bloom. Names of members or new members wishing to join either of these visits can be given at our April and May meetings.

Save the Date

5th April Friends of St Mary's AGM

Friends of St Mary's AGM 7pm followed by a talk trekking in Nepal kindly given by Nick White

6th April Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir

7.30 St Nicholas Church Sevenoaks

10th April Annual Parochial Church Meeting

7.30pm Ide Hill Village Hall

15th May Guided tour of Rochester Cathedral

10 - 2pm Rochester Cathedral

15th May Flower Workshop

10.30 St Mary's Church Sundridge

14th September John Rutter 'Come and Sing' Day

[Click here for more details](#)

The rest of our programme will be available to all when you read our programme which will be given to you on receipt of your subscription, of course! The committee (just one person, not the entire Committee of course) will be visiting the homes of members who were not able to join us at our Tea Party in Brasted.

Enjoy your gardening.

Mary Walford



The April 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 22nd March 2019 to:-
sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

And finally . . .

Taken from an exam paper -
Question - Christians only have one spouse, what is this called?
Answer - Monotony!