

# The Sundridge Village News

## October 2017



Thank you to everyone who has either signed up electronically or requested to have a paper copy delivered of the Village News. As you can see, the style of the electronic version has changed. We hope you like it. Remember it's your Village News and if you know of any interesting exhibition to view, book to read, or amusing anecdote to share, please send the information to [sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com)



### Interested in Flower Arranging? Keen Volunteers required

No special expertise needed and guidance will be given to anyone willing to assist the small band of ladies who provide flower arrangements in Sundridge Church. New members to the team would be very welcome either on a regular or occasional basis. If you are interested, come along and meet us on Saturday 30th September from 10am in the Church, when the Harvest Festival arrangements will be prepared. We would be delighted to see you.

**Beryl Norman—01959 563585**

### “Fundridge” - Sundridge Villagers Unite

“Friendship, a better community and bringing neighbours together”. Some months ago it was heard through the grapevine that our local pub, The White Horse, might be closed on New Year's Eve. A group of villagers formed a committee to raise funds to ensure that the pub would be open on New Year's Eve for a party for all villagers with a band, food and other entertainment.

The rationale behind this is that the pub, along with the church, are central to village life. Although neither is

used regularly by many, the lack of them would pull the heart out of the village.

“Fundridge” is what this committee group calls itself. They have put on several fundraising events already, including a treasure hunt around the village, a quiz night and locals selling their produce. More events are planned, so please check out the forthcoming “Fundridge” events in the Dates for your Diary in the middle pages.

**Do come along and support them.**

### Parish Services for October 2017

#### Sunday 1st October Trinity 16

0915 Toys Hill Holy Communion BCP  
1030 Sundridge Harvest Holy Communion

#### Sunday 8th October Trinity 17

0800 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP  
1030 Ide Hill Harvest All Age Worship

#### Sunday 15th October Trinity 18

0800 Ide Hill Holy Communion BCP  
1030 Sundridge Morning Worship & Baptism

#### Sunday 22nd October Trinity 19

0800 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP  
1030 Ide Hill Holy Communion

#### Sunday 29th October Trinity 20

1030 Ide Hill Morning Worship with guest speaker from Anna Chaplaincy talking about dementia

#### Sunday 5th November 4th before Advent

0915 Toys Hill Holy Communion BCP  
1030 Sundridge Holy Communion

#### Rector

Rev Pam Davies  
01959 467223  
[rev.pamdavies@sky.com](mailto:rev.pamdavies@sky.com)

#### Sundridge Churchwardens

Althea Chapman  
[althea.chapman@btinternet.com](mailto:althea.chapman@btinternet.com)  
Barbara Lockey  
[hixmix@btopenworld.com](mailto:hixmix@btopenworld.com)  
01959 564249

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

## Dates for your Diary

### Harvest Services and Harvest Lunch



Both churches will be celebrating Harvest with the Sundridge Harvest service being on October 1st and the service at Ide Hill on October 8th. Following the Harvest Festival service at Ide Hill, there will be a Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall from noon, to which everyone is invited. Please come and join us in celebrating it. If you've never been before, all you have to do is let one of the Churchwardens know and, if you are able to bring a plate of food (to share), that would be much appreciated.

### October

2nd 19.00 White Horse pub

The Sue Bey Collection: fabulous ladies clothing at great prices. Proceeds of this event go to 'Fundridge' (see article front page)

8th 12.30 Parish Harvest Lunch, Ide Hill Village Hall

11th 20.00 Horticultural meeting at Ide Hill Village Hall joint meeting with Ide Hill Gardening Society: "Edible Flowers" by Tessa Allen

16th 19.00 Public Meeting at Sundridge Village Hall The Future for Sundridge Village (see article)

### November

11th 19.30 Auction of Promises—proceeds from this event go to 'Fundridge'

### December

2nd 19.30 Organ Recital at St Martin's Church, Brasted. Details to follow next month

## The Future for Sundridge Village

Your Parish Council will be holding a Public Meeting at Sundridge Village Hall on October 16th at 7pm.

The purpose of this meeting will be to explore the possibility of a new development within the village, in order to try and overcome some of the problems we are facing.

We are being pressured by Central Government to provide more housing, and we have major on-going issues within our village surrounding parking, speeding, vandalism and littering, congestion at the Sundridge traffic lights and above all, we have facilities and assets that we consider are not longer fit for purpose for one reason or another.

However, we have to be fully aware of the constraints within the Planning Framework for Sevenoaks District Council concerning the Green Belt and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In order to have a chance of overcoming these constraints, we have to prove to the planners overwhelming need for the community and, therefore, many local bodies will be represented at this meeting to listen to your views and answer your questions.

Please come along and have your say

**YOUR VILLAGE . . .**

**YOUR FUTURE . . .**

*John Evans, Chairman Parish Council*

## In Memoriam

Many of you may remember Michael Minter who was a Reader at St. Mary's Sundridge. He ran a small weekly Bible group which met at his house. There was always a fresh pot of coffee on the go and 'superior' chocolate biscuits from Waitrose to tempt us—even during Lent. Michael was a regular reader of a little known publication called The Church Times. This he used to collect from the village shop. As his health deteriorated, one of his 'girls' from the Bible group would be despatched to collect it for

him. He took enormous pleasure in describing it as a 'top shelf' racy publication, and one was warned not to look inside it! He was a great man with a profound faith. He dedicated a Holy House Lamp that burns in the House of Prayer at Walsingham. It was first lit on 1st October 2012 and bears the dedication "St Mary Sundridge". It burns every day as an act of prayer for our mission to bring the love of God to our village. The Bible study group keep this lamp burning in memory of Michael.

## Mobile Library

Did you realise that Sundridge has a mobile library? It visits fortnightly on Thursdays and parks in Chapmans Close between 1030 and 11am. It has a very good range of books and, whilst the road to Sevenoaks seems to be continually blocked by roadworks whichever way you go, why not make use of the mobile library? The library will next visit on Thursday 12th and 26th October.

## Memorial Service for Doris Burr

The Memorial Service for Doris Burr took place at Maidstone Crematorium on 14th September 2017

Doris always loved the countryside. Her passions were her husband Albert, her family and home, gardening and crafts. She married Albert in 1951 in the parish church at Frant. Albert worked at Bowzell and they lived in one of the farm cottages. The first three of their children were born at Bowzell Cottages. Albert then secured work at another farm and the family moved to Tunbridge Wells into a cottage situated by the railway line with a stream at the bottom of the garden and the High Rocks Inn close by. Tim was born and the family enjoyed living there. Doris was very enterprising, setting up a tea room attached to the High Rocks Inn where she served afternoon teas and her home-made cakes.

In the late 1960s the owner of the farm retired, so Albert secured a new job at the mushroom farm in Sundridge and the family moved to a bungalow in New Road. Their last child Joanne was borne there. The heavy machinery at the mushroom farm caused damage to Albert's back and he was no longer able to work there. The family were re-housed in Chapmans Road and Albert got work at Fort

Halstead. Initially, Doris found it very difficult to adjust to being surrounded by other houses in close proximity after living in the countryside with wide open views.

In early 1990, Albert became ill and Doris had a difficult 5 years caring for him. After Albert died, Doris busied herself with crafts and gardening and enjoyed the challenge and pleasure of being a member of the Embroiders' Guild. She volunteered at the local primary school where she ran the after-school Arts and Crafts club, something which gave her a great deal of pleasure and which she did not retire from until she was 81. She helped the school create an embroidery which still hangs in St Mary's church.

In 2011, Doris was confirmed in St Mary's Sundridge by the Bishop of Rochester, and she continued to worship regularly. A deterioration in her health made it necessary for Doris to move to a care home in Snodland where she lived for the last two and a half years of her life. Doris felt secure in her new surroundings and was happy. Her family would like to thank her many kind friends and neighbours, who were a great help to Doris in later years, and many others who were long-standing friends.

## Ride and Stride for churches

Well, to be more accurate, it was 'Drove' and 'Strode' as we set out to visit the 14 historic Romney Marsh churches, a long-standing desire of my husband.

We began with St. Augustine at Snave, a redundant church found at the end of a grassy lane between what seemed to be the only two houses in the village. Sadly it was locked, but I gather it is well worth a visit, especially in the spring time when the approach to the church is through an avenue of daffodils.

Next on our list was St. George's at Ivychurch. Built under the patronage of the Archbishops of Canterbury, this is an exceptionally large parish church - reflecting the prestige of the Archbishops rather than the size of the parish, which has always been small. Wedding preparations were well under way and, as the guests began to arrive, so we departed.

St Dunstan's at Snargate was next, where we were offered a very welcome cup of tea. On one of the walls there remains a painting of a ship dated 1500, a reminder of the nearby shipbuilding yards that existed at that time. Over our cup of tea, we chatted to a couple who had got married in St Mary's Sundridge in 1987—small world!

We next visited St Eanswith at Brenzett. This is one of the smallest churches on Romney Marsh. It is dedicated to a 7th Century princess who founded a nunnery at Folkestone in 630. It was certainly the most welcoming out of all of the churches and served the best home-made bread pudding that I've ever tasted. Every 'Rider



*St Eanswith at Brenzett*

and Strider' stops at this church for its renowned 'fuel'.

Our next stop took us to St Thomas Beckett—Fairfield. This is the most iconic of all the churches on Romney Marsh. This tiny building dates back to the late 12th century. It sits isolated in fields with cut-through dykes and grazed by sheep and is approached by a long footpath. On a beautiful day with a blue sky and stunning cloud formations it was sublime. We ate our packed lunch sitting on a bench, in the sun, lost in our thoughts .



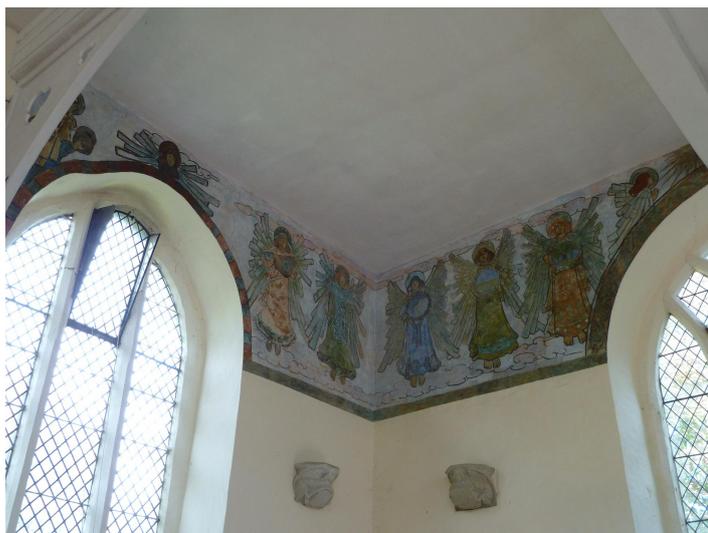
*St Thomas Beckett Fairfield*

After a leisurely walk back across the field we drove to St. Augustine's at Brookland. This church is famous for its detached wooden bell-tower that stands in front of the church.



*St. Augustine's at Brookland*

On to a different county—Sussex to see St Mary's in East Guldford. This is the only one of the Marsh churches in



*St Mary's in East Guldford*

Sussex. The interior is dominated by a striking late 19th century painted frieze of angels illustrating the Six Days of Creation. I noted as I signed in that only one other person had visited this church that day. I wondered why. Next we had a long drive through Camber to Lydd and All Saints. This massive church, is apparently the longest parish church in Kent and its 15th century tower is one of the tallest towers in the county with a height of 132 feet.

On to Old Romney and St Clement which unfortunately was locked. A great pity as I wanted to see the box pews as they had been painted pink following a request from a film company making a film based on the smuggling adventure of 'Dr. Syn'. The film director Derek Jarman is buried in the churchyard.

From Old Romney to New Romney and St Nicholas. There was the tail-end of a ploughman's lunch party in evidence, so I got my form signed and bid a hasty retreat to St Mary in the Marsh. This was a most tranquil church and very picturesque. In the churchyard, simple wooden posts and a rail mark the grave of E. Nesbit, the author of *The Railway Children*.

From New Romney we went to St Peter and St Paul at Dymchurch. In the churchyard are a number of smugglers' graves decorated with the skull and cross bones.

Our penultimate church took us to Burmarsh and All Saints. Two of the medieval bells dating from around 1375 are still in use.

Our last church was St Peter and St Paul at Newchurch. This large church is famous for its bent tower. The first two stages of the tower built in the 15th century began to lean alarmingly and were buttressed to prevent the tower collapsing. Many years later, the final stage was added in an upright position, giving the tower its characteristic bent shape.

Looking at the Historic Romney Marsh Trust website, I see that they have been conducting guided tours of the churches of Romney Marsh since it was founded in 1982. I think it would be an ideal outing for the 'Friends' as the numbers would have to be between 30 and 50. It is usually an all day event, normally seeing four churches, with a pub lunch and an excellent W.I. tea. Sign me up!!



*Thought for the month . . . .*

**“The most wasted of all days is one without laughter”.**

e e cummings