

The Sundridge Village News

October 2019



In this issue we bring you the highs and the lows - pictures from the roof at Rochester Cathedral and an update on the WaterLoo project here at St Mary's, news from Sundridge & Brasted school, pleas for jam-making, diary dates to suit all tastes, plus our regular list of church services and an update on the recent Gift Day for the Parish.

Gift Day in the Parish

What a glorious sunny day heralded the beginning of our Parish Gift Day! As the morning warmed up and the sun crept round the church, it was a joy just to sit in the beautiful churchyard welcoming walkers, parishioners, visitors and dogs. To those who came to see the Spire and Bells exhibition, those who chatted and asked us what we were doing, and to those who gave, not just money, but offered their 'gifts' of time, thank you very much. Our Treasurer Maria has informed us that, to date, the PCC has received £3,491 in donations and she will be able to claim gift aid at the end of the year on just over £3,000, which will give the PCC a further £750+.



Parish Services for October 2019

		Sunday 6th			Sunday 20th
09.15	Toys Hill	Holy Communion BCP	08.00	Ide Hill	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion	10.30	Sundridge	Morning Worship
		Sunday 13th			Sunday 27th
08.00	Sundridge	Holy Communion BCP	08.00	Sundridge	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Ide Hill	All Age Worship	10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion

Parish Services for November 2019

		Sunday 3rd All Saints Day			Sunday 10th
09.15	Toys Hill	Holy Communion BCP	10.30	Sundridge	Remembrance Service
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion	10.50	Ide Hill	Remembrance Service

Rector

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

Churchwardens

Sundridge

Althea Chapman
 althea.chapman@outlook.com

Sundridge

Barbara Lockey
 hixmix@btopenworld.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!

Friends Of St Mary's Sundridge - Update on Project WaterLoo

The Friends of St Mary's are very pleased to have been able to provide more than a quarter of the funding for Project WaterLoo, due almost entirely to the three hugely successful John Rutter Sing Days organised by Richard and Sally Dunkley over the past six years.

Under the chairmanship of Jane Belle, the PCC Fabric Committee has worked very hard to make sure that the work is completed well before the winter months begin as some work to re-route heating pipes has been necessary. The work has been quite demanding in that a good deal of ground work was required to facilitate the installation of a cesspit and internally the floor has had to be lowered to provide level access to the toilet area. The

Committee is anticipating that the toilet facility will be completed by the end of October.

In order to progress further with plans already approved by the Diocese to install a tea point and other work to create a community space, we are now embarking on a further round of fund-raising. Contributions would be gratefully received for the improvement of the fabric of the building and any ideas for fund-raising initiatives would be extremely welcome. In a future edition of the Village News we will update you with photographs of the soon-to-be completed project.

Kenneth Ludlam

Chairman, The Friends of St. Mary's Sundridge

Sundridge Primary School

Welcome back to another academic year at Sundridge and Brasted. We welcomed 15 new children into Reception this year and another 9 children across the other year groups. The children have settled in extremely well and we look forward to reporting on another action-packed year. The term also saw a new after-school club start, namely boxing, to join the vast array of activities on offer for the children, including the return of Judo and Dance clubs. Once again we aim to provide many sporting and out-of-the-class opportunities for learning this year, so watch this space.

Our Year 6 children joined in with St Mary's Heritage Day last week and were given a demonstration and talk on bell ringing which they all found fascinating and asked some interesting questions. The video cam showing the bells whilst they were being rung was particularly fascinating. We are grateful to Rev Pam and her team's support in inviting us to participate in the afternoon and for making us so welcome.



In addition, two of our new sports leaders have already attended a masterclass at Sevenoaks School and learnt about leading inter-house competitions, how to be engaged in sports safely and how to help the smaller children. We are also delighted to advise that 2 of our Year 6 children successfully completed their level one sailing proficiency after a 6-week course at the end of last academic year.

This year we hope to be more involved in the local community and, with that in mind, we hope to partner up with local organisations. We would welcome any ideas to this effect, such as a local nursing home or similar. I look forward to keeping you informed about life at the school this year.

Kind regards,

Anil Gaiind Headteacher



DING DONG!



Following the successful afternoon when Year 6 pupils from both Primary Schools visited the tower at St Mary's to find out how the church bells are rung, it was then the turn of the adults in the evening to try their hand at this ancient art. This was a great success, ably helped by a superb article penned by Bob Ogle in 'The Chronicle' promoting it. Another piece of Ogle's good fortune was finding the video of the bells being dis-mounted, repaired and returned, following their journey to the famous Whitechapel Foundry. Apparently the video was found at the bottom of Bob's drawer under a cricket jumper! The video was shown during the evening and provided a wonderful trip down memory lane for some and a revelation to others.



Christmas Tree Festival at Ide Hill Church

Plans are well under way for this very first Christmas Tree Festival being held over the weekend of 30th November - 1st December. Invitations have been sent out to local organisations inviting them to use their creative talents to decorate the trees. The Committee is asking that the decorations reflect the particular organisation that the groups will be representing, which should make for quite a display. On Saturday 30th November there will be a 'Musical Evening' with a Christmas theme. Tickets are £10 to include refreshments and will be on sale at the Ide Hill Community Shop or from any of the Churchwardens. Don't forget that the trees will be auctioned off at the end of the evening and all proceeds will go towards the upkeep of our wonderful churches.

John Rutter Come and Sing day

Saturday, 14th September 2019, what a wonderful day. John was on magnificent form and an inspiration to all. Sometimes the music was a challenge but always a pleasure and because of John's leadership the choir managed to make each piece sound brilliant. It was a day of singing that helped each individual singer progress and yet was such immense fun, should we call it the Rutter effect?

The expression on the faces of the singers left no doubt that everyone was having a great time thoroughly enjoying a full day of singing under John's masterful stewardship and in the company of really lovely people. There were times when it was hard for the choir to produce the sound that John wanted but worth every second and every ounce of effort. Throughout the day there was visible joy on the faces of the singers as they heard themselves perform such a variety of work to such a standard. It was a privilege and a great pleasure to be part of the day.



The Friends received many letters and emails praising John and saying how much they had enjoyed the day.

Just to say this was one of the highlights of my singing experience so far. The repertoire was extensive and just the right amount of challenge. The sound was marvellous in St Nicholas Church and everything was so well organised. John took us through with great humour and generosity - what an inspirational and lovely man he is. I loved the experience of being guided through the beautiful music which he had composed/arranged/curated. He seemed to bring out the best in our voices with very little rehearsal and I feel much more confident in sight reading after the practice. I cannot wait to do it all again please.

I am immensely grateful to John Rutter and to all those that helped on the day and without whom it would not have been possible. It was a superb day for the singers and for the Friends, we raised over £9,000 which allows us to continue to support St Mary's Church, Sundridge.

Craft Fair at Ide Hill Village Hall

Following the success of the Christmas Craft Fair last November, there will be another one on Saturday 30th November in Ide Hill Village Hall.

The church will be have a stall selling cakes, preserves, jellies, jams and chutneys. Proceeds from this will support the Parish of Sundridge, with Ide Hill with Toys Hill. So if you are making anything in a jar this autumn, could you please make some extra and put aside for the sale?

For more details please contact me on dipickard2@aol.com
Thank you, Diana Pickard

From the Top of the Roof

We climbed until we came out on to the roof overlooking the River Medway and an ex-USSR submarine parked somewhat incongruously on it (river, not roof). Stone turrets and the warm honey-coloured stone of the spire soared above us. This was a tour of the roofs of Rochester Cathedral, led by its Architect and Fount of All Knowledge, John Bailey.



As one who had come to a fear of heights quite late in life (yes, I blame my parents for a clamber over some massive boulders!), I had been wondering whether this would be a sensible excursion. It was. With no nightmares of hanging in space, it was an enormously interesting and



enjoyable visit. We stooped underneath huge beams supporting the belfry which had to be imported from Scandinavia since we'd run out of them ourselves - too many ships-of-the-line over the centuries - and found ourselves finally inside the bell ringing chamber just as the massive clock beside us peeled three o'clock.



It is very unusual for a county to have more than one cathedral in it but Kent, of course, is blessed with two. Though, as John was keen to explain, not everybody has always felt blessed and the rivalry between Canterbury and Rochester has over the centuries frequently led to animosity, not to speak of feuding.



Gundulf (c. 1024 - 1108, and therefore of a ripe old age when he died) was a Norman monk who came over to England following the Conquest in 1066. A friend of the newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, Lanfranc, he was appointed Bishop of Rochester in 1077 and began reconstruction work on the cathedral shortly afterwards. He was described as “competent and skilled at building in stone” and was asked by William to oversee the construction of the White Tower, the Keep of the Tower of London, then the castle at Colchester and also the St Leonard’s Tower at Malling Abbey.

Gundulf is recognised as the first King’s Engineer and therefore as the “father of the Corps of Royal Engineers”, military engineers of the British Army. With the Royal School of Military Engineering being situated nearby in Chatham, the links between the Corps of Royal Engineers and Rochester Cathedral remain strong to this day.

ARC

Toys Hill Archive Exhibition - Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th November

Toys Hill Village Hall is pleased to open its history archive in November for a weekend intended to appeal both to local people and to those from further afield. Toys Hill and its historic Village Hall have strong links to Octavia Hill, the early days of the National Trust, Chartwell and other local estates. The archive of documents and photographs illustrates the changing character of village life and agriculture since the end of the 19th Century.

The Toys Hill Village Hall will be open from 11.00am to 4.00pm on both days.

Free admission. Everyone welcome.

Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society

Where would anyone expect the most unlikely area at Penshurst Place for snow to settle in a cold winter to be? Several years ago, during a winter snowstorm, this happened in the Baron's Hall, not the warmest room at the best of times and aided by gaps in the clinker roof and a strong wind. The room was actually being set up for a wedding reception. The look was quite favourable and the bride, while inspecting the room prior to her wedding, was impressed.

A brilliant and beautifully illustrated talk was given to us recently by Tony Wiseman, the Head Gardener at Penshurst. We were shown pictures taken over a few years of the planting of fabulous displays, a memorable one being the very long peony border. A visit every couple of weeks looks like a good idea to keep up with the changing scene.



The talk included pictures of the six full-time gardeners and two part-timers hard at work on their respective specialist interests. Any members not hearing this talk missed out on a very entertaining evening. We were pleased to welcome so many of the Ide Hill Gardening Society who joined us.

Community Payback

We have successfully negotiated another contract with the Community Payback team and our churchyard is already looking better after just one session. Although we have some wonderful volunteers and a regular contractor who keep the churchyard in very good condition, other areas of the churchyard can become overlooked and in need of attention. The team has chopped down a lot of undergrowth around the Cedar of Lebanon tree which shields the church from the prevailing westerlies that we get, but also has tackled the rather unpleasant dirty job of cleaning out the gulleys round the perimeter of the church. Community Payback allows the offender to avoid incurring a criminal record and is used to deal with a range of low-level offences. They are supervised at all times. St Mary's is pleased to welcome and engage with them.

Save the Date

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th November

Archive weekend, 11am - 4pm Toys Hill Village Hall

30th November Christmas Craft Fair

Ide Hill Village Hall

Weekend of 30th November to 1st December

Christmas Tree Festival and Concert in Ide Hill church

On Wednesday 9th October at 8 pm, as guests of the Ide Hill Gardening society, at Ide Hill we are having a talk



on "Taking Cuttings" by Tessa Allen. Do please join us. As usual, transport can be arranged.

A gardening tip for this time of the year is to prune our roses and many other plants and I am sure the talk at Ide



Hill will cover this in detail. Thought should also be given to planning and purchasing next year's spring bulbs. See you all next month! *Mary Walford*

The Memorial Garden

We are very fortunate that someone has volunteered to look after the Memorial Garden in Sundridge. One request please, absolutely no glass jars to be used at all. These have been used in the past, but it does pose a problem when they are left empty in high winds as they break easily and are a danger to dogs and humans!

October dates for your Diary

Saturday 5th Murder Mystery at The White Horse

From 7.30pm (see article)

Wednesday 9th "Taking Cuttings" Hall 8.00pm.

08.00pm Ide Hill Village Hall, joint meeting with Ide Hill Gardening Society

Thursday 10th Mobile Library

10.30 - 11.00 Chapmans Close Sundridge

Saturday 12th St Martin's Church, Brasted

7.30pm The Croydon Male Voice Choir

tickets: stmartinsbrastedheritagetrust@gmail.com
or call 07920 488716

Thursday 24th Mobile Library

10.30 - 11.00 Chapmans Close Sundridge

Fundridge Sundridge

Seniors Afternoon Tea Dance

The Seniors Tea dance took place on Saturday 21st September at Sundridge Village hall. There was afternoon tea and cake, as well as an exhibition of ballroom dancing and music from 50's and 60's. The Rector Pam and her husband Trevor got up and joined in the fun, dancing to a couple songs as well. A great afternoon for all. Look out for our Seniors Christmas dinner in December.

Murder Mystery

Fundridge Sundridge and The Stag Theatre Company invites you to a... Murder mystery: Lottery of Death

Saturday 5th October at 7pm at the White Horse. Guests will watch the performance from The Stag Theatre Company, be given clues and then have to decide "who did it"! Tickets in advance only. We have limited spaces so get in early. £25 per ticket which includes entertainment and 2 course meal. To book your space contact:
John Banbrook 07710 692368
Fiona Parkin 07722 150227



If you'd like to stay up-to-date with Fundridge events then please let one of the team have your email address or follow us on Facebook.

The Fundridge Sundridge Team

A group of villagers who believe in "Friendship, a better community and bringing neighbours together."

John Banbrook - 07710692368

Vicki Banbrook - 07909696856

Fiona Parkin - 07722150227

Ali MacMillian - 07803701397

Vikki Allgood - 07883034321

Kate Henry - 07973734037

The November edition

If you have any information for the "Dates for your Diary" section or an article that you'd like included in the November edition please email by Monday 21st October 2019 to:-

sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

The Knife Angel

The Knife Angel is recognised as the National Monument against violence and aggression. It has been on display in Rochester Cathedral's gardens all month and has been the focal point of education and reflection, remembrance and prayer in Medway, as it provides a powerful visual symbol of the dangers of carrying a knife. When I visited Rochester and saw this powerful piece of sculpture it was on a grim day, which was rather fitting.



In collaboration with the Home Office, all 43 UK police constabularies, families of victims and the British IronWork Centre, this awe-inspiring piece, standing 27 feet tall, is created from over 100,000 blunted and seized blades. Thirty percent of the knives used in the sculpture were bloodied on arrival and came in biohazard bags.



It was created by artist Alfie Bradley, a victim of knife crime himself, at the British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry, Shropshire. It was unveiled in 2017 and has been displayed in many cities across England. Messages from families of the victims of knife crime have been engraved on the sculpture's wings.



There is a campaign underway to have the finished sculpture installed at Trafalgar Square.

Ride and Stride

The event took place on September 12th with beautiful dry and windless conditions for the annual Ride and Stride occasion, ideal for cyclists and walkers alike.

Although riders and walkers were reduced in number from previous years, many churches were visited and our route included Westerham, Knockholt, Shoreham, Otford, Sevenoaks, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, returning via Langton Green, Speldhurst, Fordcombe, Penshurst and Chiddingstone. In Chiddingstone we were greeted by Rev Bill Macdougall personally, along with grandchild, who some will remember as helping us with our services during Pam's period of sickness.

The net total was 45 Churches and about 55 Kms, and I am delighted to be able to report a sum in excess of £1,000.00 was raised due to many generous sponsors and supporters.

Hopefully there will be more partakers next year as this is such a worthwhile cause raising funds for the churches in Kent collectively, with half the sum being returned directly to our Parish.

Dr Neil D Arnott, Churchwarden St Marys Ide Hill

And finally . . .

The Vicar of a Surrey parish noticed that some gypsies had left a dead donkey in a field near his church and he rang the local council to report the matter.

The official there said waggishly that his understanding was that it was the duty of the Vicar to bury the dead.

"That's as maybe", replied the Vicar, "but I thought the least I could do was to inform the next of kin!"