

# The Sundridge Village News

## September 2019



In this issue we offer you an opportunity to try your hand at bell ringing, exciting plans at Ide Hill church involving a first ever Christmas Tree Festival and a concert, an opportunity to become involved with saving the Fox and Hounds pub and an update on Project Waterloo!

### DING DONG!

An opportunity to try your hand at bell ringing. No upper age limit, you just require enough breath to climb the spiral staircase to the belfry. On Friday 20th September at St Mary's Sundridge between 6pm and 8pm the bell tower will be open for adults. Please contact Barbara Lockey to book a time slot if you are interested.

As part of Heritage England's Festival of History and Culture, there will be a small exhibition in the church featuring the history of the bells and the spire. The church will be open from Friday 13th September through to Sunday 22nd September between 10.00am and 5.00pm.

### A weekend not to be missed Saturday 30th November to Sunday 1st December

Ide Hill church is holding for the very first time a Christmas Tree Festival all weekend from 11am - 5pm. Come and see the beautifully decorated trees that have been sponsored by local organisations and kindly donated by the Ide Hill Gardening Society. On Saturday evening there will be a 'Musical Evening' showcasing local talent. Tickets are £10.00 and include refreshments. Tickets will be available from the beginning of October at the Ide Hill Shop, at any church service, or please ask any of the churchwardens. At the end of the concert, the Christmas trees will be auctioned off and all proceeds will go towards the upkeep of our wonderful churches.

### Memorial Garden

There are many kind people who help in the Church, both inside and out, by taking on a variety of jobs from cleaning the brasses to cleaning the church, flower arranging, taking on an area of the churchyard to keep it looking tidy - and many more. Some of these kind people attend church, some don't, but they all have one thing in common - the love of the church. With this in mind, would anyone like to take on the job of looking after the Memorial Garden? No mowing is needed as Paul, our contractor, does a brilliant job, but what is required is someone with an hour to spare once a fortnight to take away the dead flowers from the tablets and generally keep the area tidy. Visitors are very prompt in bringing flowers on anniversaries, but less so in taking them away after they have withered and died. Please have a word with the Wardens if you feel you can take on this task.



### Parish Services for September 2019

**Sunday 1st Trinity 11**  
09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion BCP  
10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

**Sunday 8th Trinity 12**  
08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP  
10.30 Ide Hill All Age Worship

**Sunday 29th Trinity 15**  
10.30 Ide Hill Morning Worship - Harvest Festival

**Sunday 15th Trinity 13**  
08.00 Ide Hill Holy Communion BCP  
10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship

**Sunday 22nd Trinity 14**  
08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP  
10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

#### Rector

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

#### Sundridge

Althea Chapman  
althea.chapman@outlook.com

#### Churchwardens

#### 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!*

## Project WaterLoo

It took the sinking of a submarine in the churchyard at St Mary's to reveal it.....



As Churchwarden, I'd been aware of a standing gravestone which had been, however, long buried beneath a purple-flowering rhododendron bush.

As you are no doubt aware, the plans for the installation of a toilet into the church - long envisioned, indeed over probably 40 years - are now taking physical



form and we are currently digging deep, not just into our pockets but also into the ground. So it was that, as the pit was being dug for the submerging of the cesspit tank (which looked remarkably like a sub), said rhododendron had to be taken out and there emerged into the daylight our headstone.

As far as pockets are concerned, we have had inestimable help from Ken and Nicki Ludlam who have sought grants from a number of organisations, including so far The Friends of Kent Churches, Ibstock Enover, The Garfield Weston Foundation and Allchurches Trust.

Funding has also been provided by the PCC and The Friends of St Mary's. Through the sheer commitment and hard work of Jane Belle and the Fabric Committee of St Mary's in the planning process, Project WaterLoo - as it has been named - is now fast becoming a reality.

The construction work is being carried out by a local firm from Tonbridge, Riverside Construction, which specialises in ecclesiastical buildings. Apart from the digging of the cesspit and all the attendant plumbing and wiring, this has also involved the lowering of the Victorian floor to enable access for all to the new facility.

*The inscription on the headstone reads as follows:*

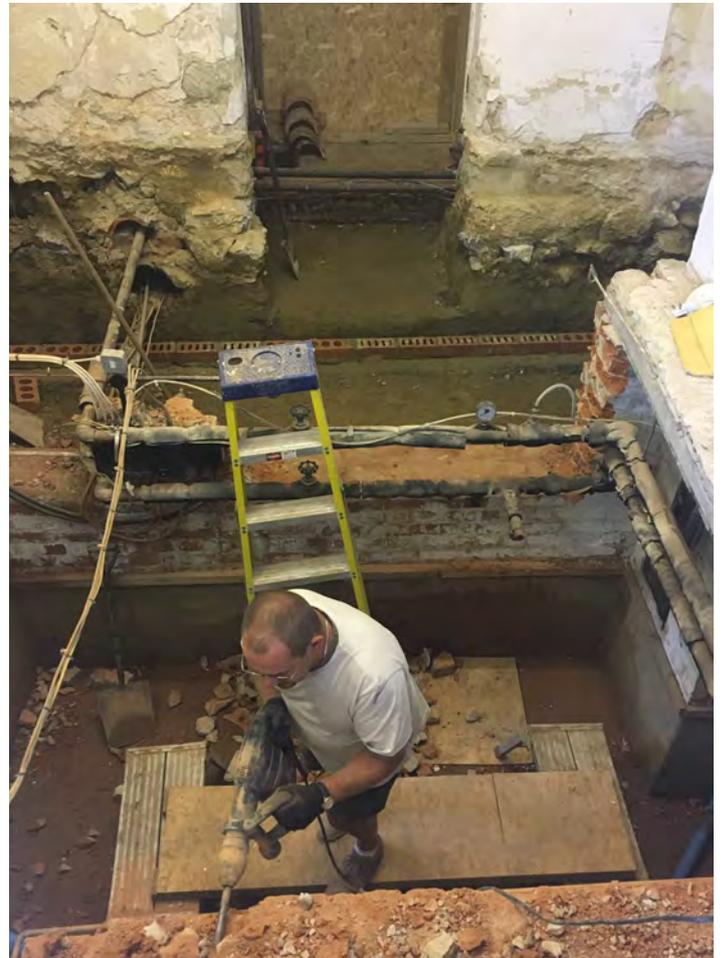
In Memory of  
FANNY

Wife of MICHAEL CLIFTON  
who died the 26th April 1824  
Aged 29 years

Here rests in death from pain and strife  
A faithful friend and prudent wife  
Who with affliction long was tried  
Then gently bowed her head and died.

Also the above Michael Clifton  
who died the 15th of March 1829  
Aged 45 years  
Much regarded by all his friends

We wonder who she was.  
ARC



## Sundridge Primary School

*As there is no school report from Sundridge & Brasted this month due to the summer holidays, I thought readers would like to hear about the school trip to the seaside in August 1894.*

The seaside is a pleasant change, and the Band of Hope Trip to Hastings, on July 20th, was popular. Miss Robinson and others helped to take care of the little ones, and Mr. Perry, with the men of the Choir, brought up the number to seventy-two all told. Eleven o'clock is the busy time on the beach. "Will you go for a sail?" is the invitation on one side, and "Have your likeness taken?" on the other, while bands, toys, sweets, curious pebbles and treasures of seaweed prevent anyone from being dull. From the very first the pennies began to appear, or rather

disappear into the chocolate machine at the station, and by evening there were many empty pockets. The sea was rather rough, but nothing short of a tempest would have prevented some of the boys from taking off their boots and paddling. One fell in, and had to be wrung out, but no one catches cold from salt water. A girl nearly missed her tea, and four of the party were only just in time for the train but "all's well that ends well", and at eight o'clock Brasted Station was reached once more.

## St Mary's Church, Sundridge – Flowers

Members of the Congregation and visitors to the church will know that building works are now in progress. Such works cause disruption and problems for the Flower Team providing fresh flowers regularly.

For the next few months there will be no fresh flowers in Church but artificial flowers will be provided. Special arrangements will be made for Heritage England week in September and for Harvest Festival in October.

I apologise for this and hope that everyone will understand that our small team has tried to carry on during the works, but I feel it is unfair to ask them to continue for the time being, particularly mid-week when the builders are there.

Beryl Norman

## For Sale

This is a unique opportunity to purchase 13 glass light shades and brass fittings from St Mary's Church Sundridge. Between 1923 - 1925, electric lighting was installed in the church and carried out by H. Brooker of Sevenoaks at a cost of £50. We believe they installed these light shades and brass fittings. They were replaced by the existing light fittings in October 1959.

If anyone is interested in purchasing these, please contact Barbara Lockey.

## Mark Nelson's ordination



I'm sure some of you will remember Mark Nelson. He was Head Gardener at Emmetts and was confirmed at St Mary's Ide Hill by the Bishop of Rochester in 2011. Jenny and Roger Flint attended a wonderful service where he was ordained as a Deacon by the Bishop of Buckingham in the Cathedral Church of Christ, Oxford. He is now a Curate in Winslow.

## The October edition

If you have any information for the "Dates for your Diary" section or an article that you'd like included in the October edition please email by Friday 20th September 2019 to:-  
[sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com)



## Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society

The very first event recorded by this Society was a Flower Show to be held in the grounds of Heverswood in Brasted on 26th July 1894. Is there anyone still a member who can recall visiting this event?

BACK TO 2019

As you are aware, this Society is currently in discussions with the Ide Hill Gardening Society with a view to amalgamation with them. You will all be kept informed of our plans. We are working out a suitable name for the new society. Any suggestions from our members would be welcome. We do need the name of the three villages to be used in the name.



In July, about 20 members and their guests thoroughly enjoyed a visit to the Hop Shop and Lavender Fields in Shoreham. Our guide took us to fields where there were several different varieties of lavender growing and she explained the differences of strength in the oil that was produced by each variety. Some of the lavender is dried and stored ready to be sold in the shop later. Our guide then took us to the distillery where we were shown how the newly-cut lavender was transformed into oil to be

used in the preparation of many different perfumes and healing balms. Our visit ended with a glass of apple juice (made from Norfolk apples grown on site) and a shortbread lavender biscuit. There was time for everyone to browse the shop and make purchases.

In August, due to a predicted very wet weather forecast, our visit to the gardens at Penshurst was postponed until the following week when the weather was ideal I believe



that all members joining us had a rather enjoyable afternoon and appreciated the lovely gardens.

The next meeting of this Society on Wednesday 11th September will be in Brasted and we will be given a talk by Tony Wiseman who is the new Head Gardener at Penshurst. The talk is called "Past, Present and Future". Do please come along to hear this very appropriate talk. Even if you did not join our outing to Penshurst you will certainly be wanting to go there.

Please continue to support our Committee. As usual, transport can be provided.

*Mary Walford*

### September dates for your Diary

#### **Saturday 7th Artspring Gallery reception**

Meet the Artists 2.00pm -5.00pm (see article)

#### **Thursday 14th Mobile Library**

10.30 - 11.00 Chapmans Close Sundridge

#### **Saturday 14th John Rutter 'Come and Sing' Day**

[Click here for more details](#)

#### **Saturday 14th Ride and Stride**

Ride + Stride sponsored bike ride (see article)

#### **Friday 20th Bell-Ringing Open Day**

St Mary's Sundridge 6.00pm - 8.00pm (see article)

#### **Saturday 21st Tea Dance**

Sundridge Village Hall 3.00pm (see article)

#### **Thursday 14th Mobile Library**

10.30 - 11.00 Chapmans Close Sundridge

### Bats must leave the belfry to fulfil their missionary role

I was reading an article in the "Church Times" recently, a little known top-shelf racy publication, that bats are poised to become a "tool for mission" for the Church of England.

Among the questions Bishops had been asked ahead of the General Synod in York was one about the nocturnal mammals' effects on belfries. At least 60 per cent of pre-16th century churches have bats. After a dramatic decline in numbers, they are protected by law and that is a quandary for churches with holes in their walls and doors. Sir Tony Baldry, chair of the Church Buildings Council, responded that there was an upside. "Bats might even prove to be a tool for mission, if we can get them to behave," he said. "We have to encourage them out of the belfry to roost in bat boxes in churchyards."

Children could then come to church to study the creatures and perhaps be converted, he explained.

Last year, the Rt Revd Graham James, former Bishop of Norwich, told the House of Lords that bats had moved into churches because so many barns were being converted into homes.

He liked the traditional deterrent of incense, "because I'm High Church and bats appear very Protestant".



## Fundridge Sundridge

### Cheese and Wine night

On 8th June we held another of our very popular Cheese and Wine nights. It was a sell-out event and a great evening. Six summer wines to try and then decide if Olly or Ian was telling the truth about what type of wine it was. There was also lots of yummy cheese to accompany. Keep an eye out for future cheese and wine nights.



### Beer Tasting

On 25th August we held our inaugural outdoor event, Beer Tasting on Coronation Gardens. £10 for a ticket bought you 6 x 1/2 pints of ale or lager to try. There were also wine and soft drinks available. The White Horse ran a BBQ on the Green serving some delicious local sausages. We added in some giant outdoor games to play with and, since the weather was kind, a wonderful sunny afternoon in the centre of the village was had by all.



### Afternoon Tea Dance

On 21st September we will be holding an afternoon Tea Dance for the Sundridge senior residents in the village hall. Afternoon tea will be provided and we have some professional dancers coming to perform. We can help with getting to the venue if needed. If you'd like to attend please call Alison or Fiona on 07803701397 or 07722150227 respectively.

### Murder Mystery

On 5th October we will be holding a Murder Mystery Evening at the White Horse pub. We have a local theatre group coming to perform and, as a team, you'll be given some clues and then have to try and solve who did it, with what and where. The event will include dinner. Further details to come.

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

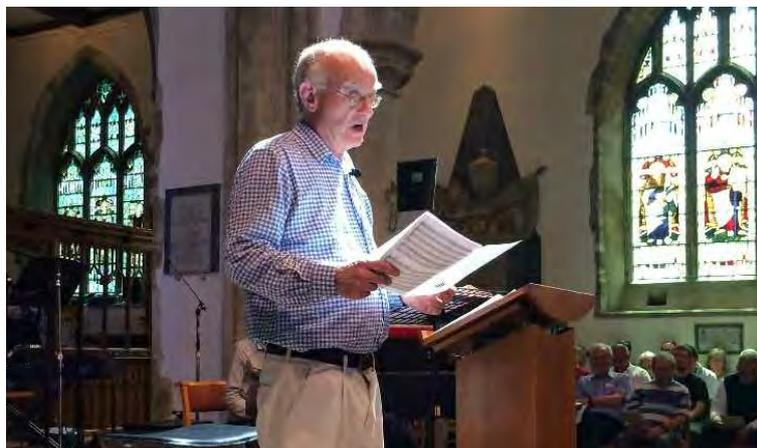
Fiona Parkin - 07722150227

Ali MacMillian - 07803701397

Vikki Allgood - 07883034321

Kate Henry - 07973734037

## Come and Sing with John Rutter Saturday 14th September 2019



*John Rutter conducting at the 2017 Sing Day held at St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks*

### St Nicholas Church Rectory Lane, Sevenoaks TN13 1JA

The Friends of St Mary's Sundridge are thrilled to be able to invite you to join us for a full day of singing under the direction of John Rutter, one of the world's most important living composers. We will sing sacred and secular music, some of John's recent compositions and his personal favourites. All abilities are welcome, no minimum standards or auditions! All scores for the day will be provided, an ability to read music would be an advantage but it is not a necessity.

The cost for the day is £20.00\*, the singing will start at 11.00am sharp and finish around 4.45pm. Admission is by ticket purchased in advance only, there will be no tickets for sale on the door. Places are strictly limited so apply early and do please tell your friends.

For further information and to book tickets go to our website:  
**[friendsofstmarys.co.uk](http://friendsofstmarys.co.uk)**

\*Booking fee applies

## The Fox & Hounds at Toys Hill

Campaigners have been working hard recently to save the Fox & Hounds pub. When Greene King's prospective sale fell through in mid-June, the group was delighted when it was unexpectedly granted the pub's listing as an Asset of Value to the Community. As a result, there is a moratorium on the sale of the pub to anyone other than a community group. At the moment there is much for the community group to consider.

In the meantime, if you feel you have valuable experience or skills in establishing an Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS), or would like to be added to the supporters' list, please contact:

Rachel Cooper: rach.coop57@gmail.com or

Fern Ogle: fernogley@frogletspublications.co.uk

Time is of the essence as the community group only has until mid-December to put forward a bid acceptable to Greene King.



## Sorry for Talking About Christmas in September!

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 running 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 summer or this autumn, could you please make some extra and put aside for the sale?

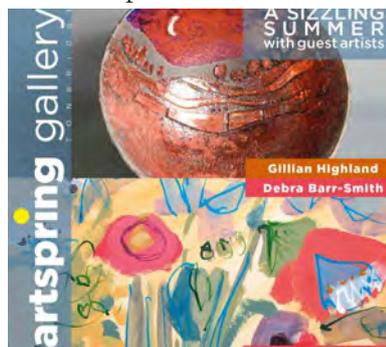
For more details please contact me on:-

dipickard2@aol.com

Thank you Diana Pickard

## Local artist exhibiting in Tonbridge

Debbie Barr Smith, a local artist, has been invited as a guest artist to display her paintings in a gallery in Tonbridge. Debbie tells me that her paintings will be prominently displayed not only in the gallery, but in the window as well! If you're passing by, do drop in. The gallery is called Artspring and is small, friendly and elegant. It opens Tuesday to Saturday from 10.30 to 5pm. There will be a reception on Saturday 7th September from 2 - 4pm when you can pop in to meet the artists over a glass of fizz. Sounds perfect to me.



## On Yer Bike!

What are you doing on Saturday 14th September this year? This is your chance to visit unique historic buildings, see beautiful countryside, get some exercise and have fun with your family and friends.

Ride + Stride is a sponsored bike ride in which people all over England walk or cycle between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside. The money they raise helps to save historic churches, chapels and meeting houses for future generations by helping to fund urgent repairs and the installation of modern facilities. Half of all the money raised comes back into our parish to help finance our repairs. Please do sign up for this, either by sponsoring or participating. *Forms and more information from Neil Arnott, Churchwarden at St Mary's Ide Hill telephone 01732 750221.*



## Save the Date

**5th October Murder Mystery**

White Horse pub, see Fundridge article

**30th November Christmas Craft Fair**

Ide Hill Village Hall details next month

**Weekend of 30th November to 1st December**

Christmas Tree Festival and Concert in Ide Hill church

## And finally . . .

Found in a copy of the 'Parish News' dated October 1993

The Preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board at the Church!