

The Sundridge Village News

September 2020



In this issue we bring you a warm welcome to St Mary's Church Sundridge as we endeavour to provide a weekly service, a few dates for your empty diary, an update from the newly formed Gardening Society, a round-up of the school year from Sundridge and Brasted and details of a Family Fun Day taking place on Coronation Gardens.

Friday Prayers

The ever-resourceful Friday Prayer Group was determined to keep praying during lockdown, so looked at ways of keeping the group together. Some had the zoom app, others didn't, email was considered but dismissed, a WhatsApp method of communicating seemed to be the preferred option, so a group was formed at the end of March. We wrote our prayers on Thursdays and with the press of a button they 'pinged' into the group's phones. We continued to pray this way until the Government rules changed to allow the group to meet outdoors to pray at a distance.

Our first WhatsApp prayers were primarily for the health workers, key workers, the recently bereaved, people struggling financially and our friends and family. Finding prayer a challenge, I drew little stick men of all the members of the prayer group and arranged the pieces of paper in a circle - thus replicating our group - it made it more real.

As the weeks continued, someone would offer a bible reading or a psalm or a hymn. We prayed together through the latter half of Lent, on Good Friday and through the additional 3 weeks of lockdown imposed in April. Our prayer focus changed as we began praying for the government, for those who were isolated, for those in care homes, our Community Support Group and our Community shop. In early May we prayed for the 75th anniversary celebrations commemorating the end of the Second World War in Europe.

As restrictions were lifted, we met outside to pray and, yes, we prayed in howling winds, gentle rain and glorious sunshine. We prayed through glorious sounds of bird song, the scraping of breakfast bowls, morning conversation and laughter. Normal everyday sounds in an un-normal world.

A member of the Prayer Group



A Masking Prayer

@RevCBeckett

Lord as I put on my mask, let it be a filter
For my words to pass through as well as my breathing.
Let through only those words which are helpful breathings of love
and stop those things in my speech that will be harmful to others.
Protect me also, O Lord, from the harmful things others may say to me.
Help me to realise that I may be a carrier of bitterness,
thoughtlessness, judgement and prejudice without realising,
and that some people are more word-vulnerable than others.
Give me grace to love those who cannot or will not filter to protect others
and special grace to them, because they go through the world unprotected.
Help me to be prepared to adapt and be brave and transparent
so that all may have chance to hear.
Lord, be a mask to my mouth
and pin my ears forward for listening.
Amen.

Parish Services for September 2020

Sunday 6th

10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship
Led by Angela Baker and Ruth Barrow

Sunday 13th

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
Led by Lynette Leithead

Sunday 20th

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
Led by Lynette Leithead

Sunday 27th

10.30 Sundridge Harvest Praise
Led by Angela Baker and Ruth Barrow, children welcome

Rector

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

Churchwardens

Sundridge

Althea Chapman
althea.chapman@outlook.com

Sundridge

Barbara Lockey
hixmix@bopenworld.com
01959 564249

Ide Hill

Neil Arnott
neil.d.arnott@gmail.com
01732 750 221

Alleluia!

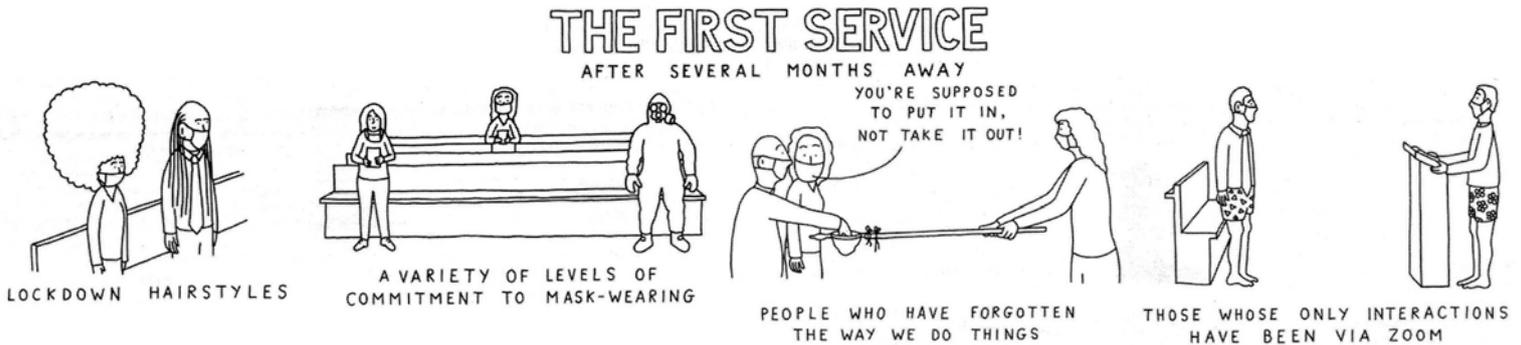
The return of a congregation in St Mary's Sundridge on July 26th, albeit under strict Covid rules, was warmly welcomed. Hand sanitisers, a one-way traffic system and rather a lot of signage greeted the congregation for the first service of Holy Communion in Sundridge church for 18 weeks.

An enormous amount of work by a small but dedicated few had ensured that St Mary's Sundridge was compliant both with the Government and the Church of England regulations prior to the service taking place. All the seat cushions, kneelers and pew Bibles had to be removed and stored, notices laminated, hand sanitiser bought together with a supply of face masks. Much thought was given to

how one could implement a one-way system after receiving Communion. This was solved by exiting through the Lady Chapel, thus providing a tour of the church!

The Rev Lynette Leithead took the service, with Rev Pam leading a Morning Worship service via zoom for those people who were still shielding. We are still working out the logistics of making people feel safe in St Mary's Ide Hill, but are hopeful that a Morning Service may be allowed to take place there very soon. However, Ide Hill church is open for private prayer every Monday and Thursday.

We are immensely grateful to Lynette, Angela and Ruth for offering to take our services.



A new carpet for the Tower Room, St Mary's

After many years of heavy usage, Isabelle Vaughan's lovely carpet in the Tower Room eventually gave up the ghost and, for safety's sake, had to go. So we were left with the bare stones and a slightly chilly welcome to the church.

We think that it finally expired of rot because of the damp in the Tower Room. This problem has, however, been greatly alleviated by Dean Gregory's initial clearing of the gullies round the south west side of the church which The Boys – at least until this year – have continued to keep clear.

It was time to search for a replacement. Quite a large carpet required, also one of a density sufficient for a public footfall. One in keeping with a church and, preferably, as close as possible in colouring to its predecessor.

Several of us have been keeping a beady eye open over the past two or three years, visiting sales and so on, until one particular keen eye spotted a possibility on-line a few weeks ago. It was an Afghan carpet of pure wool – it would have to be of a natural fibre so that it didn't draw up moisture – and looked an ideal replacement, not least in colour and design. But how thick was it? And how close to the colours in the photo was it? Basically, how much could we trust its on-line description?

Well, we took a punt on it and a brave personage agreed to bid on-line for it on our behalf. Bad enough if you're doing it for yourself – how much more nerve-racking if you're doing it for others, and with their money? The auction lasted seven days. Three days before its end, our noble personage raised the bid to find out how determined the opposition was. The opposition was, indeed, determined. So he put in a final bid 5 seconds before the auction closed. And the carpet was ours!

On unpacking the newcomer in the Tower Room, it

looked to an observer (who doesn't "do" pink) that it was becoming pinker by the minute (so she squawked). But, once finally unfurled, it was as red as any royal carpet and as glorious as one. It was also a great deal denser and thicker than we'd dared to hope for.

We are immensely grateful to the eagle-eyed initial spotter, to the brave bidder, to the Heavy Gang who heaved it into the Tower Room (and who heaved the old rolled-up one out) and, of course, very much to the Friends of St Mary's who paid for it. A photo of it in its new abode was sent to the seller who wrote back that she was very happy to see it looking so stunning there!

The industry of carpet-weaving in Afghanistan is an ancient one and the export of its carpets still a major part of the country's economy. They are best known for their deep red colour and the patterns are handed down from one generation to another. Legend has it that, when Alexander the Great arrived in Afghanistan, he sent back a carpet to his mum in Macedonia. One wonders how long it took to arrive.....



Flowers on the Doors Festival 2020



The Flowers on the Doors Festival was conceived as a result of Covid-19. The lack of the wonderful flowers displayed each year in Ide Hill Church at the time of the Village Fete and which are enjoyed by so many inspired the idea of a virtual festival. People from the villages were encouraged to make a display for their door, gate or for anywhere that could be seen from outside the house. Photographs of their displays could be viewed on the web. The challenge was enthusiastically taken up by many in Sundridge, Ide Hill, Goathurst Common and Toys Hill and resulted in truly magnificent and very varied displays in all the villages. A web site showed where to find the displays and several visitors to the villages used the postcodes to enjoy a floral tour. Many people, those who made the displays and those who visited them said they had hugely enjoyed an event that allowed so many people to participate, especially during these difficult times. The Festival was supported by the Friends of St Mary's who supplied the website and took care of the finances so there were no costs, except the credit card fees. The exceptionally generous donations total over £1,200.00 and will be divided as 50% to the NHS and 25% each to the benefit of St Mary's Ide Hill and St Mary's Sundridge. To everyone who joined in by displaying flowers, helping with the organisation and especially those who donated so generously, thank you for all your kindness, it is so very much appreciated.



Just a few of the wonderful displays. More to see at friendsofstmarys.co.uk/flowers-on-the-doors-gallery

Greetings from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School!

We are writing this article as the academic year draws to an end and what a strange and challenging year it has been. It started as all others do with welcoming new families to our school community, settling everyone back from their holidays and moving forwards with the year. Our Christmas events took place as usual, forest school was sometimes wet, sometimes windy and sometimes sunny but much enjoyed by every year group. Extra curricular events were plentiful and then.....lockdown.

We stayed open for key worker families and learnt, along with all other schools, children and parents, how to deal with home learning. Thanks to our phenomenal staff team and wonderful parents we have made it through the most challenging months in recent history. The children have produced lots of excellent work and taken the opportunity to be creative and learn new skills such as cooking, carpentry and riding bikes without stabilisers. In addition to the work set for home learning, we set daily challenges throughout the weeks to help parents and children come up with different activities, using the environment and resources around them, and the staff have been on hand the whole time, supporting parents by phone and emails, lending out IT and delivering work

books. We are immensely grateful to Mr and Mrs Jack for the extended use of their grounds during this period and to those in the village who have kindly donated books to help our parents.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to our Year 6 children without the usual leavers' events and celebrations but we are holding a social distant picnic for them all so that they at least have the opportunity to say goodbye to each other. We wish them all well for September and hope they enjoy every success at their new schools.

Looking forward, we hope that all children will be in school in September and we are optimistic that, although the daily schedule may have to be adjusted to suit Government guidance, we will welcome our new families and move onwards with delivering excellent learning for the whole school on site. No doubt there will be additional challenges but we are positive that with the support of the staff, children and families school life will return to something resembling normality.

As always, we are grateful to everyone in the Sundridge community for their help and support and we wish you all well.

Letter from the Gardening Society Committee

This has not been the summer that was envisaged when the programme was planned for 2020, with meetings and outings cancelled since March due to COVID-19. Now, with a series of autumn meetings planned, the Committee has reluctantly taken the decision to cancel all meetings for the remainder of the year. This is due to the difficulties of social distancing and the deep cleaning of our two village halls that would be required. However, many of our speakers have agreed to come next year instead when we hope to be able to resume our activities.

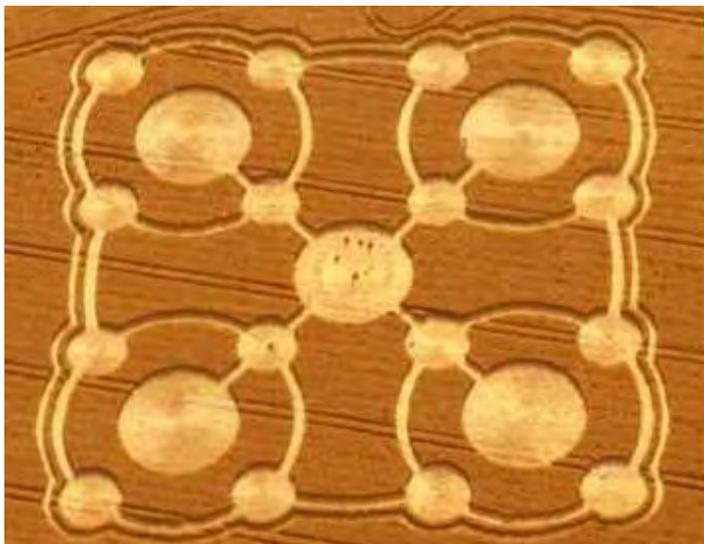
I am sure many members have spent a lot of time in their gardens over the past few months. Certainly the Garden Centres were very busy when they reopened with people buying bedding plants and compost. In April, many of us were grateful to Emma, her staff and her team of volunteers at Sevenoaks Garden Centre, Sundridge,

as all trolleys were sanitised and a one-way system thoughtfully provided.

We look forward to a happier 2021, when we can all meet up again safely.

Beryl Norman

Secretary, Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society



The talks that will hopefully be carried over into next year's programme will be talks by Andy Thomas and Jean Griffin. Andy began investigating crop circles in 1991. The origins of crop circles have never been nailed though there have been plenty of theories about their origins. Jean Griffin is a garden expert and is regularly heard on 'Sunday Gardening' on Radio Kent. She currently works at Hadlow College and, in her own words, is a 'plant-a-holic' with a plant-packed garden and two allotments!

Editor

Family Fun Day – Saturday 19th September from 2pm



Join the Countryside Clean-up

19-20 September 2020

The Community Group and Fundridge are working hard within government Covid guidelines to run a Family Fun Day on Saturday 19th September. The Parish Council is leading a litter-pick as part of the 'Countryside Clean-up' initiative and is asking for an army of litter heroes to start the fight-back against the rubbish blighting our villages and countryside. All equipment for collecting the rubbish, including hi-vis vests, will be supplied. Each

team will be given an area to litter-pick and teams should arrive at 2pm at the White Horse. There will be a sweet incentive for the children (after they've produced their bag of litter!)

Following the litter-pick, do visit Coronation Gardens where there will be a bar, BBQ, ice creams, craft and family fun stalls as well as the Fundridge 'Annual Duck Race'.

Please come along and join in the fun!

Permanent memorial to canine POW

Quite by chance I picked up a copy of 'The Times' recently and came across this article which ties in rather well with the VJ Day 'Judy the Dog' piece that appeared in the July/August edition of the SVN.

An English pointer that became the first dog to be registered as a prisoner of war has been selected by the Royal Navy to memorialise animals that have aided the service.

Judy was the mascot of two gunboats – HMS Gnat and HMS Grasshopper – deployed to the Far East during the

Aircraftman Frank Williams and growled at guards when they abused prisoners.

When the war ended, she was smuggled back to the UK and spent six months in quarantine, which cost £12. An appeal was started to fund it, through which Judy's exploits became famous.

She is set to be cast in bronze at North Wales Pet Cemetery, near Holywell. The National Military Working Dogs Memorial plans to build a £200,000 monument to

MEET THE HERO DOGS

From World War I to present day



JUDY
Royal Navy



THEO
Army



BUSTER | RAF POLICE
MASCOT



LUCKY
RAF

Second World War. When the Grasshopper was attacked and abandoned, Judy was rescued by survivors and managed to reach the island of Sumatra. There she chased away snakes in the rainforest and found a spring for the sailors when water supplies ran out. However, the crew were captured and thrown into a Japanese camp. In captivity, she was cared for by RAF Leading

animals that contributed in wartime. The planned memorial is designed to represent all the branches of the UK Armed Forces. The photograph below shows the chosen dogs representative of all the Military working dogs who have bravely served their country. If you would like to donate towards this monument, please visit the site: nmwdm.org.uk

Ride and Stride

The Friends of Kent Churches 'Ride & Stride' will be taking place on Saturday 12th September between 10am and 6pm. 50% of money raised goes to the church or chapel chosen by the participant. The remaining 50% goes to the Friends of Kent Churches to be distributed.

'Ride and Stride' is open to everyone. You plan your route, seek sponsorship, pack a picnic, pump up your tyres and off you go. Last year £140,602 was raised in Kent, with over 700 churches and chapels involved and over 950 people taking part.

More information and sponsorship forms are available from Neil Arnott.

Mrs Tiggywinkle

Spotted in our garden last Sunday our new pet! I thought hedgehogs were nocturnal but perhaps their habits have changed during lockdown . . . A Google search informed me that female hedgehogs may come out in late afternoon for nesting material and extra food for her young. I've now added dog food (as recommended) to my weekly shopping list.



September dates for your Diary

Tuesday 15th Community Group Coffee Morning

10.30 - 12.00 White Horse pub, Main Road, Sundridge
To attend the coffee mornings please call Martin on 07785 342096

Saturday 19th Family Fun Day and Litter Pick

See article for details

Monday 21st Parish Council Meeting

19.00 - 21.00 Ide Hill Village Hall

Wednesday 23rd Annual Parish Church Meeting

19.00 This will be a Zoom meeting. Anyone wishing to attend, please contact the Rector for log-in details.

Tuesday 29th Community Group Coffee Morning

10.30 - 12.00 White Horse pub, Main Road, Sundridge
To attend the coffee mornings please call Martin on 07785 342096

A little of Sundridge past

The village of Sundridge was written in most ancient deeds as Sunderidge, although Sundrish appears to have been its proper name. It is now, both written and spoken, as Sundridge. References in Domesday Book are written Sondresse and in the Textus Roffensis, Sunderersce.

The village of Sundridge is so old that its origins have been lost in the mist of time. It is almost certain that there would have been a Celtic settlement before the Roman invasion since its position in a valley between two ridges of hills with a river flowing through it would have had great appeal to early settlers.

There are very few traces of the Roman occupation although in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries a number of cinerary urns, which are now in Maidstone Museum, were found in the grounds and vicinity of Combe Bank. It is probable that there was a Roman military road from Oldbury to Keston that passed through Sundridge at this point.

The first written reference to Sundridge does not occur until 862 in a charter of King Ethelbert, brother of Alfred the Great. This refers to a grant of land to his thegn Dryhtwald and it is probable, although no proof exists, that the very first Saxon church would have been built shortly afterwards. Grants of land were often followed by the erection of a church or chapel and sometimes this was a condition of the grant.

The first Saxon church would almost certainly have been a timber structure but the church referred to in the Domesday Book was probably a small, stone church built during Earl Godwin's ensure of the land in the Norman style using Norman architects as the Norman influence in Kent and Southern England was very strong in the pre-conquest century.

The present church contains almost nothing of the earlier Saxon and Norman buildings and was rebuilt in the early English style shortly after 1200, from which date the list of Rectors begins.

Sundridge was, in early times, part of the possessions of the See of Canterbury. In the reign of king Edward the Confessor, Godwin unjustly withheld it from the archbishop. After the conquest in 1066, Odo, the powerful Bishop of Baieux and half brother to the Conqueror, took possession of it but archbishop Lanfranc recovered it in the solemn assembly of the whole county, at Pinenden Heath, in 1076, together with other estates, which had been unjustly taken from his church.

The October edition

If you'd like to contribute to the Sundridge Village

News please email by

Wednesday 23rd September 2020 to:-
sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

And finally . . .

From a Parish Magazine – Remember the church jumble sale. We have a gents three-speed bicycle, also two ladies for sale, in good running order!