

The Sundridge Village News

October 2020

In this issue we bring you news from Sundridge & Brasted Primary School about how they're living and learning with the pandemic, a couple of exhibitions to see without leaving your cosy armchair, a charming report using a different mode of transport for the recent Ride & Stride and Harvest pictures from St Mary's Sundridge.



Harvest Festival

Our congregation was not to be denied its Harvest Festival, despite a certain Plague! There were beautiful floral decorations by Beryl Norman and Julia Ricci, for which our gratitude, and a large bowl of shining apples polished to perfection by Pam Okey.

We decided this year that our Harvest collection would go to the Christian charity "EMBRACE" - Embrace the Middle East - a charity whose Lent course had been used by the Tuesday Bible Study group until lockdown.



EMBRACE's aim is to support projects in the Middle East which help vulnerable and marginalised people there to achieve their potential. Ruth Barrow, during her sermon, gave the example of Tamam who used to live a



comfortable life in Northern Syria. Then came the conflict and at the same time her husband was killed in a road accident. When daily life became unbearable, Tamam and her family fled to Lebanon with nothing except their ID papers and a small bag of family photos. They now live in just two tiny rooms in a makeshift settlement in Beirut. Tamam has learned to sew in order to provide for her family. As Ruth said, it is appropriate to think of Tamam deprived of her harvest as we celebrate ours.



Parish Services for October 2020

Sunday 4th

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
Led by Rev Deryck Charnock

Sunday 11th

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
Led by Lynette Leithead

Rector

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

Sunday 18th

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
Led by Rev Christopher Johnson

Sunday 25th

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
Led by Rev Alison Cooper

Churchwarden

Sundridge

Althea Chapman
althea.chapman@outlook.com

Ride and Stride

Having decided to take part this year on my horse, I enlisted my sister to ride with me for company, Ronnie riding Bear and me on Petra.

Our route was chosen in order to take in as many churches in the time available and, more importantly, the roads we were to use were assessed as to their suitability - i.e. not too fast or busy.

Cudham church was our first stop, only 15 minutes away from our stables. My husband Chris met us there which was apt as we were married in Cudham 32 years ago!



A brisk trot through the lanes of Cudham saw us arrive at Knockholt church just after 11am after which we continued down Sundridge Hill, past the Keepers Cottage on the Chevening Estate where there was a flurry of activity from the young pheasants who had recently been released from their pens. We dismounted as the hill became steeper because, although the horses have road studs in their shoes, they can still slip on the tarmac which can be nerve-racking!



Our next “new” and terrifying experience was riding over the M25 via the farm bridge leading down to Combe Bank. Poor Petra just couldn’t understand the vehicles travelling beneath her and got extremely skittish. Suddenly, the side barriers didn’t seem high enough but we pushed on and with great relief got to the other side unscathed.



Some neighbours met us at the bottom of the drive and fed the horses carrots, apples and gave them a good fuss.

Then, up to Sundridge church where the horses had to wait patiently at the traffic lights before giving us a lovely forward trot up Church Road. On turning into Church Approach, we were delighted to see a welcoming committee who gave us a cheer and refreshments.

To get to Ide Hill church, we decided to take the bridle path via Sundridge Place which would take us to quiet Back Lane, leading to Great Norman Street and enabling



us to miss out most of the “main” road. This route was extremely picturesque and we had a super view of Ide Hill church steeple which encouraged us on to our lunch break on the Green. We took advantage of the water left in the porch of the church and Chris met us with buckets of water for the horses. Needless to say, you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink! Both Petra and Bear preferred the grass on the Green!

It was approaching 2pm when we left Ide Hill on our way to our last church, Brasted. We rode down the hill to Emmetts where there is a bridle path that took us out on to Brasted Chart. We continued down the road to Pipers Green where we picked up a byway taking us away from the traffic, bringing us nearly to the bottom of Brasted Chart where we then had to contend with the busy A25 for a short distance. We trotted through the High Street,



holding up the traffic in both directions, but everyone was very patient and we thanked them profusely.

We arrived at our final destination just before 3pm feeling somewhat tired and aching and thankful that Chris was picking us up in the horse trailer. I'm not sure if the horses would have been too keen about going back up the North Downs to get home!

A reflection - although I ride regularly, I'm not sure I have ever spent a continuous 5 hours in the saddle. I now appreciate how easy we have it with our modern modes of transport. It takes a long time to get from A to B on horseback, maybe because we don't have the opportunity to go across country where we could perhaps pick up a bit of speed - roads limit you to walking or trotting.

Ginny Ashworth



News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

As ever, we have lots to report! But firstly, we need to thank the fantastic team of local volunteers who kindly spent time during the summer holidays smartening up the front of the school for us. The whole fence has been re-stained, the planters re-painted and lots of rubbish taken away. The whole area looks smart and pretty and we are immensely grateful to everyone who helped Mr Debono who co-ordinated the team for us. An especially big thank you goes to the team who were on site on the hottest day of the year!

We welcomed our new Reception children in September and they have been wonderful! They settled into their new class really quickly and we are very proud of them. The staff are also really impressed with all of the children, most of whom who have returned from a 6 month break from school life. They have all come back settled and ready to learn. We are grateful to all of the parents, too, for co-operating with the new protocols necessary to keep everyone safe.

Obviously, school life is a little different and somewhat streamlined at the moment. We cannot run the usual range of clubs and visitors have to be kept to a minimum, so music lessons and such-like have been put on hold for

the moment. However, we are operating as two bubbles which allows the older children to buddy up with the new children, which is an important part of our school ethos, and allows the middle two classes to play together at break times.

We continue to use the Dairy Field for lunchtimes and PE lessons which is wonderful and very much enjoyed by children and staff alike. We are, as always, immensely grateful to Mr and Mrs Jack for allowing us to access their land.

With the help of our PTA funds and a donation from a local company, we installed a fantastic Pick Up Sticks climbing frame in July which is proving to be very popular with the children and the decking on the playground has been revamped over the holidays to provide a great area for the children to sit and play and offers an additional sheltered area.

As always, the staff are brilliant, restricted to Government guidelines but working hard to offer interesting and creative lessons and lots of fun for the children.

We wish you all well and hope that you all stay safe in these very difficult times.

Tom Hardwick, Headteacher

Volunteers Needed

The Chevening Brownie unit is in need of volunteers, both leaders and helpers. Unfortunately, unless volunteers can be found, there's a risk that this group will have to close which would be a shame for the girls who benefit enormously from having this experience. The current leader is desperate to retire and has very few helpers.



There is a very long waiting list for girls wanting to join who can't at present. If you are enthusiastic, love seeing young people and children develop, grow and learn, and want to make a difference in your local community, please email - holmesdaledistrictgirlguiding@gmail.com

Kent Painters Group

Kent Painters Group is a not-for-profit organisation started by a group of friends 30 years ago to raise money for local mental health charities in Kent. Its annual art sale is one of Kent's premier exhibitions and, to date, has raised over £330,000 for the mental health charities it supports.

Due to Covid-19 its usual exhibition can't go ahead this year. However the 30th Anniversary Exhibition and Sale is going virtual for one month where you will be able to support the artists and sculptors as well as the charities. The artists can be contacted individually by clicking on the 'Artists' button and scrolling down to view.

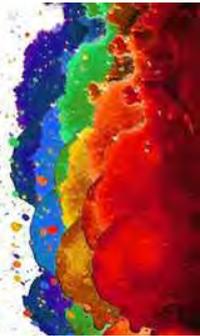
The website is www.Kentpaintersgroup.co.uk



KENT PAINTERS GROUP

Our 30th Anniversary Exhibition and Sale is Going Virtual for One Month!

30 OCT – 30 NOV 2020



Hold Still

Spearheaded by the Duchess of Cambridge, 'Hold Still' is an ambitious community project which was launched in May 2020 to create a unique collective portrait of the UK during lockdown. People of all ages were invited to submit a photographic portrait, taken in a six-week period during May and June, focussing on three core themes 'Helpers and Heroes', 'Your New Normal' and 'Acts of Kindness'. Over 31,000 submissions were received across the country, with entrants ranging from 4 to 75 years old. From these a panel of judges selected 100 portraits, assessing the images on the emotions and experiences they conveyed. The exhibition includes text and images recording people's recent experiences, which are very

powerful. The website to view the gallery is <https://www.npg.org.uk/hold-still/>

Ed – We've enjoyed a virtual flower display, anyone interested in a virtual photographic exhibition?

If so, suggestions for what the theme might be?



'Glass Kisses'



'Forever Holding Hands'

October dates for your Diary

Tuesday 13th Community Group Coffee Morning
10.30 - 12.00 White Horse pub, Main Road, Sundridge

Friday 30th October to 30th November
Kent Painters Group exhibition (see article)

Dear Friends

I write this as increasing parts of the country begin local and regional lockdown and the Prime Minister has issued more national restrictions following a concerning rise in the number of Coronavirus cases. It can all feel very unsettling. We had hoped over the summer that the situation was improving, that slowly we may return to normality. Instead, the situation is now getting worse and the country has been warned that it could be a hard six months ahead.

How are you coping with all this? What emotions are you grappling with? Fear, anxiety, anger, disappointment? So much keeps changing. You may have had to grapple with new rules in the schools your children are going to or contend with different regulations in the workplace. For some, it all feels very exhausting. There's been "decision fatigue" as everything we used to take for granted now needs to be rethought. Or "disappointment fatigue" as plan after plan has to be cancelled.

So how should Christians cope with this? I would like to share with you some verses from Romans 12:11-12 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer".

At this time it would be all too easy for Christians to be struggling in their relationship with the Lord. But the apostle Paul encourages us to do otherwise, to remain enthusiastic about knowing God and serving him. We need to constantly seek the Lord in prayer and spend time in God's Word. We're not to despair in these uncertain times but instead be full of joyful hope as we have a certain future. Nor are we to panic but instead be patient when times are hard. We're not to be faithless but faithful in prayer.

And when we look to the Lord in these troubled times, we have the encouragement to look to help others too. We need to be careful that we keep looking outwards, rather than inwards. Paul notes beforehand "Be devoted to one another in love" (v10) and then adds "Share with the Lords people who are in need" (v13). Selfless, sacrificial behaviour flows out of our relationship with the Lord.

As a Parish we're thankful that we've continued to be able to gather for corporate worship on Sunday morning for our 10.30 am parish service at Sundridge. We do so in line with government regulations and guidelines, with social distancing, lots of hand sanitiser and, sadly, no singing. However, we're grateful that we can still gather together, while recognising that some are unable to do so. Therefore, our Zoom online service still continues at 10.30am, link available at the bottom of this letter. You'll be very welcome to come along and join us on a Sunday morning or check out our Zoom services.

A number of people have been enquiring 'when can we have services at Ide Hill?' Hopefully this will be in the near future. The delay has been due to the appropriate risk assessments needing to be in place. They are currently being put in place. As soon as the PCC have accepted and passed the risk assessments, we will then be able to publish a date for our first service. I know people have

been concerned that the church may never open again. May I assure you this is not the case, there are no plans to permanently close the church now or in the foreseeable future and I for one would be totally against it.

It is with sadness that I received a letter from Dr Neil Arnott saying he would like to withdraw his nomination of Church Warden at the APCM on Wednesday 23rd September. Neil and his wife Sarah have served Ide Hill church for many years, serving the church faithfully and many, like myself, have appreciated all they have done over the years. We pray for God's blessing to be upon them abundantly now and in the future.

Our world, our country, our county and our villages have been turned upside down in the past 6 months, well may you and I look to Jesus in these troubled times. As the writer of Hebrews writes, "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Keep on going with Jesus!

Love in Christ

Revd Pam Davies

Rector of Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill

Telephone 01959 467223

email: rev.pamdavies@sky.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Sundridgeparishchurches>

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83109411527>

The November edition

If you'd like to contribute to the Sundridge Village News please email by Friday 23rd October 2020 to:-
sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

And finally . . .

New social distancing measures introduced during Harvest Services



Everyone had to sit two marrows apart