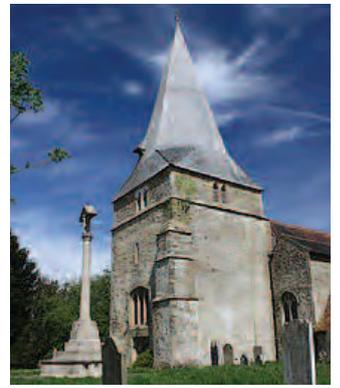


The Sundridge Village News

November 2020



In this issue we bring you a full month of services at both churches, good news regarding the Stag Theatre and a sad farewell to the Style Studio in Sundridge. Read about the exciting socially-distanced Harvest service that the school held and how they continue to ensure that learning is fun, plus a few dates for your diary.

Church News

St Mary's Church Sundridge will be open between 10am until 2pm on Wednesday 11th November. Please do come into the church and enjoy a quiet moment of reflection. There will be a display of poppies cascading from the font and planted poppies circling the Memorial outside. These are the same poppies that were crafted by parishioners to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Come along and see if you can spot yours! We respectfully ask you to sign the track and trace sheet and wear a face mask.



The Friday Prayer Group now meets on a different day and in a different location, but at the same time! The new day is Wednesday and the location is Ide Hill Church. The group is getting used to hand sanitising, track and trace procedures and the wearing of face masks. Seated in the choir stalls, recovering from the hike up the hill, calm descends as we are led in prayer by either Angela or Ruth and, if we wish, offer our own prayers, worries or concerns, either silently or openly. It is a great way to begin the day. Please come along, no booking necessary.

Wednesdays at 10am in Ide Hill church.

Remembrance Services

There will be a Remembrance service at both Sundridge and Ide Hill churches on Sunday 8th November. Please note the changes of time. To comply with Covid guidelines, seating at both of our places of worship has been reduced, therefore we ask for your co-operation in booking a seat. This will allow the seating plan to be drawn up in advance. Please be patient as you may not be allocated your 'usual' seat, depending on how many family 'bubbles' attend. If you'd like to reserve a seat for the Remembrance Service at either Sundridge or Ide Hill, please get in touch with Rev Pam on 01959 467223.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Parish Services for November 2020

Sunday 1st

09.15 Toys Hill Morning Worship
10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
Led by the Ven Julie Conalty, Archdeacon of Tonbridge

Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday

10.45 Sundridge Led by Reverend Lynette Leithead
10.50 Ide Hill Led by Reverend Angela Baker and Ruth Barrow

Sunday 15th

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
Led by Reverend Lynette Leithead

Sunday 22nd

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
Led by Reverend Lynette Leithead

Sunday 29th First Sunday in Advent

10.30 Ide Hill Advent Service
Led by Reverend Angela Baker and Ruth Barrow

Rector

Rev Pam Davies, email: rev.pamdavies@sky.com
Telephone: 01959 467223

Churchwarden, Sundridge

Althea Chapman
email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

Good News from the Stag Theatre

The future of the Stag has been secured, at least for the time being, as it has successfully won a bid for £444,395 from Arts Council England (ACE), securing its future until April 2021.

The ACE is part of the Government's £1.57 billion Cultural Recovery Fund support package for arts organisations at risk of closure due to Covid-19.

The Sevenoaks Member of Parliament, Laura Trott MBE, campaigned hard on behalf of the Stag to secure the grant.

The Stag is an absolute gem. Since re-opening, all the seats in the cinemas and theatre plus all the connecting areas have been deep cleaned and all seats and surfaces have been treated with a sanitisation shield which lasts for up to 30 days. The Stag has worked hard to make it a welcoming and safe place to visit. The booking software allows you to choose your seats and then it automatically creates a safe bubble around you.

The following has been adapted from a longer article

'A Short History of the Stag'

www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk

The first cinema in Sevenoaks was The Palace opposite Tubs Hill station (now Sevenoaks Station) which opened on January 6th 1911 with a hand-cranked projector initially seating 240 but later 400. It was re-vamped and enlarged to include raked seating, stalls, a balcony and a cafe to seat 550 in 1926. The New Palace Theatre on St John's Hill was opened in 1928 and in December 1929 became the first in Sevenoaks to show a 'talkie' with "Broadway Melody" which won Best Picture Oscar in the awards' first year.

The Majestic opened on August 22nd 1936. It was built on the site of the Royal Crown Hotel. There were 1360 seats of which 430 were in the circle, a small stage, restaurant and cafe. In 1943 the Odeon organisation took it over.



Royal Crown Hotel, London Road ca 1895

Fast forward to the sixties and the Odeon became and now remains the only cinema in Sevenoaks. However, during the Seventies it began a long decline as so many cinemas of the time did. In 1972 the stalls were split off into two smaller screens with the circle remaining as the main screen. Despite this the decline in audiences continued. It was leased to Brent Walker in October 1975 and re-named The Focus. It was finally taken over by Sevenoaks District Council and leased to a local pressure group the Sevenoaks Theatre Action Group (STAG) – from which the Stag now gets its name. In 1991 the District Council again had to step in to recover the bankrupt organisation. It wrote off the losses the operators had incurred, invested around £3.3M in building the Stag Plaza, re-fitting the insides completely and bringing in the Art Deco features which are now seen throughout.

SUNDAY PROGRAMMES	
Nov 5th	RITZ BROTHERS - GLORIA STUART JOY PARADE U ALSO Adventures of Chico
Nov 12th	ALICE FAYE - TONY MARTIN SALLY, IRENE AND MARY U GEORGE BANCROFT ANN SOTHERN HELL SHIP MORGAN U
Nov 19th	VICTOR McLAGLEN BATTLE OF BROADWAY U MELVYN DOUGLAS & VIRGINIA BRUCE WOMAN OF GLAMOUR U
Nov 26th	Watch Posters and Newspapers for Programme.

★

CAFE	
LUNCHES	TEAS
SERVED IN THEATRE	SUPPERS IF DESIRED

★

MAJESTIC SEVENOAKS

NOVEMBER 1939

The Home of Sunday Cinemas

TIMES OF SHOWING
Continuous 1 p.m. - 10 p.m. daily

PRICES OF ADMISSION (including Tax)
2/4 1/10 1/3 1/- 6d.
Children: 1/3 1/- 6d. 6d. 6d.

General Manager: R. V. BROWN
Telephone: SEVENOAKS 1456

FREE CAR PARK



Odeon Cinema staff – VE Day, 1945



Odeon Cinema 1949

Do have a look at the website and either book tickets or donate to keep it running. www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk

News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!

We are pleased to say that all is well. Whilst school life is, by necessity, quieter than usual with no clubs or trips and only essential visitors, we are making the most of the resources and facilities we have to ensure that the children have continuity and that learning is fun and progressive.

We held our Harvest Service on Wednesday 7th October on our top playground in a socially distant 'bubble' configuration with Reverend Linda Green in attendance. Sadly, we were not able to hold the service in St Mary's Church or invite our families and friends to join us but this did not stop us from celebrating harvest and thanking God for his provision for us and for others. Each class contributed with a song, ('The Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' was particularly good!) or reading and the whole school sang a couple of favourite harvest songs. This year, we also collected donations for the local 'Loaves and Fishes' foodbank which is run out of St John's Church in Sevenoaks and in greater demand than ever this year. As always, our parents were incredibly generous and we were able to send a carload of donations for distribution to local families in need.



We also supported #helloyellow World Mental Health Day in October with a view to raising awareness of mental health issues in young people. Yellow was

definitely the colour of the day with the children wearing something yellow, yellow bunting, yellow balloons, and yellow tablecloths and flowers in the dining hall. The children tried yoga, meditation, mindfulness and mental wellbeing activities, made fruit kebabs and took a walk, all while learning about mental illness, the challenges and the support available. We asked for donations and, once again, our parents' generosity was much appreciated. We raised £85 which we passed on to the YoungMinds charity.

Within the school leadership we are also implementing an updated school vision this year and would like to take this opportunity to share our ethos with the community. We have redefined our school values as Honesty, Responsibility, Respect, Kindness, Forgiveness and Love. These Christian values are embedded in our behaviour policy and curriculum and in our expectations of our school community and teaching throughout the year. Each week, the classes focus on a particular value during their own Celebration Worship time to ensure that these values are at the core of our daily life, in school and at home.

Looking forward, we have scheduled a number of school tours in October and November for prospective parents for next year's Reception class. By necessity, the tours will take place outside school hours but we look forward to meeting new families and welcoming them to our school community.

All things considered, it has been a positive and successful term and a good start to the academic year given the circumstances that we all face at present. We will return in early November after the half-term break ready to face the challenges of organising socially distant, COVID safe, Christmas events. We will let you know how we get on!

As always, we wish you all well and hope you are able to stay safe and well.

Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

Kent Painters Group

Due to Covid-19, the Kent Painters Group is unable to hold its usual art exhibition and sale and has decided to continue to support not only its acclaimed artists and sculptors but also its three mental health charities: Sevenoaks Mencap, Rethink Mental Illness and the Friends of Dartford Road (previously MacIntyre).

You will be able to view their usual exhibition, purchase works of art and, should you wish, follow the link to make a donation. It begins virtually on 30th October and continues until 30th November. www.kentpaintersgroup.co.uk

The Editor has just received this personal message from Debra Barr-Smith

I am writing on behalf of both the dedicated team of volunteers who make up the Kent Painters Group Committee and the 48 artists participating in the virtual sale, and of course the 3 local mental health charities whom we support.

I am wearing two hats for this memo as I am lucky enough to be both a member of the Committee and a participating artist.

The KPG committee and artists are busily marketing the event on social media both pre and during the event.

But, we also reach out to ask you for any coverage/support. However small the mention, it all goes towards highlighting this worthwhile and exciting local SouthEast-Kent. We are proud that we have donated over £200,000 to local mental health charities in these last 30 years.

I do hope you have the time to read the following short press release. Please ring or email me should you require any further information. Thank you for your time.

Best wishes, Debra Barr-Smith 01959569054



Meeting of Parishioners Annual Parochial Church Meeting 23rd September on Zoom

On the 23rd September the Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) took place via Zoom. It was good to see over 22 faces even though it was via a computer screen.

After opening the meeting with prayer, the Rector explained that originally this meeting should have taken place in the spring but due to the Coronavirus it was delayed until now. The purpose of the 'Meeting of the Parishioners' is to elect Church Wardens and the APCM is to review the church's past year (2019) and to elect PCC (Parochial Church Council) members and Deanery Synod representatives.

There are two Church Warden positions in each Church. For Sundridge we had one nomination, Althea Chapman. She was duly elected to serve as Church Warden in Sundridge. Unfortunately, we had no nominations for Ide Hill Church. Sadly, we are not alone, as filling Church Warden positions is an issue in churches across the country. If you know someone who would like to know more about the role please do contact the Rector.

The PCC members for the coming year are the Rector, Althea Chapman, Jane Belle (Deanery Synod Rep), Ginny Ashworth, PJ Rutherford, Si Pickard, Trevor Davies and Ed Dixon. Maria Lewington is an ex-officio member. Trevor Davies has agreed to carry on as Secretary.

The Rector reminded us we are one body with many parts and each one of us is an important part. Every role in the church is important from the cleaning to the pastoral visits, to setting up the church and clearing away at the end. A massive thank you to everyone who has served the church in 2019.

Thanks were given to the people who have served the church over the years. Rev Angela Baker and Ruth Barrow were sent flowers and chocolates for all the wonderful ministry work they do in the parish. For 10 years Maria Lewington has kept us on the straight and narrow as she served as Treasurer. Upon receiving her flowers and gift, the Rector praised her for her work, dedication and faithfulness and she will be truly missed.

Ride & Stride – update

We were blessed with good weather and several parish residents participated this year, including the use of e-bikes and horses. The ability to enter some of the churches was of course restricted this year due to Covid-19. However, both Ide Hill and Sundridge were open and welcomed 8 and 12 visitors respectively during the course of the day. Ide Hill has the distinct disadvantage of being at the top of the hill! Amongst our visitors were two horses (with riders) which was a lovely novelty.

The funds raised go to the many churches in Kent, with 50% being returned to the parish. I am pleased to report that we raised £1280.00 which is a record for our small parish. Thank you to all those who sponsored us from many walks of life. I hope that perhaps next year there will be even more "unusual" visitors for us to welcome and I trust without the restrictions of Covid. *Neil Arnott*

Flowers and a gift were sent to Barbara Lockey in recognition of her work as a Church Warden and PCC member. Barbara has been the backbone of the church during the pandemic. She has faithfully and meticulously implemented the Coronavirus guidelines. She has been a great church representative in the community. She has implemented ideas and has always been there to give a helping hand. Barbara is taking a break from being a Churchwarden and PCC member but we hope when she is well rested from the pressure of this year, she will be willing to serve again.

It was also with sadness I accepted Sarah Arnott's decision back in June to step back from the ministry she was doing in the church. Faithfully preparing the church for services was just one of the many roles she fulfilled. She will be missed by many and we hope the flowers and gift showed our appreciation. Unexpectedly and sadly I received Neil Arnott's request to withdraw his nomination to be Churchwarden and a PCC member. Neil has served the church in Ide Hill for many years. From the dirty job of clearing out the tower and gutters, to arranging concerts in the church and all the jobs in between, he has been greatly appreciated by the church and community and will be sorely missed by many.

The Rector and the church have greatly appreciated all the work and ministry Maria, Barbara, Sarah and Neil have given over the years and the church is a better place for having them. We ask for God's blessing and guidance as they seek out the next step in their journeys of faith.

The Rector finished by acknowledging the horrendous year we have had so far. Although we may have unknown and unsettled months ahead of us there is still hope to be found in Jesus Christ. When Peter got out of the boat on to that stormy sea, when keeping his eyes on Jesus all was fine but when he looked away, he began to sink. Let us not be like Peter turning away but keeping our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus where all our hope is found.

Revd Angela Baker closed the meeting in prayer.
Revd Pam Davies, Rector

November dates for your Diary

Tuesday 10th Community Group Coffee Morning
10.30 - 12.00 White Horse pub, Main Road, Sundridge

Thursday 12th Craft Afternoon
15.00 – 17.00 Biggin Hill Museum

Saturday 14th Afternoon Tea at Biggin Hill Museum
14.00 – 16.00

Tuesday 24th Community Group Coffee Morning
10.30 - 12.00 Coblands, Dry Hill Lane

The above dates have been organised by the Community Support Group. Please refer to your copy of "Happier Times". The Group has a brand new website – www.sundridgewithidehill.co.uk so do have a look.

All month Kent Painters Group exhibition
See article for more information

Top Tips for Growing Tulips

I'm told that the number one rule for planting tulips is to plant them later than most autumn-planting/spring-flowering bulbs because you want to avoid the tulip blight spores. You want two or three hard frosts before you plant them so November, or even December is a fine time to plant tulips.

The second thing is ideally you should plant tulips in new ground that hasn't had tulips in it for three years, again because of the tulip blight which is a kind of fungus.

The third thing is tulips grow very well in pots because it's really good to give them new soil. You need either a loam-based compost with some added grit or even multi-purpose compost that is peat-free but with some manure and some other goodness added.



Next to remember is that most tulips prefer sun, though some will grow in shade. You can also add lots of grit all around them to keep slugs at bay.

I've received an early birthday present this year – a bulb planter. It's been on my birthday list for ages and, for some unknown reason, it arrived courtesy of a DPD driver a couple of weeks ago. When I opened the door, I found the driver taking a photo of the parcel and my feet on the doorstep. It's wonderful that since Covid, nothing needs to be signed for, isn't it? Anyway, I've tried out my bulb planter which is like a massive apple corer and when you press it into the ground it cuts out a core of soil. You'll never know how you managed without one!

Happy planting!

The December/January edition

If you have any information for the "Dates for your Diary" section or an article that you'd like included in the next edition, please email by Friday 20th November to:-

sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

The Style Studio

It is with deep regret and sadness that we have to say goodbye. After 24 years of business The Style Studio, Church Road, Sundridge has to close on 31st October. I would like to thank all our customers and friends for your loyalty, love and support over the years.

Our family history is long as the local hairdresser and barber to the Brasted and Sundridge community. My dad, Paddy Donoghue, started in Brasted High Street in 1948. Then having met mum, they opened 'Beryl of Brasted Ladies Hairdressers' at 17 Church Road, Sundridge and when Tish retired in 1996, I changed the name to 'The Style Studio' and welcomed my daughter Kate into the business, thereby bringing in the third generation.

Although we are closing the shop it is not the end of hairdressing. Kate, Jane and Sally have all decided to go mobile. So if you would like one of the girls to visit you in your home, or perhaps know of a friend or neighbour who would like to use the mobile service, please contact Kate on 07584 995700 in the first instance, to make arrangements.

Thank you all for making my working life such an enjoyable and fun experience.

Gill Dunseath 07557 226624



Ed – The above article was published in the recent Brasted Diary and I got in touch with Gill to ask if I could print it in the Sundridge Village News. I asked her if she had any photos and that opened up a flood of memories.

The photo is the only one of 'Beryl of Brasted Ladies Hairdressers'. Gill believes it was taken around 1960. Gill was 9 years old (pulling a face!) and Tish, her sister, was 11. What struck me about the photo was the wallpaper which, according to Gill, cost a lot and was dark blue and white. She has also found the leather chair that her Dad (Paddy) is sitting on. Gill tells me that the basins were only forward-facing. Her Mum worked every day with Wednesday being a half day. Lady Kilmaine and Lady Thornton and all the ladies from the new council houses came every week. Paddy had a little shop further up the High Street. He even cut Churchill's hair (before he was PM) and the conversation was always about dog and horse racing!

And finally . . .

Q. What kind of car did the disciples drive?

A. A Honda . . . because the Bible says that they were all in one Accord!

The Editor will attempt to do better next month.