

The Sundridge Village News

December - January 2021

In this issue we bring you a complicated table of church services to digest due to the uncertainty of the church being open, pictures from our poppy display both inside and outside the church, an urgent plea for anyone with book keeping skills to step forward, a poignant poem, something to make you laugh and a quiz to frustrate you!



Advent and Christmas services 2020

Come and celebrate with us the birth of our Saviour Jesus. 2020 has been a year of change and this includes our Christmas services. They will take place either in a church building or on Zoom. If in church please book a seat via the Rector, bring a mask and we regret there will be no singing. If on Zoom no need for a mask and plenty of singing. All services on Zoom will take the format of a Worship Service

Parish Services for December 2020

Sunday 6th Advent 2

09.15	Toys Hill	Morning Worship
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion <i>and Zoom</i>
15.30	Zoom	Family Christingle service <i>on Zoom</i>

Please remember to pick your Christingle bag up from Sundridge Church on Friday 4th between 14.45 - 15.30 or Saturday 5th December from the Rector

Sunday 13th Advent 3

10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion <i>and Zoom</i>
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Sunday 20th Advent 4

10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion <i>and Zoom</i>
15.30	Zoom	Parish Carol Service <i>on Zoom</i>

To book a seat contact Rev Pam Davies: rev.pamdavies@sky.com 01959 467223

The link for all Zoom Services <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85354143400>

Monday 21st Advent 3

17.00	Ide Hill	"From Darkness to Light"
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Thursday 24th Christmas Eve

17.00	Toys Hill	Crib Service
		<i>Come dressed as a Nativity Character of your choice</i>

19.00	Sundridge	Christmas Communion <i>and on Zoom</i>
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Friday 25th Christmas Day

10.30	Ide Hill	All Age Christmas Worship <i>and Zoom</i>
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Children are welcome to bring a small gift to show in the service

Parish Services for January 2021

January 1st New Years Day

12.00	Sundridge	Ringing in the Bells
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Sunday 3rd

09.15	Toys Hill	BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion <i>and Zoom</i>

Sunday 10th

10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion <i>and Zoom</i>
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Rector

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

Sunday 17th

10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion <i>and Zoom</i>
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Sunday 24th

10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion <i>and Zoom</i>
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Sunday 31st

10.30	Ide Hill	Morning Worship <i>and Zoom</i>
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Churchwarden, Sundridge

Althea Chapman
email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

Parish Treasurer Needed

Maria has been our Treasurer for over 10 years and her knowledge of the church accounts is amazing. Although she's tried to hand over the reins many times, unfortunately all attempts at finding someone have come to nothing. At the Church Annual General Meeting in September, Maria was thanked for her work, dedication and faithfulness. Her final act of generosity has been in staying on as Treasurer to prepare the end of year accounts. Maria will then hand over on January 1st 2021. There must be someone in the Parish, or further afield, with book-keeping or accountancy expertise who just needs a gentle push to volunteer. Maria is happy to talk to anyone who might be interested and explain what the rôle involves. Please contact Maria on 019562588 or email m_lewington@sky.com

Armistice Day 2020

It was a cold and blustery day - appropriate weather for November 11th. But neither pupils nor staff flinched as a group of them stood around the War Memorial at



St Mary's, listening to the Last Post and then standing very quietly for the two-minute Silence. They had already added their own personal wreath to the formal wreath laid by the Chairman of the Parish Council the

previous weekend and, after the Silence, two prayers written by Fox class were read out:

"Dear God, Thank you for all the soldiers who risked their lives for us and thank you for all the peace and quiet that we enjoy now that we are safe. Amen."

"Dear God, Thank you for giving us peace and freedom. Please also help us never to forget the soldiers who risked their lives for us and the country. Even though we live in peace and freedom, other people don't and so please help them feel safe as well. Amen."



The church was open for private prayer and it was also an opportunity to see the poppy displays. Many people have commented on these, both outside around the War



Memorial in irregular little groups catching the sunlight and inside the church where they flowed down from the font, surrounded the pulpit and shone crimson on the prayer tree. All three soldiers were there, the metal soldier standing tall over the font and our two "There but Not There" whom, this year, we seated together looking out over the bank of kneelers emblazoned with Service insignia.

As it was Remembrance Day, the altar frontal had been changed to red. The red altar frontal is used in the celebration of some Saints' Days, at Pentecost to represent the tongues of fire and on Remembrance Sunday to signify the shedding of blood. This particular one was dedicated in 2016 after months of highly skilled and patient work by a small band of needlewomen. Standing beside it in the photo behind her mask is Pam Okey who not only created the beautiful design but also sourced the delicate fabrics and organised all the sewing of it.

May we never forget.



Letter from the Rector

PARISH OF SUNDRIDGE WITH IDE HILL AND TOYS HILL

Revd Pam Davies
Sundridge Rectory
Chevening Road
Sundridge
Sevenoaks
TN14 6AB

December 2020

My Dear Friends,

“Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end” Isaiah 9.7

I should be most surprised if you do not hear those words at one or more of the services you attend or tune into on the radio, TV or online this Christmas. Yet as I write, the reign of the Prince of Peace whose coming we celebrate at Christmas seems as far off as ever.

Looking back over 2020 our lives have been anything but peaceful. Throughout this last year there has been a constant stream of news headlines reporting the suffering and loss of life all over the globe – and not just from Covid-19, but also from bush fires, plane crashes, explosions, war, persecution of the Christian Church – the list goes on!

Suddenly we are faced with how fragile life is and we don’t need the headlines to tell us that. None of us are immune to seeing those close to us suffering with disease, loss, bereavement and death. When we are suffering, a question we may ask is – ‘Where is God in all this?’

The place I would go to is God’s Word, the Bible, and the Bible makes it very plain. Nowhere are we promised that God will make life easier or better or less painful, but rather that he will be with us to offer strength, support and comfort. The promise made most often by God throughout the Bible is this one, ‘Do not be afraid. I will be with you.’ That is the whole reason Jesus came to earth - to be Immanuel – ‘God with us’ in our pain and suffering. The familiar passages of scripture and carols we sing, are they just purely wishful thinking, are they a vain attempt to escape, for just a few days, from the real, anything but peaceful world? We might be forgiven for thinking so.

As Christians, however, we must not turn a blind eye but turn an eye of faith upon what is happening around us. By faith we believe that the God of peace is working his purpose out. It may not be big headlines but God is at work. By faith we believe that the faithful, persistent proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ – at home, in work, in church, in the pub, in the gym, in schools - will transform people’s lives, will bring God’s peace, a peace which the world cannot give. A peace which is there for the asking. By faith we believe that the Prince of Peace will one day return. We are reminded of this in the season of Advent which starts on the 29th November and continues until Christmas Eve.

We may not be able to have the usual Christmas festivities and family gatherings but remembering and celebrating Jesus’ coming to earth is the one and only reason we have Christmas. He brings peace, joy and his saving grace. This Christmas may you see the Christ Child afresh and develop a hunger to know more about the Peace He brings.

Come and celebrate with us the birth of our Saviour Jesus. 2020 has been a year of change and this includes our Christmas services. They will take place either in a church building or on zoom. If in church please book a seat via the Rector, bring a mask and we regret there will be no singing but no need for a mask and plenty of singing on Zoom. The link for all services on zoom is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85354143400>

Trevor and I wish you all a very joyful and peaceful Christmas.

God’s Peace to you all this Christmas

Pam
Rector of Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill

News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!

We are pleased to say that all is still well. The current lockdown restrictions do not impact too much on us and so it is school life as usual for us. The pared down version, of course, but normal.



Leading up to Remembrance Sunday we supported the British Legion charity and were delighted to raise a fantastic £205 for the charity. Our

Squirrel class children also created a beautiful display of poppies which they pinned to our front fence along with the very poignant message,

'Lest we forget'.

Only two classes could walk up to the war memorial at St Mary's Church for our 11.00am Remembrance Service while the other two classes held their service in school. All classes had been learning about the importance of Remembrance Day and were very respectful on the day. Squirrel class children laid poppies they had made in class and Fox class children read their own prayers.



We also raised awareness and supported Children in Need with the children wearing their own clothes in school. The children also followed Joe Wicks for the final minutes of his 24 hour keep fit charity marathon and did a bit of PE themselves in solidarity with his efforts and endurance. Own clothes days are always fun, with increased levels of energy and excitement. Well suited to Fridays and special charity days! **We raised a superb £105.**

We often speak of our Christian values which are embedded in our school ethos. These special days and charity days present additional opportunities for the children to display these qualities together with their generosity and support for others.

With this very much in mind, we focused on kindness during anti-bullying week, using 'Kindness Grows' by Britta Teckentrup as the backdrop to the whole school activities. The children have written a kindness leaf each and leaves were given out for acts of kindness too. In this way, we have watched our kindness tree grow and flourish.



We also joined in National Odd Sock Day as a reminder that we are all different, which is to be celebrated, and we were treated to a wonderful range of excellent odd socks!

Sadly, we will not be able to hold our usual Carol Concert at St Martin's Church or invite parents to our Nativity

Play or have our last day of term Carols Round the Tree event where parents and children squeeze into our hall for a good sing song and our favourite carols. But, the staff will be creative and ensure that we do have Christmas celebrations, albeit in somewhat different format. Christmas Jumper Day to support Save the Children UK is already scheduled for Friday 11th December!

Looking forward, we cannot offer prospective parents a tour of the school as they consider their primary school choices for next year but we will have a virtual prospectus up and running by the end of November which will be available on our website. We hope to schedule dates for tours in December and January but, in the meantime, we will have a fabulous video virtual tour!

Just a final item - We would like to take this opportunity to ask the people of the wider community to consider standing as a Governor of our school. Governors are our critical friends providing support and challenge; they form a view, sharing their thoughts, questions and concerns with the Headteacher, who follows them up and reports back. Governors are usually linked with one or more areas of the curriculum and an important part of their role is to liaise with the appropriate member of staff, the subject co-ordinator, who is responsible for co-ordinating the teaching of that subject throughout the school.

Our governing body reflects a wide range of groups from the community including: Parents, Staff, Local Authority Members, Foundation and Community Governors. At this time, an additional governor with finance experience would be particularly appreciated but particular knowledge or experience is not always necessary. A desire to support and work with the school is key. If you are interested in being involved please call 01959 562694 or email: office@sundridge.kent.sch.uk to make yourself known to us or to ask any questions that you may have.

As always, we wish you all well and hope you are able to stay safe and well. We wish you warmest wishes for a happy Christmas as we all look forward to a better year for everyone.

Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

Nativity Treasure Hunt

There are plans to create a Nativity Treasure Hunt with separate maps for Sundridge, Ide Hill and Toys Hill. This will take place across the weekend of 19/20 December. It is very much in the planning stages at the moment, so please bear with the organisers as they set about achieving this. Although not essential, to get the best out of the experience, a mobile phone will allow you to view videos of the nativity story. We will be using some of the

resources taken from Scripture Union, with a little twist of our own to make the hunt accessible to all. Watch out for the posters to take part.

For more information please contact

Sundridge Ginny Ashworth: ginnyash@btinternet.com
Ide Hill P.J. Rutherford: pjrutherford@btinternet.com or telephone 07887 613842

Toys Hill Simon and Di Pickard: dipickard2@aol.com

Diary of My Covid Life

February - December 2020

Does anyone remember what they were doing this time last year? Blissfully unaware of Covid-19. Probably preparing for Christmas, happily travelling to work on public transport, going out in the evenings for a meal, perhaps? Not a face mask or hand sanitizer in sight, no one had heard the word “furlough”. So much has changed since then in an almost dystopian way. In reading this diary to jog your memory, I hope some of it will ring a bell and bring a smile to your face.

February

Looking across the water we see chaos. The Coronavirus is spreading rapidly across Europe and Italy goes into lockdown. However, we'll be fine, we're an island and invincible. Besides, it's all that consistent double kissing they insist on that must have been the clincher for them. So long as we always carry tissues and wash our hands for as long as it takes to sing two verses of 'Happy birthday', then we will definitely see off this cheeky virus.

March

Things are looking a little dodgy over here. Hospitals are becoming uncomfortably full. However, we'll be fine if we all stay 2 meters away from each other. Another new phrase for the vocab book – ‘social distancing’.

Towards the end of this month, our lack of social distancing is disappointing, so orders are given to stay at home unless we are key workers. Shops close, pubs close, restaurants close, gyms close, dentists close, hairdressers close, schools close, libraries close, cinemas close, churches close, theatres close. Basically, everything other than supermarkets are closed. This gives many people the opportunity to stock up heavily on the things that are most important to them – seemingly toilet roll and pasta.

April

Home schooling. Arrgh! Suddenly we all have to become specialist teachers in all subjects overnight at the same time as working full-time from home, everyone sharing the same home computer and the wi-fi keeps crashing. The only way to get away from this environment is to take the one-hour daily exercise that we have been allotted (alone). Fortunately, the weather is glorious. People start gardening but, unfortunately, all the garden centres are closed. Praise the Lord for the Thursday night 'Clap for the NHS', it disguises that terrible clanking of the copious amounts of empty wine bottles going into my recycling box.

May

Hurrah, the recycling centre opens, but you have to book an appointment to attend and queue for an hour, thus missing your given slot.

The coronavirus message is updated from 'Stay at home, Protect the NHS and Save lives' to 'Stay alert, Control the virus, Save lives'. No one is really sure exactly what this means and how it will protect us, and it's really not that catchy (the strapline rather than the virus, which we all know by now is extremely catchy). Still home schooling, though, and taking that one hour of exercise (no longer alone, I am allowed to be joined by one member

of another household). Who would ever have thought that a trip to Tesco would be the highlight of the day?

June

Schools to re-open. Excellent - the end of home-schooling at last! Oh no, it's only primary schools, those flipping adolescents are still at home. However, the upside is that garden centres are now open and so is IKEA. Great, an Omtänksam and a Grönlid are just what I need in these strange times.

I can now meet up to six people from other households outdoors, so the virtual zoom chats now become the real thing in the back garden, albeit following the social distancing protocol, with a glass of wine, but only one as it is forbidden for anyone to enter the house to use the loo.

I see my parents for the first time in 4 months. They sit at least 10 feet apart from us in the garden mask-less (as the jury is still out on that one) but wearing marigolds because, as we well know, Old Corona hates those yellow latex gloves.

July

Shops that survived the lockdown are all open now and we have been urged to 'shop, and shop with confidence' – I've never lacked confidence in this area, so that message is lost on me. The local pub finally opens again (outside only) and, thanks to the clement weather, its garden is full most days and evenings. I'm back in the gym and there is a feeling in the air that life is sort of returning to normal, although we do need to wear masks when we go indoors in a public place. My husband and I discuss a mini-break as quarantine restrictions have been lifted from many European holiday destinations. Happy days!

August

We book a mini-break in Europe and leave within 24 hours as we are aware that Covid cases are rising in areas on the continent and 14-day quarantines are being put back in place for some when returning. Had a great time and missed quarantining by a few days. Phew! We can now go inside a restaurant to eat, in fact the Government is positively insisting that we do this by making our bill smaller. Oh, and I can finally get my haircut. We even manage to attend a couple of parties for 30 people max (socially distancing, of course). For me August feels like a golden month, the new normal, though not so much for those GCSE and A level students getting their results. What a mess.

September

Cases of Covid are rising in the North and local lockdowns are put in place in the Midlands, the North East and the North West, but surely not in sunny Kent... Oh dear. I spoke too soon. The 'Rule of 6' is put in place nationwide, to allow people to understand with clarity what the restrictions are.

Rule of 6: easy, a maximum of 6 people from different households can meet inside or outside anywhere. Fantastic, wonderful, easy to remember and easy to carry out, unless you are Snow White and the 7 dwarfs or a 1st year university student in a shared flat of 12.

And, of course, all pupils return to full-time education while the pandemic is on the rise. Sending thousands of students from across the nation to university in order to mix closely with one another seems a natural thing to do under these circumstances. Doubtless all will be fine if they follow the new more rhythmic directive of 'Hands, Face and Space'. At least my grocery bill has fallen by 50%.

October

Strangely, at the beginning of this month the "Telegraph" notes that there are significant rises in the virus in places such as Leeds, Exeter, Oxford, Sheffield and Manchester. Hmm, they all sound like university towns to me. Was it really such a good idea to send them back when all learning is on-line anyway? Meanwhile BoJo is absolutely denying a second national lockdown, instead he insists pubs close at 10pm, because we all know that Uncle Corona only comes out after 10pm. But only a week later it all ends in Tiers. Tiers 1-3, which is causing another North-South divide. Finally, Tiers are not enough.

November

Back to a total national lockdown until 2nd December. This one is slightly different: you are allowed to sit on a bench in a public place and you can walk with one friend outside and your walk isn't limited to one hour a day. The rule I love the most is that, if you can't work from home and your place of work is in another person's house, then you are allowed to go to work there. Yay! I still have a cleaner.

December

Who knows? More tiers and more tears, I imagine. On a positive, it may give us a much quieter, calmer, more reflective Christmas, giving us time - within the restrictions - to cook, talk, walk and laugh together more than during any other Christmas.

A fellow Sundridge Resident

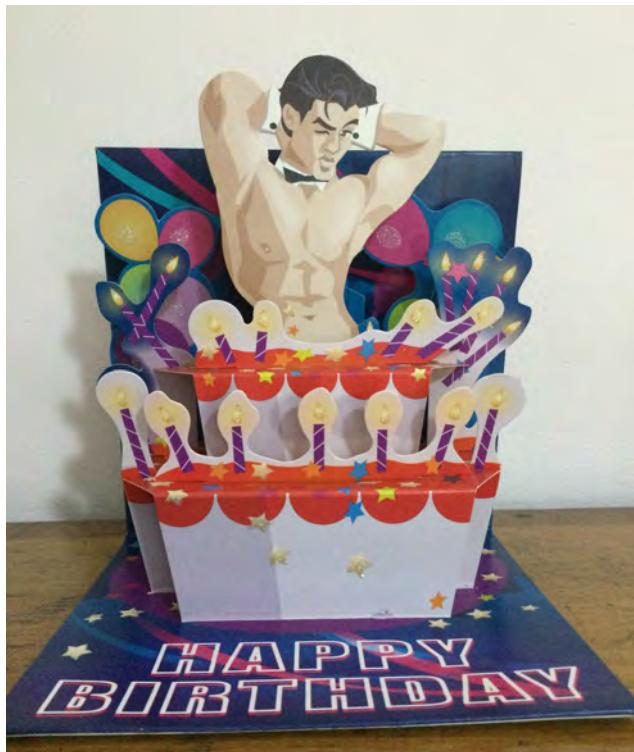
My birthday

My birthday occurred just before the beginning of the second lockdown. I received my cards spread out over quite a few days, together with a postcard from the Post Office informing me that 'Unfortunately we can't deliver your item because there is a fee to pay'. The amount due was £1.50.

Being married to a Northerner at times rubs off and I baulked at having to pay a fee for a card from someone who couldn't be bothered to put a stamp on it. The more I thought about it, the more it niggled me. After all, someone had gone to the trouble of buying one and addressing it, so shouldn't I make the effort to collect it? My initial thoughts were still no, as it was lockdown and not an 'essential journey'; also it was raining. I looked through my cards trying to think of someone who might have sent one, but had received e-cards from some and telephone calls from others so I was no further forward. Obviously I thought of my children but on this occasion they were not guilty.

After further reading of the

P.O. card, it informed me that underpaid items would be kept for 18 calendar days before returning to sender. It was at that point that I decided to hand over £1.50 and have the card re-delivered. I could even choose the date of delivery which is a far better service than 1st class, so well worth the fee, I thought. I chose the delivery date and waited expectantly. It arrived. It wasn't any ordinary card, but a magnificent fold-out one of a bronzed man scantily clad leaping out of a birthday cake topped with candles. I immediately messaged the sender and we had a good laugh. I told her about the additional payment of £1.50, not expecting her to reimburse me. She did, as through the post came a £2.00 M&S voucher with a note saying, "You owe me 50p"! I spent some time thinking about how to repay her. A 50p coin seemed too obvious. In the end I purchased a packet of dried peas, counted out 50 of them and popped them in an envelope with a note saying, "Paid in full"! That should be an end to it but, as we're both competitive people, I doubt it.



English Quirks!

I have been sent the following list of English contradictions which, unless specifically pointed out like this in a list, simply get used unnoticed in everyday life.

1. Found Missing
2. Open Secret
3. Small Crowd
4. Act Naturally
5. Clearly Misunderstood
6. Fully Empty
7. Pretty Ugly
8. Seriously Funny
9. Only Choice
10. Original Copies

11. Exact Estimate
 12. Tragic Comedy
 13. Foolish Wisdom
 14. Liquid Gas
- And the newest one of all is - Social Distancing!*

How have you kept yourself amused this year?

In Stockport, two teddy bears are bringing their neighbours joy with their antics

Ted & Ed are two teddy bears that reside in Stockport. Every day, their neighbours are treated to various scenes of their lives, from camping to mowing the lawn, to relaxing with a spa day.

The Moor Bears, as they are also called, have their own Instagram and Facebook pages to help the rest of the world keep up with their shenanigans during the coronavirus pandemic.



Apparently, both Ted & Ed were adopted from Costo after they were found causing a mess in the marmalade aisle.

Could you get into your wedding dress again or, in my case, why would you want to?!

After a chat over the fence, a couple of friends decided to have a “fancy wine night” and dress up in their wedding dresses. That sparked an idea to get as many of their



neighbours as possible to don their wedding dresses and have a socially distanced photo shoot on their street. After much champagne cork-popping, some even took to their scooters for a ride wearing their wedding dresses. Surely Greystone Park could muster some enthusiasm for this?

The February 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 22nd January to:-

sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

Create a restaurant for squirrels

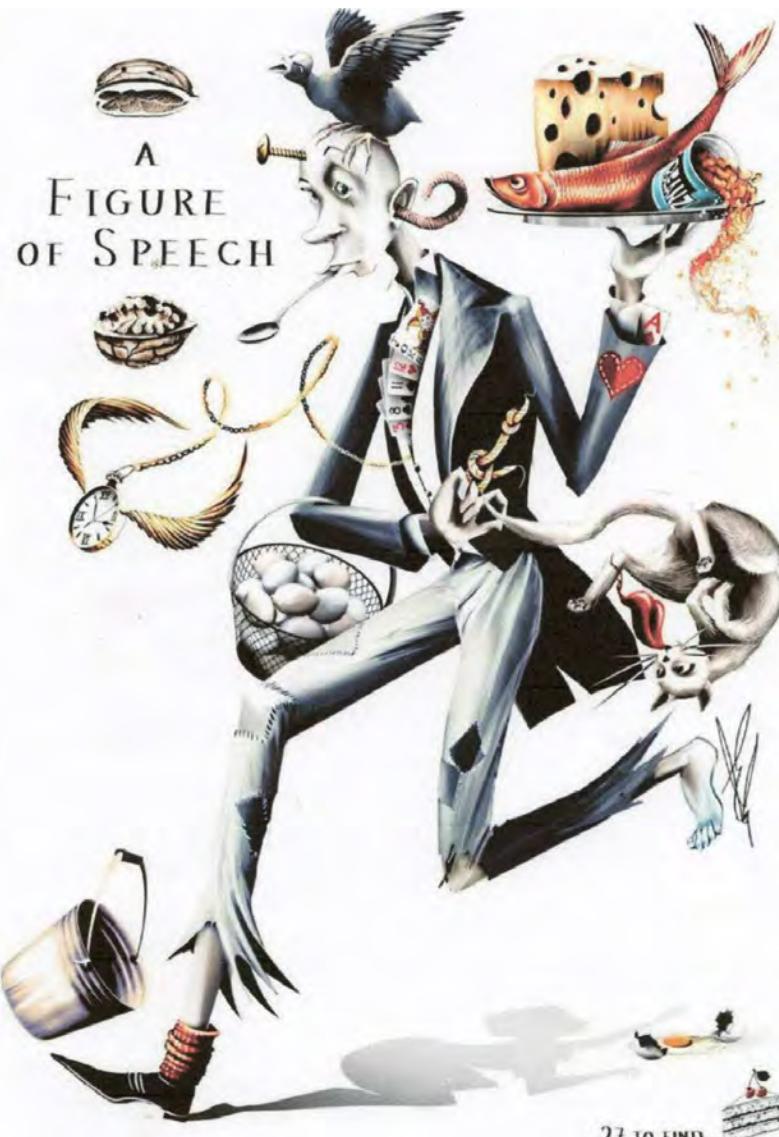
After losing his job, Nick decided to use his time building adorable mini-picnic benches for the squirrels near his home. What else would you do with your free time? The tiny picnic tables made people chuckle after images



were shared online, but he had the last laugh. He’s managed to turn it into a successful business. He now sells the picnic benches on ‘Etsy’, which received 400 orders in the first 24 hours.

A challenge

The following cartoon has been sent to me by Jane Belle. It’s a fun challenge for word lovers and guaranteed to fill the gap between another helping of Christmas pudding. There are 27 figures of speech hidden in the picture. How many can you find? *Answers in the next edition.*



27 TO FIND...

The Other Little Boats

The Editor has received this poem from Pat Murch, who wrote, "I cut a cutting from a magazine or newspaper many years ago. I have always found this very poignant, especially at this time of year."

The Other Little Boats

A pause came in the fighting and England held her breath
For the battle was not ended and the ending might be death
Then out they came, the little boats, from all the Channel shores
Free men were those who set the sails and laboured at the oars.

From Itchenor and Shoreham, from Deal and Winchelsea,
They put out into the Channel to keep their country free.

Not of Dunkirk this story, but of boatmen long ago,
When our Queen was Gloriana and King Philip was our foe,
And galleons rode the narrow seas, and Effingham and Drake
Were out of shot and powder, with all England still at stake.

They got the shot and powder, they charged the guns again,
The guns that guarded England from the galleons of Spain,
And the men that helped them do it, helped them still to hold the sea
Men from Itchenor and Shoreham, men from Deal and Winchelsea,

Looked out happily from heaven and cheered to see the work
Of their grandsons' grandsons' grandsons on the beaches of Dunkirk.

By Edward Shanks



Small boats are towed down the Thames to Dunkirk. These were used to ferry troops from the beach to larger ships offshore.



Ed – A quick google search informed me that -

Edward Richard Buxton Shanks (11 June 1892 - 4 May 1953) was an English writer, known as a war poet of World War 1, then as an academic and journalist, literary critic and biographer. He also wrote some science fiction. He served in World War 1 with the British Army in France, but was invalidated out in 1915 doing administrative work until war's end.

Deck the Doors for Christmas



This year has been hard for us all and Christmas is not going to be the same with the restrictions still in place, so maybe we can share a little joy. If you are going to decorate your door with a wreath, your garden with a Santa, a Reindeer or perhaps something else, would you share it with us? Please send your pictures, road name and postcode to info@friendsofstmarys.co.uk so they



can be added to the Christmas Gallery page of the Friends of St Mary's website and we can all share in a little Christmas happiness. I am sure the decorations will inspire us all and bring a smile to our faces. No donations, this really is just to spread a little much-needed cheer and Christmas warmth during these difficult times.

Friends of St Mary's Church, Sundridge



And finally . . .

Coronacoaster

Noun: the ups and downs of a pandemic.

One day you're loving your bubble, doing work outs, baking banana bread and going for long walks, and the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast and missing people you don't even like!