

The Sundridge Village News

April 2021



In this issue we bring you a glimmer of hope as our churches open their doors for services, news from Sundridge & Brasted Primary School, tempting visits to reignite your interest in our recently amalgamated Gardening Society and the Annual Village Spring Clean and Duck Race.

Journey through Lent

The weekly themes, scripture readings, prayers and artwork continue in our churches as we journey towards Easter. The children from Sundridge & Brasted School were considering what they are grateful for to the women in their lives as we approached Mothering Sunday. They

wrote their thoughts on a paper flower as a prayer and these are displayed on the prayer tree in St Mary's Church. To complete our journey through Lent, the church was decorated with some glorious bamboo for Palm Sunday.



Church news

It has been agreed by the PCC to open up the churches for services for the month of April. Please note that you must book a place for any of these services in advance: please contact the Rectory. There will continue to be a Zoom on-line service each Sunday at the same time. Both churches will be open on Wednesdays and Sundays for private prayer.

Parish Services for April 2021

Sunday 4th

10.30 Sundridge Easter Holy Communion
Led by Rev Lynette Leithead, preacher Rev Angela Baker

Sunday 11th

10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

Rector

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

Sunday 18th

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

Sunday 25th

10.30 Ide Hill Morning Worship

Churchwarden, Sundridge

Althea Chapman
email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

Posies for Mothering Sunday



Another generous idea, hatched by Jane Belle, following on from the Christingle bag in the run-up to Christmas. Why not make a small posy to be presented to mothers, along the lines of what in other years in the parish we had done in church? A spring posy of daffodils, heather and some variegated greenery. With a little help in supplies from Ginny, Barbara and Althea, Jane and Nigel between them spent an entire day making 50 beautiful posies to be distributed around the village, each tied neatly and with a

Appointment of the Treasurer of the PCC

Robert Skone James has recently been appointed as the Treasurer of the PCC. Robert has lived in Ide Hill with his family for almost 30 years and for 16 of those was a member, appointed by the Parish, of the Ide Hill School Governing Body. During that time, he was involved in the first phase of the building project which has now transformed the school to what it is today. He has a particular interest in classical music and plays the violin in the Tonbridge Philharmonic Society (TPS) with his wife, Susan, and is currently Chairman of TPS. On the work front, he is a European Patent Attorney and has just stepped down as Chairman of his firm prior to retiring at the end of the year.

Trevor Davies, PCC Secretary

label beautifully inscribed by Nigel as “From St Mary’s, Sundridge with love”. Distribution by Barbara, Fiona, Ginny and Jane went beyond the reaches of the village to members of the congregation in Sevenoaks.

Carol Edmonds together with Si and Di Pickard equally generously did the same for Ide Hill and Toys Hill.

The reaction of parishioners was one of surprise and delight: several said how moved they had been to find the posy on their doorstep on that Sunday morning.



The Hygiene Bank

As you know, the parish supports the Hygiene Bank which was founded by Lizzy Hall whose parents-in-law used to live in Sundridge. The Hygiene Bank provides essential hygiene and personal care products to those living in poverty. From deodorant to shower gel, and everything in between, this incredible charity is helping to tackle hygiene poverty throughout the UK and Ireland – one donation at a time.

Lizzy says, “It’s all about dignity. Without your dignity, you have no self-confidence, and if you have no self-confidence then it’s crippling in all areas.”

“Adding an extra toothpaste every now and then to your shop will probably not make much difference to most people, but to somebody who doesn’t have it, it’s life changing”.

Boots have just celebrated their first year working in partnership with The Hygiene Bank to provide essential hygiene and personal products to those living in poverty.

As well as collection boxes in over 250 Boots stores across the UK, Boots have announced that they are launching their new ‘You Donate – We Donate’ campaign. For any product donated to the Hygiene Bank in a Boots store, Boots will be donating an equivalent Boots logo product to The Hygiene Bank Projects across the UK.

Both churches have collection boxes. You can’t miss the one in St Mary’s Sundridge as it is bright yellow, just inside the Tower Room.



Fun from Fundridge

Annual Village Spring Clean & Duck Race



2pm Saturday 24th April
Coronation Gardens



On Saturday 24th April at 2pm on Coronation Gardens we will be holding the Parish Council Village Spring Clean and the Fundridge Duck Race. Come along for an afternoon of fun helping to tidy up the village and cheering your toy duck over the finish line.

Timings

2-3pm: Coronation Gardens – collect your litter picking equipment and route. Groups of no more than 6 or 2 households

4:30pm: Ducks start the race – the toy ducks will be released into the river at the Recreation Ground

5pm (approx.): Ducks cross the finish line at Coronation Gardens

£1 for a duck to enter. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. All money raised is used for future Fundridge events.

Save the date

We have a few events coming up:

- Wednesday 26th May – Seniors' Afternoon Tea
- Saturday 12th June – Cheese and Wine night
- Saturday in July – Murder Mystery night (date TBC)
- Sunday 29th August – Funstock: Fundridge's summer party on Coronation Gardens. Music, drinks, food, and fun for all.

Do not attend any event if you feel unwell or are showing cold or flu-like symptoms, stay home to protect yourself and others. All Fundridge events will be held in accordance with the Government's guidelines. This means that events are subject to postponement or cancellation at short notice.

The Fundridge Team

A group of villagers who believe in "Friendship, a better community and bringing neighbours together".

From the Archives 30 years ago . .

I'm assuming that the Editor of the time needed to fill space in the Village News as this article was included in the April edition 1991. I only include it out of interest as my husband used to live in Gateshead. I shall accuse him no further . . .

The Gateshead Post revealed that a local health centre had put toughened glass in its windows in an attempt to defeat the local youthful vandals.

Soon afterwards a mother complained to the not-too-sympathetic staff at the centre that her son's head had been cut when a brick he had hurled at the windows bounced back and hit him!

The Census 1821

I'm reliably informed that 200 years ago there were 194 dwellings in the parish of Sundridge. The number of inhabitants were males – 580 and females - 549, making a total of 1129 souls.

Church Bells

The music of the parish church has formed part of the beautiful music of the countryside for thirteen centuries now; and in villages in Kent, that music may still be heard every Sunday, morning and evening, summoning rich and poor alike to their House of God for prayer or communion.

Of course you will be aware of the bells when they give a cheerful greeting to a bride and her man as they start on life's journey together. The bells are also tolled before midnight on Christmas Eve and a happy peal ushers in the New Year.

But in times past, the bells were used to communicate many more events to the villagers. For instance, the "passing bell" announced the presence of a death. It was formerly rung just when the sufferer was yielding up life, in order that the parishioners might pray for the departing spirit and, after death, the "soul-bell" was rung (the Death Knell) - although the bell's original purpose was probably more to drive away evil spirits than to invite prayers. Bells were used for this purpose as it was believed that evil spirits were afraid of the sound and this was the reason why they were rung "when it thundereth."

There were many other bell-ringing customs. Up until the end of the nineteenth century, we showed our thanks for the deliverance of a King on "Oak Apple Day" and on "Guy Fawkes' Day" for the rescue of another King and his Parliament.

Bells rang at 5am to rouse harvesters and others at 7pm to mark the end of their day. Further bells joyfully marked the completion of harvest. Gleaning bells began and ended the day in the fields.

Bells were sometimes rung on wild winter evenings to guide belated travellers to their homes or to the comforts of an inn. And last, and certainly not least, I have it on good authority that some churches rang the potato, or pudding, bell to warn housewives that it was time to put the Sunday dinner on.

John Jolley

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 24th April Duck Race & Spring Clean

2pm meet at Coronation Gardens

Wednesday 28th April 7.30 APCM

Annual Parochial Church Meeting On zoom, please contact the Rectory for log-in details

Tuesday 26th May Seniors' Afternoon Tea

10.30 - 12.00 White Horse pub, Main Road, Sundridge

Wednesday 23rd June visit to Maurice Foster gardens

Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society visit, see article.

Saturday in July Murder Mystery night

Sunday 29th August Funstock

Fundridge's summer party on Coronation Gardens. Music, drinks, food, and fun for all.

News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!

We are delighted to report that all the children returned to school on Monday 8th and it is great to be back. You may have seen our celebratory rainbow arch welcoming all the children and staff back into school!

We must take this opportunity to send a heartfelt thank you to the kind anonymous member of the local community who, having seen our colourful balloon display and who enjoys reading our updates in the Village News, generously sent in the most delicious, gorgeous box of chocolates for the staff in the first week back. Thank you! It was a lovely gesture and very much appreciated.

Our procedures and protocols are pretty much as they were before Christmas with the school operating as two distinct bubbles, no wholeschool events and staggered drop off and collection times. The staff are taking Lateral Flow Tests twice a week which is not so nice but it is definitely good to be here!

Once again, we must congratulate our parents on their phenomenal hard work and support during the first weeks of the year, working with their children at home and juggling their own work and care commitments.

The staff, too, were brilliant, providing live teaching sessions every day, and lots of creativity and lots of support in-between times for both children and parents.

We also thoroughly enjoyed our virtual tour sessions with Yew Tree Farm earlier this term when we met a wide range of animals, learnt about their personalities and how to care for them all. The lovely staff there also took the time to answer all our questions. The whole day was informative and fun and an excellent change of pace.

The following Wednesday was Construction Toy Day when we encouraged the children to have an off-screen day and focus on their creative skills. It was great to catch up with them during our end-of-day Teams session and see what they had been up to. Great work all round!



In the same week we celebrated World Book Day, virtually of course! We started the day with the Headteacher reading a story to the whole school and followed this with home activities built around favourite books and characters. Dressing up was optional but much enjoyed by those who decided this was the way they wanted to celebrate the day! The children in school made a wonderful no-bake Gruffalo Crumble and excellent Potato Characters! We all joined the World Book Day live event and finished the day with a whole school celebration.



We supported Heart Awareness Month on Friday 26th February, encouraging everyone to wear red at home and



at school and to fundraise if at all possible. The monies raised will go towards the cost of installing the defibrillator that arrived in March, courtesy of the Sevenoaks CPR Charity. We are indebted to them and now continue our quest to raise sufficient funds to purchase a suitable cabinet and install the equipment. We are nearly half-way there. The defibrillator will be installed on

the outside of the school building, for use by the community. Should anyone wish to make a donation towards these costs of installation please contact Mrs Prestage on 01959 562694 or office@sundridge.kent.sch.uk

In collective worship running up to Mothering Sunday, the children considered what they were grateful for - either things that their mum or a member of their family does to care for them, or the characteristics of these people for which they are grateful. The children wrote their thoughts on a flower, as a prayer, to create a display in St Mary's Church, ready for Mothering Sunday itself. It was lovely for the children to be able to visit the church again, after so long, and to celebrate the women in their lives.



We are now looking forward to our Easter celebrations, socially distanced of course and, sadly, we will not be able to invite our families and friends to join us. Nonetheless, we have been talking to the children about Lent, a time for reflection, its significance and why people give up something they like for this period before Easter. We are following the Bible Society's programme of lessons and resources which are most useful for Primary Schools. We have also been talking about the 40 Challenges of Lent and encouraging the children to take the time to do something kind each day for a friend, family member or the community.

It seems that this term has gone very quickly but, as we were still closed for most children for the first two weeks, it is in fact quite a short term for being in school.

We hope to be able to re-introduce a wider range of activities for the children next term but, as always, we await updated Government guidance as it develops. We will keep you posted!

As always, we send our very best wishes to the community and hope you all stay safe and well.

Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School



Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

Last year, you may remember that the Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society joined with the Ide Hill Gardening Society to form one new Society, with the aim of bringing keen gardeners from all three villages together to enjoy a series of talks, garden visits and social events. The onset of COVID in March 2020 meant that we didn't even manage to hold our first meeting and, subsequently, the programme for the whole year was cancelled. So, it is with renewed hope, as we tentatively emerge from lock-down one year on, that we make plans to roll out at least some of that programme, albeit a year late!

Our first visit on 23rd June will be to the wonderful garden of Maurice Foster (legendary horticulturalist, not West Indian cricketer!) in Ivy Hatch. Maurice grows a wide range of trees and shrubs, many from his collecting trips, but our reason for visiting in June is to marvel at his magnificent collection of hydrangeas which should be putting on a sensational early summer display.



A summer social event on 14th July will be followed (it is hoped) by Open Gardens in Sundridge on 11th August when several members of the Society have kindly agreed for us to potter around their plots and enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake.

The May 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 23rd April to:-
sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

As autumn approaches, we head indoors for the rest of our programme, starting with a talk about Crop Circles by Andy Thomas on 1st September.



We will be joined by BBC gardening expert Jean Griffiths on 13th October and the year will end with our AGM and a hands-on workshop about taking cuttings with Tessa Allen on 10th November.

If you're a member, please pop the dates in your diary and watch out for email updates each month. If you haven't joined yet and would like to become a member, please contact Julia Ricci at juliaricci@rocketmail.com for more information.

Happy Gardening!

And finally . . .

a cartoon from Matt to brighten your day.



"Roughly translated it means 'Don't come sneaking here from England to get your hair cut' "