

# The Sundridge Village News

## October 2021

In this issue, Revd Tim Edwards introduces himself, some wonderful pictures from the Harvest Festival, we learn about Fundridge's Funstock and their forthcoming events, two views from the saddle of this year's Ride & Stride, news from the school and updates from the Parish Council and the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Garden Society.



Whilst Rev Pam Davies continues to be on sick leave, the Revd Tim Edwards, Rector of the United Benefice of Knockholt with Halstead, has very kindly offered to look after our parish's pastoral needs, including weddings and baptisms. He can be contacted via email: [rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com) or telephone 01959 532133 or mobile 07980 826365

### A Rector writes

*Our Rector Pam is off sick, and we pray for her recovery. While she is off Tim Edwards, who is the Rector of Knockholt with Halstead, is kindly providing us with some pastoral support. Here he introduces himself.*



I wonder how you would introduce yourself to someone the first time you met them, what things would you mention to give them an idea of who you are?

Perhaps career: "Hi, I'm Bob and I'm a surgeon/ high court judge/ fashion model / shop assistant/ road sweeper"?

Perhaps some achievement: "I climbed Everest/ran the London Marathon/am a world champion hot dog eater/passed my bronze swimming certificate"?

Perhaps by your relationship with other people: "Here are the photos of my grandchildren/don't you know who my parents are"?

I was thinking about that partly because I have been asked to introduce myself to you – while your Rector Pam is sadly off ill, I am providing some pastoral support.

So, if you would like to speak to someone about anything (whether that is anything like a wedding or funeral, or perhaps you would like someone to pray with or for you because of something that you are struggling with, or perhaps you have questions about God that you would like to explore) – my contact details are below, and I would be really happy to hear from you.

But if you are going to speak to someone, it is always helpful to have some idea of who they are.

So, who am I?

How about these:

- I am 42 years old, Husband to Debbie (a chartered public finance accountant); we share our home with Baxter (our black Labrador), Tarquin and Julius (our two cats), and our (quite self-righteous) cockerel and six bantam hens

- Rector of the United Benefice of St Katharine's, Knockholt, with St Margaret's, Halstead since 2017
- In 2019 I went to our partner diocese of Kondoa in Tanzania to lead and speak at their diocesan clergy conference
- I was born in the North of England and have lived in a wide range of places (Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Tyneside, the Middle East (twice), London, curacy in Cumbria) – when my wife took me to meet her family, her gran commented "he seems a nice person, but he has lived in a lot of places", as if that suggested I was running away from something!
- I worked in the City of London as a management accountant for seven years
- When time permits, I relax by going to the gym, painting miniatures, or watching the latest superhero film

All of those tell you something of who I am.

But thinking about that, I was reminded of something in the Bible.

In John's Gospel, the writer, the apostle John, never refers to himself by name, instead he constantly refers to himself as "the disciple Jesus loved".

He isn't saying that he is something special, as if Jesus only loves him.

No, there are plenty of other people that John mentions Jesus loving (have a read through the gospel and have a look for yourself).

But it is as if John is saying that the most important thing about him is the fact that Jesus loves him.

And the same is true of everyone who belongs to Jesus: the most important thing, the thing that can never change even when all the other things fall away, about me is that Jesus loves me.

I wonder, could you say the same? Do you know yourself to be someone whom Jesus loves? It is the most wonderful thing to know.

If you are not sure about that, I would really love to speak with you.

Every blessing,

Rev Tim Edwards

[rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com)

01959 532 133/07980 826 365

## Parish Services for October 2021

09.15 Toys Hill  
10.30 Sundridge  
  
10.30 Ide Hill  
  
10.30 Sundridge  
**Rector**  
Rev Pam Davies

**Sunday 3rd**  
Morning Worship  
Holy Communion  
**Sunday 10th**  
Holy Communion  
**Sunday 17th**  
Holy Communion

10.30 Ide Hill  
10.30 Sundridge

**Sunday 24th**  
Holy Communion  
**Sunday 31st**  
All Age Worship

**Churchwarden, Sundridge**  
Althea Chapman  
email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

The Church is open on Saturday and Sunday for private prayer

## Harvest Festival

We held our Harvest Festival on Sunday 19 September. It was rather earlier than usual but then, as Jane Rosam of St Peter's, Hever, who took our service and is herself a farmer, said, the harvest is in any case happening earlier in the year and that it is perhaps more appropriate to celebrate it as it happens rather than in retrospect. Our thanks go to her and also to the Flower Ladies who filled the church with a series of stunning displays. After the service, our Bell Ringers welcomed those intrepid enough to climb up into the Ringing Chamber to look at the bells in action and our organist also kindly stayed behind to show off our 1864 Walker instrument. All harvest produce was delivered to "Loaves and Fishes" in Sevenoaks for distribution to families in need within the district.





## News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

*Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!*

It's lovely to be back! We are free of prohibitive COVID restrictions for the time being, although of course stringent hygiene and safety protocols are still in place and it's really good to be working as a whole school together again, planning events and activity clubs.

We have welcomed our new Reception class children this month and are so pleased that they have all settled in quickly and are enjoying being part of our school family.

The eagle-eyed among you may have noticed that our front playground was re-tarmacked during the summer break and is now ready for new playground markings and equipment, which we hope will arrive during half-term. This area will be a wonderful addition to our Early Years provision.

Less easy to see from the road is the fantastic set of permanent football posts and basketball hoops which were installed on the top playground over the holiday, together with a lovely tall fence to keep the ball on the football pitch!

Year 6 have resumed their swimming lessons at Radnor House School this term and we are grateful to Radnor for the use of their swimming pool. Mr Lopez from St Michael's Prep School has also joined us to run additional PE sessions with all classes until January which will supplement our sports provision for the children.

Looking forward, we have a fun day of activities planned for World Mental Health Day on 8th October to raise awareness of mental health and the #helloyellow charity, we will be supporting Children in Need in November, selling poppies and accessories in the lead-up to Remembrance Sunday and wearing our Christmas jumpers in December for the Save the Children charity. Busy times!

We will also be supporting the local Loaves and Fishes food bank at our Harvest celebration, asking parents to offer donations of foodstuffs which we will then pass on to the food bank for distribution to families in need in the community.

This time of year is also the time when parents of pre-school children start to look at primary schools for next year's intake. We ask our community to spread the word to all friends and families who have young children due to start school next September. We are a small and much-loved Church of England village school where staff value every child and work with them to ensure that they reach their potential. Please visit our website for further information [www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk](http://www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk) and call the school to make an appointment to meet the team and see the school 01959 562694.

We send our very best wishes to the community and hope you all stay safe and well.

*Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School*

## Ride & Stride 2021

*A report from Neil Arnott, September 2021*

As with last year we were blessed with a warm and dry day on the 11th and as such the day was very enjoyable. This year, with rather fewer restrictions, and most churches open, it was a lovely opportunity to see the enormous range of churches we have in this area. Our route took in as far west as Limpsfield, as far north as Biggin Hill and as far east as Mereworth and Wateringbury, returning by Tonbridge, Leigh and Chiddingstone, before returning to Ide Hill. Altogether 39 churches and about 90 kms. Some others ventured less far but all were safely home at least

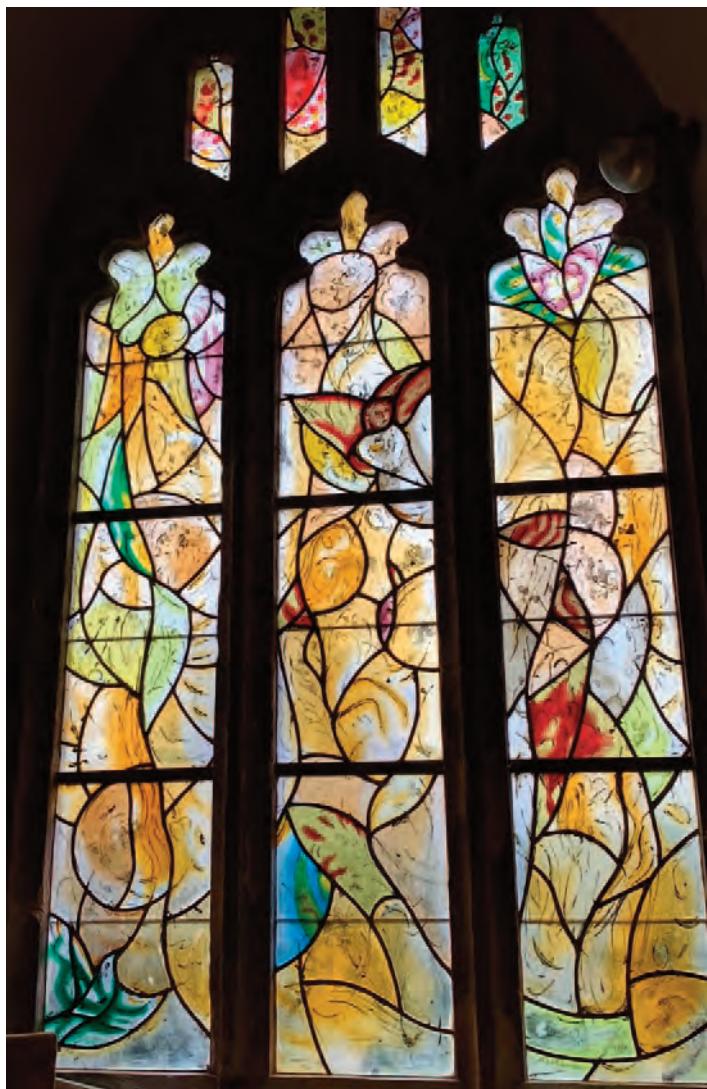
*A report from Barbara Lockey, September 2021*

Together with a friend, I managed to complete 9 churches and walked 9 miles for the annual Ride & Stride for the Friends of Kent Churches. I had one objective and that was to visit All Saints at Tudeley. The church is the only church in the world to have all its twelve windows decorated by the great Russian artist Marc Chagall. To say that the windows were breathtakingly beautiful would be an understatement. I was visibly moved and could have stayed there all day watching the light change on the glass with the movement of the sun.

by teatime. The eldest cyclist I met was in his 90s and there were several families with quite young children enjoying the day out.

Thank you all for the kind sponsorship, bringing the total to £1,050, slightly less than last year but still a wonderful figure.

50% of our fund-raising is returned to the parish with the other 50% going to help provide grants for the various churches in Kent requiring help with projects of all sorts.



Having driven to Tudeley, we set off across the fields to St Thomas à Becket. The church is open for occasional services and open to visitors daily. When we arrived, there was a craft market taking up almost the whole of the church, so it was very difficult to move around. However, the 13th century wall paintings were easily spotted and, outside, a yew tree under which Becket himself is supposed to have preached.

From there we hiked back across the North Downs to Five Oak Green church which is an ecumenical partnership between the United Reformed Church and the Church of England. Unfortunately, it was closed.



Collecting the car, we made our way to Otford, stopping on the way at St Margaret's Underriver and St Peter and St Paul in Seal. Neither of these churches was manned but, at Seal, some delicious cake had been left for the riders and striders which was most welcome.



At Otford, we were given a terrific welcome as all three churches were manned, all with refreshments and very chatty people. We visited the Methodist church which is a rebuild and is a wonderful bright and airy space. Next came Holy Trinity – our first Catholic church and, lastly, St Bartholomew's. We managed a quick wander round the charity shops before arriving at St Mary's Sundridge.



## Fundridge

The stars aligned and by chance the Sunday of the August Bank holiday this year was a gloriously warm summer day. Post all the Covid hold-ups, Fundridge finally got to hold its Funstock event in the sun. We hope all that attended agree that it was well worth the wait. The idea, born back in 2019, had been to hold a mini festival at the heart of the village on Coronation Gardens. We hoped it would bring all aspects and ages of the village together for an afternoon of laughter, music and dancing with great food, cheap drinks and games for the children. For the village, by the village, with love.



With over 300 in attendance, the afternoon was everything we'd hoped for, and more. Our wonderful artists put on a fantastic music show. We are so pleased they could join us on the day. Sophie McKinnon (who, as well as being an amazing singer, also works at The White Horse) kicked off the event for us in fabulous style singing Adele, Frank Sinatra and Dusty Springfield, to name but a few. She was followed by our friend, singer Chris Harrison, on guitar, whose witty banter with the crowd and classic tunes such as "Faith" by George Michael got us to our feet. The evening finished off with the band "Something Else". An excellent recommendation by Andy Cook, which saw Coronation Gardens jumping to the sounds of Blur and Kings of Leon, among others.

Check out Fundridge's Facebook page for more videos and photos of the event:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fundridgesundridge>



As well as the music, the children had a selection of fun games to play with. The horsebox coffee shop was selling a lovely selection of hot drinks, cookies and ice cream. Then the Red Pizza Van was serving a delicious range of pizzas. Throughout the day, the Fundridge Sundridge bar was selling tasty homemade sausage rolls and beautiful cupcakes, as well as a range of drinks for all tastes.

Seeing Coronation Gardens alive with first the laughter of families enjoying a summer day and then friends dancing under the stars was everything we'd hoped the day could be. Here's to many more.

As always, these events are not possible without the wonderful group of volunteers in the village. Extra special thanks go to Chris Ashworth for his excellent work as our sound man and kindness in not once questioning how we'd had this vision of a music festival with so little knowledge on sound production. 😊 We would have been truly lost without you.



Additional big thank you to these individuals who donated time/skills/resources so freely:  
Gerard O'Reilly  
Richard Dunckley  
James Evans  
Jamie Sarchet  
Kerry Booker  
John Evans  
Friends of St Mary's  
Radnor House

Plus, of course, the long-suffering Friends of Fundridge volunteers for giving up all of their Bank Holiday and many other hours: Graham and Gill Hughes, Paul Brown, Ian MacMillan, Oli, Martha and Seb Henry, Julian Parkin, Charlie Watmough, Vicki Banbrook and Beth and William Nicol.

Roll on next year!

#### Love from The Fundridge Team

John Banbrook, Fiona Parkin, Kate Henry,  
Ali MacMillan, Henry Nicol and Vikki Allgood

## FUNDRIDGE'S NEW FOR YOU Women's Clothing and Accessories

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021  
12-4pm

Sundridge Village Hall  
Main Road, Sundridge

Update your wardrobe from a gorgeous selection of pre-loved but hardly worn women's clothing and accessories.  
Hand-picked for style and quality. All seasons, all sizes.  
Designer and good quality high street brands, all in perfect condition and priced to sell.

To find out more, or to become a seller contact us on:

Email: [fundridgesundridge@gmail.com](mailto:fundridgesundridge@gmail.com)

Website: [www.fundridgesundridge.co.uk](http://www.fundridgesundridge.co.uk)

Facebook: [fundridgesundridge](#)



Another community event brought to you by 'Fundridge': A group of villagers who believe in "Friendship, a better community and bringing neighbours together."

## Parish Council update

### Speed Cameras on A25

After a six-year campaign by the Parish Council and many other bodies, residents will be pleased to hear that a three-month trial of average speed cameras will start on 1st November 2021 on the stretch of the A25 through Brasted and Sundridge up to the A21 junction.

It is expected that signage will be put up on approaches to warn of the presence of cameras so that observation of the speed limits is maximised.

As all Sundridge residents are aware, some motorists on the A25, including heavy lorries, drive at inappropriately high speed and cause both safety issues and damage to the infrastructure.

Let's hope that the cameras have the desired effect.

## Pronunciation poem

I take it you already know  
of tough and bough and cough and dough

Others may stumble, but not you,  
On hiccough, thorough, laugh and through.  
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps  
To learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of heard, a dreadful word,  
That looks like bear and sounds like bird,  
And dead – it's said like bed not bead –  
And for goodness sake don't call it deed!  
Watch out for meat and great and threat  
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt).

A moth is not the moth in mother,  
Nor both in bother broth in brother,  
And here is not a match for there,  
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear.  
And then there's does and rose and lose –  
Just look them up – and goose and choose,  
And cork and work and card and ward,  
And font and front and word and sword,  
And do and go and thwart and cart –  
Come, come I've hardly made a start.  
A dreadful language? Man alive,  
I'd mastered it when I was only five.

## Who has owned Stonehenge?

Stonehenge had been privately owned since being confiscated from a nearby abbey during Henry VIII's reign. On 21st September 1915 Cecil Chubb, "on a whim" and as a gift to his wife, paid just £6,600.00 at an auction in Salisbury for 30 acres of Wiltshire and the world's most famous Neolithic monument. His wife was not best pleased, since she had expected him to purchase a set of curtains at the auction. Three years later, on 26 October 1918, just 16 days before the Armistice ended World War One, Chubb passed Stonehenge into public ownership via a deed of gift which stipulated that the entrance should not be more than one shilling per visit and, by a separate agreement with the parish council, that admission for local people should be free. Stonehenge is now run by English Heritage and, although some 30,000 people living near Stonehenge still receive free entry, an adult's ticket is currently £14.50. English Heritage argues that, given wage inflation over the past century, it costs less in real terms today than it did then at the time of the deed of gift.

# Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

On Wednesday 1st September at Ide Hill Village Hall, members enjoyed a fascinating talk from Andy Thomas on the subject of “The Crop Circle Mystery”. This was a return visit from Andy as many of us, although sceptical, were mesmerised by his first talk a couple of years ago. Like me, when he mentioned how a spiral design crop circle was created in a short period in the field opposite the historical Stonehenge in Wiltshire, I was convinced about their existence and wanted to know more.

During the talk, Andy showed slides of various photos of crop circles which illustrated the perfection in their design and unexplained nature to the modern world, along with the mystery of their creation overnight. Many of the crop circles can only be revealed from above which can prove difficult to see with the naked eye when walking in the country lanes.



He also mentioned that there is still a conspiracy for real evidence to the creation of the crop circles; however, they may reveal that there is a message from the universe in outer space within the pattern of the spiral design. The mystery deepens!

Our next meeting, ‘An Evening with Jean Griffin’, will take place at Ide Hill Village Hall on Wednesday 13th October at 8.00pm. Jean is a well-known presenter on ‘Sunday Gardening’ which

airs on BBC Radio Kent every Sunday from 10am – 2pm. She will be sharing stories about her life in gardening, as well as her career as a garden expert and reporter for BBC Radio gardening programmes, including outside broadcasting at the Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows. There may be time for your gardening questions and plant identification, so come armed with something to challenge our gardening expert!



If you are interested in joining the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society, or would like to find out more details, please contact Julia Ricci on 01959 569795 or at [juliaricci@rocketmail.com](mailto:juliaricci@rocketmail.com)

*Pat Mackness*

## The November 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

Thursday 22nd October to:-  
[sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com)

## And finally . . .

*A mother asked her son  
“Why should we be quiet in Church?”  
“Because people are sleeping” he replied.*

## Dates for your diary

### October

**Saturday 2nd October 70's Disco 8.00pm**  
Sundridge & Brasted Social Club, Main Road, Sundridge  
**Saturday 23rd October A 'Clothing Edit'**  
12.00 - 4.00pm Sundridge Village Hall, see previous page

### November

**Saturday 13th November Cheese and Wine evening**  
7.30pm. Sundridge Village Hall, A Fundridge event