

The Sundridge Village News

March 2022



In this issue, we find out how to shop for palm crosses, news about the Weekly Lent Group, a forthcoming art event at Rochester Cathedral, surprising advice from the technical help desk, the latest news from Sundridge and Brasted Primary School and the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society, update from the Friends of St Mary's Church and the Parish Council, the oddities of the English language and a letter from Grandma and, of course, dates for your diary.

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 provide the parish's pastoral support, including weddings and baptisms. He can be contacted via email: rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com or telephone 01959 532133 or mobile 07980 826365

Parish Services for March 2022

Wednesday 2nd Ash Wednesday
10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

Sunday 6th
09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion
10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

Sunday 13th
10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

Sunday 20th
10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

Sunday 27th
10.30 Ide Hill All Age Worship

Rector

Rev Pam Davies

Churchwarden, Sundridge

Althea Chapman

email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

Shopping for Palm Crosses

On my shopping list, amongst the regular items of milk, bread, eggs and wine, I had scrawled in large letters 'palm crosses'.

Knowing that I couldn't buy these from the local shop, I searched the internet for inspiration, finally settling on some Masasi African palm crosses.

Poor in everything except spirit and African dwarf palm plants, the entire population of the Masasi village finds a role in hand-weaving Easter palm crosses from single strands of natural palm leaf. These hand-woven crosses give the villagers a lifeline income.

Farming on a subsistence level, only the sale of their few surplus cashew nuts offered the villagers any hope of even the most basic levels of health care and education until an Anglican Missionary founded the charity African

Palm Crosses in 1965. This charity has lifted them above the poverty line. Weaving the strips of locally grown palm fronds into perfectly formed palm crosses, the villagers turned an ancient handicraft into a self-help opportunity to invest in the future health and education of their village. All proceeds from the palm crosses are re-invested to meet basic needs and services that the developed world takes for granted.

So please do come and join Pedro the donkey at the Palm Sunday service at Ide Hill on April 10th and wave your palm cross.

Weekly Lent Group

Come and join us on our journey through Lent, as we look at 'Jesus' Final Week'. We will be looking at the events that took place during Jesus's final week on earth - Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the Trial, Jesus' Death and Resurrection. Hopefully we will all gain a new understanding about who Jesus is and how he loves all of us.

Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th March beginning promptly at 10am. The meetings will be held at 'Finches' at Ide Hill. There will be refreshments afterwards with, perhaps, a chocolate biscuit!

If you've never been to a Lent group before, please give it a try.

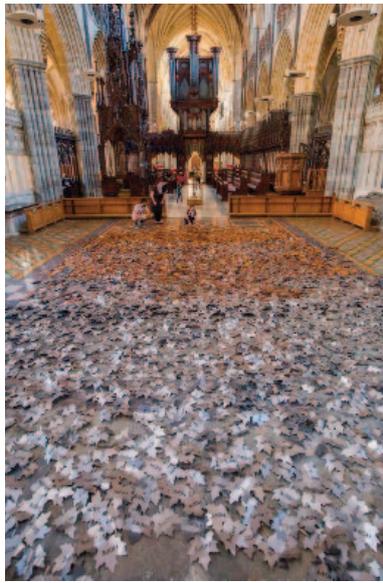
Angela, Ruth and Barbara

For more information, please call
Barbara on 01959 564249



Coming to Rochester Cathedral in April

“The Leaves of the Trees”, a touring artwork installation by sculptor Peter Walker, will be on display at Rochester Cathedral from 24th April to 22nd May 2022. (The photo shows the exhibition while on display at Exeter Cathedral.) As a reflective memorial to the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, this simple but moving artwork creates a moment of connection and calm. The installation is, in the first instance, a sculptural piece which will also allow reflection and prayer, as well as a relevant attraction for visitors to experience. The project is designed to link directly to the sentiments of those who have experienced the pandemic, both those who have lost loved ones and those additionally or personally affected. The installation is designed to allow individuals, families and communities to take time to consider the past periods of lockdown and isolation and provide a focal point for their personal reflections.

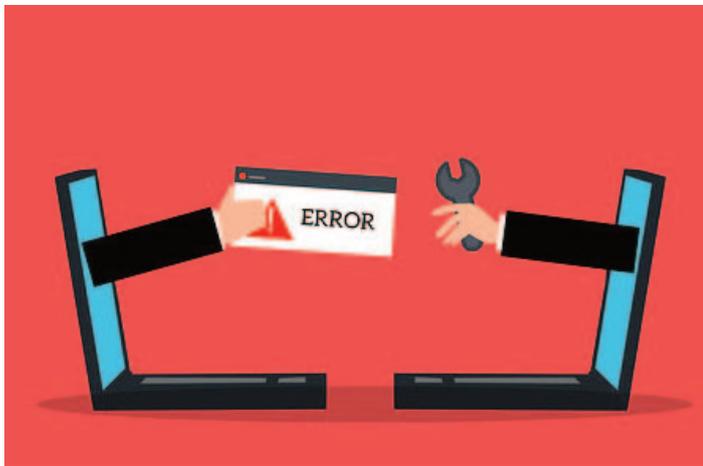


The leaves are made of mild steel, chosen for its robustness but also to allow for the material to corrode, decay and fade slowly over time. The initial scale of the installation will comprise circa 5000 5” leaf shapes cut from 1.0mm mild steel. The steel will be allowed gradually to change colour over the period of the tour in an array from steel tones to rusted tones. The leaves will individually be engraved with the word HOPE.

Peter Walker is an internationally renowned sculptor and artist, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a member of the Royal Society of British Sculptors. Peter is currently the Artistic Director, as well as resident artist, at Lichfield Cathedral and consults with other UK Cathedrals on visionary and unique artistic programmes that he creates specifically for them. “Space Voyage” – the immersive installation on which he collaborated with David Harper (composer) – was displayed in Rochester Cathedral last October.

More than just technical support from the Help Desk

Technical support Help Desks are not usually known for their sense of humour but do excel in their ability to help the bewildered struggling with software However, sometimes their wit matches their software expertise.



Dear Help Desk

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct slowdown in overall system performance, particularly in the Flower and Jewellery applications which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as NBA 5.0, NFL 3.0 and Golf Clubs 4.1. Conversation 8.0 no longer runs and House Cleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system.

Please note that I have tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail.

What can I do?

Signed, Desperate.

I very much doubt Desperate expected a reply. However:

Dear Desperate,

First, keep in mind that Boyfriend 5.0 is an Entertainment package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Please enter command: `Ithoughtyoulovedme.html` and try to download Tears 6.2.

Do not forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update. If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5.

However, remember that overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0 or Beer 6.1. Please note that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download the Farting and Snoring Loudly Beta version. Whatever you do, DO NOT, under any circumstances, install Mother-In-Law 1.0 as it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources.

In addition, please do not attempt to re-install the Boyfriend 5.0 program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband 1.0.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly.

You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance.

We recommend: Cooking 3.0. Good Luck!

I don't really
Rise and Shine
I caffeinate and
hope for the best

News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!

Great news! At the end of our term 3, before the half-term break, we were COVID free and nearly back to 100% attendance!! We have been so very fortunate throughout the pandemic to have had very few cases of COVID in school. However, since January, chicken pox has worked its way through a number of children, together with a few cases of COVID among staff and children, but we have made it through and hope that the future looks bright for the whole community.

As always, we have been busy in school. You may have noticed that our younger children have been out and about in the village? They were on a mission, one that affects the whole community, namely the fight against dog poo! The class was tasked with creating posters to put up around the village to encourage dog owners to deal with their dog's mess responsibly. As we all know, dog mess is unsightly and unhygienic and spoils the footpaths and green areas for everyone, so the message from our Squirrel class children is, 'Pick up after dogs and put it in the bin!'

In other news, after a long term of absence we were delighted to hold our weekly Collective Worship services, led by Dr Sue Leather, in St Mary's Church and hope to continue to do so. St Mary's is such a beautiful church and we are privileged and grateful to be able to use it for school services.

The coding sessions provided by Sevenoaks School in January/February proved to be a great success as the children learnt to create programs to give the little Botley robots instructions to move from one spot to another, or manoeuvre around an obstacle course or, in the case of our Year 6 children, to play football! Some with greater success than others but, nonetheless, educational and great fun. We are grateful to the Sevenoaks School team for providing the resources, students and staff for the sessions.

In sports news, we sent a team of children to Sevenoaks School to attend a "Dare to Believe" event organised for local schools and led by students from

Valence School. The children took part in a number of paralympic sports such as curling, bocci and table cricket. This was a great opportunity to mix with the wider community, try new sports and have fun too. As always, the children were a credit to the school.

We also focused on internet safety in February, talking about respect and relationships online, cyberbullying and how to stay safe, particularly when playing online games. These topics, of course, form part of our curriculum but, in line with the theme for Safer Internet Day "Together for a better internet", the messages need to be repeated, updated to take into account new technology and embedded in our internet philosophy in order to make the internet a safer and better place for everyone, particularly children and young people.

To end the term, our FOSBS team (Friends of Sundridge & Brasted School) organised a lovely week of events for us around the theme of love. They held an own clothes day for the children with the message of "Wear something you love" and a cake sale for us all with an enticing number of pink, sparkly or heart-shaped cakes which were absolutely delicious. They also held a cupcake and balloon raffle with the prize being kindly donated by The Tea Shop, Brasted and Bespoke Balloon Creations. But the standout event was, by far, the wonderful idea of sending a coloured heart home with each child and asking someone to write a message of love on it, which we then displayed on the front fence of the school. We do hope you saw them. The messages were so beautiful and created a wonderful demonstration of positive, inspirational and heart-warming love. Truly a lovely way to end the term which we hope was enjoyed throughout the local community.

We send our very best wishes to you all.

Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

We know that we can make a difference by showing kindness through our words and actions.

We strive to have a positive impact every day.

Telephone: 01959 562694

email: office@sundridge.kent.sch.uk www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk



The April 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

Tuesday 24th March to:-

editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk

Would you like to be included?

Are you involved with a club, group or organisation in the local area?

We would be happy to include information about you and to publicise your forthcoming events in the Sundridge Village News.

Please send your copy to editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk

Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

Our first meeting of the year was a great success last month with many members, old and new, lured by the promise of bottomless cups of tea and slices of cake at our Afternoon Tea social! A big thank you to the Committee for making Ide Hill Village Hall look so welcoming, with tea tables complete with jugs of cheery daffodils and a buffet table laden with an amazing array of delicious home-made cakes. Thanks, too, to everyone who came and made it such a lovely and lively afternoon! It was also an opportunity for members to renew their subscriptions to the Society for the year ahead, and for programmes and membership cards to be distributed.



If you weren't able to get to the Afternoon Tea, there is an opportunity to renew your subs (or join, if you're not yet a member) by coming along to the next meeting which will be on Wednesday 9th March at Ide Hill Village Hall. A member of the team at one of our local garden centres, Coblands, will be speaking and it promises to be a very interesting evening.

Based in Sundridge and set in an old tree nursery, Coblands has been in business since 1963 when it was established as a plant nursery for trade customers. With a



refurbishment programme well underway and the focus now on retail customers, there is an extensive range of quality plants sourced from multiple UK growers as well as its own nurseries, supplemented by a selected group of continental growers. This allows the centre to offer customers an ever-increasing range of perennials, shrubs, trees and specimen plants. There is also a lovely café where you can enjoy a wide range of food and beverages and I can personally testify to the quality of the cakes!!!

Canine companions are welcome in their own special area of the café, so it's a good spot for a coffee after walking the dog!

We do hope you will join us to find out more about Coblands and to renew your membership subs – refreshments from 7.30pm and the talk starting promptly at 8pm.

If you'd like to join us but can't make it on March 9th, please feel free to contact our Membership Secretary for more information by emailing juliaricci@rocketmail.com or calling 01959 569795.

We look forward to welcoming you.
Julia Ricci



The Friends of St Mary's Church

The Friends' Committee met on 21st February to discuss events for the year. It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting would take place on Monday 28th March at 7 pm at St. Mary's Church. We are delighted to be able to meet in person this year after two online AGMs. The formal part of the evening is usually brief – a presentation of the financial position of the Friends, an update on what has happened over the past year and future events, and the election of the Committee for the forthcoming year. Questions about any of the activities of the Friends and ideas and suggestions are always very welcome. This will be followed by a talk by Nick White about "The Charge of the Light Brigade" and William Howard Russell who became the world's first War Correspondent. Nick was due to talk on this topic at the AGM in April 2020 but

the meeting had to be postponed due to the first Covid lockdown – we are extremely grateful to him for agreeing to be the speaker in 2022. The Friends' AGMs are always great fun, with an interesting speaker and then the opportunity to discuss the talk and other things with fellow guests over light refreshments. I very much hope you can join us on the evening. Everyone is welcome – if you are not already a member you can join on the night! (See flyer elsewhere in the Village News)

Plans are in hand for an event to take place in the church in June during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations while the church bells are being rung. More details to follow. It is also hoped that a Garden Party will be held later in the year – the date and location will be announced once they are confirmed. Watch out for notices in future editions of the Sundridge Village News.

Oddities of the English language

We'll begin with box; the plural is boxes,

But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes.

One fowl is a goose, and two are called geese,

Yet the plural of moose is never called meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a house full of mice;

But the plural of house is houses, not hices.

The plural of man is always men,

But the plural of pan is never pen.

If I speak of afoot, and you show me two feet,

And I give you a book, would a pair be a beek?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,

Why shouldn't two booths be called beeth?

If the singular's this and the plural is these,

Should the plural of kiss be ever called keese?

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,

But though we say mother, we never say methren.

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his, and him;

But imagine the feminine . . . she, shis, and shim!

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 2nd March Ash Wednesday

10.30 Holy Communion, Ide Hill Church

Tuesday 8th March Weekly Lent Group

10.00am at 'Finches' at Ide Hill. For more information, please call Barbara on 01959 564249

Monday 28th March Friends of St Mary's AGM

7.00pm St Mary's Church, followed by a talk by Nick White and light refreshments. See advertisement

Saturday 5th March Fundridge "Around the World in 80 minutes" 7.15pm Village Hall

April, date tbc, Fundridge "Murder Mystery & Meal" at the White Horse

Saturday 16th April Easter egg treasure hunt and duck race in the afternoon on Coronation Gardens

Saturday 21st May Fundridge "New for You" Women's Clothing and Accessories sale

2nd to 5th June. Platinum Jubilee celebrations Parish Council's proposed street parties over the long weekend

August Bank Holiday Sunday 28th August Fundridge 'Funstock' on Coronation Gardens

Letter from Grandma . . .

The other day I went to a Christian bookshop and saw a 'Honk if you love Jesus' sticker and I put it in my car. I'm so glad I did – what an uplifting experience followed!

I had stopped at a red light at a busy crossing, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good He is, and I didn't notice that the lights had changed. It was a good thing someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn't honked I'd never noticed.

I found that lots of people love Jesus. While I was sitting there, a man behind me started honking like crazy, and then he leaned out of the window and screamed 'For the love of God, go, go!' I leaned out of my window and stared waving and smiling at all these lovely people. I even honked a few times myself to share in the love.

I saw another man waving in a funny way with only two fingers stuck in the air. When I asked my teenage grandson (sitting beside me) what it meant, he said it was probably a Hawaiian good luck sign or something. Well, I've never met anyone from Hawaii, so I gave him the good luck sign back. My grandson burst out laughing - even he was enjoying the religious experience.

A couple of people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started to walk towards me. I bet they wanted to pray with me. This was when I noticed that the lights had changed and so... not wishing to hold anyone up, I gave a cheery smile and waved goodbye to all my new-found brothers and sisters and drove off. In my mirror I noticed that I was the only car that got across before the lights changed again. I felt very sad that I had to leave them all behind after all the love we had shared, so I slowed down, leaned out of the window and gave them the Hawaiian good luck sign as I drove away.

And finally . . .

There was a painter whose usual practice was to dilute the paint. He thinned it by adding water, so it covered a greater area, but was not as good or as durable. The painter landed a big job painting the church and had just finished when a storm arrived with thunder, lightning and torrential rain so fierce that it removed all the paint.

Amid the thunder and lightning, there came a loud voice...

"REPAINT,"
it boomed.

"REPAINT,
AND THIN NO MORE!"

The Charge of the Light Brigade and the World's First War Correspondent

William Howard Russell was correspondent for the Times and present at the Charge of the Light Brigade. His report that stunned and shook the nation made him the world's first War Correspondent.

Come and hear Nick White's fascinating talk following The Friends of St Mary's AGM at 7.00pm on Monday 28th March 2022, St Marys Church, Sundridge
Admission is free and light refreshments will be served



Parish Council update

We are pleased to confirm that the Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council will be sponsoring and organising village Street Parties to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Ide Hill and Sundridge.

Sundridge's event will take place on Friday 3rd June 2022, exact times to be announced. The Street Party will be for residents of Sundridge and their families and will be held on Church Road, which the Council will be applying to SDC to close, similar to the previous street parties held by the village. Further details will be shared nearer the time. If you'd like to help to get involved in Sundridge's event, please contact the Clerk with your details.

Ide Hill's event will take place on Sunday 5th June 2022 from 3pm to 5pm. The Street Party will be for residents of Ide Hill and their families and will be held on the Ide Hill village green. Further details on the event and ticketing will be announced shortly. Volunteers to help in the organising or on the day are very welcome and should contact the Clerk with their details.

Sevenoaks District Council is organising a group purchasing scheme for solar panels that takes the hassle out of the process and will help you save on your energy bills, generate your own clean electricity and reduce your carbon emissions.

The scheme brings households together to get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price. Your interest should be registered by 15th March 2022 at

<https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/solar>