

# The Sundridge Village News

## May 2022



In this edition we hear of the fun had at the Easter Duck Race, the Murder Mystery evening and the upcoming fun to be enjoyed celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. We learn about the installation of Bishop Jonathan as Bishop of Rochester and the adventures had by the Sundridge and Brasted primary school. There is an introduction to Forest Church, reports from The Friends of St Marys Church, the Brasted, Ide Hill, and Sundridge Gardening Society and the Parish Council 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](mailto:rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com) or telephone 01959 532133 or mobile 07980 826365

### Parish Services for May 2022

#### Sunday 1st

09.15 Toys Hill Morning Worship  
10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion  
16.00 Ide Hill Forest Church

#### Sunday 8th

10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

#### Sunday 15th

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

#### Sunday 22nd

10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

#### Sunday 29th

10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship

#### Rector

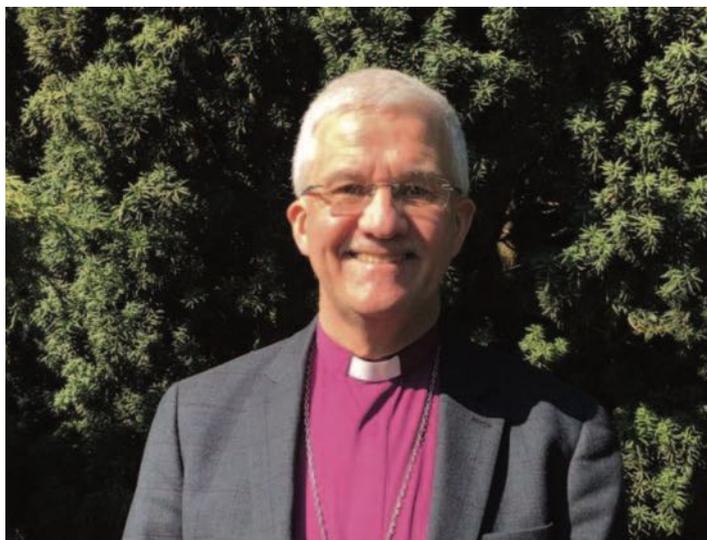
Rev Pam Davies

#### Churchwarden

Althea Chapman

email: [althea.chapman@outlook.com](mailto:althea.chapman@outlook.com)

### New Bishop of Rochester



An announcement from Downing Street on 31st March confirmed that HM The Queen had approved the nomination of Rt Rev Jonathan Gibbs to be the next Bishop of Rochester, succeeding the Rt Rev James Langstaff who retired in July 2021. Jonathan is currently the Bishop of Huddersfield and holds the national church portfolio of Lead Bishop for Safeguarding; he will continue in that role until the end of March 2023, completing his three-year term. He will lead the Church of England's Diocese of Rochester, which serves a population of around 1.3 million people and covers 215 parishes across Medway, north and west Kent, and the London Boroughs

of Bromley and Bexley. Bishop Jonathan's installation as Bishop of Rochester is expected to take place sometime in September 2022.

As his appointment was being announced, Bishop Jonathan was spending the day visiting locations including Belvedere, Sidcup, Edenbridge and Chatham, meeting with some of the people and parishes within his diverse and vibrant new diocese and learning more about the part churches and Christians are playing in transforming their communities for the better. The day ended at Rochester Cathedral where Bishop Jonathan joined the congregation for Evensong.

Jonathan Gibbs grew up in Cheshire and then studied at Jesus College, Oxford for his MA in Philosophy and Politics and Jesus College, Cambridge for a PhD on the Theology of Work. He trained for ordained ministry at Ridley Hall, Cambridge and his curacy was in a Cheshire parish. He was a Chaplain in Switzerland between 1992 and 1998 before returning to Cheshire as Rector of Heswall from 1998 until 2014. Jonathan was consecrated as Bishop of Huddersfield in York Minster on 17 October 2014.

He is married to his wife Toni, and they have three grown-up children. His interests include walking, usually accompanied by their Cocker Spaniel, and rummaging in second-hand bookshops. He is a fluent French speaker with a love of France, and especially its wines. He also speaks German and Swiss-German.

He and his wife, who originally met when working in Paris, enjoy entertaining and making new friends. Jonathan is also a member of the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the Campaign for Real Ale, committed to supporting village and community life.

Responding to his appointment Bishop Jonathan said: "I am delighted to have been announced as the new

Bishop of Rochester. My wife Toni and I are so excited about the prospect of moving to this wonderful Diocese. For us, Rochester will be a new place to discover and we're so looking forward to getting to know the people of our churches and our communities, and to working together with them as we encourage God's kingdom to grow in this wonderfully varied and rich place."



## In case you missed it - Forest Church News

Please come along and see what it is like to worship outside in nature.

Worship will consist of a simple service of about 30 minutes and will take place in and around the churchyards in the parish. Jane Rosam, a Reader in training, will be leading the worship. She runs Forest Church at Hever.

All are welcome whatever your age, however noisy or wriggly! Wear suitable outdoor clothing and do stay for refreshments afterwards.

Sunday 1st May 4pm - Ide Hill Churchyard  
Sunday 5th June 4pm - Sundridge Churchyard  
Sunday 3rd July 4pm - Toys Hill Chapel Grounds  
Sunday 4th September 4pm - Ide Hill  
Sunday 2nd October 4pm - Sundridge  
Sunday 6th November 3pm - Toys Hill

For more details please contact  
Diana Pickard [dipickard2@aol.com](mailto:dipickard2@aol.com)  
Barbara Lockey [hixmix@btopenworld.com](mailto:hixmix@btopenworld.com)

## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Friends of St Mary's Church are kicking off the Jubilee weekend on Thursday 2nd June between 5pm and 9pm. They will be show casing who they are and what they do.

There will be an opportunity to visit the bell tower and perhaps have a chance to ring one of the bells - under instruction, of course! George, our resident organist, will welcome anyone who would like to play the organ. George is a local organ, piano and music theory teacher with experience of playing in many cathedrals and churches. He is very much looking forward to showing you how the organ works and making lots of beautiful noise to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee!

There will be a churchyard trail to follow, a fire pit (our beacon!), plenty of refreshments and a photographic

display showing past events that the Friends of St Mary's have organised.



All the money raised by The Friends enhances our wonderful church building.

## Report from the Friends of St Mary's Church Sundridge

The Friends of St Mary's Church Sundridge held their 18th Annual General Meeting on Monday 28th March at 7 pm in the church. It was a well-attended event, although Covid-related absences continued to mount right up to the start of the evening. We were delighted that our President, Sir Michael Fallon, was able to be present and take charge of the formal part of the AGM. Following the report from the Executive Committee and the presentation of the Accounts, Sir Michael paid tribute to retiring Honorary Treasurer, Richard Duncley, for his tremendous commitment to the role and involvement with the Friends over the past 17 years and thanked Lindsay Hofman for her support as a Committee member as she was not standing again. Elections took place for Chairman (Kenneth Ludlam) and Honorary Secretary (Virginia Ashworth). Lyn Campbell and Neil Arnott were reappointed and Gary Davison and Andy Cook were welcomed as new members of the Committee. Jane Belle and Barbara Lockey are the representatives of the Parochial Church Council. The Rev Pam Davis is an ex officio member.

With the formal part of the programme completed, the President handed over to Nick White for his talk on "The Charge of the Light Brigade" and William Howard Russell who became the world's first War Correspondent. Nick's talk was hugely informative, enlightening and particularly pertinent in view of the current situation in Ukraine. Several questions followed and Nick was given a most sincere vote of thanks. There was a unanimous feeling from the audience that they were a lot more knowledgeable than they had been about such a famous event. Light refreshments were enjoyed afterwards and the evening ended around 9.30 pm.

The next event on the Friends' calendar is a visit to Chevening House on Tuesday 10th May; this was postponed from April 2020 due to the pandemic and is sold out. As reported above, on 2nd June the Friends will be supporting the church bellringers in an event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The next Committee meeting will take place on 16th May, following which there will be confirmation of more events this summer.

## Easter Fun in the Sunshine

A strange group of six life-sized human ducks gathered on Coronation Gardens at 1.30pm on Easter Saturday to remind villagers that the Fundridge Sundridge Annual Duck Race and Easter Egg treasure hunt was imminent.

By 2pm, plenty of people, old and young, flocked down to purchase their ducks and a treasure hunt card. The weather was on our side as the children raced from bunny nests to bunny nests collecting their stamps in order to receive an Easter egg on completion of their treasure cards.

Meanwhile, once all the 100 ducks had been sold, John Evans took them up-stream to release them on their wild journey to the finish line at Coronation Gardens.

The children gathered on the banks expectantly awaiting their arrival. The first one was spotted and chanting began. Number 40 came in over the line first, followed by a flurry of other ducks which we all caught in a washing basket as we had forgotten the net...

Congratulations to the winners – we hope to see everyone again next year!



## Palm Sunday

Our Palm Sunday service, as usual, took place at Ide Hill when patient Pedro the Donkey led a crowd of parishioners, waving their palm crosses, from the school up to the church. The service was taken by Canon Katrina Barnes and it was, very sadly, her last with us since she has recently been appointed interim Archdeacon of

Bromley and Bexley. Katrina had been taking two services a month for us since last October – and very much looked forward to were those services. She has been immensely supportive, warm and generous over these past six months and she will be very much missed. She and her husband John's dramatic dialogue at Christmas will remain long in the memory!



## What is Forest Church?



The simple answer is that it is a group of people meeting outside and connecting with God. It happens in any weather, which can be quite challenging. The aim isn't to go into nature as if it is separate from us, but to be with nature. Forest Church is not like regular church happening outside, but an entirely different approach to worship. There will be music, games, a Bible story, crafts using natural objects, prayers and a time to pause and reflect. As this is a new initiative, we will all be learning together. This is an opportunity to engage with people in today's environmentally challenged world and to find energy and peace in the beauty that surrounds us.



You will see on the posters in the parish that it states that it will be muddy, it will be fun and it will be 30 minutes, though leeway on timings would be appreciated since the leaders are new to it.

We're taking Forest Church round the parish on the first Sunday of each month beginning at 4pm with the first FC happening in Ide Hill churchyard, followed by the churchyard in Sundridge and then at Toys Hill in the chapel grounds.

Jane Rosam from Hever will be our leader, guiding us through, and Di Pickard and Barbara Lockey will be helping, journeying and learning along the way.

Please join us for the first Parish Forest Church in Ide Hill churchyard on May 1st at 4pm!



## Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council update – April 2022

### Covers Farm

The long-awaited Covers Farm restoration planning application is now not expected to be decided until KCC's planning meeting on 15th June 2022. The reason for delay is the need to seek clarity and accuracy on some technical issues within the application. The KCC Cover's Farm planning application, which is likely to cause major disruption along the A25 for over a 6-year period if accepted, was due to go to the KCC Planning Committee in May. Our District Councillor, Keith Bonin, has been asked to speak at the KCC meeting on behalf of Brasted & Sundridge residents, to focus on the problems that the HGV movements will create for the residents and listed buildings along the A25 (loss of amenity, impact on road safety, air pollution, potential damage to listed buildings, etc.).

### Bowers Meadow

The Parish Council is looking to gather feedback from residents on the usage of Bowers Meadow and amenities for children in Sundridge. This is with an aim to gather data to help inform an assessment of the facilities and future needs, ultimately with a view to pull together a proposal on enhancements that could be made. Therefore, we would very much appreciate your help and ask if you would please complete a short 2-minute survey where you can share your views on this matter. The survey can be found at: <https://form.typeform.com/to/TeCwq6bo/> Steps are already underway to try and combat the known dog poo issue at Bowers Meadow. Additional bins have been ordered and a fence will be going up around the playground.

### Sundridge Platinum Jubilee Street Party

All Sundridge residents are welcome to join in the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee at a traditional street party to be held on Friday 3rd June 14:00h - 18:00h on Church Road between the traffic lights and Chapmans Road.

The parish council will be providing sandwiches, a BBQ, ice lollies, tea, coffee, water and squash, along with games for the children and music. We will also be providing bunting, decorations, tables and a few chairs/picnic benches. We ask that, if you can, please bring a picnic chair as the supply of chairs is limited.

Attendance as well as all food and drink provided is free. As we need to cater for a fixed number this will be provided on a first-come first-served basis.

We are looking for village volunteers to help with the day. Firstly, we will have a food-sharing table and invite residents to bring along something to share with your neighbours such as pasta, salad, curry, etc. This can be homemade or store bought. Secondly, we need volunteers to donate cakes for the event, again homemade or store bought. Lastly, we need volunteers to help with making sandwiches and the set up and pack down on the day. If you can help with any of the above, please email [vikki.all-good@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk](mailto:vikki.all-good@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk) with details of what you'd be happy to cover.

If you require any assistance in getting to the event, the Sundridge Support Group volunteers are happy to help. Please contact [info@sundridgewithidehill.co.uk](mailto:info@sundridgewithidehill.co.uk)

**Please note the event is only open to residents of Sundridge.**

## News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

### *Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School*

Last month our older children were actually away, on their residential trip, at the time of writing the Village News report. At this point we can now tell you that they had a fabulous time! Despite COVID striking and two of the group having to come home early, the Year 5 and 6 children had a great time at Hindleap Outdoor Activity Centre in East Sussex. They arrived on Monday and went straight into archery, moving on to high ropes and making their own beds (which is always a challenge on a residential trip!) In the following two days they tackled the climbing tower, abseiling, a forest adventure, shelter building, team challenges and enjoyed fun and games in their downtime and, of course, hot chocolate at bedtime.

The children had such a great time and were really supportive of each other, trying new activities with enthusiasm and tackling all the challenges with a huge amount of resilience and bravery. The staff on site were really impressed!



At the same time, the children in school were also having fun working on a collaborative, cross-class, mini project on East Africa. They learnt all about the region and worked in groups to research specific countries in the area. They learnt all about the Djembe drum (using the drums we currently have in school on loan from Sevenoaks School) and even began reading and following



music whilst playing. They then painted African designs onto material and painted it with fabric dye with excellent results. They finished off the three days with a long walk out and about to compare what they had found out about East Africa with our own village of Sundridge. Lots of fun was had by all!

At the end of term, our PTA kindly organised an Easter Bonnet Competition for the children. Goodness! What a sight to behold! The children's creativity was absolutely wonderful, colourful and completely awesome!



We held our Easter Service in St Mary's Church for the whole school, led by Sue Leather. Each class enacted or told a part of the Easter Story, Sue led our prayers and thanks were given for all that we share and for the gifts we have. We were delighted that so many of our friends and families were able to join us for the service and thank them all for their generosity in donating to our retiring collection to support the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine Appeal.

For this term, we have a Safety in Action event for our Year 6 children and a "Love to Dance" event for Years 4,

5 and 6 which will be held at the Stag Theatre at the end of May. We look forward to updating you next month!

Best wish to the whole community.  
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](mailto:office@sundridge.kent.sch.uk) [www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk](http://www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk)

## Fundridge Sundridge – Murder Mystery Evening

WHO DUNNIT' .....well, it wasn't Professor Plum in the Library with a Candlestick – that very quickly became apparent for anybody attending who was hoping that their knowledge of how to play Cluedo would be an advantage.

"We join the action in the staff room of Grimstone Grange, a private school with an uncertain future. A motley crew of under-appreciated teachers face a day full of blackmail, bankruptcy and birthday cake. Throw in some personnel review meetings with the headteacher plus a few dark secrets and the stage is set for murder. But, who would be taught a lesson and was it a textbook case .....?"

The Bitesize Drama Group (formerly the Sevenoaks Stag Players) provided a great evening of entertainment and a lot of 'end of pencil chewing' and scratching of heads was on show from the budding Sherlock Holmes and Miss Marple sleuths who attended the event.

Congratulations to The Hillside Cookies (Andy Cook's team) who solved the dastardly crime.

Thanks must go to the chefs and staff at The White Horse who produced and served the meals around the drama and subsequent summarizing.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening, thank you to all who attended this Fundridge Sundridge event.

*The Fundridge Team*



## Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

The Old Vicarage at Ide Hill, set in 4 ½ acres of undulating garden with spectacular views towards the South Downs and Bough Beech reservoir, was the destination for April's Members' Garden Visit. And wow! The bluebells were fully out and the rhododendrons and azaleas were putting on a fabulous show.



Refreshments with delicious homemade cakes and lots of chatter were followed by a guided tour of the garden by owners Paul and Maggie Meredith, both passionate about the incredible garden they have been nurturing for over 30 years.

We started at the back of the house, admiring the far-reaching view to the south, before heading off in two parties in two different directions. To the front, the house enjoys a close-up view of the church, framed by a beautiful flat lawn and mature trees, with flowering cherries in the fore. A huge bed, filled with a wide variety of shrubs and herbaceous perennials, had recently been laboriously cleared of weeds and then mulched, showing off the individual plants to their best. Even for the most enthusiastic gardeners amongst us, this would have been more than enough garden to maintain, but that was just the start!

We then followed paths cutting through the grass as it falls away from the house on its other sides, dropping down a slope here, winding through mature shrubs and trees there, and surrounded by the vivid colours of rhododendrons and azaleas at every turn. The daffodils

may have been going over but, mixed in the grass with the bluebells, they still provided a glorious view back to the church.



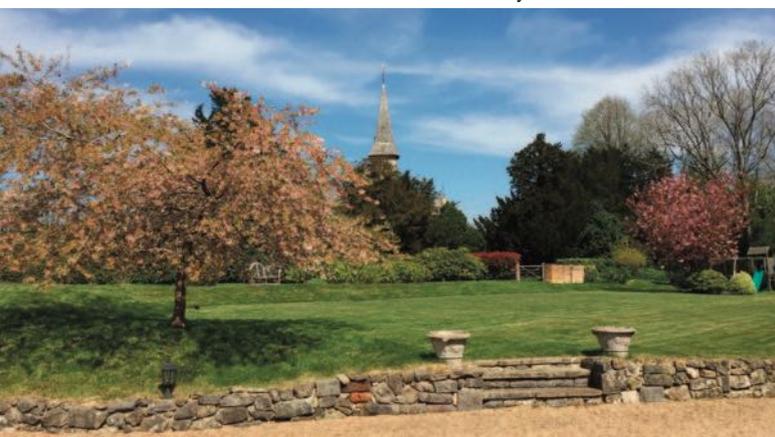
You couldn't fail to be amazed by this beautiful spring garden, with its stunning views and picture-postcard setting near the pretty church, all set off to wonderful effect by the colours of the rhododendrons, azaleas, cherry trees and bluebells, all in full bloom. But as gardeners, we were also filled with admiration for Paul and Maggie who have lovingly and skillfully created, developed and cared for this awe-inspiring garden over three decades. We are so grateful to them for sharing it with us on this sunny April morning and for their warm and generous hospitality. It is a garden visit that I'm sure none of us will forget.



On Wednesday 27th April, we will be visiting Pashley Manor in Ticehurst for their spectacular Tulip Festival, and then we return to an evening meeting on 11th May with a talk by George Lockwood at Ide Hill Village Hall. George's talk is entitled 'Plants that Flower each Month' and there'll be no prizes for guessing what that will be all about! Please join us at 7.30pm for refreshments, with the talk starting promptly at 8pm.

If you'd like to become a member of the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society, please feel free to contact me for more information by emailing [juliaricci@rocketmail.com](mailto:juliaricci@rocketmail.com) or calling 07818 236566. We look forward to welcoming you.

*Julia Ricci*



# CHARITY OPEN GARDEN at FROGLETS

Brasted Chart, Westerham  
Kent, TN16 1LY

2.00 - 6.00pm  
SUNDAY  
15th May 2022

Entry £5.00  
Tea will be served throughout  
the afternoon

With proceeds going to  
Christian Aid/Ukraine Relief Appeal



Supported by the Rotary Club of Sevenoaks

## Dates for your diary

**Sunday 1st May, Forest Church** - see article  
4pm - Ide Hill Churchyard

**Wednesday 11th May Brasted, Ide Hill & Sundridge**  
Gardening Society 19.30 meeting with a talk by George  
Lockwood at Ide Hill Village Hall - see article

**Sunday 15th May Froglets Open Garden** - see notice  
14.00 to 18.00, Brasted Chart. Entry £5.00, proceeds to  
Christian Aid/Ukrainian Relief Appeal

**Wednesday 25th May Annual Parochial Church**  
**Meeting** 19.00 at Ide Hill Village Hall

**2nd to 5th June Platinum Jubilee celebrations**  
St Mary's Church 2nd June see article and Parish  
Council's proposed street parties over the long weekend

**Sunday 5th June, Forest Church** - see article  
4pm - Sundridge Churchyard

**Sunday 3rd July, Forest Church**  
4pm - Toys Hill Chapel Ground

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

**Sunday 4th September, Forest Church**  
see article. 4pm - Ide Hill Churchyard

**Sunday 2nd October, Forest Church**  
see article. 4pm - Sundridge Churchyard

**Sunday 6th November, Forest Church**  
see article **3pm** - Toys Hill Chapel Ground

## Friends of Ide Hill church Spring Concert

The Friends of Ide Hill Church are hosting a Spring  
Concert in the Church on Tuesday 10th May at 7.30pm.

Jennie Brown, our local cellist, and two members of  
the LSO plus a viola player from the RPO will be giving  
a special performance as a fund-raising event for our  
Church Friends.

The programme includes:

Haydn String Quartet Opus 64 No 5 'The Lark'  
Schubert String Quartet No 14, D.810  
'Death and The Maiden'



Tickets are £15 each, to include a glass of wine or soft  
drink, and are available from the Ide Hill Village Shop or  
from Jane Rossi, Lynne Rutherford and Anne Beasley.

Do spread the word and bring along friends and family.  
I do hope that you can join us for what will be a lovely  
evening of music from some of our top musicians.  
Hope to see you there.

*Jane Rossi*

## The June 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  
Monday 23rd May to:-

**editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk**

If you are not already a subscriber to the Sundridge  
Village News, please do join us. There is no cost, your  
details are not shared or used for any other purpose.

To subscribe, simply send an email with  
"Subscribe" in the subject line to  
sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

## And finally . . .



Barbara gave the boilerman stick about his carbon footprint