

The Sundridge Village News

October 2022

It is with immense sadness that we learnt of the death of Her Majesty the Queen. Our thoughts are with His Majesty King Charles III, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal and the other family members at this very difficult time. As a nation we have been very privileged to be able to call her our Queen for over 70 years. Together with people from across the world, we are feeling the enormous loss of our Queen, such a magnificent role model, a shining example to us all. Together we will mourn her death and our loss.



Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

21st April 1926 - 8th August 2022



We give thanks for 70 Glorious Years





Parish Services for October 2022

Sunday 2nd

09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion
10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
16.00 Toys Hill Forest Church

Sunday 9th

10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

Sunday 16th

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd

10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

Sunday 30th

10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship

Rector

Rev Pam Davies

Churchwarden

Althea Chapman

email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

A Rector writes



While our Rector, Pam, is on sick leave, Tim Edwards, the Rector of Knockholt with Halstead, is kindly providing us with pastoral support. Here he offers some reflections for the month.

“Events, dear boy, events”

That is what Harold MacMillan (the fourth out of fifteen prime ministers to serve Queen Elizabeth II) is supposed to have said was the greatest difficulty for a government.

I say: “supposed to have said”, because he probably never actually said it – the quote is not actually attributed to him until more than twenty years after his time in government. But the quote came back to me recently.

I had known what I was going to write to you in my column: I was going to write about the start of the school year and how the term Jesus uses to refer to His followers – ‘disciple’ – literally means student and how each of us is called to life-long learning at His feet; learning that aims not at the mastery of facts, but at being transforming into the likeness of Jesus; and is not assessed at the end of the year by exams, but when we find ourselves before Jesus’s judgement at the end of our lives.

It was going to be a great column. But, events happened, dear boy, events happened.

The whole world has been taken up with the events following on from the death of the late Queen Elizabeth and the accession of King Charles III.

When I say: “the whole world”, I don’t really think that that is an exaggeration.

I saw an initial estimate from the BBC that 5.1 billion people watched the state funeral, that is an astonishing 63.2% of the global population. A couple I know walked into a hotel bar in Venice and found it on there, and I know people who watched it in Afghanistan, Australia, and Africa.

It has been compelling, whether we are convinced monarchists, ardent republicans or dedicated don’t-knows. The service was incredibly striking. I wonder what moment most struck you – do let me know.

Was it the precision of the pall bearers? Or the throng of kings, queens, princes, presidents, prime ministers, and even an emperor? Or the sight of the Queen’s coffin making a detour around the tomb of the Unknown Soldier? Or the beauty of the choir?

One of the things that most struck me was the fact that in a service, every word of which had been carefully weighed and approved by the Queen, Her Late Majesty chose that the last hymn sung in the funeral should end with the words:

*Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!*

“Till we cast our crowns before thee” – sung as the camera focused on the Imperial State Crown. Lying next to the crown was the Orb. When that was presented to the Queen at her Coronation, these words were said:

*Receive this Orb set under the Cross,
and remember that the whole world
is subject to the Power and Empire
of Christ our Redeemer.*

As she herself said in 2000: *For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life.*

Not many of us will in this life come to wear a crown. But all of us are personally accountable before God; all are subject to “the Power and Empire of Christ our Redeemer”.

Or, as the Archbishop of Canterbury put it in his sermon: *We will all face the merciful judgement of God: we can all share the Queen’s hope which in life and death inspired her servant leadership.*

Given that each of us will undoubtedly face God’s “merciful judgement”, it would be an unbearable shame to do so without that hope, without the “abundant life now and life with God in eternity” that Christ freely offers to all.

If you are not sure about that hope for yourself, I would feel incredibly privileged to have the chance to talk with you about how you might have that assurance in the face of whatever events may come your way.

Your minister, Tim

If you would like to be in touch about anything at all, Tim would be delighted to hear from you.

*Email him on rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com
or call him on 01959 532133 or on his mobile 07980 826365*

Ride and Stride 10th September

This year my wheels and legs took me to Rochester, Strood and Cuxton before returning via St Martin's Brasted to St Mary's Sundridge, managing a total of 10 churches and one cathedral, striding just under 10 miles. It was a frustrating day with many of the churches closed, though some did have the 'sign-up' form posted on their firmly closed door.

Thank you to those who sponsored me to the tune of £185.00, with half of that money being given back to the parish. Thank you also to the Friends of St Mary's, Fiona and Althea who valiantly manned our church, providing refreshments for the weary.

Barbara Lockey



Dates for your diary

Sunday 2nd October, Forest Church

16.00 - Toys Hill Chapel Ground

Friday 4th - 8th October Life light show

Evenings at Rochester Cathedral. For the ticket prices and booking information visit: <https://www.rochester-cathedral.org/life-booking-information>

Wednesday 12th October, Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society 20.00 Ide Hill Village Hall

Friday 30th October Halloween Trick or Treat

For all children in the village 15.00 to 17.00pm.

Meeting at Coronation Gardens. Children in dressing up kit, parents need to accompany. A trail through the village knocking on doors of those who are happy to see the children. Details to follow.

Sunday 6th November, Forest Church

15.00 - Toys Hill Chapel Ground

Sunday 27th November, Christingle St Mary's Church

16.30 Followed by carols and turning on of the village lights. More details to follow.

Thanks to the Bell Ringers

Our gratitude goes to Rita Cox and all the bell ringers at St Mary's Sundridge for the wonderful ringing – and very demanding preparation for the muffling of the bells - over the period of mourning for the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Those two long tolls were moving and powerful and were very much appreciated.

A Book of Condolence was opened in the church and signed by many.

The Friends of St Mary's

The Friends were delighted to be asked by Fundridge, the organisers of Funstock, to run a tombola stall at the event on 28th August 2022. Thanks to the very generous donation of numerous prizes, both traditional bottles and more family-themed items, the stall was very popular and was sold out within three hours. We were pleased to be part of this very successful community occasion which raised £150 for our funds.



The Executive Committee met at the beginning of September and are now finalising a calendar of interesting events for the coming year. Please look out for listings in future editions of the Village News. Better still, why not join the Friends of St Mary's and get advance notice of events – membership costs a minimum of £10 a year. Forms can be obtained from Acting Honorary Treasurer, Kenneth Ludlam, via email – kenneth.ludlam@btinternet.com alternatively contact the Village News and the Editor will pass on your enquiry.

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 20th October to:-

editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk

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News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's passing has, of course, been a focus in school this term. We have followed the news and talked a lot in class about Her Majesty's remarkable and wonderful reign, the period of national mourning and the impact her death will have on the country. We created our own tribute to the Queen, which you may have seen on our front fence - The Queen with Paddington Bear, surrounded by the children's prayers. Please do have a look if you are passing.



We have welcomed our new Reception children this term, who have settled in really quickly and are enjoying life at Sundridge & Brasted and, under the leadership of Natalia Figa, Forest School is back! Our younger children are enjoying using our own nature area and the farmland beyond the church, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Jack, (for which we are immensely grateful) to learn and play in an outdoor environment. So far, they have made mud pies, explored the environment, climbed trees and made their very own rope swings. They have so much fun! We hope to continue Forest School throughout the year so that all of our classes enjoy the creativity and inspiration that Natalia brings to Forest School.



We also took part in St Mary's Heritage Week. The children were given a Churchyard Trail and a map and had to work their way around the church to answer questions, such as how did George Sinclair die and which mythical creature is depicted on the chest tomb near the Hyde family plaques? It was an excellent way of finding out

more about the local community and great fun too! Thank you to Barbara, Jane and Althea who made it all happen and invited us to join in.



Our clubs are up and running for the new year: construction, arts & crafts, (making turtles in the first week of term) cookery, football, judo, street dance and speed stacking. (Yes, speed stacking is a thing! It involves stacking cups into prescribed patterns and de-stacking them, accurately and speedily. Excellent for hand/eye co-ordination. The children are phenomenal!)

We have lots of plans for the forthcoming months too: Harvest, charity days, sports and Christmas events. Watch this space!

In the meantime, we ask our community to spread the word to all friends and families who have young children and who are looking for primary schools for next September's intake. We are a small and much-loved Church of England village school where staff are passionate about teaching and enriching every child's learning experience. Please visit our website for further information www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk and call the school office (01959 562694) to make an appointment to meet the team and see the school.

Best wish to the whole community.

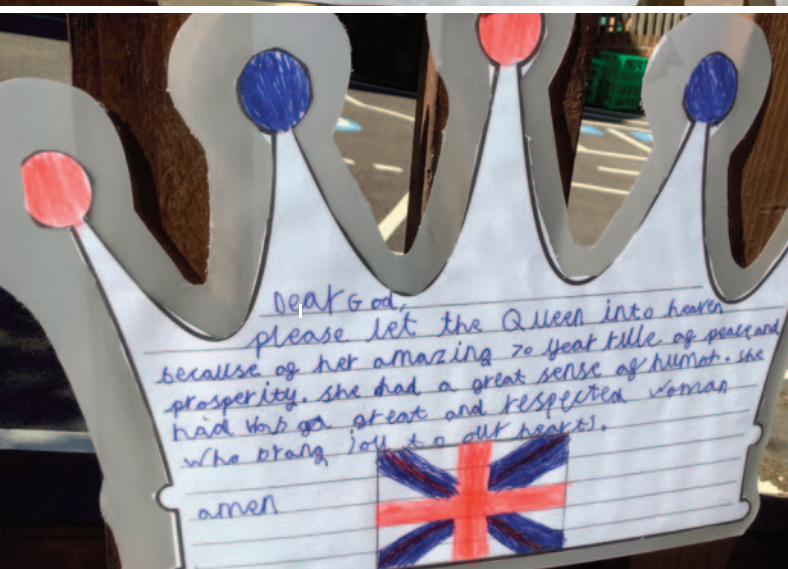
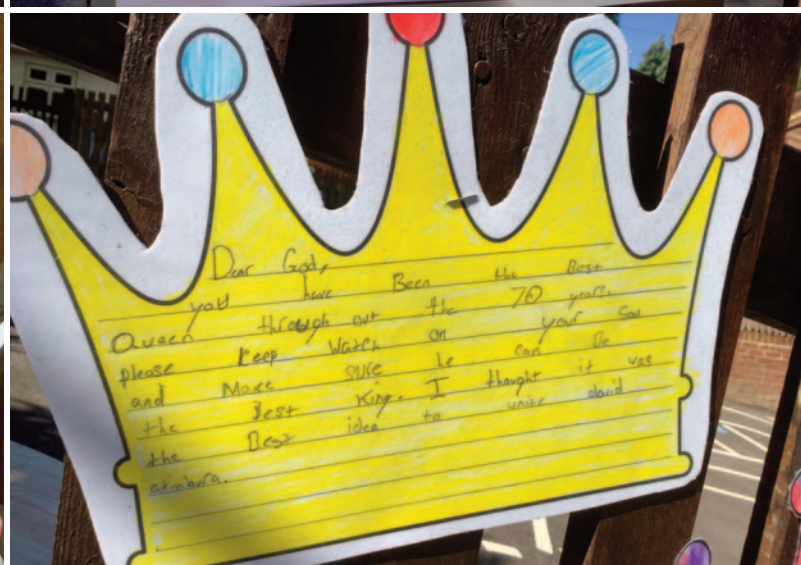
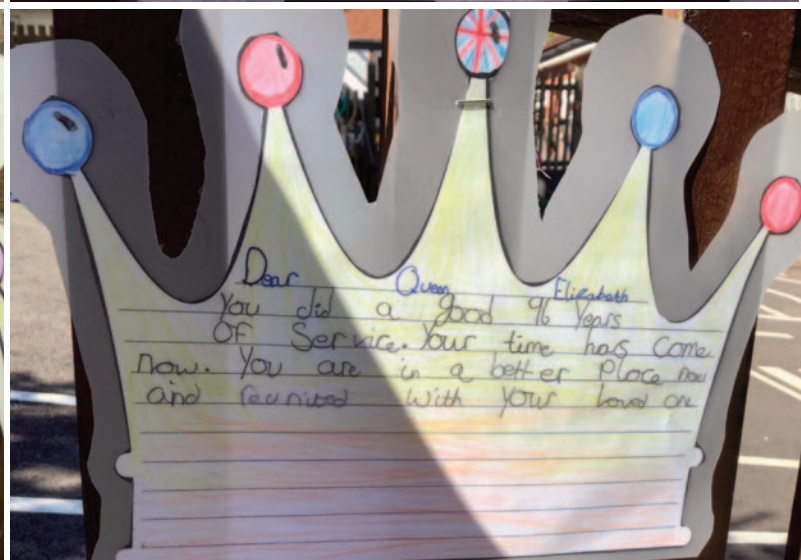
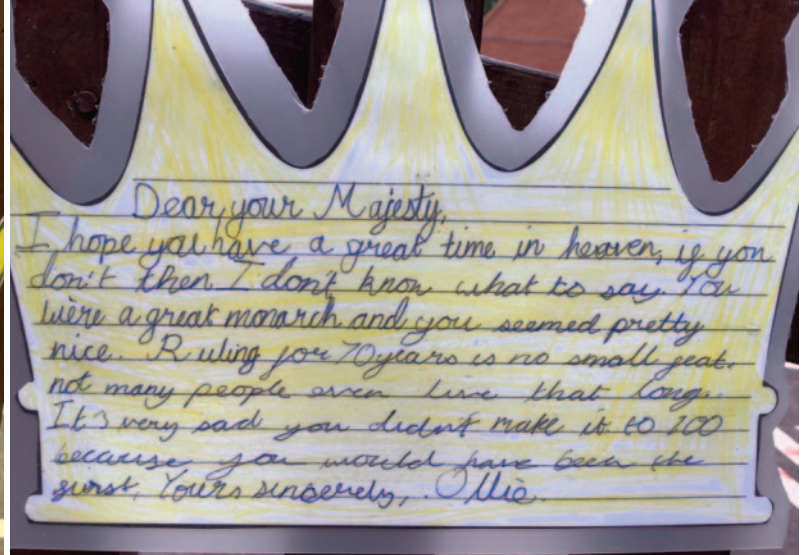
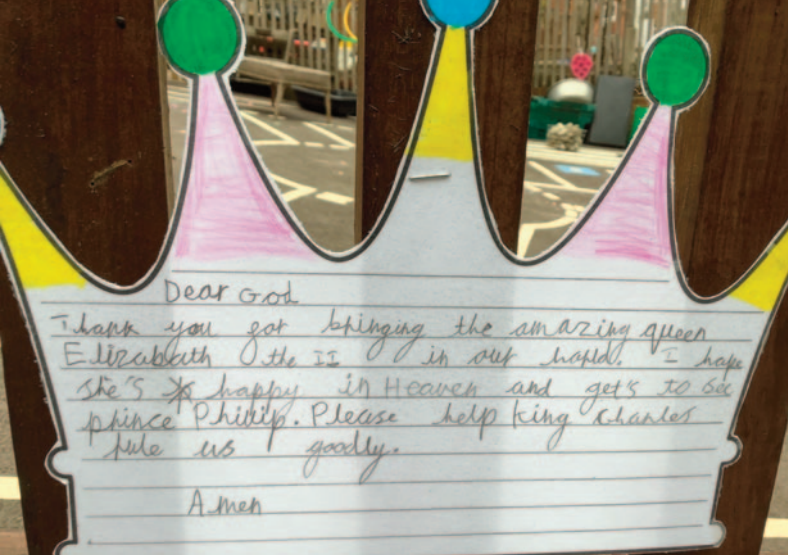
Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

*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 www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk



Forest Church Fun

Our theme for the September Forest Church service was about balance. With the autumn equinox approaching, with the balance between light and dark becoming the same length, we thought about getting the balance right in our own lives.

We began by testing our balance skills by standing on one leg, then the other, and if that was too easy, standing on one leg with our eyes closed – not quite so easy!

Our bible story was about the balance between Martha and Mary, with Martha preparing the house for the arrival of Jesus, whilst Mary sat listening attentively to what Jesus was saying. Obviously, Martha was unhappy that she was

doing all the work, but Jesus told her that she was worrying needlessly about too many things and that Mary had made the right choice. I think we all need to be a mixture of both Martha and Mary and find the balance in our own lives.

Our activities were all balance-related, with a hopscotch area and competitive jenga games. It was a very happy afternoon spent in the sunshine on the triangle outside the Toys Hill Village Hall.

The next Forest church will be at Toys Hill at 4pm and there is rumour of a fire pit and toasted marshmallows! No need to book, just turn up.



Harvest Festival at St Mary's Sundridge on Sunday 18 September

Below is the opening of Jane Rosam's sermon:

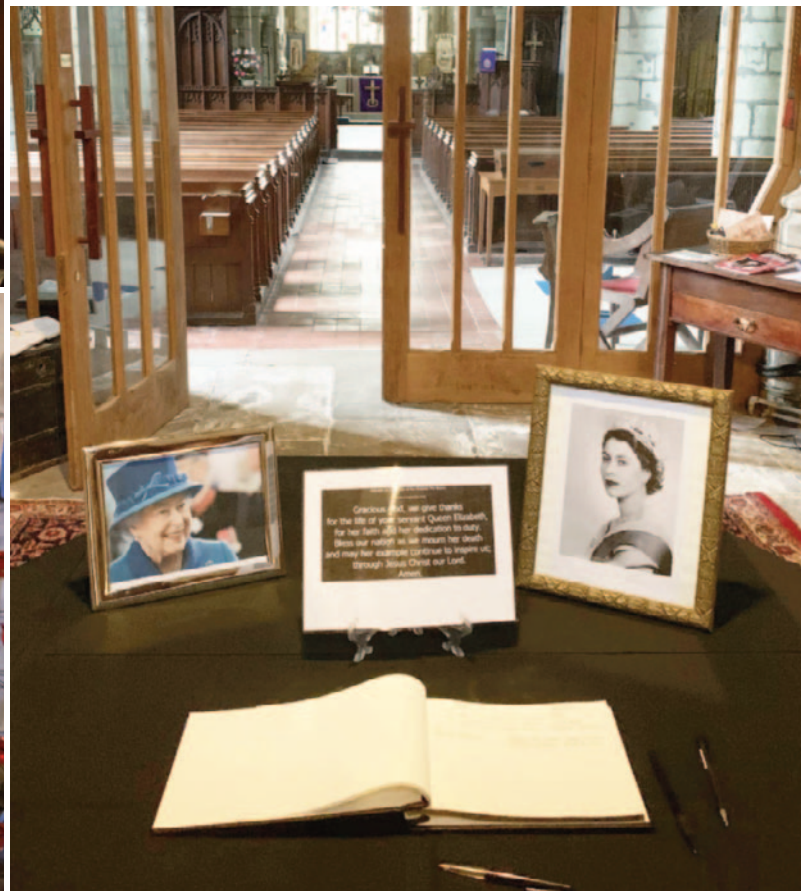
What a momentous week, well, a week and a half really now, but it has been a time of so much change, change that impacts all our lives.

And this was after a period of political turbulence resulting in a new and relatively unknown Prime Minister. Our hearts, though, were briefly warmed by a photograph of our beloved Queen, both smiling and welcoming the new PM, underneath the affectionate newspaper caption of "Hello Liz". Our beloved Queen. Our leader for over 70 years – a constant and stable figure who was always there at the big moments and who brought us comfort with her wise words. Words that spoke to everyone throughout this nation, kingdom, the Commonwealth and world.

The Queen spoke the universal language of her deep Christian faith. Yes, her title was as Defender of the Faith,

but it was how she lived out that faith that made people take her to their hearts. The outpouring of sadness and mourning at her death crosses age, class, politics and gender...

So, in this period of change, as we look for stability and constancy, we can always rely on Creation to hold us in an ever-moving rhythm of life. A comforting repeating pattern that we can rely on. The seasons always happen and always will, the only changeable factors are those that mankind can influence and this is a point it is always worth reflecting on. The seasons are simply God's great gift to us, they give us the ability to sustain our lives, to give us times to enjoy and they mark out our years. Today, as we celebrate Harvest and God's provision for us, we do so in a service of Harvest thanksgiving. Coming together in worship to say thank you, for all the good gifts around us we come today to show our gratitude.



Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

The speaker at our June meeting, Stephen Harman, delivered an informative and entertaining talk entitled "The History of Sissinghurst Garden". Stephen, Head Gardener at Tonbridge School, is passionate about garden history and really brought Sissinghurst to life in each era that he spoke about. In 1530 a swine herd is recorded as having been kept on the land (when it was known as Saxonhurst, with 'hurst' having meant woodland) and subsequently a Tudor hunting palace was built, with the tower (from where people could view the hunt) now the only building left from that era. Between 1756 and 1763, the buildings were used to house captured French soldiers who were kept in squalid conditions. The prisoners called it 'le chateau, hence Sissinghurst Castle. In the 19th century, Sissinghurst became a workhouse and the residents worked the land on the estate in exchange for housing and food. It was a highly productive Victorian farm and the buildings still housed farm workers when Vita Sackville West and her husband Harold Nicolson bought the property in 1930.

The garden we see today was designed by Harold and planted by Vita. He created straight lines, projecting out into the landscape, and connected the garden with the rural scene through spaces such as The Rondel, a circular lawn bounded by a circular yew hedge, which echoed the round shape of nearby oast houses. This post-modern garden was heavily influenced by gardens of the Arts and Crafts movement, which were inspired by Persian gardens and the formal geometric shapes of Italian Renaissance gardens.

Harold and Vita fell in love with the gardens at nearby Gravetye Manor and followed the principles of design and planting set out in William Robinson's book about the Arts and Crafts Movement. Vita also visited Hidcote Manor in the Cotswolds, and copied the idea she saw there of the 'garden rooms', each compartment enclosed with a yew hedge and having a theme or character of its own.

Vita crammed many plants into the garden and didn't want to see any bare soil during the summer months. Walls were planted with roses, clematis and honeysuckle, all intertwining and underplanted with a host of other flowering plants. She planted a wild flower meadow, allowing it to naturalise with orchids, cowslips and other native plants. She carried seeds in her pockets and threw

them everywhere, much to the annoyance of Harold who did a lot of the weeding and tidying in the garden.

For Vita, the planting had to blend and harmonise and have unity of movement and height. Plants had to work hard for their space in the garden and also had to work hard together, otherwise they were removed and discarded.



Sissinghurst was first opened to the public in the late 1930s. Vita loved having visitors in the garden and enjoyed chatting with them, but Harold hated it and gave short shrift to anyone trying to engage him in conversation while he weeded The Lime Walk.

After Vita's death in 1962, Harold Nicolson decided that Vita's beloved Sissinghurst should be left to the National Trust and they started looking after it in 1967. It is now one of the most visited gardens in the country. Vita and Harold were meticulous note-takers and list-makers, and Head Gardener Troy Scott Smith is using these lists to replant various parts of the garden with the exact same plants and varieties that Vita and Harold would have used. If you've never been to Sissinghurst and enjoy looking round gardens, you really must go!

Our next meeting will take place at Ide Hill Village Hall on Wednesday 12th October at 8pm and will be a hands-on workshop with Tessa Allen about how to take cuttings. 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 or calling 07818 236566.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Julia Ricci



Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council update – October 2022



It was with great sorrow and sadness that the Members and Officers of Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council heard of the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We give heartfelt thanks for her life of faithful service, her strength, her courage and her grace. Our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers went to His Majesty King Charles III, the Queen Consort and all the Royal Family.

The Parish Council put in place the Council's Operation London Bridge policy, providing in Ide Hill a Book of Condolence in the Ide Hill Community Shop for residents to sign during the period when the shop was open. Floral tributes could be left at Ide Hill Green. In Sundridge, a Book of Condolence was placed in Sundridge Village Hall, available for residents to sign from 9am to 8pm daily during the official mourning period. Residents were invited to leave floral tributes at Coronation Gardens. The Royal Family also opened an online Book of Condolences which is still available for residents to sign using the link below. <https://www.royal.uk/>



Cllr Evans, Chair of the Parish Council, also sent a letter of condolence to His Majesty King Charles III on behalf of Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council and the residents of Sundridge and Ide Hill.



The Proclamation of King Charles III was read in Sundridge and Ide Hill on Sunday 11th September 2022 at 4:30pm, following the County and District readings of the Proclamation. Residents were invited to join Members of the Parish Council at either Ide Hill Memorial, read by Cllr Don Baker, or Coronation Gardens in Sundridge, read by Cllr John Evans. There was a good turn out at both locations for the historic event.

There was then a National Moment of Reflection to pay respect to Her Majesty the Queen with a one-minute silence at 8pm on Sunday 18 September. Residents came together to mark this occasion again at Ide Hill Memorial and Coronation Gardens in Sundridge.

During the period of mourning the Parish Council also ensured that our Parish flag on Coronation Gardens followed the correct protocol for the mourning period and Proclamation.

All Parish Council meetings were cancelled during the official mourning period and so the September Parish Council Meeting, due to be held on 19th September, has been postponed until 3rd October.

On behalf of the residents of Sundridge and Ide Hill Parish, Members and Officers of Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council send His Majesty King Charles III our warmest wishes on his accession to the throne of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. We wish His Majesty good health, strength, and happiness throughout his reign.

God save the King







THANK YOU!

Peddinsto

Handwritten message on a white card, partially legible.





And finally . . .

