

# The Sundridge Village News December 2022 - January 2023



In this issue we hear of the Remembrance service at St Marys Sundridge, the latest news from Sundridge and Brasted School, and Rochester Cathedral, an update from the Friends of St Marys and the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society, a report from the Parish Council, the reasons everyone should build a hibernaculum and the Fun and Games had by those on Halloween Trick or Treat evening arranged by Fundridge, Sundridge, and, of course, dates for your diary. *A huge thank you to all our contributors, our readers and all those who so kindly give of their time and expertise to ensure the Village News is printed and published so regularly. We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

## Parish Services for December 2022

### Sunday 4th

09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion *Rev Adie McCall*  
10.30 Ide Hill Christmas Tree Service *Jane Rosam*  
and Forest Church at back of church

### Sunday 11th

08.00 Ide Hill Holy Communion *Rev Tim Edwards*  
15.30 Ide Hill Carol Service *Rev Angela Baker &*  
*Ruth Barrow*

### Sunday 18th

08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion *Rev Lynette Leithead*  
18.30 Sundridge Carol Service and refreshments  
*Rev Matt Taylor*

### Saturday 24th

17.00 Toys Hill Crib Service\* *Rev Adie McCall*  
23.00 Ide Hill Holy Communion *Rev Jim Stevens*

### Sunday 25th

09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion *Rev Wendy Harvey*  
10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship *Bryan Harris*

\*Crib Service at Toys Hill – 5pm on 24th December  
*An informal service welcoming all. Children (we are all children at heart) are invited to dress as a character from the Nativity. Please stay afterwards for a mulled wine and a mince pie or two. Contact Di Pickard on [dipickard2@aol.com](mailto:dipickard2@aol.com) for more information.*

## Parish Services for January 2023

### Sunday 1st

12.00 Sundridge Ringing In the New Year

### 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 Ide Hill All Age Worship

**Churchwarden** Althea Chapman email: [althea.chapman@outlook.com](mailto:althea.chapman@outlook.com)

## A Rector writes



As I look out of my study window today, it is a grey, damp day. It is the sort of day that many of us find depressing.

It is difficult to know accurately how many people in the UK experience Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) – one statistic I saw suggested that it could be as many as 1 in 3 of those over 16.

That experience of the “winter blues” has some continuity with the experience of almost every generation up until recent times, for whom winter was a time to fear: a time when cold, disease, lack of food and even the literal wolf at the door posed very real threats.

Modern life for many of us changed that. But this year, once again, there are people who have reason to fear the winter – cold (because of energy costs), disease (concerns about covid and ‘flu) and lack of food (because of cost of living).

As with previous years, the church is here to help – if you or someone you know is struggling, please let me know in absolute confidence, or perhaps you can help, whether by donating to our food bank or by giving financially.

But alongside that, the darkness and vulnerability of wintertime ought to remind of us of something even deeper.

Just over two millennia ago, light broke into our dark world.

It is entirely fitting that it is at this time of year we remember the birth of Christ – the light of the world come to break the chains of all our darkness.

So, this year, whatever you are fearful of, or worried by, or concerned about, why not find out more about the difference that Jesus makes and real, solid reasons for hope?

I’d love to chat to you or see you at one of our Christmas services.

Your rector,  
Tim

## Remembrance Sunday

We held our traditional Remembrance Service at St Mary's on Sunday 13 November. The weather was kind to us, though the Churchwarden was delighted to see a beautifully swept path free of yew berries and slippery autumn leaves and, for the first time in many years, a Union Flag hung down over the West Door, as it had apparently done in the past. The congregation was met by peals of muffled bells.

The service was taken by Rev Adie McCall who, in her sermon, emphasised the need for continuing observance of this day into the next generation and beyond and the prayers recalled that, at this same moment in 2021, we were asking that the “disturbing situation on the

Belarus/Polish border be resolved without recourse to arms”. One year further on, a bitter war is being fought in Europe.

The Names of The Fallen from the village were read out by Robert Huty, Paul Brown read The Exhortation, “They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old... ..” and the very haunting Last Post and Reveille were beautifully played by Liz Finlason. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Parish Council and the Churchwarden and Congregation of St Mary's and the Head Boy and Head Girl of Sundridge & Brasted Primary School carried out their presenting and laying of wreaths with great dignity.

*How shall we be praying at Remembrance Sunday 2023?*



## News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

*Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!*

As a school, we are working towards a nurture school accreditation. The children at Sundridge & Brasted are at the heart of all that we do and we want to involve them in their school so they feel valued, respected and able to fulfil their own potential. We are embracing the six principles of nurture and hold a nurture school assembly each week to explain to the children what we are trying to achieve and what we are already doing to support their wellbeing. So far, we have talked about what makes us feel safe, what we are good at and how we all learn differently. The children write their thoughts on post-it notes which are then added to our display board. We celebrate all that is good and nurture every child so that they feel valued and heard.

In other news...we have been SO busy!

Our older children are travelling to Sevenoaks School each week to extend their Art and Design & Technology skills under the guidance of the Sevenoaks staff and student team and using their wonderful equipment. They are designing, printing and laser cutting to make book marks and Christmas cards and having a great time learning new skills.

We have been selling poppies and poppy accessories in school to raise money for the Royal British Legion and held our own Remembrance Service on Friday 11th November at the memorial at St Mary's Church. Our Head Boy and Head Girl also attended St Mary's Remembrance Service on Sunday 13th to represent the school and lay wreaths on our behalf.

Mr Oates from Kent-Music has joined us this term to teach Owl class how to play ukuleles!! The children are thoroughly engaged, really enjoying the lessons and learning so much. Already the songs are tuneful, harmonious and evidence of wonderful strumming and clicking skills! We hope to move on to guitars after Christmas.

Stay and Play is absolutely buzzing on Wednesdays and we are delighted that so many families, many of whom are new to our school community, are finding their way to us on Wednesday mornings. Stay and Play runs every Wednesday in term time, 9.00am to 10.30am. All babies, toddlers, mums, dads, grandparents and carers are welcome for craft/messy play, toys, stories and music.



Barney the cockapoo is a regular visitor in Fox class (as he is Mrs Menawy's dog!) and can often be seen around school, making friends with the children and staff. He loves to meet everyone and he has such a beautiful nature that he is loved by all. He is a soothing presence in our busy days!

We continue to offer tours of our lovely school to prospective parents, so please do 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 invite all prospective parents to make an appointment for an individual tour, to meet the team and to ask any questions. Please also visit our website School Tour & Gallery Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School to see our virtual tour of the school and [www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk](http://www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk) for all other information.

We have lots planned for December, including basketball and boccia events and, of course, our Nativity Play, Carol Concert and a whole school trip to the panto on the last day of term! Such a lot to do and so much fun to be had. And excellent learning too, of course.

As always, we send our very best wishes 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)



## Christmas Floral arrangements 2022

We would again this year like to continue the tradition of recent years and have Poinsettias in Church for the annual Carol Service on Sunday, 18th December at 6.30pm. Any contributions will be gratefully received and these may be brought to the Church in the morning of Saturday, 17th December, between 10am and 12 noon, along with any holly with berries that you may have in the garden. Alternatively, a poinsettia may be brought to the Carol Service. All contributions gratefully received.



I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all members of the Flower Team who have continued to provide flowers for Services during the year, and, especially for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the beginning of June. Sadly, we were not to know we would lose her a few months later, and so soon after the special Flower Festival celebrating her reign, at Ide Hill in August at which the Sundridge team provided a display entitled 'The Queen, Patron of the RHS.'



I also extend my thanks to those who have been kind enough to leave money in the Flower Fund Box at the rear of the Church. These contributions have helped considerably with special events.

The Flower Team is quite small now (and some of us getting older) so if anyone would like to join us they would be very welcome, even for special events only. Please contact me if you are interested.

*Beryl Norman Tel: 01959 563585*

## Fundridge Trick or Treat

October 30th 2022: Fundridge Sundridge held the second annual Trick or Treat Walk through the village. We were joined by around 30 children, all dressed up in their most spooky or frightening outfits! Parents and carers accompanied the Trick or Treaters as we made our way along Main Road, calling at several homes where frightened residents gave up their stash of sweets and chocolates!

There was a fabulous mix of costumes on show, ranging from witches and wizards to ghouls and goblins, and even one or two superheroes!



After walking back along Chapmans Road, we returned to The White Horse where our hosts kindly laid on hot chocolate for us grizzly guests! Local residents also contributed home-made cupcakes disguised as ghosts (and a cameo appearance from the Cookie Monster as well!)



The popularity of the event was evident, as numbers nearly doubled from the year before! We look forward to repeating this in 2023, when we might need more doors to knock on to satisfy all our keen trick or treaters!

*The Fundridge Sundridge team*

# News from Rochester Cathedral

## Christmas Services

There are a range of services at Rochester Cathedral during December, including Dickens Festival Carol Services on 3rd & 4th December, a Christingle Service on 10th December and A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on 21st and 22nd December. Details of these and all other events can be found at:

[www.rochestercathedral.org/new-events](http://www.rochestercathedral.org/new-events)



## Peace Doves

Between 11th February and 21st April 2023 Rochester Cathedral will be transformed by 'Peace Doves', an artwork by sculptor Peter Walker. Bringing a message of peace and hope, the Peace Doves artwork is to be created from thousands of individually handmade paper doves; together they collectively form this beautiful artwork which, as a whole, reflects joining together in unity, peace and hope moving forward. Peace Doves is an artwork that has been re-curated for different spaces as it tours the UK - adaptations have been seen in Liverpool, Lichfield, Derby (illustrated above) and Sheffield. 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. He uses traditional techniques to offer unique and contemporary ways to communicate, often resulting in evoking powerful emotion, wonder and awe for the viewer.

The Peace Doves project incorporates educational engagement with many schools and community groups



in the local area and each person writes an individual message of peace and hope onto each dove. Throughout history the dove has been viewed as a symbol of peace in many different cultures. For example, in Greek mythology the dove is a symbol of the renewal of life and, liturgically within the Bible, the dove appears at the Baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan and in the teachings of Noah and the Ark as a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Your help is needed to create the doves for this artwork. Doves are available at the Cathedral. Please write a message of peace on a paper dove and place the dove in the basket. Your dove will join thousands of other doves to form the final installation.

You can find out more at:  
[www.peterwalkersculptor.com](http://www.peterwalkersculptor.com)

## The following announcement was made in the Parish on Sunday 27th November 2022

“The Bishop of Rochester is pleased to announce that Revd Pamela Elizabeth Davies is to be licensed as Associate Priest of both the benefice of Meopham with Nurstead and the benefice of Cobham with Luddesdowne and Dode.

Pam will be licenced just before Christmas, and so her time here at Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill will effectively cease as of today. Pam will be making arrangements to move into her new Rectory in the coming weeks.

Do hold Pam in your prayers as she arranges her move and prepares for her ministry in the Rochester Archdeaconry.”

The PCC is indebted to the Diocese and in particular to the Venerable Sharon Copestake, our Archdeacon. The Archdeacon will now be working with the PCC on the next steps that need to be taken.

**Parochial Church Council of  
Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill**

## Update from the Friends of St Mary's Church, Sundridge

As listed in the Parish Services notices above, please come and join in the ceremony of "Ringing in the New Year", taking place at 12 noon on Sunday 1st January 2023 at St Mary's Church, Sundridge. The Friends have been invited to contribute to the event this year by providing warm mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone is welcome on this very special occasion!

A date for your diary: Monday 20th March – the Friends' AGM. After the brief formal part of the evening, Nick White has kindly agreed to give us a talk. Watch out for more details in the next Village News.

We are finalising our programme for late Spring and are currently arranging a visit in May to the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum for a tour, followed by a talk from Bob Ogley at The Red House (by kind permission of Nigel & Jane Belle). The Red House has very strong links to wartime Britain as it housed members of the Air Transport Auxiliary and Bob's talk will be all the more fascinating within such a splendid setting.

A flyer will be sent out to members of The Friends when details are confirmed and the event will be advertised in the Village News nearer the time.

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

### Ide Hill Carols on the Green

Following the (rather chilly) pleasure of last year's Carols on the Green in Ide Hill, once again the Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council is arranging a pre-Christmas celebration around the Well on Ide Hill Green on Friday 9th December. Your Parish Council will be supplying mulled wine, mince pies, soft drinks and biscuits so all parishioners, young and old, are invited to wrap up warmly and join in the singing of carols and Christmas songs from 7pm.

### Stubbs Wood

It has been a while since the previous contractor, who was engaged to undertake work in Stubbs Wood, breached their contract and left the work incomplete. Volunteers, under the leadership of Dominic Rossi, have made good much of the unfinished work but the main works are still to be completed and need to be done by a professional tree management company.

The Parish Council has appointed a new woodland consultant and is in the process of updating its management plan in accordance with regulations and grant requirements. Shortly, the consultant will start to approach potential companies to tender for the work which will take place at the appropriate time next year. This work will include widening the main rides through the woods, thinning along the pathways to allow more light in and coppicing trees to open up the viewpoints.

In the meantime, the volunteers' working party will be undertaking work that is within their capabilities and are cutting back invasive species and undertaking a deer management plan as well and arranging with the Parish Council to add new signage.

### Bowers Meadow

The Parish Council has set up a new working group to review Bowers Meadow post the survey held with the village earlier in the year. The group will be looking into possible improvements and opportunities to raise money to help pay for new facilities. If you are able to help out with fundraising or have ideas, please get in touch with Cllr Vikki Allgood.

Ide Hill and Goathurst Common Recreation Grounds Two new picnic benches are to be supplied at Ide Hill Rec. by the Parish Council. The one at Goathurst Rec. is to be replaced. A working party, led by Cllr Fribbens, is looking

into the proposals by Goathurst Common residents to upgrade the play area and amenities at Goathurst Rec.

### Parish website and social media

The Parish council will be doing a revamp of the Parish Council website looking to make it easier for parishioners to access the information they need. We will also be posting news and updates to our Facebook page.

If you don't already follow the page, please go to:

[www.facebook.com/SWIHPC](https://www.facebook.com/SWIHPC)  
and click follow.



**CHRISTMAS IN IDE HILL**



**CAROLS ON THE GREEN**

**Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Refreshments**

**9th December 2022 at 7pm**

**Ide Hill Green Well**

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council invites you to join a Christmas celebration on Ide Hill Green with carols and festive refreshments provided.

**Everyone is welcome, bring the family**

## Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

Our November meeting began with a sociable half hour of chatting over a glass of wine and some nibbles, followed by a brief AGM. Vice Chair Elaine Moss read the Chairman's report, prepared by Carol Edmunds, who was unfortunately unable to attend. Carol reflected on the full and varied year of outings and speakers that many of us had enjoyed, with highlights including visits to two of our own members' gardens in the spring and summer. The Treasurer's report reported a healthy bank balance and a total of 75 members.

The AGM was closed and Elaine handed over the remainder of the meeting to our guest speaker, Ignacio Silva de la Iglesia, Head Gardener at Emmetts.



Ignacio is a highly qualified and experienced gardener. Brought up on a small-holding in Galicia, Spain, he always had a keen interest in plants, and studied horticulture at university. He arrived in the UK in 2004, and initially worked for several years for Lambeth Council as a gardener in the housing sector and then in the parks department. During this time, he completed an RHS Diploma and a Masters, and went on to take a three-year Diploma at Kew. He moved away from the more formal style of gardening required by Lambeth Council into high-end domestic gardening, which was much more in keeping with his own interests, particularly in plants.

Ignacio talked a bit about the history of the gardens at Emmetts, first laid out between 1863 and 1875 by then

owner and passionate plantsman, Frederic Lubbock. Lubbock was a friend of William Robinson who promoted the idea of wild gardening to create a natural aesthetic and who was at the forefront of the Arts and Crafts Movements. He pioneered the ideas of rock gardens and alpines, drifts of naturalised bulbs such as daffodils and the cottage garden style of gardening, all which were adopted by Lubbock into the gardens at Emmetts.



Ignacio has just completed his first year as Head Gardener at Emmetts, and he spent the rest of the talk explaining what had been undertaken during his first year and what was planned for the future. As there are no strong historical records about the garden as it was in Lubbock's time, he has a fairly free rein in terms of what he is allowed to do, as long as it is in keeping with the principles of a Robinsonian garden. We all look forward to seeing continuing developments and improvements in the years ahead.

Ignacio is as charming as he is passionate about gardening so, if you see him whilst visiting Emmetts, do stop and say hello, and he will be only too pleased to chat with you about the garden that we are so fortunate to have on our doorsteps.

We will take a break now over the winter months and look forward to our first meeting of 2023 in February which will be an afternoon tea at Ide Hill Village Hall and an opportunity to renew our membership and discover the programme for the forthcoming year – please keep an eye out in the new year for more details. 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*



# Wildlife Gardening Club

I've just attended my first Wildlife Gardening Club at Bore Place. The idea of the club is to learn and share ideas for improving habitats and encouraging wildlife into your garden. It is a friendly and informal club, no previous knowledge or experience is necessary – you don't even have to have your own garden. Each month there is a bookable guided and themed workshop, with an emphasis on learning, which can then be built upon through the month until the next themed session.

The workshop I attended was about hedgehogs and small mammals and was fascinating. Small mammals are an important part of a healthy ecosystem and should be welcomed by the wildlife gardener.

The rear of my garden is lovingly called 'Steptoe's Yard' due to the abundance of hardcore, bricks, logs, broken pots and drainpipes that I've been told, over the years, might come in useful. Tired of waiting, I've found a use for them and I'm going to attempt to design and build a hibernaculum which, as you will see from the illustration, is an underground chamber that amphibians and reptiles use throughout the winter to protect themselves from cold.

For more information about the group please ask me, visit [www.boreplace.org/whats-on](http://www.boreplace.org/whats-on) or call 01732 463255

The group is available to anyone over 55 or with a health condition and is free of charge. *Barbara Lockey*

## Build a hibernaculum

Great for amphibians and reptiles!

wildlife watch

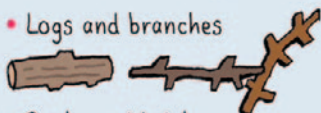


### You will need:

- Spade



- Logs and branches



- Rocks and bricks



- 2-3 drainpipe off-cuts or cement pipes

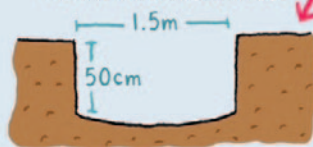


If using plastic drainpipes, roughen the insides with sandpaper so that they are not too slippery for animals to climb

- Turf or meadow flower seeds (optional)



- 1 In a sunny spot, dig a hole about 50cm deep and 1.5 metres across.



Be careful not to build your hibernaculum on free-draining sites or where the soil gets waterlogged

- 2 Fill with logs, branches, bricks and rocks, leaving plenty of gaps in between.



- 3 Insert entrance tubes (drainpipes) at ground level into the pile.



- 4 Cover the pile with soil (to about 50cm high).



- 5 You can plant meadow seeds or turf over the mound.



[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

## The February edition

If you have anything for the "Dates for your Diary" or an article for the next edition, please email by Tuesday 24th January 2023 to:- [editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk](mailto:editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk)

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## Dates for your diary

**Thursday 8th December Quiz Night**  
20:00 The White Horse. Book tickets directly with The White Horse on 01959 546384

**From 11th February and 21st April 2023**  
Rochester Cathedral The Peace Doves project see article

## And finally . . .

I will never regret getting older.  
I know too many people who never had that privilege.