

# The Sundridge Village News

## February 2023

In this issue, our hard working PCC brings you up-to-date news following the resignation of Rev Pam Davies, the latest news from Sundridge and Brasted School, an update from the Friends of St Mary's Church with an invite to attend their AGM (see the dates for your diary section), an invitation from the Gardening Society to renew your membership whilst enjoying a cup of tea and an invitation from Fern and Bob Ogley to a charity dinner. Again, please see the Dates for your Diary section.



### Parish Services for February 2022

<b>Sunday 5th</b>		<b>Sunday 19th</b>	
09.15	Toys Hill Holy Communion	10.30	Sundridge Holy Communion
10.30	Sundridge Holy Communion	<b>Wednesday 22nd Ash Wednesday</b>	
15.00	Toys Hill Forest Church	10.30	Ide Hill Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 12th</b>		<b>Sunday 26th</b>	
10.30	Ide Hill Holy Communion	10.30	Ide Hill All Age Worship

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

### Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill – next steps

Following the resignation of Rev Pam Davies the parish is now formally in vacancy.

The PCC has discussed the next stage at length with Ven Sharon Copestake, our Archdeacon. An important part of the context is that the Bishop of Rochester is minded to suspend the living in the parish, which means that an appointment to replace Rev Pam will not happen immediately. This is a legal process designed to 'suspend' the recruitment of an incumbent for a period. This is not done lightly, and must have a clear purpose – in our case the purpose would be to enable the parish to emerge from what has been a difficult few years, acknowledging that there needs to be time for healing and recovery, but also to allow a period of time to explore what sustainable future priestly resourcing might be possible.

The PCC was asked to comment on the proposal to suspend the living and having considered the reasons given and the fact that an interim minister can be appointed during that period, have indicated to the Bishop that we are in agreement. We can expect the Bishop's decision on whether or not to suspend the living to be announced around the end of January, once the Bishop has concluded the consultation process.

As soon as the suspension is confirmed, the appointment process will commence and we hope to have an interim minister in place in a matter of weeks. The appointment (which would be for 2 or 3 years) would also include the parish of Brasted. Brasted parish have been in vacancy for almost two years (with the living suspended) in order for consideration as to its future to take place.

During the suspension period, the Archdeacon and Bishop have asked us to consider the possibility of establishing a formal link with the Parish of Brasted. The PCC has agreed to this proposal firstly because it is

simply to explore options without commitment but secondly because it opens up a wider pool of candidates for appointment than our Parish can afford by itself, in particular enabling the appointment of a full time minister. This exploration process will be relatively long to allow everyone who wishes to provide their views and for us to consider the many ways in which a link could be formed. Pastoral reorganisation like this follows a statutory process under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 which ensures that all interested parties are given a proper voice within a set procedure. The process could end with some form of link, or no link in which case we would revert back to the current status with a part time minister.

There is much similarity between our two parishes – we both long to have oversight of a minister who would be present in our parishes, and who would pastorally care for and missionally encourage those who live here. In addition we share a geography that includes a school, and have a long standing history of working together. Historically we have been much more linked than we have been in recent years. We therefore think a formal link, with the obvious benefit of a full time minister, should be given serious consideration.

Once the suspension period has started we will keep you regularly updated and in the meantime ask for your thoughts and prayers for everyone in the parish as we move in to an exciting new period of hope for the future. In the meantime, and of course at any time, do please speak to any PCC member to let us have your thoughts and concerns.

**Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill PCC**  
**January 2023**

## The Rector writes

Tim Edwards, the Rector of Knockholt with Halstead, is kindly providing us with pastoral support. Here he offers some reflections for the month.

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

*or call him on 01959 532 133/07980 826 365*

When this reaches you, it should be the end of January or the beginning of February. I wonder how your New Year's resolutions are doing by now:

Were you one of the 48% of people who resolved to exercise more? Perhaps you resolved to drink less (more likely if you are a man, apparently)? Or was yours a more niche resolution?

Did you, like nearly a quarter (23%) of people, drop your resolution within a week?

Will you, like the average person, quit some time in February?

Why are we so bad at keeping resolutions (with only 9% of resolutions becoming embedded in the long-term)? And why do we find the idea of resolutions so attractive?

The pull of a resolution is not hard to understand: Most of us feel deeply some of the ways in which we might like to be better.

Unless we are either massively unreflective or a psychopath, it probably takes no effort at all to think of times when we have failed to live up to even our own image of our selves (perhaps those thoughts occasionally come unbidden in the middle of the night).

But at the same time, the difficulty of change is not so difficult to see: As a wise Christian in the fifteenth century put it: "Wherever you go, there you are." (Thomas a Kempis in "The Imitation of Christ").

We cannot escape ourselves. Perhaps that is why those most likely to make New Year's resolutions are the youngest (59% of 18–30-year-olds).

So, we can swing between over-confidence and despair. Perhaps paradoxically, Jesus tells us that our problem is that we are not going far enough with the change we seek. In fact, He tells us that it is not enough to drink the occasional kale smoothy, or finally to fit back into that pair of jeans.

No, He says we need a whole new start, a complete re-boot: "You must be born again" (John 3:7)

Oh, so is there no hope? Not at all.

Because as we discover more about Jesus, and in particular about His death for us, we find that that transforms us.

Once we know ourselves to be more deeply loved by Him than we could have dared imagine, we find the power to change.

So, instead of focusing on yourself (the numbers on the scale or the units in the bottle), try focusing on Jesus.

Why not try spending just five minutes a day reading one of the eye-witness accounts of His life, death, and resurrection, and see what impact that starts to have?

I'd love to hear how you get on.

*Tim*

## Christmas Services

Christmas was, as always, a very busy time of the year in the parish and began for us, in Advent, with the school's Christingle service in the church which was also attended by a goodly number of parents and younger siblings. Our candle-lit Carol Service on December 18th – though slightly marred by a flood in the church caused by the high quantity of melting snow aided and abetted by downpours – nevertheless was as beautiful and moving as ever and mulled wine and mince pies were indeed served, despite the mopping up required. The Christmas Day service was bright and cheerful and the New Year's Ringing In was well attended.



## Charity Dinner March 17th 2023

Sevenoaks Rotary Club is organising a charity dinner at Westerham Golf Club on Friday March 17th in aid of the Bridge Trust Project which provides accommodation for single homeless adults in Kent along with quality support services.

It will be a two-course meal with a speaker, Barbara Stevens, who will tell the story of Emma and Charles Darwin. The cost of the dinner will be £35 and will be followed by a raffle with a few attractive prizes.

The event is being organised by Bob and Fern Ogley. We would be delighted if you could join us at this event and help a worthwhile charity operating in West Kent.

**Further information from  
Froglets, Brasted Chart, Westerham TN16 1LY  
telephone 01959 562972 [bob@bobogley.plus.com](mailto:bob@bobogley.plus.com)**

I have been without both heating and hot water over the Christmas period which has been quite a traumatic experience and I didn't cope at all well. I was fortunate in having good friends who offered me not only a hot meal but a warm bed. The Bridge Trust's aims are one of Christian compassion, dedication and determination, underpinned by the conviction that no one should be without a safe and secure home of their own. Please do support this worthwhile charity

## News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

*Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School  
and Happy New Year to you all!  
We hope you all enjoyed a healthy and peaceful Christmas.*

Firstly, a quick catch up of the end of last term:

We supported "Children in Need Day" in November by wearing our own clothes in exchange for a donation to the charity and we raised a whopping £107. The staff looked particularly good in their Pudsey ears! We also showed off our fabulous array of Christmas Jumpers to support "Save the Children UK" in December and raising £65 to donate to the charity at the same time!

Children attended Bocaccia and Basketball events and impressed us with their maturity and sportsmanship skills. Medals were won, too, which is always fun!

Reverend Tim lead a wonderful Christingle Service for our school community which was beautiful and joyful. We were joined by members of the local community and we hope they enjoyed the service too.

Our young children took part in a Nativity Play where they performed brilliantly and we held a Carol Concert for our older children with lots of our favourite Christmas songs and readings for the enjoyment of parents and families.

The snow slowed us up a bit as many staff were unable to drive safely to school and so we were open only for those parents who needed child-care for that day and who could not make alternative provision. Fortunately, we were able to open fully the next day, albeit with slightly depleted staff numbers as some areas, as always, suffered more than others with the snow and ice.

Miraculously, amid the coldest temperatures of the year, the Fawns Limited contractors successfully removed an old item of outdoor play equipment at the back of the school and installed a wonderful new climbing frame complete with multiple ropes and beams and laid down artificial grass! We were in awe of the whole team!

The term finished with a wonderful trip to the Panto and Carols Round the Tree! The whole school travelled to Tunbridge Wells to see "Jack and The Beanstalk" at the Assembly Halls, which was a wonderful treat and enjoyed by all the children. We are hugely grateful to the Sundridge & Ide Hill charity for donating a sum of money to the school which enabled us to hire a coach to transport the whole school on the day. We returned to school for lunch, a play and Carols Round the Tree with Mrs Sharrad playing the piano and children and parents singing with gusto! The Twelve Days of Christmas is our particular favourite!

We have returned to school this month with renewed energy after a lovely Christmas break and we have lots

planned. Owl and Squirrel classes will enjoy Forest School under the leadership of Natalia who is absolutely wonderful: every session is creative, engaging and inspirational. We have sporting events planned, a geography field trip for Owl class, ukuleles for Owl class under the tutelage of Mr Coates, a trip to the National History Museum for Fox class - and Stay and Play is back!

Stay and Play runs every Wednesday in term times, 9.00am to 10.30am. All babies, toddlers, mums, dads, grandparents and carers are welcome for craft/messy play, toys, stories and music. We are delighted that so many families from outside our school community join us, as well as younger siblings of our own children. No need to book. Just pop in to join us!



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.*

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## Update from The Friends of St Mary's Church Sundridge

The ceremony of "Ringing in the New Year" on Sunday 1st January was a very enjoyable start to 2023. The Friends contributed warm mulled wine, mince pies and other nibbles and attendees took their refreshments outside to listen to the wonderful melody of the bellringers' peals.



When that had finished everyone returned into the church for a short service led by Althea Chapman and the event concluded with further refreshments.

The Friends' Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 20th March 2023 at 7 pm in St Mary's Church Sundridge. All Members are welcome and, once the formal part of proceedings have been completed, Nick White will entertain us with a talk on the influential Isley family who were Lords of the Manor of Sundridge between approximately 1411 and 1555. They are commemorated

in the church by floor brasses and a splendid tomb and Nick will be bringing to life the fascinating history of several generations of the dynasty. If you are not already a member please do consider joining The Friends – forms can be obtained by emailing Acting Honorary Treasurer Kenneth Ludlam – [kenneth.ludlam@btinternet.com](mailto:kenneth.ludlam@btinternet.com) – or via the Village News team – [sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com)

We have recently enrolled someone who, I believe, is our first overseas member! Thanks to the very helpful response given by Richard Dunckley to an enquiry about links with St Mary's, received via the Friends' website, a Polish Canadian gentleman tracing his family history has generously paid his subscription and we look forward to keeping him informed about our future events.



## Brasted, Ide Hill & Sundridge Gardening Society

### A Happy New Year to All Members

On the 15th February there will be a Tea Party held at 2.30 until 4.00pm at the Ide Hill Village Hall and all will be welcome. If you would like more information about the Gardening Society, or are interested in joining, please contact Julia Ricci on 07818 236566 or e-mail [juliaricci@rocketmail.com](mailto:juliaricci@rocketmail.com)

The membership fee is £5 per year and any additional expenses will only apply for visits to interesting places during 2023.

As an extra comment, I can recommend purchasing the All Fruits Marmalade added to your toast for an extra flavour at breakfast time, which can be brought at the Ide Hill Village Shop.

I look forward to seeing you at the afternoon tea.

Regards

Pat Mackness

## Dates for your diary

**Wednesday 15th February, Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society Tea Party 2.30 - 4.00pm**  
Ide Hill Village Hall - see article for details

**Friday 17th March Charity Dinner** in aid of the Bridge Trust Project - see article for details

**Monday 20th March 2023 Friends of St Mary's Church, Sundridge Annual General Meeting** see article for details

## The March 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 23rd February to:-

[editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk](mailto:editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk)

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## And finally . . .

