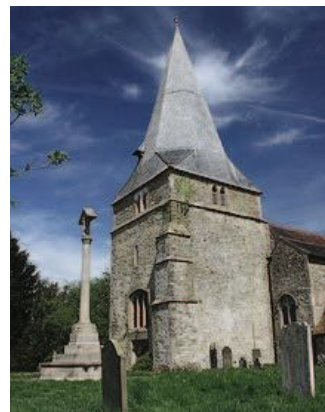


The Sundridge Village News

April 2023

In this issue, we have news of an interim Priest in Charge for Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill, and Brasted and news from our Bellringers, the latest from Forest Church, the Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School, the Friends of St Mary's and the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society. We hear about the Fenland black oak table at Rochester Cathedral, Sundridge events past and those to look forward to and, of course, there are dates for your diary.



Parish Services for April

Sunday 2nd Palm Sunday		Sunday 9th Easter Sunday	
09.15	Toys Hill Morning Worship <i>led by Rev Adie McCall</i>	10.30	Sundridge Holy Communion <i>led by Rev Adie McCall</i>
10.15	Ide Hill Holy Communion <i>led by Rev Adie McCall</i>	10.30	Ide Hill All Age Worship <i>led by Jane Rosam</i>
10.15	Ide Hill Forest Church	10.30	Ide Hill Forest Church
Come and meet Pedro the Donkey at Ide Hill School at 10.15 and collect a Palm Cross!		Sunday 16th	
		08.00	Ide Hill Holy Communion <i>led by Rev Lynette Leithead</i>
		10.30	Ide Hill All Age Worship <i>led by Jane Rosam</i>
		Sunday 23rd St George's Day	
		10.30	Sundridge Holy Communion <i>led by Rev Richard Howlett</i>
		Sunday 30th	
		10.30	Sundridge All Age Worship <i>led by Rev Angela Baker and Ruth Barrow</i>

May

Sunday 7th May – Coronation Sunday

09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion
led by Rev Adie McCall

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
led by Rev Adie McCall with exhibition of "Royals, Rectors & Rogues!"

Special Refreshments by The Friends of St Mary's will be served after the service. Come and have some fun!

Churchwarden Althea Chapman email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

New Interim Priest in Charge

The Bishop of Rochester is delighted to announce that The Revd Lynette Leithead has been appointed as the new Interim Priest in Charge for Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill, and Brasted.

Lynette will be working part-time across the two benefices and although she is currently offering some cover during this vacancy period, she will not formally take up this role until her planned Licencing on Tuesday 13th June. Details of this will follow.

Forest Church News

Forest Church went on a journey through Lent stopping along the way to read and obey some road signs. The **Stop** sign reminded us to slow down and prepare for Easter. The **40** speed limit sign was an easy clue, as everyone knew that there are 40 days in Lent. At the **Give Way** sign we talked about either giving something up for Lent or taking something on. The **Road Works** sign indicated that at times it is hard to go without treats, or remembering to be kind and helpful to others, but the good news is that we're not alone during this time as we have others around to help and encourage us.

Fortunately as Sundays don't count as part of the 40 days in Lent we were able to toast some marshmallows over the fire pit!

We made simple crosses from pieces of hazel as a reminder to us to keep up the good work as we journey towards Easter.

It was FUN, we were treated to home-made FLAP-JACKS and it was FREEEEZING!!

Do join us on Palm Sunday at 10.15 at Ide Hill School to meet Pedro the donkey.

Forest Church will continue outside, joining the congregation at the end of the service for the blessing and refreshments.



Sundridge Bellringers

On Monday 13th March the bells were rung to commemorate Commonwealth Day and 10th anniversary of signing the Commonwealth Charter.

56 countries joined to celebrate common values, united visions, and commitment to peace and justice.

As quoted by King Charles III in his address as Head of the Commonwealth:

“The Commonwealth has an incredible opportunity, and responsibility, to create a genuinely durable future – one that offers the kind of prosperity that is in harmony with Nature and that will also secure our unique and only planet for generations to come. The myriad connections between our nations have sustained and enriched us for more than seven decades. Our commitment to peace, progress and opportunity will sustain us for many more.”

Maggie Amos



Forest Church News April and May 2023

**St Mary's, Sundridge with Ide Hill & Toys Hill,
Parochial Church Council**
“Change, Grow, Serve”

Forest Church is travelling around over the next 2 months.

Sunday 2nd April 10.15 - Meet at Ide Hill School to follow Pedro the Donkey up to the church. There will be activities for children during the service. We hope to be outside so wear a warm coat!

Easter Sunday 9th April 10.30 - Ide Hill Church to celebrate Easter. Come and make an Easter Garden during the service. Find things around the churchyard to put in your garden. The Easter Bunny might have been busy!

Sunday 7th May 10.30 - Sundridge Church Coronation Sunday for crown making and to see an exhibition about Royals, Rectors and Rogues!

All are welcome whatever your age, however noisy or wriggly! Wear suitable outdoor clothing.

For more details please contact:
Diana Pickard dipickard2@aol.com
Barbara Lockey hixmix@btopenworld.com

Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

Spring has arrived which was proclaimed by the BBC weathers presenters on the 1st of March with the early flowers in their splendour blooming in our gardens. Then came the heavy snowstorm and the cold temperatures.

Unfortunately, the arranged Gardening Society evening meeting had to be cancelled in March for safety reasons. However, Tessa Allen, the speaker, will be returning for a talk in May 2024. Her subject was “Making Changes to our Gardens”, a topic most important and relevant to the climate changes. There have been suggestions from various societies to recommend that we grow wild flowers in our gardens, helping to increase the wild life in our country which needs our support.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th April at Ide Hill Village Hall with early refreshments and a talk at 8.00pm from the Head Gardener, Philip Opstenbrink of Walmer Castle, which is situated on the Kent Coast and has a history going back to Tutor times and is surrounded by stunning gardens.

All will be welcome for this interesting talk and, if you wish to join the Society, the annual fee is £5 per person and our Treasurer, Julia, will be happy to give to you the programme for 2023.

I look forward to seeing friends of the Society and all new members.

Pat Mackness

Friends of St Mary's Update

The Friends Annual General Meeting took place on Monday 20th March 2023. Despite the weather being wet and windy, there was a good turnout, including several non-members. The President of The Friends, Sir Michael Fallon, chaired proceedings and conducted the election of officers and members of the Executive Committee. The Chairman, Kenneth Ludlam, gave a summary of the year's activities and, as Acting Honorary Treasurer, also reported on the Statement of Accounts. Once the formal part of the evening was concluded, Nick White gave a very entertaining talk which brought to life the history of

the Isley family, a number of whom were Lords of the Manor in Sundridge in the 15th and 16th centuries. The church is fortunate to have brasses of three of them, as well as a splendid tomb chest of another. Refreshments were served after the talk.

The Friends will be assisting with a Coronation event on Sunday 7th May serving refreshments after a special Morning Service; an exhibition entitled “Royals, Rectors & Rogues” will be available to view. Everyone will be welcome from 10.30am.

SUNDRIDGE VILLAGE



WHAT'S ON OVER THE CORONATION WEEKEND

National events

Saturday 6th May – Coronation Service

The centrepiece of the Coronation weekend is the Westminster Abbey Service due to take place in the morning. The Service will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Service will reflect the Monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry.

Sunday 7th May – Coronation Big Lunch

Communities will come together to arrange street parties, gatherings in parks, gardens, and community spaces to mark the Coronation.

Sunday 7th May – Coronation Concert

On Sunday a special Coronation Concert will take place at Windsor Castle, produced, staged, and broadcast live by the BBC. The BBC will arrange for several thousand pairs of tickets to be made available via a public ballot. The audience will also include volunteers from The King

and The Queen Consort's many charity affiliations. The centrepiece of the Coronation Concert, 'Lighting up the Nation', will see the country join together in celebration as iconic locations across the United Kingdom are lit up using projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations.

Monday 8th May – The Big Help Out

This event is being organised by The Together Coalition and will include support from partners such as the Royal Voluntary Service, Faith Groups from around the United Kingdom, and the Scouts. This initiative will highlight the positive impact volunteering has on communities and the satisfaction it can bring to people giving up their time to volunteer and bring about change. Recalling His Majesty's lifelong dedication to public service, supported by The Queen Consort and other Members of the Royal Family, it is hoped that this initiative will provide an opportunity for communities to come together and support a whole range of volunteering initiatives to create a lasting legacy.

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council Coronation events

Sunday 7th May – Sundridge Street Party

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council would like to invite all residents of the parish to celebrate the Kings Coronation at a street party on Sunday 7th May between 13:00h – 18:00h on Church Road, Sundridge. The parish council will be providing 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 the food and nonalcoholic drinks provided by the council will be 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 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 help with the set up and pack down on the day. If you can help with any of the above, please email:

vikki.allgood@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk
with details of what you'd be happy to cover.

Please note the event is only open to residents.

Monday 8th May – Sundridge Volunteering

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council would like to invite all residents of the parish to join a village volunteer group on Monday 8th May from 13:00h-15:00h on Coronation Garden, Sundridge. The group are going to clean the Coronation Memorial, paint the posts along the main road and litter pick around the village. If there are volunteers that would like to organise other initiatives in the parish please do get in touch with:

john.evans@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk
to confirm what you would like to organise.

Other local Coronation events

Sundridge & Brasted Social Club

Saturday 6th May – Watch the Coronation

Sundridge and Brasted Social club will be showing the Coronation on Saturday 6th May. Everyone welcome.

Sunday 7th May – Watch the Concert & Light up

After the street party, the Club will be showing the Coronation Concert on Sunday 7th May evening, including 'Light up the Nation'. Everyone welcome.

St Mary's Church, Sundridge

Sunday 7th May – Coronation Sunday

From 10.30am – Holy Communion and Forest Church at St Mary's Church, Sundridge led by Rev Adie McCall with exhibition of "Royals, Rectors & Rogues!".

Special Refreshments by The Friends of St Mary's will be served after the service. Come and have some fun!

Sundridge & Ide Hill Support Group

The support group will reserve seats for seniors and less able at the events.

If you require any assistance in getting to the events the Support Group volunteers are happy to help.

Please contact Melvin De Bono on 07891 055583

Sundridge With Ide Hill Parish Council Update

Annual Parish Meeting

Please note the date of the Annual Parish Meeting has now changed. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 22nd May 2023 at 7pm in Sundridge Village Hall. A brief statement by the PC chair will be followed by a social event where residents of the parish can discuss issues with Councillors whilst refreshments are served. All residents of Sundridge and Ide Hill are welcome.

Coronation in Ide Hill

Ide Hill will be celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on Goathurst Common Recreation Ground on Sunday 7th May 2023. Supported by the Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council, this family picnic event is being organised by the Friends of Goathurst Common to raise awareness of their fundraising to improve the playground equipment on the Rec. Look out for more information on this event on posters and flyers throughout the village.

Coronation in Sundridge

For details of activities in Sundridge over the Coronation weekend, see above or the village flyer.

Local elections

Local elections on 4th May. Remember your photo ID which is now a mandatory requirement to enable you to vote. No ID, no vote! Parish Councillors are also elected at this time. Should you wish to stand for election as a Sundridge or Ide Hill Councillor on the Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council, please contact the Clerk (07495 962372, clerk@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk) for details and supply of application forms which are to be returned to Sevenoaks District Council by 4th April 2023. Alternatively, details and forms can be found on the Sevenoaks District Council website.

The Fenland Black Oak Table at Rochester Cathedral

See the spectacular 13 metre table made from 5,000-year-old fossilised wood – on display in the Main Nave until March 2024.

An incredible 13 metre long table created from 5,000 year old fossilised black oak has now arrived at Rochester Cathedral.

In 2012, a 13.2 metre section of a giant black oak tree was found deep in the peat in a field in East Anglia where it had laid undisturbed for 5,000 years. It is believed the tree would have been an immense 55 metres tall when alive. For comparison, modern day oak trees are around 20 metres. For 10 years a team of privately funded specialist crafts people worked to create this stunning table. The Fenland Black Oak Project have preserved this magnificent tree for perpetuity for future generations to admire and use. It was finished in 2022 and commemorates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It has only been on display once before at Ely Cathedral.

The table is not just something to look at - it was created for the Nation. Throughout the year a programme of events will take place using the table including dinners

and family activities. The cathedral would love to hear from you if you've got ideas for activities or events using the table.

It will be on display until March 2024. Admission is free during the day but charges may apply for evenings and special events.



Fundridge - Around Europe in 80 minutes

It's a testament to the villagers' willingness to want to come together to chat, eat and drink that within 10 days of releasing the 1st of Fundridge Sundridge's events of 2023 that the 'Around Europe in 80 minutes' was sold out.

50 people gathered in the village hall to experience 5 countries, with 5 courses from those countries, accompanied by beer and or wine from the same. Each round was complimented by a short quiz on that particular region of Europe.

Much fun was had and new friends were made. That's what we are all about and why we first came together. Our strap line is a group for villagers who believe in friendship, a better community and bringing neighbours together. I feel that the evening absolutely fulfilled that.

If you feel that you have been left out of what we do, and/or would like to help the group with and become involved, then choose your choice from the below:

Email and we will respond:

Email: fundridgesundridge@gmail.com

Join us on: Facebook: [fundridgesundridge](https://www.facebook.com/fundridgesundridge)

Take a look: Website: www.fundridgesundridge.co.uk



Fundridge - Easter Saturday Fun

Easter egg treasure hunt and duck race
Saturday 8th April 2.00pm- 3.30pm (Easter weekend)

On Saturday 8th April from 2pm on Coronation Gardens, we will be running our Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Duck Race along the River Darent. £2 for entry into the Duck Race and £1 for the Easter Egg hunt. Come along and enjoy a fun family afternoon.

If you wish to support a duck, then be there by 2.15, as the ducks run out quickly, but the treasure hunt will be

there for the duration. Anyone who joins in the treasure hunt will get an Easter egg on completion.

The Duck Race will start at 3pm from the start line at the Sundridge Recreation Ground and takes approximately 15-20 mins to cross the finish line at Coronation Gardens, where we all gather.

We have limited ducks and Easter eggs to hand out for the hunt. Both are only available to purchase on the day and they are offered on a 1st come 1st served basis from Coronation Gardens.



Funstock 3rd - A date for the diary

Sunday of Bank Holiday Weekend, Sunday 27th August 2023
All afternoon and evening.

Join us on the village green (Coronation Gardens – the green on the crossroads) for an afternoon of live music, food and drink, games for the children and most importantly of all, lots of fun.



News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

More snow! We woke up to a heavy coating of snow one day and all of a sudden the air waves were filled with staff communications as we all assess whether or not we can get into school safely. We were fortunate that nearly all the staff could drive or walk into school and so on this occasion we were able to stay open for our families. A lot of learning was achieved and snowmen were built too!

World Book Day was fun! So many children dressed up as a character from their favourite book and they all looked absolutely fabulous. We had superheroes, Dorothy, William Beech, the Hungry Caterpillar, Stick Man, the Queen of Hearts, a fabulous Car, an Oompa Loompa or two, and so many more! This year the staff dressed up, too, as crayons from the book 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Oliver Jeffers and they looked quite good too! The



theme of the day was very much reading for pleasure and, with this in mind, we invited parents to come into school to read with their children in a cosy corner, to enjoy a book, a snuggle and a hot chocolate and biscuits. Our wonderful library was open for every child to take a book of their choice to share with their family at home and at the end of the day, in our whole school worship, the children shared their favourite books with everyone. It was a lovely day. Cookery club that week was particularly interesting as the children cooked cheesy broccoli quiche in their costumes!

We held own clothes days to raise funds for Save the Children UK's Turkey-Syria disaster appeal and also for Comic Relief. We are, as always, grateful to our parents for their generosity in supporting our chosen charities.

Sevenoaks School staff and students visit weekly to support our teaching in history and creative writing and our clubs continue to thrive.

We have our Easter Service scheduled for the last week of term, to be held at St Mary's church and led by Reverend Tim. Each class will have a part to play in the service with a prayer, song or reading and, as always, our parents and families are invited to join us.

Our wonderful PTA have organised an array of Easter events which will be fun for the children: guess the number of eggs inside the (big) egg, guess the name of the Easter chick and, of course, the Easter Bonnet Parade range which will bring forth a stunning display of creative and gorgeous Easter Bonnets. Photos next time!

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 www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk

Dates for your diary

Sunday 2nd April 10.15, Forest Church Meet at Ide Hill School to follow Pedro the Donkey up to the Church. See article for details.

Saturday 8th April Sundridge - Easter Saturday Fun Coronation Gardens 14.00 - 15.30. See article for details.

Easter Sunday 9th April 10.30 Sundridge Church (Holy Communion) and 10.30 Ide Hill Church (All Age Worship) to celebrate Easter. See article for details.

Wednesday 12th April, Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society 20.00 at Ide Hill Village Hall, refreshments and talk at 8.00pm see article.

Tuesday 25 April 19.00 Annual Parochial Church Meeting Ide Hill Church. (*Church of England's equivalent of an AGM*)

Sunday 7th May 10.30 Coronation Service, Sundridge Church. See article for details.

Sunday 7th May Coronation Big Lunch in the Parish Church Road, Sundridge from 13.00 to 18.00 see article.

Monday 8th May Clean the Coronation Memorial Coronation Gardens from 13:00 to 18:00 see article.

Monday 8th May – The Big Help Out

Sunday 27th August Bank Holiday Weekend Funstock all afternoon and evening.

The May 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

Friday 21st April to:-

editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk

And finally . . .

NEWS



On the lighter side here's Muffin playing with a piece of string