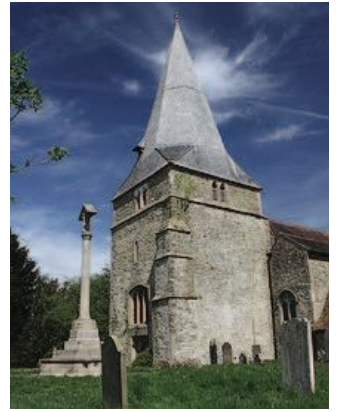


The Sundridge Village News

July - August 2023

In this issue we learn about Lynette's licensing as Priest in Charge of our parish, the Churchyard Angels and the latest event and the forthcoming event from Fundridge. We hear from Forest Church, Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School, the Parish Council, Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society and have news of a new light show at Rochester Cathedral, plus, of course, dates for your diary!



New Beginnings and a Big Thank You



In the past, I may have been described in many different ways, but one thing that's rarely said of me is that I'm ever lost for words! However, as I write, a week after my official Licensing and Installation as Priest in Charge of the parishes of St Martin's Brasted and St Mary's Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill, I find myself unusually bereft of words! I really can't adequately express my thanks for all the hard work that went into making me feel so welcome.

The Licensing Service was a wonderful occasion with a great sense of celebration. Thanks to a dedicated working party, the church was spotless, not a cobweb in sight, and there were beautiful arrangements of flowers adorning window ledges, the font and numerous pedestals. It was lovely. Thanks to all the hard work and preparation of those concerned, the whole evening was enjoyed by all, evidenced by the fact that people stayed so long after the service! Several visitors from other churches afterwards commented on the friendliness of the reception and how warmly they too had been welcomed.

Celebrations continued the following Sunday at Sundridge when I was required to repeat the Declaration of Assent and the Oaths in this Parish in the presence of The Reverend Canon Chris Dench who also preached and presided. Again, so much hard work had gone into making it another very special occasion, the flowers were beautiful and I ate far too much of the delicious food that was on offer after the service! It was a wonderful beginning to the two parishes working together and I look forward to many more opportunities to do it again as we begin this new phase in our life together.

A big thank you to everyone who came to support me from the churches and the communities, all who took part and all who worked so hard to make both occasions so memorable. There were so many I can't possibly name them all.

Thinking on that, I'm reminded of Psalm 133 which says "How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live {and work} in harmony.....for there the Lord has commanded blessing, life for ever more". May the blessings of those two occasions be something that we experience over and over again.

Lynette

PS JUST TO LET YOU KNOW.....

My contact number is 07932 605604
Email rev.lynette@hotmail.co.uk
Alternatively, I would love to meet you
at one of our services.

In general, I will be taking Holy Communion at Sundridge (10.30am) on the 1st Sunday each month, at Ide Hill (10.30am) on the 4th and at Brasted at 10.00am on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays.

Licensing of The Rev Lynette Leithead

On Tuesday 13 June a very significant event took place in the life of this Parish, namely the Licensing and Installation of The Rev Lynette Leithead as our Interim Priest-in-Charge. Lynette is already well-known amongst us since she had very generously offered to become our Associate Priest in 2013 and continued as such until she had to stand down for family reasons in 2015. But, in those two years, she proved her sterling worth and she has always remained a much-beloved Priest whenever her name has been mentioned within the Parish.

Her Service of Licensing and Installation took place at St Martin's Church, Brasted in a beautiful service attended by a large congregation. The Licensing was carried out by

the Bishop of Tonbridge, The Right Reverend Simon Burton-Jones, and the Installation by the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, The Venerable Sharon Copestake. The following Sunday, 18 June, Lynette took her Declaration of Assent and Oaths at St Mary's Church, Sundridge within our own Parish in a service conducted by The Rev Canon Chris Dench from Rochester Cathedral.

One of Lynette's objectives is to draw together the two parishes, that of Brasted and Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill, into one. Both services were the cause of great celebration and were followed by refreshments and meetings of people from both Parishes as we look forward to the future.

Parish Services for July

Sunday 2nd

- 09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion
led by Rev Lynette Leithead
- 10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
led by Rev Lynette Leithead
- 16.00 Toys Hill Forest Church and Party
on Toys Hill Green. led by the Forest Team

Sunday 9th

- 10.30 Ide Hill Morning Worship
led by Rev Angela Baker

Sunday 16th

- 10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship
led by Bryan Harris

Sunday 23rd

- 10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion
led by The Ven Sharon Copestake
Licensing of Jane Rosam

Sunday 30th

- 10.30 Ide Hill Morning Worship
led by Jane Rosam

Parish Services for August

Sunday 6th August – Transfiguration of Our Lord

- 09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion
led by Rev Lynette Leithead
- 10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
led by Rev Lynette Leithead
Forest Church is on holiday!

Sunday 13th

- 10.30 Ide Hill Morning Worship
led by Rev Angela Baker and Ruth Barrow

Sunday 20th

- 10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
led by Rev Adie McCall

Sunday 27th

- 10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion
led by Rev Lynette Leithead

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

Refreshments are served after the Sunday Services giving time for fellowship and friendship

News from Rochester Cathedral

Announcing Science - a new light show coming to Rochester Cathedral this Autumn 3rd - 7th October 2023

'Science' invites the audience to explore and contemplate the contributions of science and human understanding of the physical world around us.

This Autumn Rochester Cathedral will be transformed by a stunning son-et-lumiere by Luxmuralis inspired by the world of science. 'Science' explores Chemistry and Biology and interprets artistically the scale of molecules, cells and DNA as well as exploring the history of science, the contributions of science to humanity, and offers a reflection upon famous scientists past and present.

Viewers will be immersed in the soundscapes they hear and walk through the light artworks that are all around them on an explorative journey through the sacred space. The show has been created by award-winning artistic

collaboration 'Luxmuralis', Peter Walker (Sculptor) and David Harper (Composer), who previously brought the sell-out 'Space Voyage' and 'Life' to Rochester Cathedral in 2021 and 2022. Visit the website to book tickets:

www.rochestercathedral.org/lightshowbookinginformation



The Open Air Service at Ide Hill with Forest Church

Due to extreme temperatures, our Open Air service turned out to be more of a huddle in the shade of the trees in the churchyard at Ide Hill rather than on the Green. Those who braved the heat were lucky to meet our special guests, namely Charles and Camilla. These were two sheep which Jane Rosam had brought with her to illustrate the parable of the lost sheep. Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd and we are all his sheep.



Apparently, sheep are mentioned over 500 times in the Bible, not because they are cute and woolly - which obviously they are - but because sheep were central to the lives of the nomadic agricultural people and a lost sheep really was something important. In her talk Jane explained that, in our modern world, losing one sheep out of 100 probably isn't so bad but, with God, every sheep counts and, with God, nothing is lost.



Forest Church made sheep finger puppets from real Herdwick wool and ran round the churchyard gathering up lost sheep – not Charles and Camilla who, by that time, were happy in their new pen with food and water all under the watchful eye of Shepherdess Jane.

The September 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 24th August to:-

editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk

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Send an email with “Subscribe” in the subject line to sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com



Refreshments were served by Jan and Gary. Thank you to Jane and Dom for collecting the chairs from the village hall and to Lynette, Jane Rosam and the Forest Church Team for an enjoyable service.



The next Forest Church will be held on the Green at Toys Hill on July 2nd at 4pm and will be a summer party.

No need to book, just turn up!

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 12th July 19.45 Brasted, Ide Hill & Sundridge Gardening Society Show Class and Bring and Buy, Ide Hill Village Hall see article.

Thursday 13th July Fundridge Quiz Night White Horse, Sundridge. See article for details.

Monday 17th July 19.30 Parish Council meeting Sundridge Village Hall.

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

Rochester Cathedral 3rd - 7th October Son-et-Lumiere by Luxmuralis, See article for details.

News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

As always, we have been busy and recently, just a little bit hot!

We have welcomed Reverend Lynette to our school community in her official capacity as the Interim Priest-in-Charge to the Parishes of Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill and Brasted. We are delighted that she has been able to lead our Collective Worship for us on Mondays at St Mary's Church and look forward to strengthening our links with the church and the local community in the months to come.

Our oldest children have been away to Hindleap Outdoor Activity Centre for a three-day residential trip enjoying fantastic weather, great food and a range of activities that kept them all very busy, challenged and excited. They learnt how to build a giant catapult using



only wooden logs and ropes, they tackled the extremely challenging leap of faith which involves climbing a telegraph-type pole and literally leaping off the top (harnessed of course!!) and they even channelled their inner Viking by having a go at axe throwing! Our staff were really impressed with the children's team spirit, for encouraging each other to try all of the activities and for their determination to have a go, even when the activities were out of their comfort zone. Lots of fun all round and lots of tired children arrived back at school after the trip!

Firefighter Ellen came into school to talk to our youngest children about her work at Croydon fire station, telling them about the incidents she attends and telling them what to do if there is a fire. Ellen was wonderful with the children, showing them her uniform and letting them try it on and answering all their excellent questions.



Fox class have been cooking! They devised their own Come Dine With Me event, taking turns to create their own menu, cooking in school and having their peers taste and judge the results. On offer were dishes such as stuffed peppers, mozzarella sticks with red pepper sauce, chicken parma pasta and spicy fajitas. They were so creative and showed great cooking skills making judging very difficult!

In sports, our Year 3 children competed in an athletics event at Sevenoaks School, excelling in basketball shot put and nerf throwing! As always, the children showed excellent sportsmanship skills and were wonderful ambassadors for the school.





Our own whole school sports morning was held at Kemsing School this year and was a great success. Fun for all, despite the very hot day!

We currently have three year groups having swimming lessons at Kemsing School, five year groups enjoying rugby coaching, forest school for our oldest and youngest children and thriving after school activity clubs. Busy days!

We are, as always, immensely grateful to Mr and Mrs Jack for allowing us to use their land for PE lessons and forest school throughout the year.

We have also celebrated the children's success in piano exams and judo gradings and congratulated two of our girls on their performance in the Rare Theatre production of "Ariel" at the Stag Theatre in May.

We have welcomed our new Reception intake to our lovely school, entertaining them with a welcome picnic for parents and children to get to know each other and our community. Later in the term they will come into school for sessions in class in preparation for joining us in September.

We are looking forward to end of term sports events, class trips and the Year 6 Fiver Challenge when they put their entrepreneurial skills to the test with just £5 as their start-up fund and with a view to making a profit by selling their products in school. This is a real-life test of creativity, design and marketing skills and salesmanship!

And, as always at this time of year, we have to say goodbye to our lovely Year 6 cohort. We will be sad to see them go but wish them every success in their secondary schools.

Finally, we have vacancies on the governing body of the Darent Federation of Primary Schools (Sundridge & Brasted Primary School and Kemsing Primary School) and invite members of the local community to consider joining us to offer their support and expertise. The governing body, together with the Executive Headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the schools. No qualifications are required: the most important thing is to have a keen interest in schools. At this particular time, a background or interest in Health & Safety would be particularly beneficial. If you might be interested, please do speak to 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.

Telephone: 01959 562694

email: office@sundridge.kent.scb.uk www.sundridge.kent.scb.uk

Thursday 13 July 2023
FUNDRIDGE

Q U I Z
 N I G H T

White Horse Pub
 Teams of 6 Max, £2 per head

To book a table, phone the pub 01959 562444

The Churchyard Angels

I know they don't look like churchyard angels, but they certainly are. On a very hot afternoon four of our finest volunteers took to the churchyard armed with strimmers, mowers and even a hedge cutter to cut through the swathes of overgrown grass. Unfortunately Charlie, who has been volunteering in the churchyard for many years, isn't able to carry on at the moment. It takes someone to be missing for one to realise just how valued they are.

Many thanks go to Vikki, Ian, Graham and Charlie for two solid hours of hard work to tame the wild area. There's more to do so, if anyone would like to volunteer, please get in touch with Barbara Lockey. In the meantime we wish our oldest angel Charlie a speedy recovery and thank him for his loyal service to the churchyard.



Sundridge With Ide Hill Parish Council Update

At the meeting of the new Parish Council on 25th June the new committee structures were agreed and councillors agreed to the roles, codes of conduct, terms of reference, financial regulations and standing orders, risk assessment policy and reserves policy. The Internal Auditor's report was received and the Annual Governance and Accounting Statements for 2022/23 were completed, agreed and signed. More details will be provided on the PC website.

We heard from representatives from both KCC (Cllr Nick Chard) and SDC (Cllr Sandra Robinson - District Councillor for Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge). They presented updates on the Covers Farm application. They plan to object to the use of the A25 through Sundridge for up to 200 HGV transits per day. Cllr Robinson has prepared a comprehensive report on the impact which can be found on the Parish Council website. She also presented a list of responsibilities for her and the other two District Councillors for our villages. She has extensive experience of traffic and road safety and offered to assist the PC in its discussions with Kent Highways.

The PC is meeting with senior representatives of Kent Highways in July to request speed restrictions in Ide Hill and a new pedestrian crossing in Sundridge. At that meeting several other highways items will be discussed.

At the Ide Hill Amenities Committee meeting on 5th June, representations from the public regarding traffic and highways were noted and will be discussed at the above Highways meeting. In addition, the Committee requested that the Stubbs Wood Advisory Group decide whether they should remain an independent group to which PC councillors will be invited or whether to become a full sub-committee of the PC. Their decision is awaited. The health and safety of the volunteer group and the public whilst the volunteers are working was discussed and increased machinery use training will be available to reduce risk to the volunteers and to meet insurance requirements. A tender has been issued for the next tranche of coppicing, ride widening and removal of invasive species with a plan to select a contractor in July.

The current costs of operating the Public Conveniences in Ide Hill are approximately four times the income and take a significant proportion of the annual PC budget. Ways to reduce costs, increase revenue and balance the budget are being considered by the PC. The PC approved an increase to 60p for access from 1st September.

The Sundridge Amenities Committee meeting was held on 12th June. The need for a new pedestrian crossing at the traffic lights is to be presented to Kent Highways. Improvements to the Village Hall are now largely completed although there are some minor items still to be finished. There is a plan to refurbish the kitchen. A working group to improve the facilities at Bowers Meadow is being set up.

The disabled parking spaces in Sundridge Village Hall and Ide Hill Community Shop car park have been repainted to enable disabled users to have a clearly marked space.

The PC has met with a representative from KCC regarding the provision of public Electric Vehicle Charging points in Sundridge and Ide Hill. Sundridge is eligible for a point provided by KCC and the PC will be considering if there is a suitable location accessible by all residents. Ide Hill is not currently eligible but the PC will be looking at other options.

Work to clear logged trees in Stubbs Wood has restricted access to the car park. An alternative has been opened up but the work is taking longer than expected. The PC is pressing to get full access to the car park restored as soon as possible but users are advised to exercise extreme caution if using the car park whilst log clearance is taking place.

The PC voted unanimously in favour of a siting of a new telecommunications mast in Ide Hill on condition that it will significantly improve mobile phone signals in Ide Hill and Sundridge and that a better site should be considered by the applicant. Representations by some residents of Ide Hill to the mast company were appreciated and will be helpful in PC discussions with the applicant.

There remain parish councillor vacancies for both Sundridge and Ide Hill and SDC has been advised. Anyone seeking further information should contact the Clerk.

The next PC meeting is scheduled for Monday 17th July at 7:30pm in Sundridge Village Hall.

The next Sundridge Amenities Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 12th July at 7:15pm in Sundridge Village Hall.

The next Ide Hill Amenities Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 13th July at 6:00pm in Ide Hill Village Hall.

Murder Mystery

Fundridge Sundridge brought to you another great event. In the sunshine at the Social Club, Bitesize Drama group presented "Death by Chocolate".

What a fantastic evening the Summer Solstice Murder Mystery was (if we do say so ourselves)! The weather showed up and we were able to enjoy a beautiful warm sunny evening out on the Sundridge & Brasted Club patio overlooking the green. Bitesize Drama put on a dramatic show while we enjoyed an amazing two-course meal cooked by Andrea Hodge. Everyone put on their detective

hats and set to reviewing the clues and interrogating the cast, with a lot of laughter along the way. Well done to our winners and a big thank you to Andrea Hodge, the Social Club, Bitesize Drama and everyone that came along and helped make it such a fabulous evening.

Great thanks to the team of Fundridge (six of them plus helpers) who continue to bring new experiences to the village. Long may it last!

Fundridge Sundridge. "A group of villagers who believe in Friendship, a better community, and bringing neighbours together."

Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

We had a very enjoyable sunny afternoon to The Garth Pleasure Grounds in Lingfield this month. This nine-acre garden, which is open under the National Garden Scheme as well as being part of the Historic Houses Association, wasn't known to any of us, so it was with great interest that we arrived not knowing what to expect.



Originally built in 1729, The Garth is now a charming house which started life as the parish workhouse. Later, in 1850, the building was divided into six cottages, before falling into disrepair and eventually being converted into a single home in 1918.

It was at this point that the distinguished architect of the time, Walter Godfrey, who was involved with the Society for Preservation of Ancient Buildings, was brought in. He refurbished the house in the Edwardian style of the day and the 'pleasure grounds' in his signature 'Arts and Crafts' style. Godfrey also laid out the structure of informal woodland and formal 'rooms', divided by hedging and linked by paths, all very characteristic of early 20th century garden design.

While the gardens have been altered and simplified over the years, some of the architectural features from Godfrey's vision remain, as do the bones of the original layout, including the spinney, a nuttery, terracing, gazebo and ornate gates.



The current owners have worked tirelessly to bring the gardens back to life. When they bought the property 13 years ago, David Sherlock and Lana Stanley found it very overgrown, with brambles and nettles taking over. Many of the flower beds had been grassed over and much of the woodland surrounding the garden was impassable.

After the initial clearing operation, David and Lana set about trying to recreate the feel and soul of the early 20th

century gardens using old photographs and Godfrey's design sketches. They have also added their own unique touches along the way, with a lot of new planting, raised beds, a summerhouse and, most recently, a Mediterranean style garden.



The gardens are still very much a work in progress and are a real labour of love. The couple do most of the work themselves, with the help of a part-time gardener. This was not a project for the faint-hearted, and one I don't think any of us would have been too keen to take on!

David and Lana were gracious hosts, welcoming us to their garden with enthusiasm and giving us a guided tour with plenty of insight into the history of the property and grounds. We ended the visit with a lovely afternoon tea, proceeds of which were being donated to the mental health charity Mind.



Our meeting on Wednesday 12th July will be an Evening Social with Show Class (either a single specimen rose or a vase of roses, or both, from your garden) and plant bring and buy. Please join us at Ide Hill Village Hall at 8pm for a convivial evening with fellow garden enthusiasts!

If you would like to join the Gardening Society or would like more information about membership, please contact Julia Ricci at juliaricci@rocketmail.com