

The Sundridge Village News

November 2017



Thank you for all the positive comments concerning the Village News. The Editor would like to thank Richard Dunckley for laying out the on-line version. Whilst realising that some people prefer to have a paper copy, which we understand, we feel the electronic version is the way to go so if you haven't already signed up to receive it, please do so at sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com The on-line version has the added attraction of colour images to accompany some of the items.

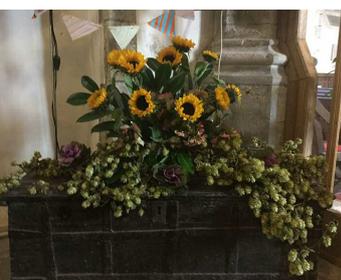
Harvest Flowers in St Mary's

A stunning display greeted the congregation at the Harvest Festival Service with Kentish hops, sunflowers, a wonderfully constructed cornucopia filled with colourful flowers on the font, bunches of wheat, fruits and nuts and beautiful arrangements of bright autumn coloured flowers.

Thanks are due to all members of the Flower Team for their original ideas.

If you might be interested in helping with arrangements at Christmas, you would be more than welcome, especially if you can spare some greenery e.g. holly with berries, poinsettias, etc. Please contact me nearer the time.

Beryl Norman—01959 563585



Parish Services for November 2017

Sunday 5th November 4th before Advent

09.15	Toys Hill	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion
15.30	Sundridge	Memorial Service

Sunday 12th November 3rd before Advent

08.00	Sundridge	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Remembrance
10.50	Ide Hill	Remembrance

Sunday 19th November 2nd before Advent

08.00	Ide Hill	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Morning Worship

Sunday 26th November Sunday before Advent

08.00	Sundridge	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday

09.15	Toys Hill	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion
15.30	Sundridge	Christingle

Rector

Rev Pam Davies
01959 467223
rev.pamdavies@sky.com

Sundridge Churchwardens

Althea Chapman	Barbara Lockey
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	01959 564249

Coffee is served at the 1030 service every Sunday. Everyone is welcome!

Sundridge & Brasted Primary School Harvest Poem

Enchanting green grass,
Lovely wondrous nature,
Beautiful, calm, warm weather,
Water as clear as a crystal,
Clear, clean, crisp air.
Nasty lumps of ash,
Horrible, foul rubbish everywhere,
Bad weather like tornados
and tsunamis,
Lava as hot as the sun,
Factories polluting our ecosystems.
Make a change for climate change,
Climate change is destroying
our world.

By *Willow Class*

Memorial Service Sunday 5th November at 3.30pm

This is a special service held once a year to give thanks for loved ones no longer with us. Please join us at this service and light a candle in their memory. Refreshments will be served.

The Future for Sundridge Village Report on the Public Meeting

The Parish Council hosted a Public Open session on October 16th which was attended by some 160 people.

I think that this demonstrated the strength of feeling within our village for the problems facing us, both now and for the future. The Parish Council is extremely grateful that so many people attended. In particular, we were very grateful for the attendance of all of our District Councillors, Robert Piper, James London and Anna Firth and for our County Councillor, Nick Chard. They will be instrumental in the progression of the idea.

The principal concerns seemed to be that of the flooding risk and we can assure you that this will be addressed very thoroughly by experts in this field.

Many of you will have seen recently in the press the serious issues surrounding local schooling and medical

Dates for your Diary

November

5th 15.30pm Memorial Service. This is a special service held once a year to give thanks for loved ones no longer with us

8th 14.30- 16.00 Sundridge & Brasted Horticultural Society AGM and Afternoon Tea *“Does the Staircase go up?”* by Phil Raymond

11th 19.30 White Horse PUB Auction of Promises Bring your cheque book! Proceeds go to ‘Fundridge’

December

2nd 19.30 Organ Recital at St Martin’s Church, Brasted. A recital to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the installation of the Walker organ. Tickets from Sevenoaks Bookshop, on the door, or they may be reserved by application to gloria.toplis@outlook.com

8th 19.00 A talk at St Mary Church given by Bob Ogley for the Friends of St Marys Church “Doodlebugs and Rockets” tickets available on the door £5.00 for members, £8.00 for non members

Christmas Services at Sundridge

3rd	15.30	Christingle service
17th	18.30	Candlelit Carol Service
24th	15.00	Crib Service
24th	23.30	Midnight Communion
25th	10.30	Family Holy Communion

Please join us

facilities and this was pressed home when we were addressed by representatives from our medical centre and our school.

The level of support for this concept at the end of the meeting will enable the Parish Council to put all the elements of this together to create a more detailed plan.

The next step will be for the Parish Council working party to investigate the formation of a Community Land Trust to explore avenues of funding and to bring together all the elements discussed at the meeting. It will then report to the full Council with its recommendations.

Our new website is now up and running and we will use this to keep you updated:

www.sundridgewithidehillpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

John Evans, Chairman Parish Council

Books from the Sundridge Church Fete

Anyone who was wondering where all the left-over books went to after the Sundridge church fete can be reassured. Many charities have benefitted, including the Oxfam bookshop in Sevenoaks and Sue Ryder in Westerham. Sundridge & Brasted primary school were invited to choose suitable books for their library and there are a few books at the back of the church for families with

small children who need a distraction during the sermon! Some of the ‘chick-lit’ books have been added to the growing library at Sevenoaks station—if you haven’t seen it, it’s worth a browse even if you’re not catching a train! Some of the more unusual books have been put aside to see whether they might attract on-line buyers and some have been stored for the next fete.

Thanks to Sir David Milman

The Friends of St Mary's Sundridge bade farewell to Sir David Milman as he stepped down as Chairman of the Friends after 14 years. When David was asked to become Chair, he was at the time Chairman of the Governors of Sundridge and Brasted School and so was already well connected and acquainted with Sundridge.

David has been an extremely skilled Chairman and every committee meeting he has led has been extremely productive and efficient. Under David's chairmanship, the Friends have put on many events including concerts, poetry readings, recitals, lectures, jazz evenings, dancers from Germany, two John Rutter Sing days, Hog Roasts, visits to numerous places including the House of Commons, Lambeth Palace



and the Whitechapel Foundry. Monies raised from these and other events have been spent on the church—a new South door, renewal of the exterior lighting, pew cushions, CCTV installation and the start-up costs to provide a loo for the church. The Committee is extremely grateful for all the support and hard work that both David and his wife Tina have given to the Friends.

The Singing Canon!

Recently the Tuesday Bible Group hosted a most unusual event at Ide Hill church. Canon Alan Rowell, a retired Minister and a friend of Angela Baker, sang from memory his own translation of St Mark's Gospel. Over forty years ago he found that he had a gift for "singing in tongues". An American pastor told him that a good way to remember Scripture was to write your own tune for it. Alan leapt at this suggestion and has been doing it ever since.

We were given a programme which included a brief summary and took our places at the front of the church, unsure what lay ahead.

There are many advantages to hearing the whole Gospel sung in one go. It allows one to sit back and listen to the complete story without interruptions. The story, though familiar, was brought to life as Alan's clever use of language brought the events into our time and place. It was powerful, moving and spiritually uplifting.

There was a retiring collection afterwards for the Sharpe Memorial School for the Blind in India. The charity is one of the PCC's chosen charities and the school benefits from our Christmas collections. The school is situated in the foothills of the Himalayas in Rajpur. It was founded by Annie Sharpe whose family came from Redhill. It was originally a hotel where people used to stay on their way up to the Missouri Hill station to escape

the heat of the plains. The school buildings were in a sorry state when the Principal and Sumana Samuel took over the school, and soon after an earthquake destroyed half of their house but with careful stewardship and gifts from a number of charities, the school compound is now in good order and the school building built to withstand earthquakes.

The school usually has just under 100 resident blind or children with low vision and about 160 local children join for classes. This is beneficial all round and the school is held in high repute by the Rajpur community. When the children go into the bazaar to shop, the shop keepers look out and care for them.

The girls have the same academic curriculum as sighted children. The older children go 2 or 3 days a week to a normal school in Dehra Dun, but basically have to remember what they are taught as there are no Braille facilities there. The system seems to work because the blind girls achieve very high exam grades. The older children organise themselves to play games, cricket being a favourite. The ball has a bell in it and the wicket keeper claps her hands so the bowler knows where the wicket is.

With thanks to Angela Baker for organising the event and to Ruth Barrow for providing the information on the Sharpe Memorial School.

Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society

Anyone suffering from Rheumatism, Gout or Kidney Stones or even worse, all three, must under no circumstances eat any part of a begonia plant. Anyone else may do so if they wish! This was advice given by Tessa Allen to the joint meeting with Ide Hill Gardening Society, held at Ide Hill on 11 October. It is quite amazing which flowers can be consumed provided, of course, that no poisonous sprays have been used on them.

Our last meeting of the year will be at Sundridge village hall on 8th November at 2.30pm - 4pm, starting with our AGM which takes very few minutes. Ide Hill Gardening Society members will join us for a talk - *Does this staircase go up?* given by a local resident, a Cruiseship entertainments Manager. Tea and cakes will be served. Do please join us.

Mary Walford

Harvest collection in the parish

The PCC chose the local foodbank - Loaves and Fishes as the charity to benefit from this year's Harvest collection. The foodbank has been running for five years. Its aims are quite simple – to provide basic food to families with children who have been recommended to it by a 'bona fide' source until they no longer require assistance. It is also prepared to help other people on a one-off emergency basis if resources allow. It is non-judgemental of recipient families and offers cups of tea and a listening ear to anyone who might appreciate this service, although on the understanding that the volunteers are not professional counsellors or social workers.

Food is donated by churches of all denominations across the district. Local schools, other charitable organisations and small businesses also support the project, as do many individuals. Sainsbury's has supported it since its inception. The foodbank currently supports up to 40 families – some long term and others only for a short time - giving them a large bag of non-perishable food every week of the year.

If you feel you would like to contribute more regularly, please contact Barbara Lockey (details inside front cover) who is the co-ordinator for St Mary's Sundridge.

Harvest Lunch

What a wonderful sight greeted everyone who walked into the Ide Hill Village Hall for the Harvest lunch. The tables were decorated with hops, ivy, autumnal leaves and flowers, creating a wonderful display that went down the centre of the tables. There was plenty of delicious food for all, salads of every description, quiches, a lasagne, a cheese board, sausage rolls, veggie options and much more. Puddings were also plentiful!

There were too many people to thank individually but, whether you



helped with the setting up, brought flowers to create into displays, made or bought food, or just came to be amongst friends, it couldn't have happened without you.

A collection was held and the proceeds will go to the Caribbean island of St Martin. At a recent memorial service for Judith Livingstone, her son who had survived the recent devastation told us of the destruction affecting the whole community.

Left Harvest lunch table decoration

Sundridge and Brasted Primary School Harvest Service

The school's Harvest Service was introduced by the two Worship Captains who explained that, this year, the theme of their service was the work of Christian Aid and, in particular, its support for Malawi's farmers.

Elm class magnificently performed 'Frank and the Pea Stalk' as a comment on the effects of climate change. A terrifying march-past of "Fi, fie, foe, fum, extreme weather, here I come" accompanied every attempt of the poor pea to grow up and down the aisle. In the end, only a resistant crop proved able to survive.

Willow's class contribution was a lovely series of poems on the same subject. Each poem depicted at its beginning the beauty of the earth, moved on to the damage which we have done to it and ended with the warning about climate change, "It is happening".

Maple class planted a bean "with our finger", suiting action to word. "Sun will shine, winds will blow. Bean will fall asleep."

Mr Gaind's talk moved between an initial conker - "What is its purpose?" – onto a tiny acorn, from which mighty oaks are born. Amazing things come from small beginnings. This he linked to the small actions which make a big difference. He then spoke about the parts of the world where Christian Aid is seeking to make a difference, those countries where more than half of the population lives on less than \$2 a day and whose peoples do not enjoy the life-style which we in the West are privileged to enjoy.

Cedar class offered our prayers in gratitude for all that we enjoy (including their food at lunchtime that day) and held up pictures to illustrate all the good things which we should never take for granted.

A collection was taken for Christian Aid.

*Althea Chapman
Sundridge Churchwarden*

Mobile Library

Did you realise that Sundridge has a mobile library? It visits fortnightly on Thursdays and parks in Chapmans Close between 1030 and 11am. It has a very good range of books SO why not make use of the mobile library? The library will next visit on Thursday 9th and 23rd November from 10.30-11.00