

The Sundridge Village News

February 2018

Wishing you all a Very Happy New Year

**“O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree
How lovely are thy branches”**



How simply splendid the Christmas tree looked in St Mary's Sundridge this year. As in previous years, it was kindly donated by Emma Best, the proprietor of The Sevenoaks Garden Centre in Dry Hill Lane. As you will see from the photographs, the younger children from Maple class enjoyed making the clay decorations to put on the tree. Elm class entertained

residents of both Sundridge and Ide Hill with an afternoon of mince pies (and mulled wine served by the parents!)

Unfortunately, numbers were down due to the appalling weather, but those who did venture out enjoyed getting sticky with both crafts and mince pies. The children sang beautifully, with the soloists performing with such confidence. To our utter delight Charlie, the Head Boy, was the talk of the Carol Service at Sundridge. Cool as a cucumber, with no rehearsal, in a church lit only by candlelight, he walked down the aisle holding a candle and sang the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's city', setting the scene for what was a joyous service.



Sundridge Village Plan

In October 2017, the Parish Council held a Public Open Session to discuss the Sundridge Community Development Plan. The turnout for this open session was amazing, with over 150 people packed into the village hall to hear about the ideas for regenerating the village.

The plan can be viewed on the Parish Council website: www.sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk and unless the Parish Council can promote a community scheme, Sundridge risks losing what little identity it has left. Following the meeting, an overwhelming show of hands gave the Parish Council the authority to progress with the scheme. To move the project forward, The Community Land Trust has received provisional offers of volunteers with the right skills within the village to sit as trustees for the charity. Start-up funding has been applied for and hopefully will be accepted very soon. Following that, more detailed plans can be drawn up.

Parish Services for February 2018

Sunday 4th February Second Sunday before Lent

09.15	Toys Hill	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion

Sunday 11th February Sunday next before Lent

08.00	Sundridge	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Ide Hill	All Age Worship

Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday

10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion BCP
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Rector

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

Sunday 18th February Lent 1

08.00	Ide Hill	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Sundridge	Morning Worship

Sunday 25th February Lent 2

08.00	Sundridge	Holy Communion BCP
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion

Sundridge Churchwardens

Althea Chapman
althea.chapman@btinternet.com

Barbara Lockey
hixmix@btopenworld.com
01959 564249

Ide Hill Churchwarden

Neil Arnott email: neil.d.arnott@gmail.com Telephone: 01732 750221

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



Memorabilia needed

This year November 11th will fall on Remembrance Sunday. I've read that church bells and other bells will ring out throughout the day, just as they did in 1918 to mark the cessation of hostilities. The Editorial team would like to commemorate this day to honour all those who served and died and would be grateful to anyone who has any information e.g. photographs and newspaper reports of Sundridge family members involved in the Great War.

All articles will be carefully copied and returned.

Treasurer Wanted

The Churches of Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill are currently seeking a Treasurer (voluntary) for the PCC (Parochial church council) to take over the role at the start of April 2018, if possible.

If you have book-keeping or accountancy expertise and would like to volunteer your skills, this might be what you are looking for. Our current Treasurer is happy to talk to anyone who might be interested in this position and explain what the role involves. She will also help with a smooth transition.

If you are interested to know more about this role, please contact the Rector.

Revd Pam Davies 01959 467223 rev.pam.davies@sky.com

Dates for your Diary

February

Thursday 1st

Mobile Library, Chapmans Close from 10.30 to 11.00am

Saturday 3rd

'Bountiful' a Women's Christian Conference

From 9.30am - 3pm at Trinity School, Sevenoaks

More information from Revd Pam

Wednesday 14th

Sundridge & Brasted Horticultural Society

From 2.30 - 4.30pm. Tea Party and membership renewal at Brasted Pavilion

Thursday 15th

Mobile Library, Chapmans Close from 10.30 to 11.00am

Saturday 17th

Family Fun Day at Rochester Cathedral

From 10.30am to 2.00pm. Free fun activities - see flyer

The White Horse

As no doubt you are aware, Ian Fenn the landlord has left the White Horse pub and it has temporarily closed. New applicants have been sought by the brewery and apparently there is a shortlist of candidates.

Let's hope that we can drink to the continued success of our village pub soon!

Mobile Library

Did you realise that Sundridge has a mobile library? It visits fortnightly on Thursdays and parks in Chapmans Close between 10.30 and 11am. It has a very good range of books, so why not make use of the mobile library?

The Ide Hill Society

The Ide Hill Society has just issued its programme for 2018. The invariably brief AGM is on 7th March in the Ide Hill Village Hall. It will be followed by local beekeeper Cliff Hayward answering the question "If bees are in so much trouble, why are there so many in my garden?" Our archives will be available for viewing in the Wheatsheaf Room for half an hour before and after. On 18th April Ian Page will show a collection of videos recorded in the village between 1985 and 2003 which include a wide range of celebrations, events and other assorted memories. Talks later in the year include "Whatever happened to Christopher Robin", "Trees and Man" and "Gemstones, from the earth to your finger". Visits in the summer are planned to Wakehurst Gardens and Seedbank, Savill Gardens with a river boat cruise and an "Old Jewish East End" blue badge tour. Whether you live in Ide Hill, a nearby village or just nearby, please ask for a copy of the full programme from Paul Meredith p.meredith@btinternet.com and/or you would be most welcome to join us on 7th March.



Family Fun Day

Saturday 17th February 2018
10.30—14.00

Join us for fabulous **FREE** fun activities

Engineering Fun with Rochester Bridge Trust

**Dolly Dimples
Balloon craft**

Decorate a Flag

**Get stitching with the
Cathedral Embroiderers**

And much, much more!

Write Like a Monk

**Embossing with
Wendy Daws**

**Morris Dancing with
Gundulf Novices**

**Music by
Rochester
Cathedral
Children's Choir**

Visit www.rochestercathedral.org for details

The March edition

If you have any information for the 'Dates for your Diary' section, an article that you'd like included in the March edition, or know of anyone who would like to place an advertisement, please email by Wednesday 21st February 2018 to:

sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society

Happy New Year and Good Gardening to you all!

Our first event this year is our Tea Party to be held on Wednesday 14th February. This is to be held in the Brasted Pavilion, a spacious venue with plenty of car parking. The Committee will be there to welcome you all from 2.30pm to 4.30pm for tea and cake and to give you our new programme and membership card for the year on payment of your subscriptions. The subscription is still the same, at £7.00 per member or £5.00 for those past retirement age. Do join us. You're all very welcome, as is anyone who would like to join the Society.

We have had a very interesting year with some super talks. For some of these events we have invited the Ide Hill Gardening Society to join us and, on several occasions, we have joined them for their talks at Ide Hill. We plan to continue this arrangement. Transport will always be arranged for those who require it.

We started off last year with a brilliant talk by our very popular and local speaker, Irena Fairless, telling us about

her amazing and eventful holiday with Bruce on the River Nile, just before such trips were cancelled for safety reasons. The crew on their ship sadly had no further employment after this trip. We chose a lovely sunny and warm day to visit the Riverhill Himalayan Gardens which had been transformed since our visit some years ago and before their BBC programme. We had another very successful Plant Sale and Cake Stall in Brasted in May. We were planning to have another this year on Saturday 19th May but it turns out that an important family who live within about 30 to 40 miles of Brasted have arranged for a Wedding on the same day and we felt that it would not be fair on them if we held our sale. Perhaps some of our residents are being invited to the wedding! We shall never know.

We look forward to seeing you all on 14th February when you will find out what super talks and outings have been arranged for this year. Estelle Hyams, our Programme Secretary, deserves our thanks for all the work this involves. See you all on St. Valentine's Day. *Mary Walford*

Christmas at St Mary's, Sundridge

Interesting and innovative floral arrangements were created by the Flower Team for Christmas and these, together with the many candles, produced a wonderful atmosphere for the candlelit Carol Service and the midnight Christmas Eve Service.

The arrangements were still in good condition for the annual New Year's Day Ringing of the Bells. My thanks to all the team and to those who supplied some extras, such as red Cornus stems and long streams of trailing Ivy, all of which was used to good effect. We are always looking

for new ideas and, over the past few years, Barbara Lockey has produced some very modern arrangements on the font. These have made a complete contrast to the usual traditional arrangements in the Church and are certainly welcome and interesting. Therefore, if anyone in the area is interested in this sort of floral work, then I would love to hear from you.

Our next festival will be Easter and, as ever, new recruits to the team would be very welcome.

Beryl Norman 01959 563585



Christingles at the School

They are the two stickiest days of the year: a Thursday when Churchwardens past and present prepare 100 oranges and a Friday when said oranges are transformed into christingles by almost 100 pupils. Following an assembly given by Revd Pam on the symbolism of the christingle, it was time for long tables and a mixture of sweets to be laid out. Instructions in the past have been given by the Churchwardens (the most important one being that no sweets may be eaten today!) This year, however, the two Worship Captains very ably took charge of proceedings. With each class they ran through the symbolism of the christingle (round orange the world, red ribbon the blood of Christ, candle the light of Jesus in the world, the sweets God's gifts to us) and showed how to make it. We were very impressed by their mastery of their brief and how self-possessed they were. On the Sunday, a congregation of 140 pupils, siblings and parents joined in a mixture of traditional and modern carols as Revd Pam led us through a service of celebration for the light of Jesus coming into the world.

The highlight of the service, as ever, was the queue of pupils - and some adults - coming forward to light their candles, forming a circle round the church as the lights were put out and, in the ensuing candlelight, singing "Away in a manger".

A magical beginning to the Christmas season!



And finally

Taken from a church pew sheet

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house.
Bring your husbands.