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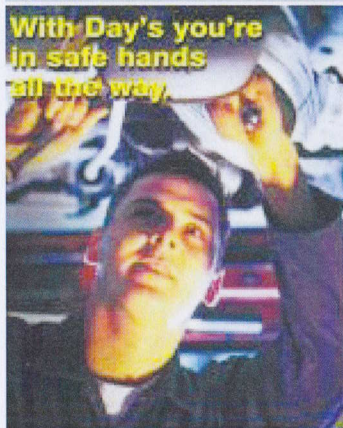
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St Peter's Church Tandridge Parish News

April / May 2021

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Services at St Peter's

April

4th
4th,
11th, 18th, 25th

Morning Services

8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Family Easter Communion
11:00am Family Service

For all Easter services, please see page 6

Evening Services

4th
11th, 18th, 25th

6:30pm Holy Communion
6:30pm Evensong

May

2nd
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd
30th

Morning Services

8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Family Service
11:00am Family Holy Communion

Evening Services

2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th
16th

6:30pm Evensong
6:30pm Holy Communion

Dates for your Diary

April

1st School Spring Term ends
2nd **Good Friday**
4th **Easter Sunday**
6th 7:30pm Tandridge Parish Council via Zoom
19th School Summer Term begins
26th **St Peter's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting from 12pm in church**

May

3rd Bank Holiday
4th 7:30pm Tandridge Parish Council via Zoom
19th 7:30pm St Peter's PCC meeting via Zoom
31st Bank Holiday—school half term week

Front Cover: Picture provided by Clare Addison

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If everyone follows the rules, the pandemic will soon be under control. Many of us aged over 60 have had their first jab and will soon receive the second jab. Churches will soon be back to normal Sunday patterns and some of us will be jetting off to faraway places. Don't make the same mistakes that we did last year, the same mistakes which caused the virus to spread widely during last winter. We must remain on our guard.

In this issue; church services begin again in time for Easter; the toilet project moves forward another small step; how did 18th century slavery impact on Tandridge, who was Henry Smith; and Alastair is looking out for your bedknobs? As ever, if you have any comments or contributions, including photos, we would love to hear from you, so please send them to: tandridgenews@gmail.com. We aim to include as much as possible in the space available in future editions.

Next edition of Tandridge Parish News will be published on

Sunday 30th May 2021

Deadline for copy: 12th May 2021

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A cartographer in the making? Catherine LeDesma has been interested in drawing fictional maps since she was a young child. Lockdown, with so much more time available, has resulted in three, real maps – Tandridge is one of them – cropped to fit the paper size available!

Services in Holy Week and Easter 2021

Monday, 29 March

7:00pm Holy Week Prayers (Compline) St Peter's

Tuesday, 30 March

7:00pm Holy Week Prayers (Compline) St Peter's

Wednesday, 31 March

11:00am Holy Communion St Mary's

7:00pm Holy Week Prayers (Compline) St Peter's

Maundy Thursday, 1 April

8:00pm Holy Communion St Mary's

Good Friday, 2 April

Noon A service of readings and reflections
with music from Claire Dillon (violin) and Nigel Bates (organ)

2:00pm Good Friday service St Mary's

Easter Sunday, 4 April

6:00am Easter Vigil St Mary's

8:00am Holy Communion St Peter's

11:00am Family Communion St Peter's

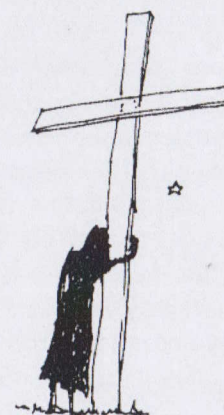
6:30pm Holy Communion St Peter's

Easter Hope

We don't have to look far to see the signs of spring all around us. The gardens, footpaths and woods are bursting with life; reminding us of the beauty of nature and our responsibility to take care of it. We also approach the Christian festival of Easter, another great celebration of new life and joy.

The story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus is tinged with a mix of emotions. The initial joy at the welcome of Jesus into Jerusalem, was soured by his mob conviction and horrid death. Then his followers lived with uncertainty and confusion; they clung to the cross in plaintive grief, but I believe a wellspring of hope was still bubbling in them.

The past twelve months have been like that for many of us. Our usual experience of everyday life, with its joys and challenges has been tainted by the cloud of Covid. We have been taken to places of great grief, frustration and despair. Have we been able to cling on to a smidgen of hope? Or have we sometimes felt that all hope has gone?



To whom do we turn when we lose hope? I am sure we all have our own preferred methods of coping with a lack of hope: we might talk to a trusted friend, we might go for a long walk, we might spend time with a loyal pet, we might just scream at the moon. Whatever your method is, perhaps this Easter we could add something new to our repertoire. Maybe a lack of hope should lead us to cling on to the cross. To what it represents. To the love and sacrifice that it speaks of.

I trust that you have a joyous and happy Easter time. As we look forward to the rest of the year with growing glimmers of hope (many of which we read about in these pages) may we also hold on to the hope Jesus brings us at Easter – the hope of new life!

A very happy Easter to you all!

James



Bees and Trees

2021 will be an experimental year for beekeeping at Southlands Lodge. A new acquisition has recently arrived; a long hive.

The hive manufacturer is part of a great initiative called Ecoligi. The scheme plants a tree for every long hive sold so that when it is delivered the transportation carbon emissions can be offset. I even get a certificate!

The hive is made from cedar, grown in Leicestershire from sustainable woodland and is 100% British. It may be expensive, but the craftsmanship is excellent and the principles behind the product are worthy. Hopefully my bees, once installed, will appreciate their new home and thrive.



The tradition of long hives or horizontal hives reportedly goes back to medieval times and the hive configuration is widely used in Africa. The concept has only recently been revived in the UK and we now have an early example of the hive variety here in Tandridge. The learning curve will be steep over the coming season in order to get the best out of this 'rediscovered' piece of beekeeping history.

The principle of the long hive is that as the colony expands in the spring, they grow horizontally rather than vertically as in the traditional hive. The idea is that the beekeeper can manage the bees without having to lift heavy boxes and work is carried out at a comfortable height. No bending over or awkward manoeuvres necessary; great if you

have a bad back. The long hive is configured to house two colonies, which will hopefully mean quicker and more efficient hive inspections and improved care of the bees.

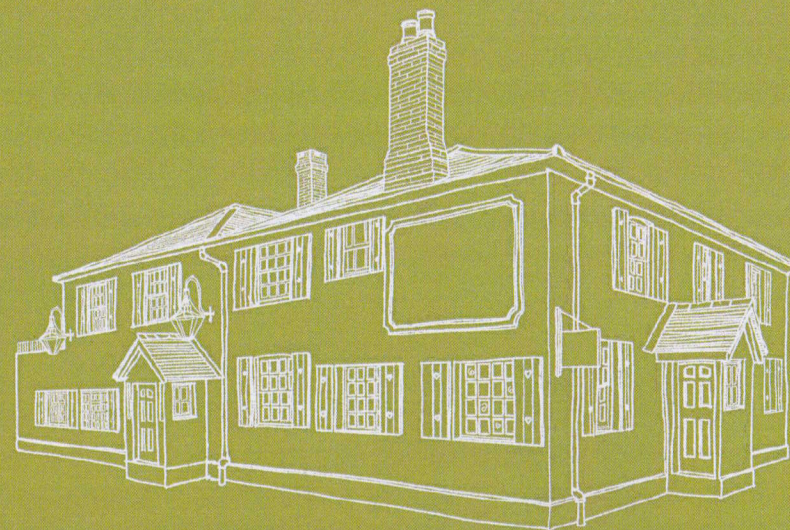
Early forage is in bloom. The sight of spring flowers is heart-lifting and the bees are certainly enjoying the pollen and nectar from crocus, daffodil, hellebore and various catkins now that the temperature is beginning to increase. The oilseed rape crop is looking promising. Some of the local fields will be turning yellow in a few weeks and hopefully there will be a spring honey crop. I will be keeping a close eye on the long range weather forecast.

Colin David – Southlands Lodge Bees



BARLEY MOW

COUNTRY PUB & DINING



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FROM 8 AM

The rear 'Garden Window' will be serving Union coffee, pastries and breads from Paul Rhodes Bakery.

FROM 11 AM

The 'Farmer's Pantry' will be offering snacks and produce.

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Tandridge

Parish Council

Tandridge Parish Council Update from Zoom video meetings held on 2nd February and 2nd March 2021

Planning Enforcement Action: TDC continue to be aware of a number of potential contraventions. If you have a concern please contact a Parish Councillor.

TDC Chief Executive Recruitment: Applicants are being shortlisted and interviewed.

TDC Offices: The council premises in Oxted continue to be used a COVID 19 vaccination centre.

Parish Environment: PC Lauren Ellis is the new Neighbourhood Safety Officer (NSO). She is aware of the rural issues of burglary, shed breaking and poaching. There is also a focus on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and advised that the Police have a new ASB patrol car which is active and staffed every late shift.

You can contact your NSO on: Lauren.Ellis@surrey.pnn.police.uk

CCTV: As a result of a number of incidents, consideration is being given to the installation of CCTV. If you have any views regarding the provision of CCTV in Tandridge Parish please contact a local councillor.

Neighbourhood & Local Plan:

Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan continues to be on hold pending the outcome of the Local Plan.

Planning Applications Reviewed:

2021/75 Oldencraig, Tandridge Lane, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6LL
Proposed: Variation of Condition 2 (plans) of planning permission ref: 2019/330 (Demolition of existing buildings. Erection of 22 dwellings with associated parking and amenity space) to allow for amendments to the design and house types and minor repositioning of building footings. TPC had no comment on the variation of conditions.

2021/186 Land at Rookery Farm, Tandridge Lane, Lingfield RH7 6LW

Proposal: 30m x 25m Farmyard Manure Store and a 25m x 8m Silage Clamp together with all Associated Engineering Operations

Decision Not yet determined

TPC do not object to this application but queried the size of the store.

Future Statutory Parish Council Meetings (format dependent upon Covid 19 advice):

13th April, 11th May, 8th June, 6th July, 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November, 7th December.

Your Parish Councillors are: Mr Ivor Stamp (Chairman), Mr John Hammond (Deputy), Mr Colin David, Mrs Anne Stocker, Mr Andrew Nosworthy, Mrs Sylvia Pocock, (one vacancy).

Contact details for the Parish Council are provided under the "Useful Telephone Numbers" section. Please get in touch if there is anything that you have a concern about. Councillors are always interested in comments you may have about such things as the parish environment, planning issues / concerns, improvement suggestions etc.

Smith's Charity

Henry Smith was born in Wandsworth in May 1548. He was a salter by trade who grew rich and purchased estates in various parts of England. He had no children and during his lifetime he created a number of charitable trusts for the relief of the poor, one of which is for the relief of the poor of specific parishes including the parish of Tandridge in Surrey. He died in 1628 having bequeathed to his Trustees various sums of money, the income from which was to be used 'for the relief and ransom of poore captives being slaves under Turkish pirates', and 'for the use and relief of the poorest of my kindred'. Claims under the first category have diminished over the years and that legacy is now used for other purposes.

The Parish Council is responsible for appointing trustees for the portion available in Tandridge and for oversight of the grant. Amounts for distribution have increased from £35 in 1895 to £5,100 in 2020. Beneficiaries have to reside in the parish of Tandridge. The Trustees usually meet in October and aim to distribute cash grants by the end of January: some funding is held in reserve in case any applications are received during the year. The size of grants to individuals and organisations varies from year to year depending on the number of applicants and amount available. So far, this year 21 individuals and four organisations have received grants ranging from £150 - £250.

Further information about applying for a grant can be found on the website <https://smithscharitytandridge.weebly.com> or by contacting Catherine Scott on 01342 832376 or smithscharitytandridge@gmail.com

The church costs over £1000 a week to run, before the cost of maintenance and renovation are considered. The traditional methods of collecting donations is via the weekly offering during a service and Standing Order instructions to your bank.

Fewer people carry cash today and more people have a smart phone. Therefore, at St Peter's, we are introducing the QR code.

You do not need to wait until next Sunday to use it in church, why not try it now?

Martin Lloyd



2020 was clearly a difficult year for sustained fundraising. However, significant strides have been made in formalising both the structure of our fundraising campaign and the improvement project itself. In 2020 two groups were established:



St Peter's Church, Tandridge

St Peter's PCC Buildings Sub-Committee: The members are Revd James Ashton, Guy Addison, Mike Hodgson, David Hughes, David Mitchell, Revd David Weightman and Alex Talbot. This group supports the PCC on decision making and projects relating to the fabric of the church and church improvement projects. With respect to the long running project to build accessible toilet facilities for the church, the group undertook a full review of potential sites and on 18th November presented these options to the PCC. This was not an easy decision and involved considering five potential sites and their impact on accessibility, visual appearance and cost alongside their

feasibility in planning and conservation terms, drainage and the extent to which we could build two rather than only one toilet (a specific recommendation of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) looking to the long term). After some discussion, it was agreed that we should proceed with plans and designs for the development of two toilets in the area at the back of the vestry. A revised proposal was submitted to the DAC in the early part of this year and last week we received a very positive appraisal of our proposals describing our submission as “a very promising response to the comments from the DAC subcommittee made last year” and our site recommendation as “the most sensible solution within the footprint of the building”. Our next objective is to finalise designs for a final submission to the DAC and move to appointing contractors.

St Peter's Community & Heritage Trust: During the course of 2020 we agreed to apply for charitable status. This is the route many significant church improvement projects take (including St Mary's Oxted) as it facilitates the application for matched funding awards from charitable grant- giving bodies

and provides a ring-fenced focus for donations. On 17th December we heard that St Peter's Tandridge Community & Heritage Trust had achieved approved charitable status (with charity number 1192847). Our trustees are Revd James Ashton, Martin Lloyd, Guy Addison, Francine de Stoppelaar, Andrew Nosworthy and Alex Talbot. This is, of course, a first step in what will be a long fundraising campaign, but it means that we have the right structures in place to plan and benefit from sustained fundraising efforts in the coming months.

This year – as we hope conditions return to normal – we should be able to re-focus on events and fundraising initiatives in order to turn plans into reality.

Alex Talbot



The need for a loo became more pressing

St Peter's C of E Infant School March 2021

There is light at the end of the tunnel, and we are all heading closer and closer to it. At St Peter's, this light became brighter with the wonderful return of all our children on 8th March. It was absolutely the best moment of the year as we welcomed everyone back into our fold. What was even more delightful was the fact that the children literally came running into school. You really couldn't have asked for a better return.



We planned our first week back carefully, so the children had plenty of opportunities to reconnect and engage through our 'Science Week'. Well, we certainly have many budding scientists in our midst. Although we couldn't control the weather, this did make it even more exciting as the children designed and experimented with bubbles, shot rockets into the air, discovered the power of Mentos and Diet Coke, created slime and generally revelled in a world of scientific experiments.

Although we still have to adhere to our 'bubbles' the power of Zoom, won through yet again, as the children shared their joys of the week as well as their great science dressing up costumes with virtual classrooms and a special whole school Zoom Collective Worship to round off a fantastic week.

It is now only a few weeks until Easter, (we really do ask that rhetorical question, 'where does the time fly?') so we are already turning our attention to this very important time in the Christian calendar. With the help of Reverend Ashton, the children will be able to visit St Peter's Church in their separate year groups to celebrate Easter. You certainly can't say that anything stands still here!

We have a wealth of planned activities looking further ahead and are as hopeful as everyone that the roadmap allows us to continue with these. But until then, we would like to wish everyone a very peaceful and reflective Easter.

Take very good care and God bless

With love from all of us at St Peter's School

Lenia Greenaway

Crowhurst Almshouse Vacancy – Available Spring 2021

A one-bedroom, self-contained, single storey, terraced cottage suitable for single occupancy, is available in Crowhurst, Lingfield. Applicants should either be living in the Parish of Crowhurst or surrounding parishes or have links to the area. Unfortunately, the cottage is unsuitable for wheelchair users. It should be noted that the cottage is in a rural area with very limited public transport so the successful resident will need their own transport.

It has a shared garden.

Applicants must be able to live independently.

In the first instance, please contact the Clerk to the Trustees for an application form:

email: crowhurstcharities@yahoo.com or in writing to 1 Brick Kiln Cottages, Crowhurst Lane End, Oxted RH8 9NT.

Applications will be reviewed and then suitable applicants called for interview with the Trustees.

The Tandridge Village Fire Brigade

An article taken from the 1994 booklet 'The Parish of Tandridge', published by Tandridge Parish Council to celebrate their centenary.

In 1901, the Council received the gift of fire-fighting equipment from Mr Maximilian Michaelis, who then owned Tandridge Court, consisting of a hand hose-cart to convey six hundred feet of canvas hose and all associated fittings with two best quality copper lamps, to be kept in a shed at The Cage. Hydrant points were to be installed throughout the village, at Newhouse Farm, at Brook Farm and at Mansion House Farm, too, in Crowhurst, which was also owned by Mr Michaelis and must have necessitated a record-breaking run with the hand-cart. The first captain of the Tandridge fire brigade was Mr A Crowhurst, the village smith, who was succeeded by his son, Mr A J Crowhurst for the remainder of the brigade's existence. They were commended for effective handling of a fire at Newhouse Farm in 1930, but in 1931 a proposal to join with Oxted and Limpsfield in the purchase of a motor vehicle was declined. It was, however, admitted that some quicker means of conveyance was desirable. The brigade was finally disbanded in 1940 at the beginning of the Second World War.

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Slaving, Piracy and Contrition

The National Trust has published a recent report that shines a light on the histories of colonialism and historic slavery associated with the properties in its care. It would be quite remiss, therefore, if we did not include Tandridge in this investigation of the imperfections of our predecessors.

Certainly, the Georgian facades of our country houses - Tandridge Court (above), Rooks Nest (top, next page), Southlands (next page) and

Tandridge Hall before it was accidentally burnt down in the 1940s - were all derived from profitable trading with the colonies in the 18th century. The leading developer of these houses was Matthias Wilkes, a wealthy merchant from Deptford, which was a



notable centre both for building slave ships and also dealing in slaves as part of the transatlantic trade bringing produce to London. He is said, too, to have been part owner of a privateer, which were armed merchant vessels authorised by the government to conduct hostilities against the ships of an enemy government - effectively an official form of piracy. However, like many others in Britain at the time, he graduated from being a rich merchant with some dubious side lines to becoming a country gentleman by rebuilding Tandridge Court on its present site in 1811.

Tandridge had considerable connections with India, too. An early occupant of Rooks Nest was closely associated with Clive of India, whilst a later occupant, George Clerk, whose brass plate on the leg of the church tower has been carefully polished for 200 years, had some relationship with the now infamous East India Company.

Also, a pew in the church commemorates Sir James Cosmo Melville, a tenant at Tandridge Court, who held the distinguished position of being the Chief Secretary of the East India Company for 20 years in the period leading up to the Indian Mutiny in 1857, after which the British government saw fit to take over.



Nevertheless, it was not all greed and exploitation. Rudyard Kipling, who worked as a journalist in India and was a great enthusiast for the virtues of empire, paid tributes to the selfless dedication of many of those who



worked in administering India. On the occasion of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897, he produced his famous poem 'Recessional' which brooded on the ending of empires and urged all who

exercise dominion over palm and pine (summing up the British Empire in three words!) to do so with a humble heart and with the support of God.

"Lord God of Hosts be with us yet. Lest we forget, lest we forget."

Gerald Walkden

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The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The APCM is the annual general meeting of St Peter's Church. It will be held in the church on Sunday 25th April at 12 noon.

The ecclesiastical parish of St Peter's covers the same boundary line as the civil parish of Tandridge, north of the railway. The area south of the railway line lies within the parishes of St George Crowhurst, St Stephen South Godstone and St John Blindley Heath.

Everyone is welcome to attend. However, only those who are on the church Electoral Roll may vote in the proceedings. The Electoral Roll is closed two weeks prior to the APCM. If you would like to be on the church Electoral Roll after the APCM, please contact Mike Hodgson, Church Electoral Roll Officer (*see page 25*) or to apply, complete the form for "Application for Enrolment onto the Electoral Roll" which can be found at www.parishresources.org.uk/pccs/apcms/

To be on the church electoral roll, you must:

- be over 16 years of age and baptised.
- reside in the ecclesiastical parish of St Peters, Tandridge,
- if not living in the ecclesiastical parish of St Peter's, habitually attend St Peter's for at least six months.
- have completed an application form at least two weeks prior to the APCM.

100 Years of the Parochial Church Council

It is a hundred years since parish churches gained the power to run their own affairs, separately from what we now regard as local government.

The religious affairs of a parish, as well as its secular business had been controlled by a single committee, which met in the church and was known as the 'Vestry'. Then, in 1894, Parish Councils were formed to deal with secular matters; the Vestry continued to oversee church affairs until 1921, when Parochial Church Councils (PCC) were established. People still get confused by the two.

Churchwardens have been around since the 13th century and legally 'own' the movable contents of the church. They are meant to maintain order in the church and churchyard, with the assistance of their staves, if necessary. In the event of serious disorder today, a mobile phone might be a safer instrument, with staves reserved for ceremonial occasions! Churchwardens are now chosen by parishioners, though the Incumbent (ie Vicar or Rector) has a limited right of veto.

Today, anyone on the Electoral Roll of the church (sorry, this is another confusion, for the secular Electoral Roll is entirely separate) can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which elects the PCC. The Incumbent is an *ex officio* member, as are other licensed clergy and Churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod, plus any member of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod who lives in the parish or is on the roll. The Incumbent chairs the PCC, which elects a Vice-Chair and appoints a Standing Committee to transact business between meetings.

The purpose of a PCC, which must meet at least four times a year, is to consult together with the Incumbent "on matters of general concern and importance to the parish", and that includes the "whole mission of the Church". Did you know that changes to the forms of service, or the vesture or the minister, can only happen after consultation?

Inevitably, money and building maintenance take up a lot of room on the agenda, though we all know they are less important than mission. It's a real challenge for every PCC member to pray for non-churchgoing parishioners and to find imaginative ways of introducing them to Christ and His Church. If you've got this far and are a member of your PCC - congratulations - you are a hundred years old this year!



Fund-raising with Gardens and Plants

The National Garden Scheme (NGS) raises millions of pounds for nursing and health charities each year simply by asking garden owners to open up their garden for visitors. Many of us have missed garden visiting but, more importantly, fund-raising has been hit at a time when it is sorely needed. Rising to this challenge, the NGS has still published a 2021 handbook and updated its website.



Three Tandridge gardens are open this year, but remember, like most visits these days, they need to be pre-booked on a given date or visited by arrangement as part of a group.

Little Court House: Owners Jane and Graham King offer pre-arranged visits for groups from April to September.

Southlands Lodge: Colin David and John Barker have set aside 10th and

11th July for visits pre-booked on the NGS website, but also offer group visits of five to 20 from July to August.

The Bothy: Diane and John Hammond are open June to July by arrangement for groups of ten to 20 but check website for pop-ups.

If planning ahead or being in a group isn't your thing, then how about a virtual visit to a real garden? **The Chauffeurs Flat** garden, owned by Carole and John Richins, no longer opens under the NGS, but you can still enjoy a virtual tour filmed last spring. It's not that easy to find so here is the link <https://ngs.org.uk/the-tapestry-garden-chauffeurs-flat-surrey/>

Beyond our parish, there are a couple of new garden entries. **Leigh Place** near Godstone has caught my eye as we pass it on regular local walks and are curious what lies behind the tall walls. This is listed as opening 12th and 13th June, looks like you can just turn up. **Oaklands** at Blindley Heath is another new one, visits can be arranged June to September for groups of five to 30.

We all miss the fund-raising May Plant and Cake Sale organised by Ruth D'Alessandro and Elizabeth Richards, but keep your ear to the ground and there may be a 'pop-up' version. Any gardeners who are pricking out seedlings, taking cuttings or dividing perennials might like to save a few spares just in case.

Image credit NGS www.ngs.org.uk

Liz Mercer

Fresh Faces at the Barley Mow

Anyone walking around Tandridge village will have noticed the hive of recent activity around the pub, whether it is the re-surfaced car park or the early morning takeaway service from the garden window. So who is behind the venture and what are the future plans?

Neil Chandler, Managing Director of Barely Mow Enterprises, recalls; "Last summer I gathered a team of six local friends who like me saw the pub's potential and now we are busy restoring it to a drinking and dining destination."

Picture to the right is Stuart Labram, Director and General Manager, who will be around and about regularly. Exact opening times of the different areas depend on when lockdown eases, but there is already a hatch service for hot drinks and bakery products, open daily at 8am.

There is a Head Chef, Jordan Gregory-Astle who will live on site with his young family. Jordan is planning a range of British pub favourites for eat in and takeaway, based on locally-sourced products. He hopes to offer a limited menu to enjoy in the garden from 22nd April.



Later on there will be the opportunity for people to sit and work from their laptops during the day or come along for a full breakfast menu on Saturdays and Sundays. A Farmer's Pantry will serve bar snacks every day from 11am. The dining rooms will open from 5pm until 10pm Thursday and Friday and from 9am until 10pm Saturday and Sunday, bookings can be made through the website.

Neil sums up their aim, "We want the pub to serve the community, whether it's parking to drop off the kids at nursery or school, popping in for a coffee, loaf of bread or pint of milk, a quick lunchtime snack, a cosy evening pint or a meal to celebrate a special occasion. To create a country pub and dining room venue that puts Tandridge village back on the map. We would love to hear from local residents to make sure we are on the right path."

The team can be contacted at hello@barleymowenterprisesltd.com

Farming News - March 2021

Blue skies, sunshine, no sheep and I am not related to The Duke of Sussex. What more can one say? I should probably quit while I'm ahead, but seeing as the deadline for the parish magazine is tomorrow and everything will be all laid out, I had better do my bit.

As I have already intimated, the sheep have gone from Jackass Lane, presumably in a lorry this time. If I ever get stranded on a desert island, I will endeavour to have a few sheep with me. Steady the Buffs! I am only $\frac{1}{4}$ Welsh. No, it is because when you have sheep it seems that everyone phones you up. If we must do lockdown 4, or whichever comes after this one, I think the government should buy everyone a sheep. It would be impossible to be lonely, it would overcome the problem of not being able to export lamb to Europe and save the planet because lawn mowers would become obsolete. BBQs might be a bit monotonous and mint sauce would be in demand, but who cares if the phone never stops ringing.

I will, though, say a sincere thank you to anyone who did take the trouble to report any wayward sheep. Despite the best efforts of their owner and his man, most of the problems were caused by deer trashing the fences, there might also have been the odd exuberant dog with an inattentive owner to complicate things, but luckily no real harm was done. Plans are afoot to install more permanent fencing before we have sheep up there again. I hope we will see the benefits of a change in cropping and the extra fertility from 'naturally' recycled turnips.

As of today, we finished planting spring beans in those fields. It has all been rolled, and then sprayed to inhibit weeds. Any other inputs will depend on what type of spring we have. A couple of fungicides for mildew or chocolate spot should suffice. If the aphids get busy, it might need an aphicide, but hopefully not. Beans have the most delicate flowers and if the crop develops well then it will attract bees from all over, so if an insecticide is needed it would have to be applied either very early in the day or at night when bees are back in their hives.

All of our other crops have held up quite well through the winter. Following on from the rain we had in the autumn I fully expected to have to replant four or five fields across the estate. However, despite one or two fields being a bit thin, there is enough to warrant looking after what we have rather than spending more money by starting again. The oilseed rape around Perrysfield has struggled more than most crops or fields, the soil there is not the best and is slow to drain. What started out looking the best crop we had is now somewhat sad. When rape has 'wet feet' for too long the roots rot away, the plants die back and the canopy opens up giving pigeons space to land. Ever since the cold weather in February, the pigeons have been busy feeding on the remaining plants, so we are now going out at different times in the day to stop them settling in one spot for too long.

Rupert and Zoe were busy last week getting a first application of fertiliser on all the crops, a nutritional appetiser rather than the main feast. Looking at the forecast, next week is shaping up to be warmer and drier so that will be the time to think about putting more nutrients on as the crops will be growing on and looking for them. After looking at different ways to be more efficient, reduce costs and do more work in less time I resorted to the usual solution of buying a bigger, newer, shinier tractor. If your bedroom overlooks Tandridge Lane, keep the blinds shut, never mind seeing over your garden hedge, I will be able to see your bedknobs. This time it is red which could help to indicate to people trying to squeeze past me on the road that pulling over would be sensible, failing that, they could always aim between the wheels and go underneath. Going round me won't be an option. I want to get some stickers made up so that I can record my 'kills' on the side of the cab, wing mirrors, cyclists, that sort of thing.

We will be making a start implementing the environmental scheme I mentioned last year, having had approval from Natural England. Hopefully, it will allow us to invest in planting up species rich habitats in out of the way corners and extending our network of grass margins to protect watercourses and ponds. It is a two-way process, because of the changes made to the current payments system made to farms, namely some big reductions, the new scheme will rectify some of what we lose in the next few years while benefitting the wider environment at the same time.

I do have some reservations about all this wider reversion to nature. Every part of the British Isles has been cleared, farmed and managed since the last Ice Age. Nothing we see is natural in the true sense. My bedtime reading, recently, other than big tractor catalogues, is about how farmland was enclosed. All our hedges, boundaries and tree lines have largely come about because they were planned on a blank map at some point in the last 600 years.

The population of the UK and the world keeps on increasing; for every acre of productive land we take out of production, someone somewhere clears an acre of trees in South America or wherever to fill that void. As we husband our land it can produce a crop year after year. That isn't the case in 'developing' countries. Forest will be felled, cropped until it loses any natural fertility then given over to coarse grazing, or repeatedly pumped full of chemicals that were banned here 40 years ago. Whatever we plant or 'rewild' here, to use the on-trend vernacular, will not replace what is lost elsewhere in the world. I am not saying we should not do whatever we can to enhance our own environment, but should we sacrifice other habitats we cannot replace just so we can buy cheap food and pretend it is not our fault because we can't see the harm being done firsthand.

That came out of nowhere, or somewhere. As my Welsh cousin would say, 'there we are then', which covers anything from winning the lottery to finding a tree has flattened his cowshed. It is spring, we can get vaccinated, and soon we will be able to go to the pub and see friends. Fingers crossed!

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

St Peter's Church of England Infant School

Headteacher: Lenia Greenaway 712439
Chair, Board of Governors: Annette Schmidt
Chair, Friends of the School: Caroline Parry and Aileen Ross

Tandridge Village Hall Management Committee

Chair: Dr Peter Morley
Bookings Secretary: Clare Addison 712979

Tandridge Village Pre-School

Michaela Harris 07491 143833

Tandridge Teddies and Toddler Group

tandridgeteddies@gmail.com

Tandridge Village Fete Committee

Chair: Fay Prater 01342 893380

Tandridge Parish Council

Chair: Ivor Stamp 01342 892282
Clerk to the Parish Council: Clare Kennedy 01342 604338
tandridgepc@hotmail.co.uk

Surrey County Councillor

For Oxted, Limpsfield and Tandridge Village: Cameron McIntosh 713744
cameron.mcintosh@surreycc.gov.uk

Tandridge District Councillors

Jackie Wren 16 Gordons Way, Oxted. RH8 0LW 07814 663586
Catherine Sayer 07967 148557
David Stamp 07894 074585

St Peter's Church Tandridge Parish News

Email: tandridgenews@gmail.com
Editorial Team: Alyson Coughlan, Martin Lloyd, Liz Mercer, Annette Schmidt and Joy Walker

Editor: Martin Lloyd 07910 831911

Advertisement Managers: Alyson Coughlan and Liz Mercer

Distribution: Neil Burchett, Annie Hughes, Brian Humphrys, Jo Moore, Julie Morley, Fay Prater, Annette Schmidt, Sam Tomlinson and Sally Walker

GENERAL INFORMATION

ST PETER'S CHURCH, TANDRIDGE

Worship - Sunday Services:

8:00am (1st Sun) Holy Communion
11:00am Family Worship - A Service of the Word
(Last Sunday of the month) Family Communion
6:30pm Evening Prayer except:-
(3rd Sun) with Holy Communion

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:

Please contact the Parish Office.

Care of the Church and Churchyard:

To help keep the church in good repair and fit for divine worship, please contact:

Church Flowers: Sue Mallinson 714775
Brass Cleaning: Annette Schmidt 07397 978566
Church and Churchyard Maintenance: Martin Lloyd/Mike Hodgson 723041

Developing the Life of the Church: Responsibility is shared between the Clergy, Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council. St Peter's works with St Mary's Oxted in the Oxted Team Ministry which includes St John's Hurst Green and St George's Crowhurst We are also a member of Churches Together in Oxted & District (CTOD).

Team Rector, Oxted Ministry: Revd Canon Anna Eltringham QHC 712674

Team Vicar: Revd James Ashton 380750

Curate: Revd Mark Anderson 07480 067756

Curate: Revd Lotwina Farodoye
lotwina@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

Assistant Priest: Revd David Weightman 715420

Churchwardens: Karen Nicholas 07818 091606
Martin Lloyd 07910 831911

Hon. Treasurer: Marianne von Sembach

Organist: Nigel Bates

Church Electoral Roll Officer: Mike Hodgson 723041

Safeguarding Officer: Fay Prater 01342 893380

(St Peter's Church) Email: safeguardingstpeterstandridge@gmail.com

St Peter's Church Tandridge Community

And Heritage Group Alex Talbot 07779 301710

Parish Administrator Natasha Copp 714263

Parish Office Email: stmaryoxted.stpeterstandridge@gmail.com

Address: Oxted Community Hall, 53 Church Lane, Oxted RH8 9NB

Web: www.stpeterstandridge.uk