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# ST PETER'S CHURCH, & TANDRIDGE VILLAGE PARISH MAGAZINE

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD. JAMES ASHTON:



Advent and Christmas are seasons which the church celebrate with great joy. What will it mean for us this year? Maybe it will be a season of doors and windows.

Doors are decorated in the run up to Christmas, with beautiful wreaths, often home-made – with festive greenery, bells and ribbons; they bring a comforting presence to our homes, and bring joy to anyone passing by. We also open the doors of our advent calendars – and these days, the doors reveal all manner of items:

Chocolate, beer, cosmetics, vouchers – some even have a sweet picture or an uplifting scripture message!

Windows are similarly decorated for Christmas; snowy stencils, bright transfers or demure candle arrangements, all help us see something extra when we look at our windows. We also notice our stained glass in church, and are reminded of the Nativity, when we see the birth of Jesus depicted. Windows can help us see the truth, and grow closer to one another, and to God.

Sometimes life can seem like a series of different metaphoric doors and windows. We push one door, and it closes; we push another, and a glorious possibility may open up. We gaze through windows on our concerns, our loved ones and future hope. We yearn to push the right door, and see clearly through the windows of life.



## THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED...

Perhaps Advent and Christmas 2024 might be a time for knowing that Jesus is with us; he waits beyond each door, and can be seen through each window.

A very Happy Christmas to all in Tandrige, we hope to see you at one of our services over the festive period.

James A



## FARMING NEWS

BY ALASTAIR ROBERTS

Twenty years ago, yesterday, early on a Wednesday morning there was a knock on the door. When I opened it a man in a blue polo shirt peered in and asked 'Mr Roberts?' Ordinarily that is a question I can answer with a degree of confidence. On this occasion however I was somewhat non plussed. Out on the road in our leafy Leicestershire village were two removal vans and five other 'blokes'.

Moving house is stressful enough but when one gets the dates muddled up and the removal men turn up 24 hours before you expect them life gets complicated. Seemingly insignificant things, like getting dressed or having breakfast, take on a whole new dimension when half a dozen strangers are stuffing your belongings into boxes, especially when you have an angry wife, and a two year old.

Eighteen hours later I arrived at Newhouse Farm, having cancelled a last 'session' in the local pub, along with my 2 Collies, and a sandwich bought from a service station on the drive down. After a chilly, uncomfortable sleep on an old sofa the lorries turned up, the men unloaded all the boxes and were gone by lunchtime.



None of this has anything to do with farming as such but it is important to me. I have been here 20 years. My previous employers, the Co-op, decided in 2003-2004 to restructure their farming operations, sell all their dairy cows and make me and my team redundant. I saw the advert for this job, a fancy

half page in the Farmers Weekly, and sent in my handwritten application as instructed. First Interview was at Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire. A liveried footman solemnly greeted me when I approached the door. I don't think he was overly impressed and clearly thought I should have gone to the servant's entrance, very like Downton Abbey, except it hadn't been written then, followed by a second here at the farm with the Marquess, The Earl, his son, and their Agent. A week went by then I got a call from the Agent who was pleased to inform me that I had been selected, and when could I start.

Now to be perfectly honest I winged the entire process; I had nothing to lose. If I get through the first year and see how it goes' pretty much summed up my strategy. After years of fine tuning my existing skills and learning many new ones, my fundamental outlook has, by nature of the job, stayed the same.

My office is full of files, maps, budgets and forecasts, and yet the whole process of managing a farm can be distilled into one basic premiss; take a big pile of money, spend it on seed and/or animals and all the other things needed, then gamble the whole lot against the weather, the markets, political decisions, whatever comes along and see if you can break even or make a profit. No half measures, no keeping a bit back. Everything, with no guaranteed outcome. I may not attend Church frequently, but I do pray.

I used to say I gambled it all against God, but no God could be so mean or capricious to create what we have had to put up with in the last 12-18 months. They have probably been the most difficult out of the last 20 years. A wet spring and a cold early summer, low yields and low prices but higher costs. A full house of grumbles.



We finished planting for next years harvest yesterday, we are spraying pre-emergent herbicides on beans tomorrow. Normally we would have finished planting everything a month ago but 7 inches of rain in September almost stopped us planting anything at all. It is partly because we have had such benign weather for the last 2-3 weeks that we have been able to catch up.

It is also down to the fact that we have worked for as long as it took, whenever we had to. No 4 day weeks and 8 hour days. Ironically most of work has been done in 12-14 hour days at weekends because that just happened to be when it wasn't raining.

We have been nibbling away at the list of fields to plant since early October. Some of the fields we planted a month ago have got gaps where the seed rotted, or the crops have been hammered by the slugs, and birds that have eaten the seed. It will be a case of seeing what comes through the winter and either pushing on with some early fertiliser to get things moving or spraying failed crops off and re-drilling with spring sown varieties. We still have fields to plant in the spring anyway, about 200 acres in total, but we are where we expected to be.



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By way of a parting shot, and a nod to the recent budget, I don't know if anyone saw the Government advisor who said that the UK doesn't need farmers, along with a lot of other things about farmers which don't need repeating here. He didn't look old enough to be in long trousers and he probably didn't pay attention in any history classes. I don't know how or where he expects the food on his plate to come from, maybe South America when they have chopped down all the rainforests. Paying for it will be another matter. At the risk of being had up for hate crime, I hope he lives long enough to be hungry one day, although no doubt, better people than him will suffer first.



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



The congregation of St Peter's assembled in front of the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday. The names of all those from Tandridge, who died in both World Wars were read out by reverend David Weightman and as a salute to the fallen, the last post was played by the trumpeter. During the service, a 5-piece brass band accompanied Nigel on the organ; they created the most magnificent sound, which was much enjoyed and appreciated by the congregation.

## MEMORY LANE

### PAM KNIGHT REFLECTS ON 85 YEARS IN TANDRIDGE VILLAGE



*Annette and I had the enormous pleasure of sitting and chatting to Pam Knight to hear the recollections of her life in Tandridge from 1939 to the present day. Her granddaughter and great granddaughter joined us to hear these reminiscences. We hope you enjoy them as much as we did....*

Pam was born in Catford and swiftly after war was declared, her family decided to make the move from London to the safer haven of Tandridge. Pam was four years old at the time. The family settled into a house next to Lashmar Cottage which was the home of her great aunt and uncle - who ran a laundry from their home.

It just so happens that Pam met her husband-to-be Brian on her second day in the village. She and her family were invited to a wedding reception. The church choir were also invited to the reception - one particular member of the choir was Brian Knight.

During the war, Pam remembers that Tandridge had a barrage balloon raised in the field behind Lashmar Cottage, where a large gun was also positioned, to fire at enemy aircraft.

The largest gun of all was positioned in the chalk pits and was called Big Bertha. The men of the village took on the role of wardens and they would regularly meet at Tandridge Court, which had the best vantage point over the surrounding land. The building was camouflaged during the war to conceal its bright white appearance.

Pam remembers that there were two battalions of Canadian soldiers billeted in the village. One battalion resided opposite the school in Tandridge Hall, the other (the French Canadians), were camped in the woodland by the church.



*Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Surrey.*



*Canadian 1st Field Company Survey on parade, Surrey*

By Pam's account, these two battalions were at war with each other and caused a considerable amount of havoc! They would often drink the Barley Mow dry and had numerous fights. They even started a fire at Tandridge Hall, which meant a great deal of it was destroyed and subsequently re-built.

Spitfires were stationed at Biggin Hill and Tandridge residents would often count them out and count them in. If they all made it back, their squadron leader would perform a victory roll for the Tandridge people to see. Doodlebugs landed in Tandridge and a young woman in the village was almost killed by a bomb on her walk home from work. The shock of it caused her long auburn hair to fall out. Both Biggin Hill and Redhill had very active airfields during the war and dog-fights were often witnessed over the Tandridge skies.

When German planes were shot down in the area, the Tandridge people were often shocked and appalled at how young the pilots were - young teenagers. On one occasion, the villagers tried to make contact with the family of a very young Luftwaffe pilot who had perished in Brakes Meadow - to let them know of his plight.





*RAF 611 Squadron Biggin Hill 1942*

Pam attended the village school at the beginning of the war. The headmistress was a Miss Palmer, who lived in the school house. The pupils attended school from the age of 4 to 14 and at 14 their education was complete. Heating was provided from open fires in the 2 classrooms, but there were no flushing toilets. The toilets were of the Roman-kind, a hole in a piece of timber over a pit and it was left to the poor caretaker to manually flush out the contents. How the toilets were emptied was a complete mystery to the pupils!



*A Doodlebug bomb*

During the period of the flying bombs a voluntary evacuation took place and Miss Langford accompanied 18 children, including Pam to Neath in Wales. Pam remembers that the family she was placed with were kind and looked after her well. Upon her return, at the end of the war, the village celebrated with a fancy dress party. Pam's mother dressed as a boy scout - the uniform being lent to her by Brian Knight.

Her overall memories of the village during her childhood, are of it's peace and tranquility. There was almost no traffic down the lane.



The children would play all sorts of games in it and horses and carts would journey up and down, calling in on the blacksmith. There was a Suffolk punch horse called Bobby who would make the journey up the lane and when he was called to stand and halt, his owner would position a shoe under the cart wheel to prevent him from being pulled back down the hill.

Boys in the village would often make their own go-karts, (with very little steering capability) which they would race down the lane, frequently ending up in the ditches which, back then, were on either side of the road.

Just North of the current village hall (which was called the Institute), there was open land and a large grassy bank with a spinney. The bank was perfect for rolling down and just by it stood a large hollowed-out tree. Pam and her friends would climb up the tree and lower themselves into it from where they would shoot peas at innocent passersby, who had absolutely no idea where the peas were being fired from!



*Suffolk Punch horse*



*The Forge 1907*



Another mischievous activity that Pam and her friends got up to involved one of the more notable characters of the village. Bill Hunt had a small-holding where the houses at St Denys Orchard now stand. Bill kept pigs, chickens etc and lived in a tree house with a tin roof. He was quite an eccentric character.

The people who owned land near The Priory allowed Bill to collect hay at no cost, so Bill would regularly walk all the way over to the fields, collect the hay for his animals on his pitch fork, and make his way back home. Pam remembers seeing a mountain of hay, with 2 legs beneath it, walking it's way back to the pigs, next to the Barley Mow. On occasion, Pam and her friends would take to 'The Walk', (which is the old Roman road), to throw stones onto the tin roof of poor Bill Hunt's tree house! (Hopefully he was off collecting hay at the time!).

Another notable character from yesteryear was Henry Smith of The Henry Smith Charity. Despite his considerable wealth and means, he lived as a tramp and would journey from village to village where, in Tandridge in particular, the locals (continued below)



would fill up his billycan with tea (black, no milk), and provide him with their homemade cake, to give him some sustenance for the next leg of his journey.

He proved to be very grateful for their hospitality. In his will he bestowed a large sum of money on St Peter's Church. His legacy is still alive and active today. The people of Bletchingley probably fared less well in his will. He would often complain about their behaviour and made it clear that they weren't nice people at all!

Pam and her friends journeyed far and wide on foot in their youth; around Tandridge - and beyond....There are many stories from those adventures yet to be recounted. We hope to return in the next issue with more of these.

Thank you Pam!



## UPCOMING EVENTS:



### FELTING MASTERCLASS

8TH DECEMBER, 1.30pm  
£30

TANDRIDGE VILLAGE HALL  
All materials will be provided

Please call lynne for tickets  
07906 600 437



### CHURCHYARD CLEAR-UP

ST PETER'S CHURCH

7TH DECEMBER  
FROM 9.30AM ONWARDS

CLEARING LEAVES AND PATHS  
TIDYING THE GRAVES AND  
PLENTY OF PRUNING

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be  
provided.

Please bring your favourite tools!



# CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING

7TH DECEMBER  
FROM 9.30AM

PLEASE JOIN US TO DECORATE  
THE CHURCH  
ALL AGES WELCOME



# THE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

8TH DECEMBER  
11AM

WE PROVIDE EVERYTHING YOU  
NEED TO MAKE A CHRISTINGLE



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES & ACTIVITIES 2024 PART I

# COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING

THE BARLEY MOW PUB  
19TH DECEMBER  
7.00PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME  
DRINKS, NIBBLES AND  
HYMN BOOKS PROVIDED



# NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

WILL TAKE PLACE AT ST  
PETER'S CHURCH ON  
22ND DECEMBER AT 11AM





# NATIVITY SERVICE

AT ST PETER'S CHURCH

24TH DECEMBER AT 5.30PM



# CHRISTMAS DAY

AT ST PETER'S CHURCH

8AM HOLY COMMUNION  
11AM FAMILY COMMUNION



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES & ACTIVITIES 2024 PART II

PLEASE DO JOIN US AT  
THESE SERVICES AND  
ACTIVITIES  
THE MORE THE MERRIER!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS  
REGARDING THESE EVENTS,  
PLEASE CALL  
LYNNE 07906 600 437  
OR  
LOUISE 07769 976 654



# 29TH DECEMBER SERVICES

AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH

11AM FAMILY COMMUNION  
6.30PM EVENSONG



# SO MUCH TO LEARN AT THE BIGWOOD ESTATE

BY KATE BIGWOOD



*DRONE SHOT SHOWING THE NEW WOODLAND CORRIDOR  
CONNECTING INTO OLDER WOODLAND. WITH VARYING  
GRASSLAND HABITAT - PERFECT FOR VOLES AND OWLS!*

Situated in the heart of Crowhurst, the Big Wood Estate is a 270-acre regenerative farm dedicated to creating a world where nature and people thrive together in harmony. At the core of everything we do is a simple but powerful belief: by working with nature, starting with the soil, we can build a healthier, happier future for all species so that we can all thrive.

Leading this mission are myself and David, and a passionate team committed to transforming the land and inspiring the community. David, who grew up in Tandridge Village, now works alongside me to bring this vision to life. Together, we are creating a farm that not only nurtures wildlife but also connects people to the natural world.

At the heart of everything done at the Big Wood Estate is the soil. By increasing the soil microbes, the team ensures healthier plants, a healthier ecosystem, and ultimately, improved health for all.

**PEPPER THE PIG**

We are doing this by creating a variety of habitats: planting over 3,500 trees to form a woodland corridor; establishing two wetlands (with two more planned). Interestingly, wet grassland can sequester five times more carbon than woodland! We are also going to plant over 4km of hedgerows in the next two winters. Do get in touch if you fancy joining one of our volunteer hedge-planting workshops!

The farm's livestock is equally central to our mission. We have transitioned our cattle from majestic highlands to native, rare-breed Riggitt Galloways and fenced footpaths to safely separate livestock from visitors and their dogs. Their popular saddleback pigs continue to work the soil, creating seed beds for wildflowers.

Looking ahead, We plan to grow a polycrop of peas, beans, and barley in 2025 to feed pigs and potentially poultry. We also hope to cultivate heritage wheat, uniquely suited to the heavy clay of the region, with an ambitious goal of creating a sourdough loaf from our own wheat to feed everyone involved in the estate's work—closing the cycle from soil microbes to gut microbes!





*ONE OF OUR NEWLY CREATED WETLANDS. PROVIDING SUCH IMPORTANT HABITAT FOR NUMEROUS FLORA AND FAUNA*

On October 19th, the estate opened its new education centre, officially launched by Lord Lingfield, a dedicated ambassador for education. Over 70 guests attended the event to learn about the estate's efforts and offerings. David has a background in wildlife conservation and is the farm's inspiring teacher. He is a font of knowledge, sparking curiosity about everything from soil microbes to ecosystem health. His expertise underscores the connection between caring for the environment and improving physical and mental well-being.

Several schools are already scheduled for curriculum-based visits, and the estate is open for more inquiries. Additionally, workshops on topics like health, nature, sustainability, and art are planned for 2025.

Thanks also go to Jack Coode, another Tandridge resident, for managing the estate's online presence and rolling out exciting updates on our website and social media. Jack is a new member of the team and has loads of ideas on how to make a thriving business from our vision. Watch this space...!

Follow us at [www.bigwoodestate.co.uk](http://www.bigwoodestate.co.uk) or [#thebigwoodestate](https://twitter.com/thebigwoodestate) for more.

## WHEN MINDER CAME TO TANDRIDGE

RECOLLECTED AND RECOUNTED BY ROGER MOORE



### **“A Lot of Bull and a Pat on the Back”**

Although I'm only getting round to it now I have been meaning to write this article for the village news for a couple of years, since hearing of the death of Dennis Waterman. In fact, in 2022 on hearing of his passing I was reminded of when the TV show “Minder” came to Tandridge, or more specifically, to Perrysfield Farm and the Cage - the Cage being the area south of Tandridge Village at the T-junction where Cage Cottages are. In those days there were a couple of old pan-tiled barns on the left just before you reach the T-junction.

In the episode there's a mix up with a bull, Arthur (George Cole) and Terry (Dennis Waterman) unknowingly transport a stolen bull and then have to set about rectifying the situation.

During the filming, as they were on the farm where we lived, my father and I walked across the fields and down towards the old pan-tiled barns and peered over the hedge to see what they were up to. At the time, believe it or not, Dennis Waterman was singing to the cast and crew while they were setting up the cattle lorry for filming.

In the episode you can clearly see the houses at the Cage, Southlands Lane and Perrysfield Farm.

The title of the episode is as above "A lot of Bull and a Pat on the Back". It originally aired in 1980 as episode 13 in series 2 and can be found on Youtube and ITV X, although if you are thinking of taking a look remember that "Minder" was an after the watershed show so it's most definitely not just shots of barns, bulls and the local countryside.



## GARDENING

BY DOUG KNIGHT



As I write this article it is National Tree Week which marks the start of the tree planting season.

The garden centres are now fully stocked with Christmas but if you need some respite from tinsel and twinkly lights, it is good to know that it is possibly the best time of year to plant an apple tree. Apples are probably the most popular home-grown tree fruit and they can be grown in most gardens. If grown as a bushy tree, they need minimal care and will start to crop after two years and then just get better and better every year.



## Important considerations

Apples will grow in most conditions but avoid very exposed gardens, shady sites and waterlogged soils. Then there are some important points you must consider and which may seem confusing. Let me explain.

### Pollination

Most apple trees produce flowers that have pollen that cannot fertilise the same flowers on the tree. So you need to have another apple tree, of a different variety, flowering at the same time, nearby, so bees can bring pollen from a different tree. Bees can fly, so if your neighbour has a tree it will do the job.



### Rootstocks

Apples are always grown by the nursery by grafting them onto a rootstock which ensures the tree will not get too big, it also ensures they crop after a few years and crop heavily. You may not have much choice over the rootstocks available but most apple trees are grafted onto M26 rootstock which produces a tree 2.4m high or MM106, producing a tree 3m high.

### Choice of tree

We are used to buying apples in the shops all year and these will have been grown in countries from all over the world. Not all are easy to grow in the UK so you may not be able to grow your favourite 'supermarket' apple at home. The famous 'Pink Lady' (R) is the selling name for 'Cripps Pink', an Australian apple bred from the generally hated 'Golden Delicious'. It is not easy to grow in the UK.

'Cox' is an apple that was bred in the south of England but it is not an easy apple to grow well either and prone to lots of apple problems. Apple 'Katy' is a good apple to grow at home with sweet, crunchy apples that children love.



There are lots of great apples, that you can't buy in shops, that are ideal for growing at home. Early apples, such as 'Discovery' and 'Irish Peach' are ready in August but do not keep for long. 'Scrumptious' is a new early apple and I have to say it is as good as it sounds.

Mid-season apples are ready in September and can be eaten fresh off the tree but also keep for a month or so. Late apples, picked in October, often need to be stored for a few weeks before they are ripe, and some will keep until the New Year.

### Cooking apples

Say 'cooking apple' and everyone thinks of 'Bramleys'. But there are other cooking apples. In fact, 'Bramleys' are not suitable for all gardens. The tree actually needs two pollinators and not just one. It is also prone to 'bitter pit' which causes brown spots in the flesh, especially when trees are young. 'Grenadier' is a great alternative, and 'Howgate Wonder' is an old Victorian apple that is usually considered the largest of all apples.

### How to plant

Prepare the soil well. Dig deep and mix in lots of compost. Do not bring the subsoil to the surface but mix compost with it to increase the depth of fertile soil. Prepare a hole at least 60cm wide and 30cm deep. Mix compost with the excavated soil.

When planting a potted tree, carefully tease out the roots so they grow into the soil. Make sure the compost is moist. Replace the soil around the roots and firm gently. Water well.

You must stake the tree to prevent the tree rocking in the wind as the roots grow. Use a tree tie which is soft and will not damage the bark. Dwarf apple trees will probably need staking throughout their lives

Once planted you can focus on your Christmas celebrations and look forward to a crop of delicious apples over the coming years.



## SCHOOL NEWS

BY HEADTEACHER  
LENIA GREENAWAY

It is hard to believe that the children have been at school for over half a term already. When we say 'time flies' it certainly does at St Peter's School. The children settled in beautifully to the new academic year and over the term have shown us their enthusiasm and love of learning, which has just been magical to see and hear. They have astounded us with their generous natures and acts of kindness towards each other. This has been evidenced in the amount of kindness awards given to children already this year. As I write this we are celebrating National Anti-bullying Week as well as our own Book Week, looking at respect and kindness. As one of our children very succinctly said "treat others as you would want to be treated yourself". So true!

The children have had huge amounts of fun; participating in drama workshops, writing their own stories, reading with each other, listening to teachers reading their own favourite stories and having visits from members of Oxted library. As they say, "Open a book, open your mind".







Our Year 2 children have also enjoyed a fantastic morning visiting Big Wood Estate along Ardenrun, Tandridge Lane. The children saw and fed 3-week-old piglets. When I say fed, they were able to throw them lots of delicious apples that we had scrumped from the orchard. We can honestly say they were the best apples we had ever tasted as they are grown naturally, using no chemicals or pesticides or laying in storage for a year or two (as we found out supermarket apples are!). We explored the surrounding areas, learned all about the differences between urban and rural areas such as why it is important to grow trees and hedgerows in towns/cities or why temperature differs in each area. We even found out that the old saying 'if you see a lots of red berries on brushes in autumn, it will be a harsh winter', is actually true; but unfortunately due to climate change the reality of this has lessened in recent years. As you can see we all learned so much in a short space of time.

Now we find ourselves winging our way very quickly towards the festive season. As you can imagine, Christmas starts much earlier in schools. The children's voices can already be heard around the school as they practise their nativity songs (loudly!). They will however be busy thinking about the true meaning of Christmas, not simply all those exciting presents that they will be receiving, but about the importance of the message of Christmas and being able to give to others rather than simply to receive.

The term will finish with our magical service at St Peter's Church with Reverend Ashton. This truly is the best time of year, and everyone is more than welcome to come along and join us.

When it comes, we hope that you all have a magical and very peaceful Christmas and holiday period.

God Bless.

Lenia Greenaway and the St Peter's school team.

Headteacher



**THE SCHOOL  
NATIVITY SERVICE  
WILL BE HELD AT  
ST PETER'S CHURCH  
ON 20TH DECEMBER  
AT 9AM  
ALL ARE WELCOME**

## FROM THE SURREY HISTORY CENTRE ARCHIVE

### 1934

#### A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL WAS HELD AT THE VICARAGE ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11TH AT 8PM.

Present: The vicar (in the chair), Major Tosswill, Messrs Crowhurst and Williams, Lady Benn, Mrs Andreae, Mrs Bremner, Miss Palmer and Miss Mathews, Miss Benn.

#### **Vicar's report:**

The vicar reported that there was a shortage of prayer books in the church and it was agreed that £5 should be spent in supplying more. The vicar asked the Council whether there was any demand for a mid-night Communion on Christmas Eve, and after discussion it was agreed that we should have instead, a Watch-Night service on New Year's Eve. The question of the Three-Hour service on Good Friday was again discussed and it was agreed that we should have instead Matins as usual. The vicar presented to the Council a plan for graves in the new churchyard, made by Mr Mathews, and it was unanimously agreed that this be approved, and an expression of the Council's gratitude to Mr Mathews for this and all his other work for the church be sent by the Secretary. The Vicar showed the Council two drawings of wooden processional crosses made by Mr Mathews, and it was agreed that he should get estimates for these. Following a discussion, Mrs Andreae volunteered to hold a social evening for the congregation at Tandridge Court on Monday, 10th December.

#### **Lighting the Nave:**

The question of proceeding with the lighting of the whole church was discussed and it was proposed by Mrs Andreae, seconded by Mrs Bremner, and carried unanimously that the Vicar and Wardens obtain estimates for the work and proceed at their own discretion.



**Parish Magazine:**

The Vicar reported that the Parish Magazine continued to lose money, though not an undue amount. A resolution expressing the Council's wish that the magazine should continue, and it's gratitude to Mrs Callis and Mrs Bremner for their work for it, was proposed by Miss Mathews, seconded by Mrs Andreae, and carried unanimously.

**Dance in aid of lighting:**

The suggestion was made that a dance should be run by the Council at the Institute to help with the funds for lighting the church. Miss Palmer, Mr Williams and Mr Crowhurst agreed to undertake the responsibility for organising the dance. It was also reported that the behaviour at some of the village dances was reprehensible and the Vicar agreed to interview the committee in question.

**Children's Service:**

Mrs Bremner reported that the Sunday afternoon club organised for the children had held a service in church on the first Sunday of the month, and it was agreed that this practice should continue. Miss Mathews was authorised to buy jars to take flowers round the war memorial.



Photo  
dated  
1887

## FELTING WORKSHOPS



My name is Andrea, and I've had a lifelong love of all things nature, crafting and making, but in particular my heart belongs to felting. It is a very forgiving, relaxing craft, and it's truly amazing what you can create from a cloud of fluffy felt, with a felting needle.

I first came across felting on a family trip to the Lake District a few years ago, when we stumbled on a (heavenly) craft fair, with all manner of fibre arts on show, what with all the beautiful sheep breeds on those fells. Suffice to say, my first creation was ... a sheep!

Since then I've attended a few workshops, made many polar bears and other creatures, and now host my own, small groups at home in Woldingham. It's such a lovely, friendly way to spend an afternoon, and it does feel like a treat, giving yourself a few hours to become absorbed in a new craft.

Some of my Workshops this year include candles, polar bears, badgers, stargazey mice, a cottage in a jar ... sheep, and more.

If you'd like to try some felting therapy, contact Andrea on 07810 544 157.

### FELTING MASTERCLASS

8TH DECEMBER, 1.30PM

£30

TANDRIDGE VILLAGE HALL  
ALL MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED

PLEASE CALL LYNNE FOR TICKETS  
07906 600 437

## REPORT FROM TANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

BY COLIN DAVID

Tandridge Parish Council Update of Meeting Held on Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 7.30pm at Tandridge Village Hall, Tandridge Lane, Tandridge

### Public Questions:

In February 2024 Tandridge District Council (TDC), as required The National Planning Policy Framework (2023), issued a call for land available for housing and economic development in the Tandridge District (HELAA assessment). Knightwood Farm Trust, owners of land to the west and south of Tandridge village, submitted proposals to TDC for development in Tandridge. Haydn Short, from Knightwood, made a presentation to Tandridge Parish Council outlining a number of development concepts during the public start of the meeting.

### Local Plan:

Work will commence on a new Neighbourhood Plan in the near future

### Summary of Planning Applications Reviewed:

2024/1063 6 Chathill Cottages, Miles Lane, Tandridge, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9NR

Erection of a single storey rear extension. (Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed use or development)

### Future Statutory Parish Council Meetings:

Tuesday 3rd December 2024

Tuesday 7th January 2025

Tuesday 4th February 2025

Tuesday 4th March 2025

(Continued page 29 )



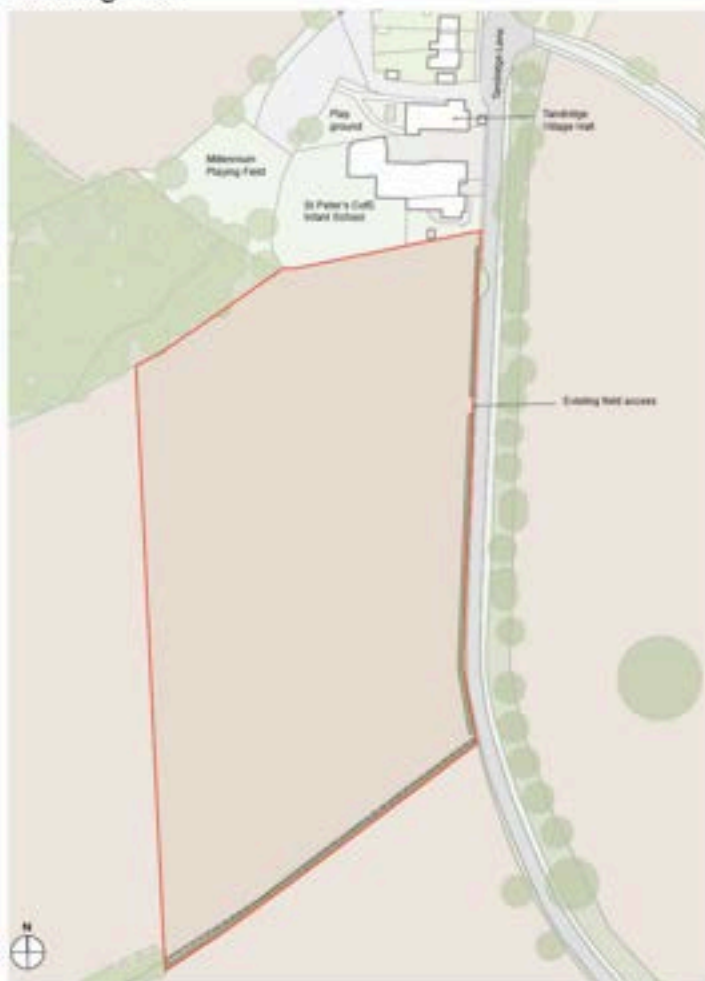
Councillors are: Mr Ivor Stamp (Chairman), Mr Andrew Nosworthy (Vice Chairman), Mr Colin David, Mrs Sylvia Pocock, Ms Caroline Wallace, Mr Colin Porter, Mr Alan Schmidt.

Clare Kennedy is Clerk to the Parish Council and can be contacted on: 01342 604338 or tandridgepc@hotmail.co.uk

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

## **KNIGHTWOOD TRUST FARMS LTD DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT FOR TANDRIDGE VILLAGE:**

Existing Plan



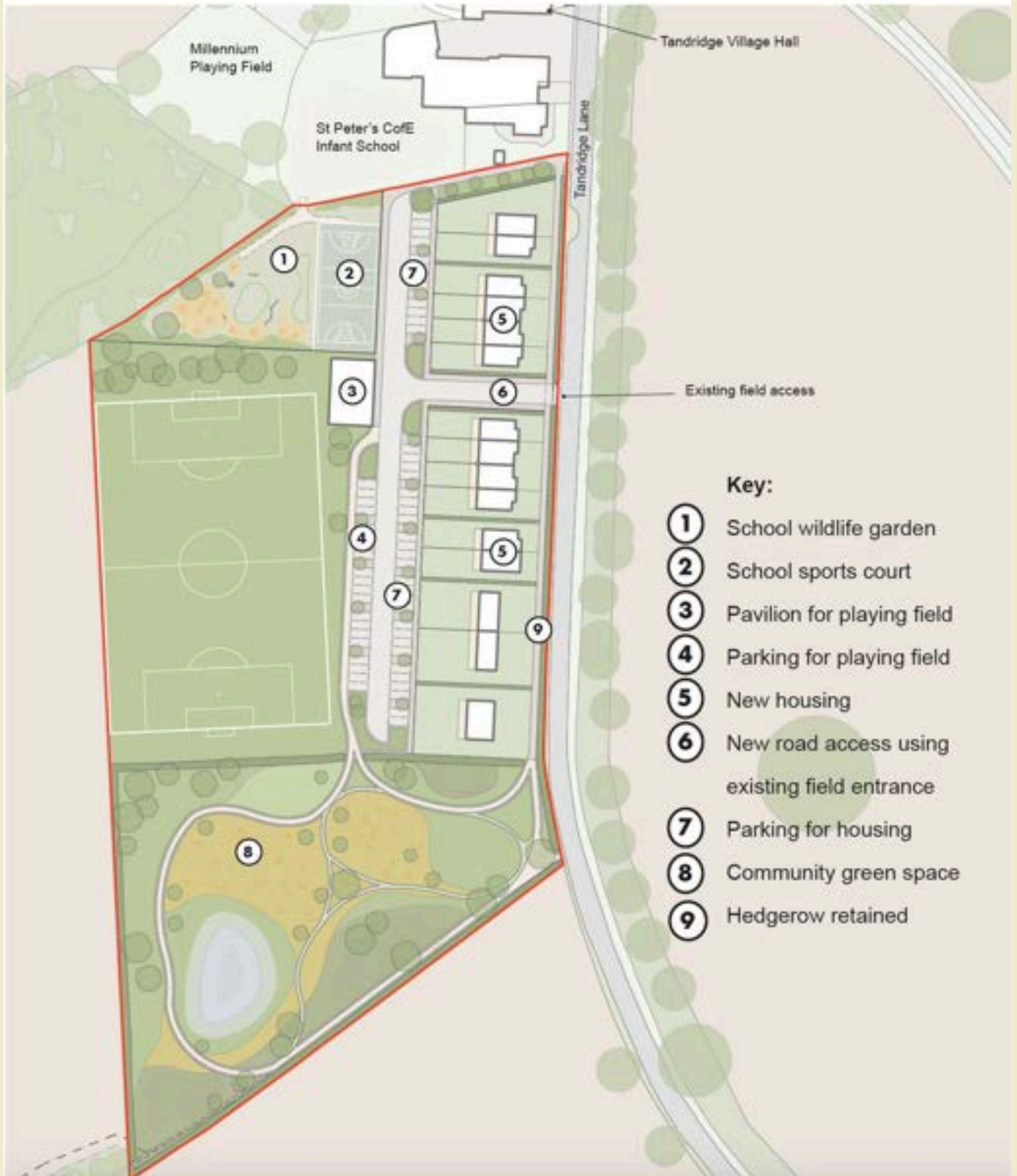
Concept Plan



## KNIGHTWOOD FARMS TRUST LTD DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT FOR TANDRIDGE VILLAGE. CLOSE-UP VIEW:

### FIELD ADJACENT TO TANDRIDGE LANE, TANDRIDGE VILLAGE

New development of local housing, to match other housing on Tandrige Lane, with associated community facilities, school garden, and biodiversity landscape.



**Key:**

- ① School wildlife garden
- ② School sports court
- ③ Pavilion for playing field
- ④ Parking for playing field
- ⑤ New housing
- ⑥ New road access using existing field entrance
- ⑦ Parking for housing
- ⑧ Community green space
- ⑨ Hedgerow retained

## KNIGHTWOOD TRUST FARMS LTD DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT FOR NEW HOUSE FARM:

Existing Plan



Concept Plan



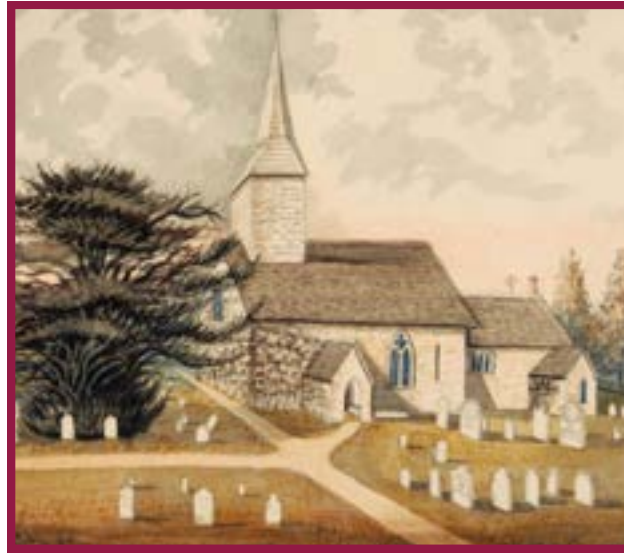
## KNIGHTWOOD FARMS TRUST LTD DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR PERRYSFIELD FARM





# 1000 YEARS AND COUNTING

THE CHURCH CANNOT AFFORD THE COST OF ALL IT'S NECESSARY REPAIRS. CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?



PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP THE CHURCH IN GOOD REPAIR FOR THE NEXT 1000 YEARS.

### PRACTICAL WAYS TO HELP

- \*Filling in a few pot holes in the car park
- \*Small decorating projects
- \*Making good after water ingress



PLEASE CALL 723041 OR 07906 600 437 IF YOU CAN HELP  
THANK YOU

### WAYS TO GIVE

OVER THE CENTURIES, GENEROUS CHURCH MEMBERS HAVE LEFT GIFTS IN THEIR WILLS TO ST PETER'S CHURCH. THESE GIFTS HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMATIONAL IN HELPING OUR PARISH WITH IT'S MINISTRY, IT'S SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND IN PRESERVING AND PROTECTING IT'S UNIQUE HERITAGE.

ST PETER'S IS PART OF THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE AND COMMUNITY, PLEASE CONSIDER LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL TO ST PETER'S - NO MATTER HOW LARGE OR SMALL.

### SUPPORTING THE UPKEEP OF OUR HISTORIC CHURCH

OUR CHURCH IS, IN PART, ALMOST 1000 YEARS OLD. THE CLOCK TOWER DATES BACK TO 14TH CENTURY. IT IS A GRADE I LISTED BUILDING WHICH WAS EXTENDED IN 1827 AND IN 1875 BY THE ARCHITECT SIR GILBERT SCOTT, WHO ALSO BUILT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL AND THE ALBERT MEMORIAL.

IT COSTS MORE THAN £1,000 A WEEK TO KEEP THE CHURCH OPERATING. THEREFORE, THE GENEROSITY OF THE PARISHONERS AND THOSE WITH CONNECTIONS TO THE CHURCH IS ESSENTIAL IN ENSURING IT'S MAINTENANCE AND CONTINUANCE.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO IT'S WORK AND PRESERVATION WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

### WAYS TO GIVE

YOU CAN GIVE RIGHT NOW BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE ON YOUR PHONE AND SELECTING AN AMOUNT TO DONATE.

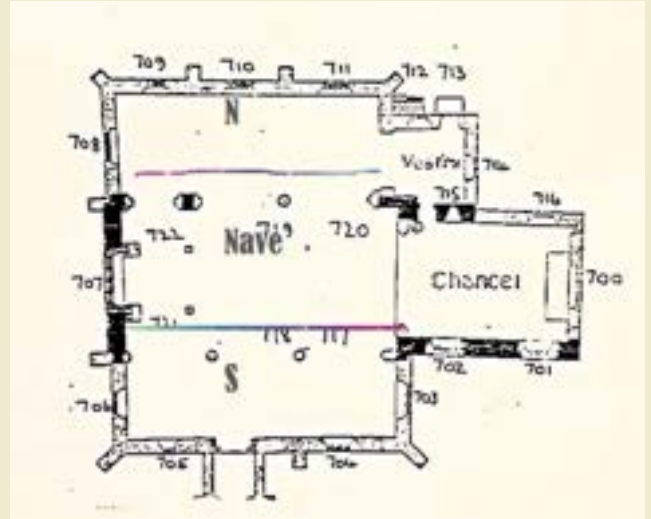
THANK YOU



# A HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH'S TREASURES, PART I - THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

BY ANNETTE SCHMIDT

At the top of the hill in Tandridge, stands St Peter's, which is a very special Grade I listed Church. St Peter's Church has the most extraordinarily beautiful stained glass windows, exceptional in the clarity and vividness of the colours, along with the story telling. It is also unusual, for a small rural church, in that all of the ground floor windows are stained glass!



THE CRUCIFIXION

1865 MADE BY JOHN HARDMAN  
DONATED BY MR FM HAMPTEN

Although the Church probably dates back to the Norman Time in the 11C, St Peter's had up until the 19C been a plain church, consisting of just a nave, where the congregation sat in simple box pews and a chancel where the altar was situated with few adornments, and the church as a whole did not have many windows.

It was only in the 19C that there were substantial changes and additions, from the patronage of the very wealthy families and generations of the Earl of Cottenham. These families were residents of Tandridge Court, Tandridge Hall, Leigh Place and Rooks Nest.



The majority of the stained-glass windows were made by the famous firm of John Hardman, whose work is found in many English Cathedrals.

In the Chancel's southwest window and in the east window of the south aisle, which was added in 1827, the stained-glass windows were made by the company of Ward & Hughes.

The last addition to the church was the North aisle, around 1875. This has stained glass windows which were created by the company Burlison & Grylls.



THE RAISING OF JAIRUS'S DAUGHTER  
SOUTH AISLE 1871-1875  
BY WARD & HUGHES



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS  
NORTH AISLE 1875  
BY BURLISON AND GRYLLES



The\_Space  
Oxted Community Hall  
Coffee, Cake & Conversation, all  
Welcome  
Every Friday 9:30 - 11.30 AM

### St Peter's Church



If you are interested in helping in any way,  
we would be delighted to hear from you.  
Please call or email us:  
01883 714263  
[stmaryoxted.stpeterandridge@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryoxted.stpeterandridge@gmail.com)



Coffee & Cake with other  
parents with babies under one  
Oxted Community Hall  
Thursday 10 - 11.30 AM  
16:00-18:00





# TANDRIDGE PETS



## MY PETS BY ADALINE ROBERTS



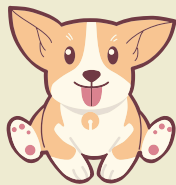
### THIS IS STUNI.

HES IS KIND, GENTLE AND LOVING AND HE COMES TO YOU WHEN WHEN YOU CRY. HE'LL GIVE YOU A HUG IF YOU COME NEAR HIM.  
HE WAS BORN IN KENYA AND HE'S 10 AND HE'S MY BEST FRIEND IN THE WORLD.



### THIS IS BEBE.

HE IS MY CAT. HE'S VERY NICE BUT HE DOES BITE!  
HE WAS BORN IN BLINDLEY HEATH AND HE'S 14 AND ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS.  
HE HAS A BROTHER CALLED ALIEN.



## MY PETS BY GEORGE PALMER



### MEET WOODY AND TILLY

MY DOG WOODY IS 2 YEARS OLD. HE IS SO FLUFFY. I LIKE PLAYING FETCH WITH HIM AND GIVING HIM CUDDLES. HE IS SCARED OF OUR CAT TILLY AS SHE HAS SHARP NAILS.



## HARVEST SUPPER

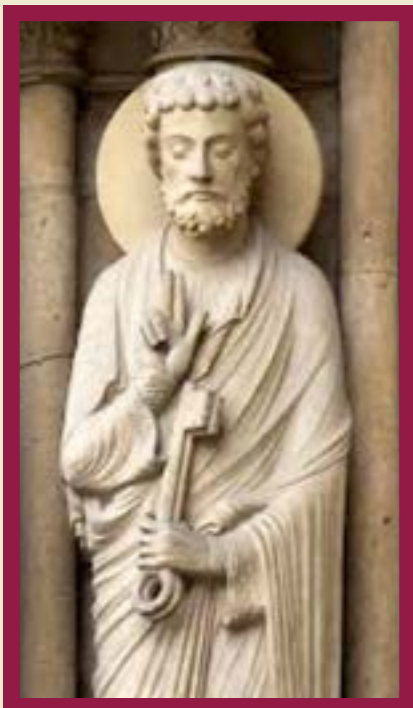


Over 70 people came to the Harvest Supper in the Village Hall and enjoyed a delicious meal cooked by Vanessa and her team.

Ticket sales, the raffle and an auction raised over £2,000 for the church and the village hall.

Thank you to everyone who made it such a successful evening, and with grateful thanks to Mike for compering, and to those who gave raffle and auction items - Flower Farm, Knights Garden Centre, Diane Hammond, Dartford Gun Club, Tandridge Golf Club, Pipers Florists and the Everyman Cinema.

## SAINT PETER



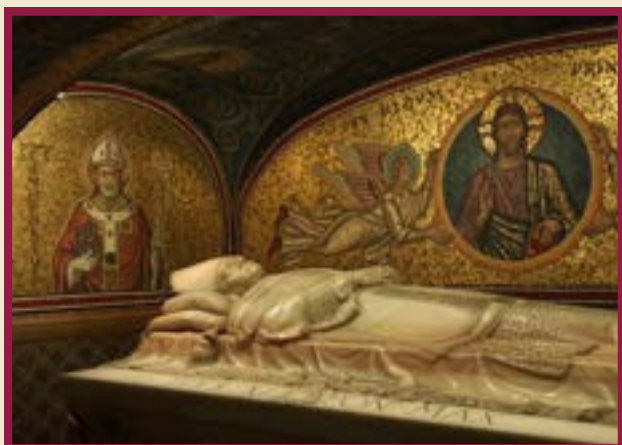
Tandridge Church is named for Saint Peter, who features centrally in the story of the Christian gospels. He was a friend, and disciple of Jesus, and then key in the growth of the early Church. He was martyred in Rome, in AD.64.

His influence is great in the Roman Catholic Church, but many Anglican churches also carry his name and inspiration. What was he known for? Why do churches such as ours, proudly associate with his identity? (Continued below)

by REVEREND JAMES ASHTON

His name meant 'Rock', and Jesus told him that he would build the church on that rock; Peter is also seen holding keys, another reference to what Jesus said to him: 'Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew's Gospel 16:19). These two images have become central to Peter's legacy. They are important for us too; that we have a strong foundation, and know how to be close to God's kingdom. Maybe Peter's example and words can help us too! We also know him as a petulant, mistake-ridden human.. He sometimes treated Jesus badly – he argued with him, denied he knew him, and at times acted in haste. But, Peter was full of passion and dedication; may we can be the same, as we follow Jesus, at our St Peter's.

James A



*St Peter's tomb, The Vatican*



*St Peter's chair, The Vatican*

PLEASE CAN YOU MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION OF THIS MAGAZINE?

(SUGGESTED DONATION £2)

BUT ANY DONATION WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED  
PLEASE SCAN THIS QR CODE TO MAKE A PAYMENT.

£2

THANK YOU



£?

THANK YOU



# PLANNING APPEAL PERRYSFIELD FARM

Tandridge  
District Council

Tandridge  
District Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 78

SITE  
APPLICATION  
APPEAL REF  
DEVELOPMENT

Perrysfield Farm, Gibbs Brook Lane, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9PG  
2023/1249

APP/M3645/W/24/3352066

Erection of 29 dwellings (including 10 affordable and 10 homes for active older persons) through conversions, demolition and erection of dwellings, plus associated parking, drainage infrastructure, access improvements, new footpath, landscaping and associated works (Revised Plans)

If you wish to make comments, or modify/withdraw your previous representation, you can do so online at <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>. If you do not have access to the internet, you can send your comments to Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN or telephone 03034445000.

**All representations must be received by 31 December 2024.** Any representations submitted after the deadline will not usually be considered and will be returned. The Planning Inspectorate does not acknowledge representations. **All representations must quote the appeal reference.**



The appeal documents are available for inspection at [www.tandridge.gov.uk](http://www.tandridge.gov.uk).

# OUR WORKING LIVES - BY TANDRIDGE RESIDENTS

## MEMOIRS OF A METROPOLITAN POLICE DOG HANDLER

### PART I CHIGWELL SHOW

BY DAVID

Part of our remit in the police dog section was to put on a show every year for the public at Chigwell Police Club.

This year it was to be a parody of Postman Pat and his black and white cat

A red van drove on to the arena, Postman Pat music blared out over the tannoy,



Look girls and boys its Postman Pat, give him a wave children, I wonder if he has his cat with him’?

Out of the window ‘Pat’ waved a large fluffy cuddly toy cat

‘Oh look there he is, oh, but what’s this’?

A car with 4 balaclavered men drove onto the arena, they jumped out and grabbed the cat; they were carrying an array of blank firing guns, they then proceeded to march around the arena to the boos of the crowd, hamming it up. The robber with the cat, had a sawn-off shotgun and was pointing it at the cat’s head.

Let’s call the police shall we children’? Announced the tannoy.

Next, the gunman pulled the trigger; this wasn’t meant to happen, the problem being, even with blank firing guns they emit debris through the barrels and are capable of destroying something close by. Unfortunately, Pat’s black and white cat was well within that distance

It’s head disappeared, leaving the robber holding the body.

There was further dismay from the crowd when the microphone picked someone up in the announcement caravan.....

‘He’s blown it’s ..... head off’





The youngsters, who were already fairly emotional, were greatly distressed when the robber chose to continue the performance and stroll around the ring with the headless cat. They eventually made their way back to their car and started driving around the arena. A police car arrived, blues and twos blaring and gave chase.

Now the driver of the bandit car decided to put on a show of his driving prowess, not to be outdone the police driver, who was now joined by dog vans - they too didn't want to be seen to be losing to him, so tried to keep up. On one drive past, the bandit car began to drift (slide sideways) towards the VIP tent where the Commissioner and our Inspector were standing, amongst other dignitaries. The car's rear got closer, only missing the tent by feet. The driver attempted a handbrake turn but succeeded in spectacularly rolling the car. Now the criminals were hanging out of the windows at this point, shooting at the police car, but miraculously they managed to get back in just as the car rolled.



Everyone waited to see what would happen, the car was on its roof! What was meant to happen was that the dogs would be sent to bite and detain each criminal, but no one knew what to do.

The Commissioner said to our Inspector,  
'Very impressive Inspector but who is going to pay for the car'?

Slowly the criminals began to crawl out of the open windows, and stagger to their feet. Not wanting to miss their starring role, for which they had rehearsed all week, the handlers sent their police dogs, biting the unsteady criminals. The last criminal started to hobble away when out of the red van Pat appeared, with his black (painted with white patches) dog.

Look, kids, Pat has a black and white dog as well as his black and white cat Jess." The dog easily reached the last increasingly limping criminal and put him down with a really good attack—exactly what he needed after being in a vehicle accident.

"It's ok children he's retrieved Jess!!",

Pat held up the headless corpse of Jess and waved to the children.

All's well that ends well.



## WITH GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS,

Annette Schmidt - for making this magazine possible through all her contacts, introductions and a considerable amount of work and assistance

Pam Knight - Down memory lane. Part I

Alistair Roberts - Farming news

Adaline Roberts - My pets

George Palmer - My pets

Lenia Greenaway - School news

Doug Knight - Gardening column

Colin David - Tandridge Parish Council update

Reverend James Ashton - Parish newsletter and notes on St. Peter

Kate Bigwood - The Bigwood Estate

Roger Moore - When Minder came to Tandridge

Annette Schmidt - Treasures of St Peter's Church. Part I

David - Our working lives

Natasha Copp - Printing

Louise Jones - Editor (For collating this wonderful read)

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Headteacher - Lenia Greenaway - 01883 712439  
Chair, Board of Governors - Annette Schmidt - 07397 978 566

Tandridge Village Pre-school - [www.tandridgevillagepreschool.co.uk](http://www.tandridgevillagepreschool.co.uk)  
Mrs Emma Heyburn - 07491 143 833

Tandridge Village Hall Management Committee  
Chair - Neil Mesher  
Bookings secretary - Jules Illiffe - 07909 547 385

Tandridge Parish Council - [www.tandridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.tandridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)  
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[tandridgepc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tandridgepc@hotmail.co.uk)

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Cameron McIntosh - 01883 713744  
[cameron.mcintosh@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:cameron.mcintosh@surreycc.gov.uk)

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Catherine Sayer - 07967 148 557  
David Stamp - 07894 074 585

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Annette Schmidt - 07397 978 566  
[tandridgenews@gmail.com](mailto:tandridgenews@gmail.com)



# ST PETER'S CHURCH, TANDRIDGE

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **WORSHIP - SUNDAY SERVICES**

8.00 AM (1st Sunday of the month only) Holy Communion  
11.00 AM Family Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays)  
11:00 AM All Age Worship (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)  
6.30 PM Evensong. With Holy Communion every 3rd Sunday.

### **TEAM RECTOR**

Revd James Ashton - 01883 380750

### **ASSISTANT PRIESTS**

Revd David Weightman - 01883 715420

Revd Judith Brooks -

### **PARISH OFFICE**

Administrator - Natasha Copp - 01883 714263

stmaryoxted.stpetertandridge@gmail.com

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

### **BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS**

Please get in touch with the parish office using the details above.

### **CHURCHWARDEN**

Lynne Lloyd - 07906 600 437

**HON TREASURER** - Julie Taylor - 07980 605 634

**CHURCH ORGANIST**- Nigel Bates

**CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER** - Mike Hodgson - 01883 723041

**CHURCH FLOWERS** - Sue Mallinson - 01883 714775

**BRASS CLEANING** - Annette Schmidt - 07397 978 566

**CHURCH REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE** - Mike Hodgson - 01883 723041

**SAFEGUARDING** - Fay Prater - 07905 267157

safeguardingstpeterstandridge@gmail.com

**WEBSITE** - [www.stpeterstandridge.uk](http://www.stpeterstandridge.uk)

**FACEBOOK** - [St Peter's Church Tandridge](https://www.facebook.com/StPeterChurchTandridge)

