

ST PETER'S CHURCH & TANDRIDGE VILLAGE PARISH MAGAZINE



The Tandridge Village Christmas Show, 2025.

Knowing Christ. Growing Community, Renewing our Heritage

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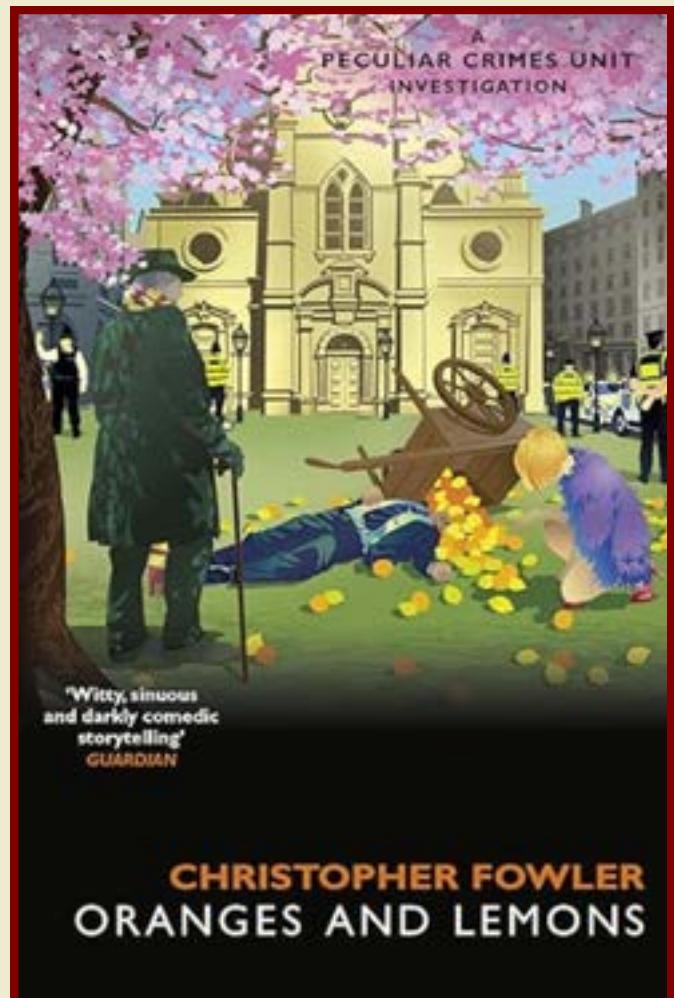
A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD. JAMES ASHTON:

This week has seen me reach the end of a significant journey. I completed the joyous task of reading every one of the brilliant 'Peculiar Crimes Unit Investigation' books by the fantastic Christopher Fowler. Over the years, the main characters have accompanied me through life – sometimes I have had the time to read several chapters, other times just a few pages; but the joy these books have brought me is still with me.

I won't continue the book(s) review, but Fowler's work comes highly recommended, especially if you like quirky wit, clever crime and finding out about ancient London! But why mention it here? Coming to the end of something leaves us with a mixture of feelings. Happiness at what was experienced, frustration that there will be no more (Fowler died after fighting cancer, in 2023) and a desire to find the next thing that will accompany us so well.

Yes, this might be true for cultural experiences (books, TV, music, film), but it can also be true in other, more serious areas of our life. Perhaps we remember the feelings of leaving a well-loved home or job, and the uncertainty of what would come..

Turning into a new year is an opportunity for us to look back at 2025; and recall all of the good things. These good things are inevitably mixed with other, sadder remembrances. A new year gives us the chance to re-set, and settle



our attitudes and thoughts on this mixture of what has gone before. I am not sure how your new year resolutions are going, but maybe we could all do with inviting God into our thoughts, words and actions this year. He is faithful, good and full of love, and his journey with us will never come to an end.

Happy New Year to everyone, and I hope to see you soon.

James A



THE JOINT FUNERAL OF

JAKE NEAVES AND JENSON SEAL

WILL TAKE PLACE AT

**ST. PETER'S CHURCH, TANDRIDGE
ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2026 AT 10.30A.M.**

**MAY JENSON AND JAKE REST IN GOD'S
EVERLASTING ARMS OF PEACE.**

THOUGHTS FROM THE BIGWOOD ESTATE

By Kate Bigwood



Indigenous cultures it seems weren't so much hunter gatherers, as they're often depicted, but were more cultivators of vast areas who worked in harmony with their surroundings to create sufficient food for themselves and for other, non-human species. Mother Nature's bounty was not just for the benefit of humankind, it was to be shared amongst all of creation, each taking only what they needed; then offerings were made in return, in reciprocity, to replenish Her, give gratitude for Her generosity and request the ongoing success of the mutually beneficial relationship. This approach successfully lasted for thousands of years. I learned this from Lyla June Johnston who recently completed her PhD on indigenous cultures and their food systems,

admittedly, her focus was on the first peoples of America rather than here in the UK, but she said that there were numerous parallels to be drawn with all other indigenous cultures, including European, who potentially behaved in similar ways to the native Americans.

I was lucky enough to be asked to sit on a discussion panel this week at the Oxford Real Farming Conference with Lyla June and others, as her experience is theoretical and research based, I was asked to speak about how I am applying similar principles in the way I manage the land here on the farm and whether there were any parallels that could be drawn to the indigenous principles found by Lyla June. It really got me thinking about my approach in a different light, one that shines on a perspective of several millennia and seen from here, I feel as though a blindfold has been removed and I can see that we have all been hoodwinked, by those we thought we could trust.

For one, the answer to land management has to be organic; the fact that adding chemicals to the land, be it to encourage plant growth or to kill off other, unwanted plants, fungi or insects, is such a new phenomenon that of course it would have consequences that the majority of people could not foresee when they were brought into common use; When considering the fact that these chemicals began from the toxic concoction developed for the gas chambers of the nazi concentration camps, it is no wonder that applying them to our land and food is a really bad idea. We were all sold the lie that they did no harm and we believed them.

Softly listening to the needs of the landscape, the rivers, the soil, the wildlife and the weather. Adapting to meet the needs of all and working towards the benefit of the collective whole by recreating various habitats to encourage more species to coexist alongside the food being produced for humans must too make sense. Humans are merely part of an ecosystem, not the only important species, so to encourage the expansion of wildlife areas and then corridors to connect habitat across a landscape so creatures can safely move, breed and spread seems critical for everyone's survival.

The land here is old. The wisdom held within is there to be heard if we can



SUNDAY
08
MAR

JetStream Big Band

Location

St Peters Hall Limpsfield, High St, Limpsfield, England, RH8 0DG, United Kingdom

Date

Sunday, Mar 08

Time (GMT)

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (2h)

About This Event

Join us on March 8th for an afternoon of big band music.

Tickets £15 in advance or £18 on the day (+ booking fee).

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only remove the distractions that prevent us from listening. Slow down and just be, relax and trust in the subtle perceptions that are all around. The murmurings are everywhere and getting louder all the time. Those of us who can hear them are gathering in ever larger numbers, creating tiny ripples of change in ourselves and our immediate surroundings. Look across the landscape with a soft gaze and you can see those ripples expanding and strengthening in their wake. Everyone is welcome to join as we head towards a shift in paradigm. A remembering of indigenous wisdom but with a modern twist; a necessity to reimagine and rekindle our relationship with the natural world whilst sloughing off that which no longer serves us, in order to redress the balance that's been lost as we got caught up in the lie that it was the individual that was important and that humans were the all important master.

I for one, was once fooled, but I am glad I awoke and can perceive a deeper truth. The shift must come from within yourself; none of us can change other people but we can change ourselves. If we each take a step in the right direction towards where it is we wish to head and trusting our inner wisdom, then we will gather in sufficient numbers, in a place teeming with life and with sufficient food for us all that it will be an abundant landscape like the one inhabited by our indigenous ancestors. They knew more than we thought and it is time now that we too remember.



DOWN MEMORY LANE, PART VII

WITH PAM KNIGHT & TIM MCCARTHY



"Land girls" in their army uniform.

One afternoon, earlier this month, Pam Knight very kindly met with me to reminisce a little more on the 85 years she has lived in Tandridge (and in Godstone). On this occasion, Pam recounted her memories of the farms and fields, hops and horses, and much else besides.

When war was declared in 1939, Pam and her family moved from London to Lashmar Cottage, which was then split into 2 homes. Pam's family of four shared the semi-detached home with the current occupants. The house consisted of a small living room downstairs, a window-less scullery at the back of the house and three very small bedrooms upstairs. There was no bathroom, only a downstairs privy and a tin bath - which was brought out once a week and placed in front of the fire for family bath-time. Pam still wonders how her mother coped with it all.

Pam's earliest memories of Tandridge were that there were horses and ponies everywhere. Cars were a rarity. The fields were worked mainly by heavy horses and deliveries were still made by horse and cart.

With so many men called up to the war, women began transforming society by taking over traditionally male roles, essential for maintaining the home front and supporting the war effort. Pam remembers the milk being delivered by horse and cart driven by a milk-lady, who worked for Lenton Dairies, which was located at the top of the High Street in Old Oxted. On her cart were 2 large milk churns and she would 'park' on Tandridge Lane and ladle out the milk into the housewives' pitchers.

The horse and milk cart outside Lenton Dairies in Old Oxted. 1908
Copyright Francis Frith Collection.



It wasn't long before ladies from the Women's Land Army began arriving in Tandridge to work the farms. Pam explained to me that the Land Girls in and around Tandridge came from all over the country, many from the North. During World War 2, over 200,000 women voluntarily signed up to the Women's Land Army, given their distinctive uniform of green sweater, light brown breeches and long brown socks and posted to one of the many farms which suffered from a lack of manpower. They were paid 38 schillings for a 48 hour week, or 18 schillings a week if they were provided with free room and board.

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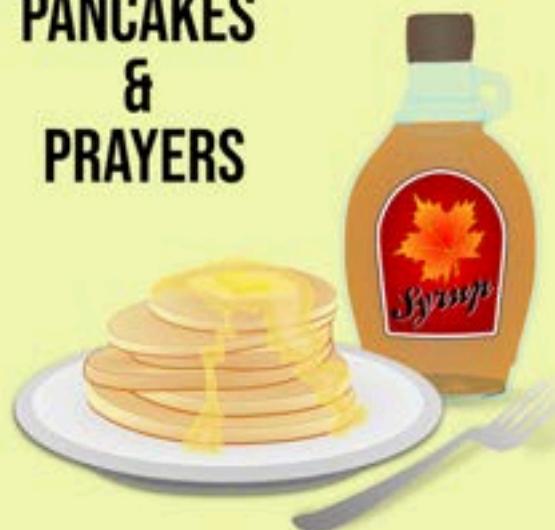
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17 FEB
from 6PM

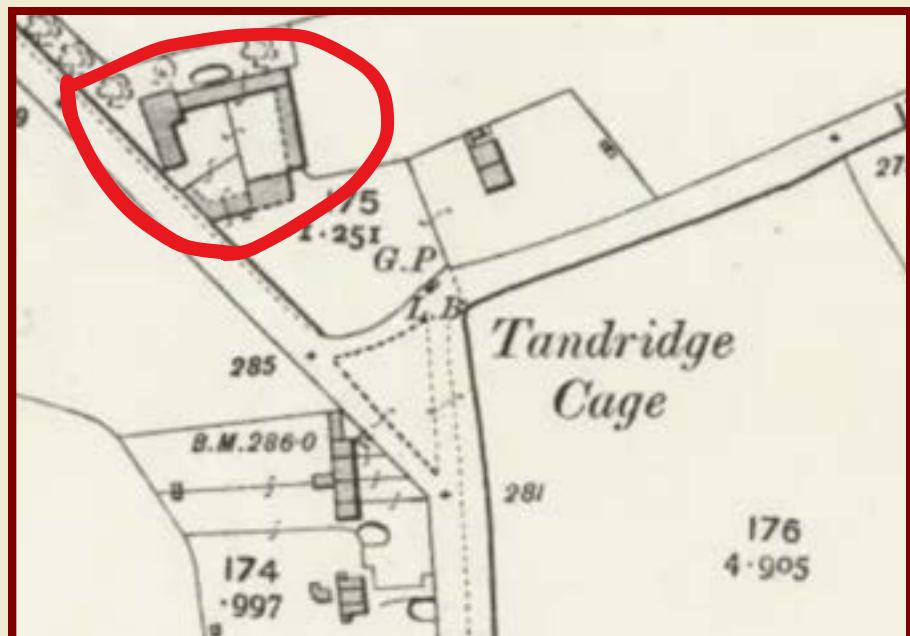
Join us at THE _ SPACE, bring your own toppings!

ST MARY'S: KNOWING CHRIST - GROWING COMMUNITY - RENEWING HERITAGE



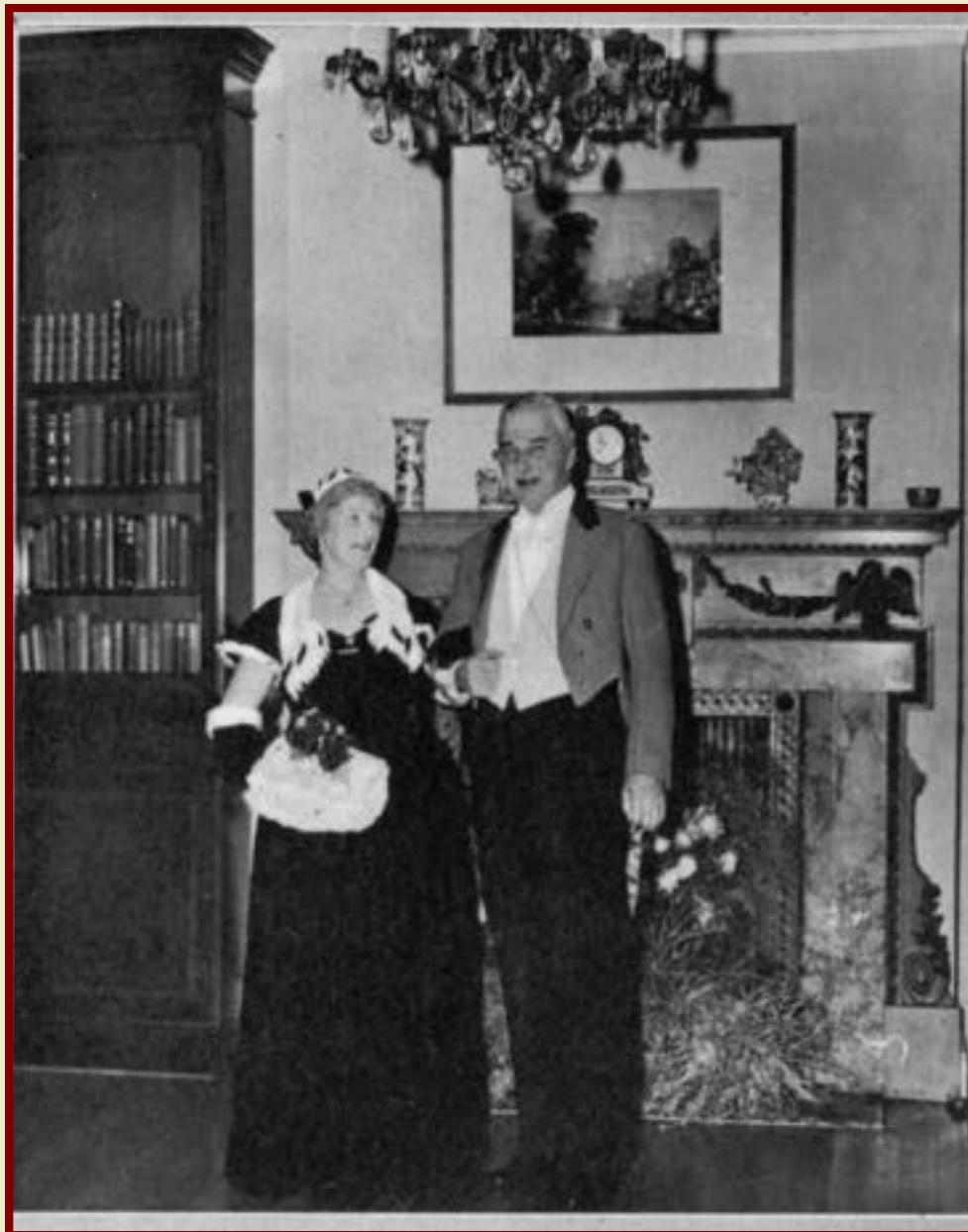
Members of the W.L.A. stooking the sheaves, Summer 1944.

As the war progressed, Pam noticed that tractors were beginning to replace the heavy horses, which wasn't necessarily a bad thing for Pam. After a bit of badgering, she managed to persuade one of the land girls to let her clamber up onto the bonnet of the tractor to be taken for a spin around the fields. After such a trip, Pam would typically pop in to see Bobby, the Suffolk Punch horse who was stabled at The Cage Farm. Bobby worked the fields around there and his keeper, Mr. Dowsett would allow Pam to give Bobby a pat and an apple. The Cage Farm is no more, the only hint of its existence is a grey stone wall which is visible on the left hand side as one approaches The Cage from the village.



The Cage Farm, circled in red. 1933.

Besides the heavy work horses, another type of horse, the hunter, was a very common sight in the fields surrounding Tandridge. Hunting thrived in Tandridge. The Old Surrey and Burstow Hunt would regularly pass through Tandridge and meets were frequently held at Tandridge Court, Ardenrun and The Barley Mow. Pam would attend these meets and thought it a wonderful sight to witness the liveried staff of Tandridge Court exit the doors of the house, carrying silver trays laden with stirrup cups of port and sherry, to serve to the very many immaculately turned-out participants, gathered at the front of the house. The Andreaes occupied the house at the time. They were keen supporters of The Old Surrey & Burstow Hunt and during the 1950s they would host the annual hunt ball at their home; photos of which would appear in Country Life and The Tatler.



***MID-SEASON HUNT
BALL IN A
BEAUTIFUL SURREY
MANSION.***

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Andreae, who are very keen supporters of the Old Surrey & East Burstow Hunt, wait for the first guests to arrive at their beautiful home, Tandridge Court.

The Tatler, February, 1950.

Pam also remembers the race horses which were stabled and trained by Ruth and Tim B. McCarthy at New House Farm. Ruth married Tim, who was quite a bit older than her and who had come over from Clonakilty, County Cork, Ireland. Tim was a jockey not a farmer, but he would, when needed, milk the cows to help his father-in-law out. He enjoyed considerable success in his racing career. In 1932 he was placed fourth in the Grand National, on his horse, Near East. Edward, the Prince of Wales was at Aintree that day to witness Tim's achievement.



*Tim's grandfather, Tim B. McCarthy, second from the right,
at the 1932 Grand National, Aintree.*

Tim McCarthy, (Ruth & Tim's grandson), informed me of Tandridge's biggest horse-racing claim to fame - and it is a big one. This person was born in Tandridge, started out as a vet before becoming an amateur jockey, and in 1972 he obtained a training licence in Curragh, Ireland. He went on to become a World famous horse trainer and one of the most successful race horse trainers of all time. His wins included the Melbourne Cup, which he won twice, all five of the Irish classics, the Epsom Derby, the Oaks, the 2000 Guineas, the Ascot Gold Cup, the Hong Kong Mile, the American Derby, the Belmont Stakes, the Secretariat Stakes and the Breeders' Cup Turf.



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WHY CHOOSE MOORGATE?



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Here he is being presented with a trophy for winning The Derby:



The Queen watches as the trophy is presented to Dermot Weld, right, after Harzand, owned by the Aga Khan, second left, won the Derby. Photograph: David Davies/PA

As a baby, Dermot was pushed up Tandridge Lane in his pram, by Tim's mum!

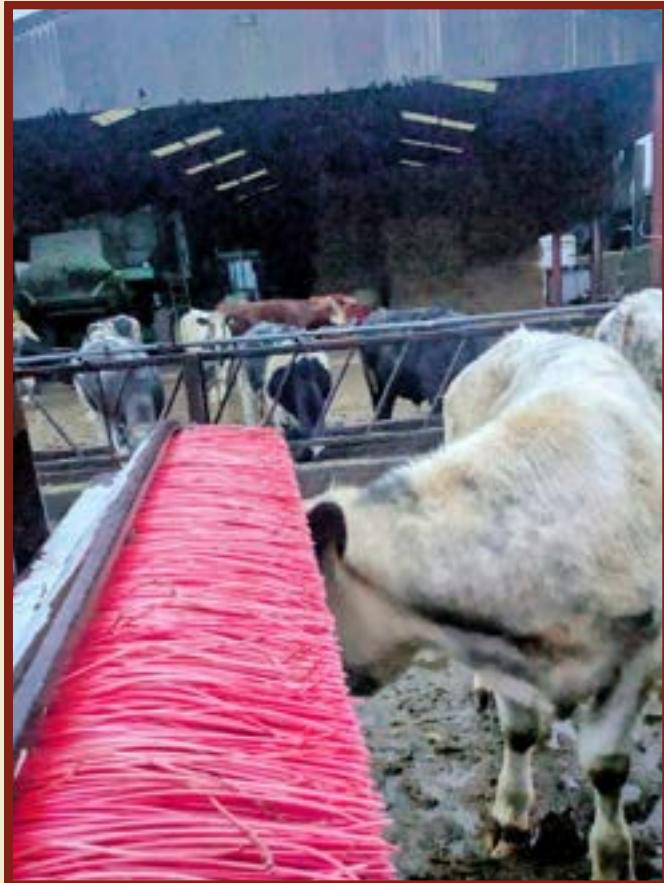
Pam herself was quite the equestrian and enjoyed many years riding ponies and horses all over the local area. Pam would walk or ride with her friends along the bridleway from Jackass Lane to Leigh Place. Beside the path was an abundance of wild flowers. They would pass the disused hop kilns - which were roughly halfway between Jackass Lane and Hop Garden Cottage, on their way to Godstone. Pam told me that the few hop gardens which were still being cultivated just before the war, soon disappeared, as there weren't enough people to pick them. Tandridge had been known for its hop gardens and we'll take a closer look at hops and brewing later in this issue.



Pam Knight, aged about 10, in her Tandridge School uniform.

FARMING NEWS

By John Nicholas



The cattle grooming station at Brook Farm

During the winter months there are every day tasks that have to be completed, no matter what.

Each day, without fail, we will feed all the cattle. It might seem obvious, but sometimes breakdowns, blackouts, or whiteouts are sent to test us. No matter the challenge, we have to prevail.

With the fields waterlogged, we spend a good deal of the rest of the day catching up on admin. and maintenance jobs that get left during busier times. Sally out fencing or driving the computer, while I could be in the workshop, keeping dry, welding/bodging/creating labour saving devices (?).

Here is something I 'made earlier' - our cattle grooming station. Cattle enjoy a backscratch, headrub, or chin tickle. It keeps them entertained and happy. Looking spruce is important to cattle as well, apparently!

PLOUGH SUNDAY



Pough Sunday is typically held on the first Sunday after Epiphany to mark the start of the agricultural year. We were a Sunday late, but better late than never. Alastair Roberts brought one of his smaller tractors to St. Peter's for it to be blessed by James. The congregation prayed for a good harvest and gave thanks for our farmers and farm workers and all that they do. Afterwards the children climbed up into the drivers seat to have their photos taken.

Back in church, James's spoke of the strength God gives us and as a bit of fun, he challenged the children to see how strong they were, by testing how many hymn books they could hold. George (bottom left) managed 15, Brodie (hidden behind George's books!) held 20 and the 3 girls combined (Luna, Elodie & friend), managed to match him - Girl Power!



Plant & Cake Sale

in the

Tandridge Village Hall

Saturday 9th May

Free entry. Refreshments

Opens 11am



GARDENING NEWS

Winter Beauty in the Garden

By Doug Knight



We certainly had a cold start to 2026 but winter frosts can create a stunning display in the garden glistening on the long blades of ornamental grasses and highlighting the seed-heads of plants. Large grasses are unmissable and well worth growing for the spectacle they create in the winter freeze catching the light even where there is no frost to highlight them.

Large alliums have sensational globes of slender radiating seed heads while the poppy embellishes the border with pepper pot seed pods. Cone flower forms of Echinacea are widely celebrated for their seed heads and after the flower petals fall the cone remains creating structural interest and food for the birds.

Even just one piece of evergreen topiary will add interest to a pot or bed and hold an area together in winter. Formal shapes such as balls, pyramids and cubes work well, but if you like a more relaxed style, then the trend for looser 'cloud-pruned' and organic topiary shapes may suit you. Box and Yew are traditional plant choices, but other small-leaved evergreens, such as Eunonymus, Ilex crenata, Phillyrea, Lonicera nitida and privet, clip well.



So let's take time to enjoy the winter sun reflecting the icy jewels while we plan our gardening year in the warmth of our homes and wait patiently for the miracle of spring.



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HENRY SMITH CHARITY GRANTS 2026

Applications Now Invited – Tandridge Parish

Do you live in the Parish of Tandridge and need financial help?

Tandridge is one of several parishes in the South East that receives an annual cash grant from the Henry Smith Charity. These funds are distributed locally to individuals in need, and to organisations that support them.

For 2026, Tandridge expects to receive £5,985 to distribute.

Grant Amounts

The amount awarded depends on the number of applications received but individual grants will typically be around £300

Who Is Eligible?

You must be **resident in the Parish of Tandridge** and fall into one or more of the following categories:

- People aged over 65
- Full-time students and apprentices
- People of any age experiencing financial hardship
- People of any age with additional expenses due to sickness or disability, including children with special needs

Important Note for Applicants Aged Over 65

If you have received a grant in the past, you do not need to re-apply each year. Your name will automatically be considered.

How to Apply or Get More Information

Please contact Catherine Scott (Clerk to the Trustees)

↗ **07712 834055**

✉ smithscharitytandridge@gmail.com

The administration of the Henry Smith Charity in Tandridge is overseen by Tandridge Parish Council, which appoints the Trustees.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY SERVICE AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH



James, in his role as a shepherd.



Iona and her mother.



A large congregation enjoyed a fun and festive service.

THE TANDRIDGE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS SHOW 2025. A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

By Ruth D'Alessandro

The Tandridge Village Christmas Show is a highlight of the year; sometimes chaotic, occasionally anarchic, always fun, and this year's was no exception. It was slick, well planned, well-rehearsed, and hilarious and heartwarming in equal measure.

Anyone can come up with an idea for an act and present on stage at the show, and we love it if you do. Performers have been described as a mix of 'the professional, the talented, the willing, and the brave', and whatever you want to perform, you're among friends, most of whom are delighted that you're up there on the stage rather than them.

As is customary, our MC Mike Barratt kicked off the first half with some dreadful jokes, (continuing throughout the evening to groans and chuckles from the audience) and some warm-up community carol singing before introducing what was to be something of an emotional rollercoaster of a first half.



Whisky Tasting Evening

OXTED COMMUNITY HALL

SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2026

Starts at 7PM

Whisky Tasting Experience

Fish & Chips Dinner

Fun & Friendly Atmosphere

Tickets: £30 per person

(Includes whisky tasting & dinner)



Booking Essential - Limited Spaces!

To secure your booking, contact Edward Kyte:

✉ ejkyte@gmail.com

Fundraising event for St Mary's Church, Oxted

Queen of the Village Show and Tandridge legend Daphne Fairbrass sang us a lovely rendition of Adele's 'Feel My Love', accompanied by Adrian Talbot on piano. More than a few of us had to pretend we had 'something in our eye'.

Following Daphne, we needed a burly farmer wearing a dress to pull ourselves back together, and The Farmers (yes, they really all are) didn't disappoint. With ambitious props fashioned from pieces of farm equipment and more than a little cross-dressing in frocks, wellies and overalls, our agricultural artistes filled the stage, performing Benny Hill's risqué little number, 'Ernie the Fastest Milk Float in the West'. The audience were in tears again, this time with laughter.

But we hadn't been let off the emotional hook quite yet. Next up was Janet Henderson with her original, touching poem celebrating Tandridge and what it means to her, which spoke to all of us really, and caused more rummaging around for hankies. So we needed yet more light relief, this time from the Shoddy Book Group who, dressed in nuns'



habits, sang 'Climb Evri Mountain' an original take on that song from The Sound of Music, bemoaning the dismal experience of trying to get Christmas parcels delivered - or not - by that eponymous 'delivery' service. It struck a chord with pretty much Evri-one in the hall.

Following more audience participation and some AI Shakespeare, we welcomed on stage Village Show veterans Alan and Sandra, whose (allegedly) ill-prepared and under-rehearsed sketches are the stuff of Village Show legend. This year's sketch, which involved Alan riding a slowly deflating rubber horse with Sandra in a cowboy hat trying to interview him (without the questions he'd accidentally left in his back pocket) was even more chaotic and hilarious than usual, and we were in fits.

A hard act to follow, quite literally, and Tandridge Laureate Ruth D'Alessandro tried her best with a bittersweet poem in the style of Pam Ayres, 'Requiem for a Machine' celebrating the life and death of her faithful,



25-year-old washing machine.

Picking up the tempo, ShABBA, a slickly choreographed dance interlude first performed at Clare Addison's big birthday, brought sparkle, shapes, and the music of ABBA infectiously to the stage, triumphantly concluding the first half to rapturous applause.

Even the interval at the TVS was busy, with festive snacks, a generous raffle and a nigh-on-impossible quiz by Neil Mesher, which someone somehow managed to win.

Onto Act Two, and it wouldn't be a village show without our two



professional performers, Andy Moore and Wendy O'Mahony, this year treating us to not one, but two performances each. Wendy's interpretative sign language to a rendition of 'Favourite Things' sung by Janet Henderson was, as ever, a masterclass in split-second comic timing. Andy, always compelling to watch on stage, treated us to a magic trick involving a banana (all done in the best possible taste, honest). And together, they owned the stage dressed as Pumbaa and Timon from The Lion King with a uplifting song and dance version of 'Hakuna Matata'.

The 'Twelve Days of Christmas' is a special song in the Tandridge Community. Gamely battling voice loss, Janet Conneely recited its entertaining parody, 'My True Love's Reply' to chuckles and cheers before we went on to sing and reenact the full version at the end of the show, as is customary.

Two choirs rounded off a thoroughly enjoyable evening: Alex Talbot's a capella group Obbligato brought Christmas cheer with their delightful, harmonised seasonal songs, and an entertaining cameo by Adrian Talbot, and the audience

couldn't resist joining in with the Tandridge Men's Choir's heartfelt renditions of 'Stay Another Day' and 'Christmas Is All Around', the village hall a sea of phone torches waved aloft.

So, you see, the Tandridge Village Christmas Show is a whole lot of fun. If you like the sound of it, come along next year and even think about doing an act. Whether you sing, play, write, act, entertain, read or recite, you'll be in front of a supportive audience, and, most importantly of all, among friends.



Ruth D'Alessandro



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE
VILLAGE HALL ON
TUESDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY AT 7.30P.M.**

**ON THE AGENDA WILL BE THE BARLEY MOW.
THE COUNCIL WILL BE DISCUSSING THE
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PUB.
(SEE PAGE RIGHT)**



BARLEY MOW

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Notice of Intention to Dispose of an Asset of Community Value under Section 95(2) of The Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012 relating to The Barley Mow, Tandridge Lane, Tandridge

Tandridge District Council hereby gives notice that on 19 January 2026 it received a notice from the owner of The Barley Mow, Tandridge Lane, Tandridge, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9NJ as shown red on the attached plan (the "Property") of its intention to dispose of the Property as required by section 95(2) of the Localism Act 2011.

Under the Act, the owner of the Property may not dispose of the Property during a six week period starting with 19 January 2026 and, during this period, a community interest group can request in writing to be treated as a potential bidder for the Property. Such a request would trigger a six month full moratorium period from 19 January 2026.

The owner is not required to accept any bid and once the full moratorium period has ended, may dispose of the Property as it wishes until the end of a protected period which lasts until 18 months from 19 January 2026.

The dates for these relevant periods are:

Interim Moratorium End Date: Sunday 1 March 2026

Potential Full Moratorium End Date: Saturday 18 July 2026

Potential Protected Period End Date: Sunday 18 July 2027

The Council invites any eligible community interest group to express an interest to be treated as a potential bidder. Requests should be made in writing to the Legal Department of Tandridge District Council, The Council Offices, 8 Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0BT or by email to legalhelpdesk@tandridge.gov.uk and should be received by post no later than Friday 28 February 2026 or by email no later than 5pm on Sunday 1 March 2026.

To be eligible to request being treated as a possible bidder for the asset, a community interest group must have a local connection and have one or more of the following structures:

1. A charity;
2. A community interest company;
3. A company limited by guarantee that is non-profit distributing;
4. An industrial and provident society that is non-profit distributing; or
5. A parish council.

It will be the responsibility of any bidder to arrange funding, come to an arrangement with the Owner and be responsible for all associated costs. The Council is unable to assist in negotiations or to provide any funding or other assistance.

HOPS IN TANDRIDGE



HOP PICKING, SURREY 1910

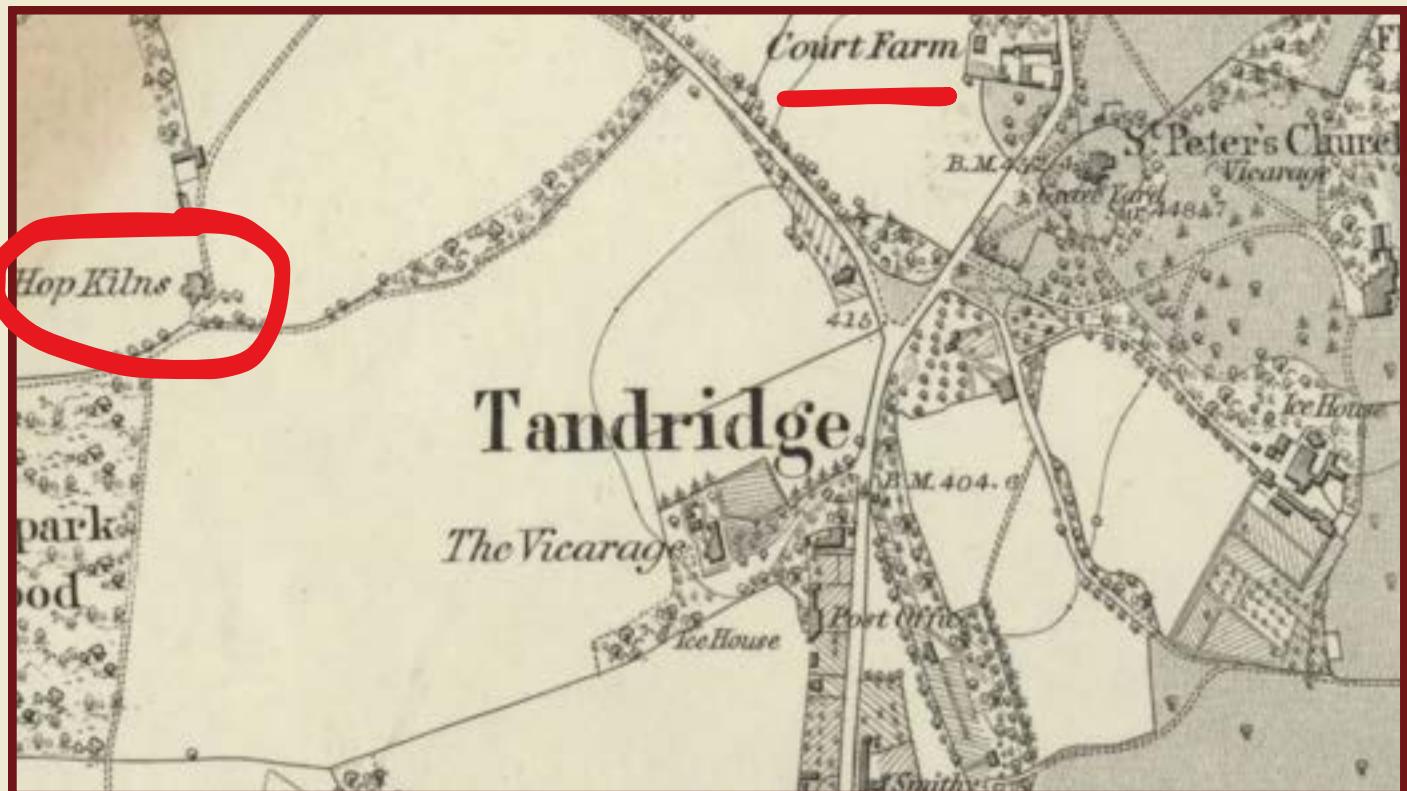
Tandridge has a history of hop growing dating back to the 12th century. In fact, its contribution to the brewing industry was once its chief claim to fame. Ale was brewed in monasteries, manor houses and also private houses. In the 12th century it was recorded that Tandridge Priory (in what is now Barrow Green Road) had a brew and bake house. It was only in the late 1800s and early 1900s that the industry began to decline due to economic changes, war and disease - which caused disastrous harvests.

In the 1800s, in Tandridge and the surrounding areas, the Lashmar family were the chief hop growers in the region, describing themselves as brewers, maltsers and farmers. John Marchant I and his wife Judith lived in Tandridge and owned and operated the brewery at the back of The Crown in Old Oxted. They had 5 children, all born in Tandridge. Brothers John Marchant II and William (born in 1810 and 1806 respectively) followed their parents into the family business. For a number of years, they lived and worked at the Crown Brewery. In fact Judith, their mother, was still living and working there aged 75, her occupation listed in the census as brewer and maltser.

In 1871, at the age of 61, John Marchant II returned to live in the village of his birth. He resided at Tandridge Court Farm with his wife Elizabeth. They employed 9 agricultural labourers and 3 boys on their 215 acre farm.



Oast houses at
New House
Farm.



Map surveyed 1868-1869. Published 1872, when John Marchant Lashmar was living at Tandridge Court Farm. Hop kilns are circled in red. These were noted as disused on the 1933 OS map of Tandridge. As a child, Pam Knight remembers seeing the abandoned kilns on her walks along the bridleway, (off Jackass Lane). Hop Gardens Cottage is still standing, a couple of hundred yards from the kilns, towards the end of the bridleway, below the A22. When John Marchant retired, having no children of his own, he passed his business onto his nephew, William Turner Lashmar.



Left: The Crown, Old Oxted. 1895.

Photo courtesy of the Richard Symonds Collection

Below: The Brewery, behind The Crown, Old Oxted.

John Marchant Lashmar lived here in the 1850s and 60s, before returning to Tandridge. It was demolished in 1930s. Photo courtesy of the Richard Symonds Collection



Left: The Barley Mow, Tandridge. Late 1890s. The lease was held by William Turner Lashmar, (John Marchant's nephew) until he sold it to Mr Ben Bushell in 1881. Photo courtesy of the Richard Symonds Collection

Hop picking was a great community effort. Many villagers, of all ages would partake in it and as summer drew to a close, the local people of Surrey would take to the hop gardens. Thousands of east and south-east Londoners flocked to Kent to help with their hop harvest. It was paid work, but the long days spent together in the fields still felt like a holiday from city life. In *A History of Hops and Brewing*, Margaret Lawrence writes '.....in the last century many a head teacher gazed at an empty school in despair and wrote in the school log book: "The school is empty. If the children are not hop picking, they are looking after the baby while mother picks. In hop picking areas, after school attendance had become compulsory, summer holidays were arranged so that children could be absent from school legally to work in the hop gardens to help earn money for the family's winter clothing. Every pair of hands however small was vital.'

In Godstone in 1900, the terms of the local school were accommodated to the seasons. Mr Bassett, the headmaster in the early 1900s was tally man, (official record keeper), at the hop picking. Most of the village went picking - outsiders were not brought in as they were in the Kentish fields - so it suited everyone to arrange the summer holidays for when the hops ripened.



Children besides a hop garden in Farnham. The Hampton Estate in Puttenham and the Hogs Back Brewery in Farnham are now the only commerical hop growers in Surrey. They grow 3 varieties of hop, including the Fuggle, which is the traditional English ale hop. The Hogs Back Brewery uses the crops from both these hop gardens to brew their beer. The brewery is currently in the process of tripling the size of it's hop garden.

In 1870, John Marchant Lashmar gave a new bell to St. Peter's Church in celebration of the engagement of the 3rd Earl of Cottenham, William John Pepys to Theodosia Selina Dallas. When a son and heir was born to the couple in 1874, there were great rejoicings in the village and festivities were held at Tandridge Court to which the tenants, trades-men, wives and daughters were all invited. The Earl was the chair for the day, the vice-chair was filled by Mr John Marchant Lashmar, who was described as an old tenant of the village. In 1875, he passed away. Tandridge Court Farm was put up for auction that same year. He is buried, with his wife Elizabeth in the churchyard at St. Peter's.



The grave of John Marchant Lashmar and his wife Elizabeth in St. Peter's churchyard.

In September, 1880 a writer in the Surrey Mirror describes his walk from Caterham to Brighton. Here is an extract from the article, as he walked from Oxted to Tandridge where they had decided to dine:

"From St Mary's to Oxted village (*Old Oxted*), via a pleasant gravel path, is but a short distance, and in a few minutes, crossing a small mill-stream - too insignificant to be dignified with a name - we find ourselves in Oxted village. Oxted is at dinner. This fact the dog does his utmost to demonstrate: his anxiety to share in the frugal meal of several cottagers being great. At an inn we refresh ourselves; the drab coloured panelling, with the bar shut off by a

sliding and heavy window, is not what the red curtain to the half-glass door led us to expect; the beer, however, is much better. There is little to be seen at Oxted, and we quickly leave it, deciding to lunch at Tandridge. A hop-field on the left - one of Mr. Lashmar's - invites us to look over the gate. The hop-pickers have gone to dinner; there is a man sitting down finishing his - a task which the dog seems desirous of sharing. To this man we address ourselves. He has not much, however, to impart, except that the pickers did not commence before eight and left off shortly after five. Mr. Lashmar's crop was a very heavy one: the kilns were, however, not very large, and the pickers considerably checked by this circumstance; however, though, I should imagine, in this particular garden they earn less, yet their "holiday outing", (*hop picking was considered a holiday*), extends over a period, perhaps of three weeks longer than is usual. So that it is as broad as it is long. The hops are getting brown, and the garden is barely one-third stripped. One picker, so the man says, can fill about three bins (seven to a shilling) per day, but it should be remembered in calculating earnings, that the whole family from the eldest to the youngest can assist to swell the gross total of the week's wages. However, at the best the labour hardly appears remunerative.

Leaving the hop-garden, and striking a road on the left, we presently approach Tandridge Church, and entering the churchyard beneath the lych-gate, we approach the famous yew, which sends its spreading branches to a great distance from its three trunks, which measure round 29ft. 9in. It has been calculated to be 1,700 years old.

Within its shadow is the marble tomb, beautifully sculptured, of Lady Gilbert Scott. Very dark are the thunder clouds as we emerge from the church-yard and all hope for a bright afternoon seems at an end. With all haste we pass through the village, but until almost taking to the open country again we do not find an inn; however, the one we do find, albeit the parlour, small and stuffy, is rarely used for such visitor as ourselves, provides first-class accommodation, and it is with an air of indifference that we hear the rain descending. But, dinner concluded, it is a relief to find that the rain has concluded too, and that the remainder of the day we are to be untroubled by showers."

In 1881, a year after the writer described his walk to Tandridge, William Turner Lashmar, (John Marchant's nephew), sold the entire business, which included the Brewery and a number of inns, hotels and beer houses, including The Barley Mow. The auction took place in The City of London and raised £11,000, which is equivalent to approximately £1,736,000 in today's money.



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SALE OF THE CROWN BREWERY.—Considerable interest was manifested in the sale of this old-established and well-known business, which was disposed of at the Mart, Tokenhouse-yard, London, on Thursday last, by Messrs. Orgill, Swann, and Orgill, by order of the present owner, Mr. W. Lashmar. The property was stated to have been in the possession of the family for between 60 and 70 years. It is fitted with a 10-quarter plant, stables, cottages, and about 76 acres of land. The licensed houses consist of the Crown, Oxted; the Bull, Limpsfield; the Plumbers' Arms, Limpsfield; the Carpenters' Arms, Limpsfield; the Fox and Hounds, Toys Hill, Brasted Chart, Kent; the Fox and Hounds, Tilburstow Hill, Godstone; the Harrow Inn, Platt Green, Caterham; the Barley Mow, Tunbridge; the Old House at Home beerhouse, Quakers' Platt, Lingfield; the Sussex Arms, Station-road, Redhill; the Elm Shades, Redhill; the Prince of Wales Hotel, Reigate station; the Admiral, Nutley-lane, Reigate; the Public House beerhouse, High-street, Reigate; the Beehive beerhouse, Dover's Green, near Reigate; and the Ship beerhouse, Meadvale, Redhill. Amongst those present at the sale were Messrs. G. Carter-Morrison (Reigate), W. B. Richardson, W. Lashmar (Oxted), Mellersh (Reigate), T. and G. Hanbury (Reigate), J. R. H. Thomson (Reigate), Bushell (Westerham), H. J. Hunt (Brixton), H. Weatherall (Chancery-lane), C. Chitty (Limpsfield), A. Churchill (Godstone), P. Kinninmouth (Westerham), W. Hammond (Reigate), E. Burrows (Redhill), J. Watkins (Westerham), H. Young (Oxted), E. J. Hammett (Oxted), H. Newton (Westerham), A. Killick (Anerley), W. Worsell (Oxted), T. Killick (Crawley Down), J. Walker (Godstone), &c. The biddings were started by Mr. Bushell at £10,000, whence they advanced to guineas. £10,600 was the next offer, this being succeed by a couple of "centuries," and Mr. Bushell responded with £11,000, at which figure the property was knocked down to him. The purchaser was congratulated upon having a good bargain, the auctioneer candidly expressing his opinion that the property was honestly worth £15,000. The solicitor acting in the matter was Mr. Willman, Bedford-row, London, W.C.

It was Mr Ben Bushell (Westerham) who purchased the portfolio of properties from William T Lashmar in 1881. The 19 year lease on the Barley Mow was included in this sale; the freehold being held by the Earl of Cottenham. Consequently, The Barley Mow was tied to Bushell & Co and subsequently the sign written on the side of the building read: 'Westerham Ales' (See page 33). Westerham Ales was Mr. Bushell's own brewing company. It now operates as Westerham Brewery.



William T. Lashmar, (John Merchant Lashmar's nephew), with his wife Eliza and 5 of his 8 children.

A photograph of a honey jar label for "Southlands Lodge Honey" from Tandridge, Surrey. The label features a building illustration, a bee, and the text "Southlands Lodge Honey" and "Tandridge Surrey". The jar is labeled "454g net" and "Produce of England". To the right, a separate label for "Southlands Lodge Honey" lists availability at various locations.



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SCHOOL NEWS

By Lenia Greenaway



January can often be seen as a dark month when the joy and excitement of Christmas has disappeared, and we wait patiently for the signs of spring to emerge.

Here at St Peter's school – small but mighty in all we do – we start each new term with a spring in our steps and find that the excitement of the children as they speed into school stops any January blues occurring straight away! We are perfectly sized to know every child as an individual whilst still offering them rich, diverse experiences that rival much larger schools. It may have been extremely cold at the beginning of the term but casting an eye over our wonderful surroundings and seeing the beauty of the countryside around us, was definitely a joy to behold and gave us warmth.

We have a term packed full of exciting and stimulating activities with trips and learning experiences ready to put a smile on everyone's face.

Although Spring itself may seem a little while off, we have many learning opportunities to encourage the children to blossom and develop over this (academically called) spring term.

In their RE studies this term both Year 1 and Year 2 children will be exploring the Islamic Faith. Forming part of this will be the opportunity to visit the Shah Jahan Mosque in Woking. This is a spectacular outing for the children as they not only learn all about the Islamic faith, making connections with what they experience there and hear about in class, but also because the mosque itself has a unique history. It was established through collaboration between individuals from different religious backgrounds, making it the first purpose-built mosque in the UK. It continues its legacy of promoting understanding, peace, and harmony through ongoing interfaith activities.

Later in the term we will become scientists with our own special Science Week. Our theme being 'Curiosity'. 'Why do leaves change colour?' 'How do butterflies fly?' 'What makes rainbows appear?' These are just some of the wonderful questions our children ask every day. During Science Week we will be celebrating this natural curiosity with a week dedicated to hands-on scientific exploration and discovery.

Each class will become a laboratory of learning, where children will conduct experiments, make predictions, and discover answers to their burning questions. Throughout the week, we will be encouraging our young scientists to think deeply about the world around them - to observe carefully, ask questions, and seek answers. This approach to learning reflects our school values of curiosity, perseverance, and respect for God's creation.

We are incredibly excited to see where our children's curiosity leads them during Science Week. By nurturing their natural wonder and encouraging them to ask 'why?' and 'how?', we are helping them develop skills that will serve them throughout their lives - not just in science, but in all their learning. We look forward to sharing their discoveries with you!

Finally, we will be celebrating Easter with not only lots of fun Easter egg hunts and an Easter bonnet parade, but with a special Easter service at St Peter's Church led by Reverend Ashton. All are very welcome to attend and join us in celebrating this most important time in the Christian calendar.

God Bless.

Lenia Greenaway and the St Peter's school team.

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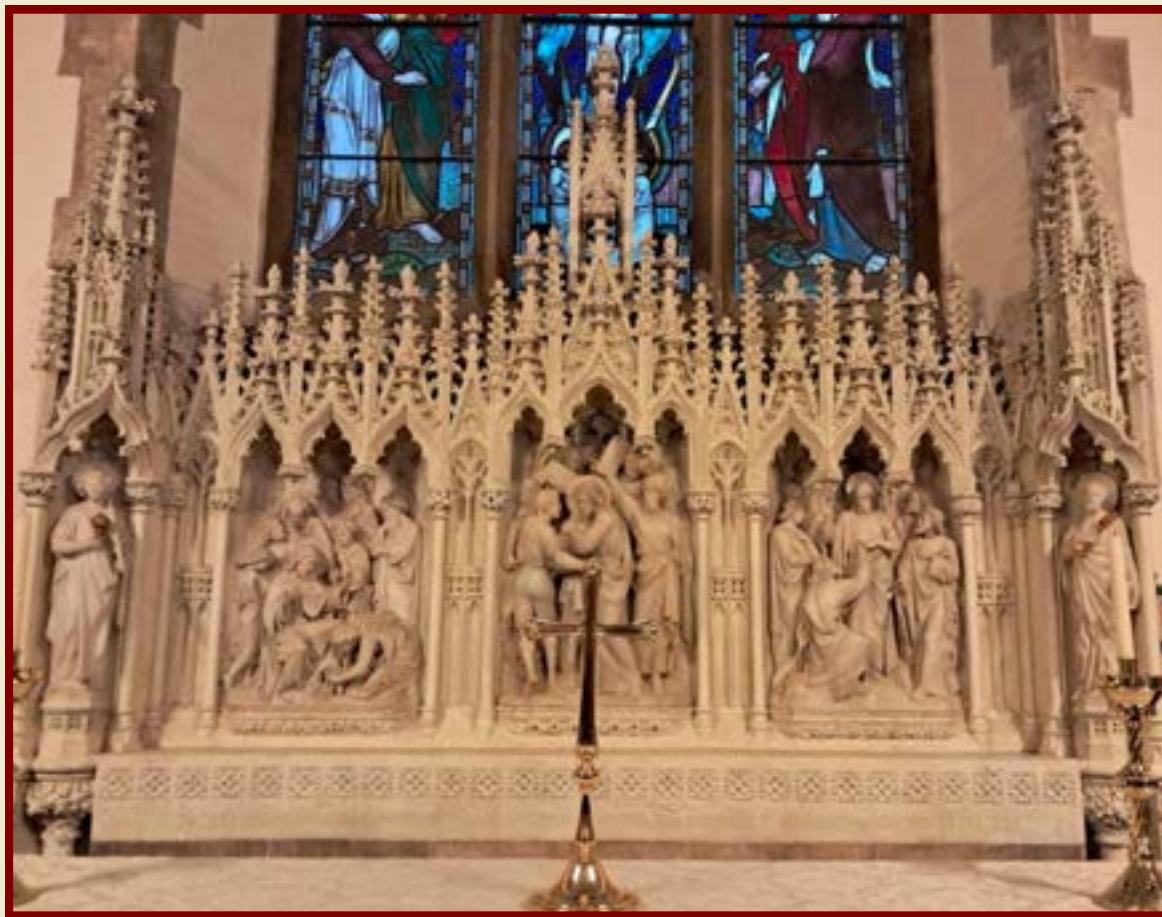
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The Reredos of St. Peter's

BY ANNETTE SCHMIDT



This is the Reredos within St Peter's Church. A masterpiece 190cm high of intricate and elaborate stone adorned with goldleaf accents. This is positioned in the Sanctuary of the church situated behind the Altar table. The Reredos was commissioned by Sir Gilbert Scott, probably around 1875 when the North aisle was erected and the installation of some of the stained-glass windows.

A Reredos is a term used to describe an ornamental screen behind the altar which is fixed to the wall, not the altar table. It is crafted to enhance the visual and spiritual aesthetics of the worship space, providing a focal point to draw the congregation attention towards the altar and provide an enhanced beauty and deeper spiritual experience.

Reredos is derived through Middle English from the 14th-century Anglo-Norman areredos, which in turn is from arere 'behind' + dos 'back', from Latin dorsum. In the 14th and 15th centuries the term referred generally to an open hearth of a fireplace or to a screen placed behind a table, then became early obsolete until it was revived in the 19th century.



Norwich Cathedral, UK.

There are many different variations of a reredos which could be painted panels, wood, metal, glass, tapestry or carved stone like St Peter's.



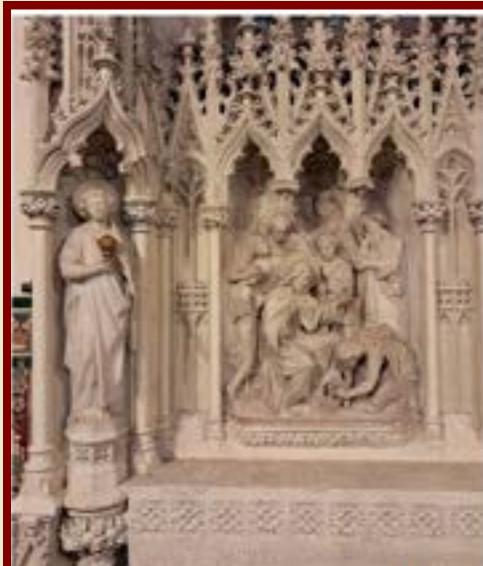
*St. Francis, Santa Fe
Cathedral Basilica of New
Mexico.*



*Modern Lalique glass reredos,
Saint Matthew's Church, (The
Glass Church"), Millbrook, Jersey.*

St Peter's Church figures are of creamy white alabaster with some rather pale now, gilding, with the rest of the structure of two other types of stone, one being from Caen in France.

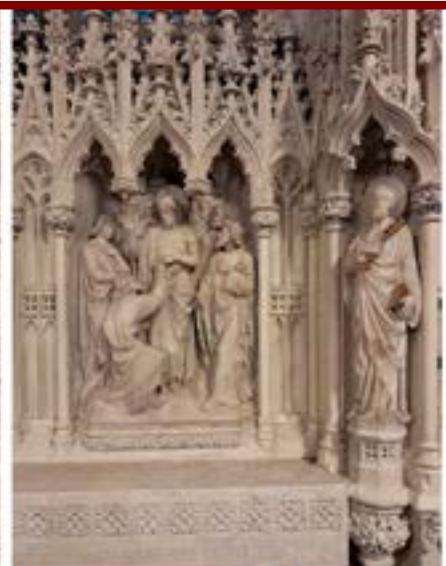
There are three main alcoves showing scenes from the life of Christ with the inscriptions below:



She hath done what she could
(Mark xiv 4)



Surely, he hath borne our grief
(Isaiah 1iii 4)



Thomas said my Lord and God
(John xx 28)

Woman anointing Christ's feet.

Christ carrying his cross.

Doubting Thomas touching
Christ's wounds

St John's statue is on the far left.

St Peter's statue, with the keys
on far right.

The alcoves above are framed by colonettes, surmounted by a series of decorated ogee arches (a pointed arch with distinctive 'S' – shape making an elegant line to a sharp peak widely used in Gothic architecture) and pinnacles (tall points) with a small apical cross.



The final touch is a now faint memorial inscription carved on the sill across the whole work:

'To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph Bonsor who died November 27 1873 Aged 66: erected by his wife'

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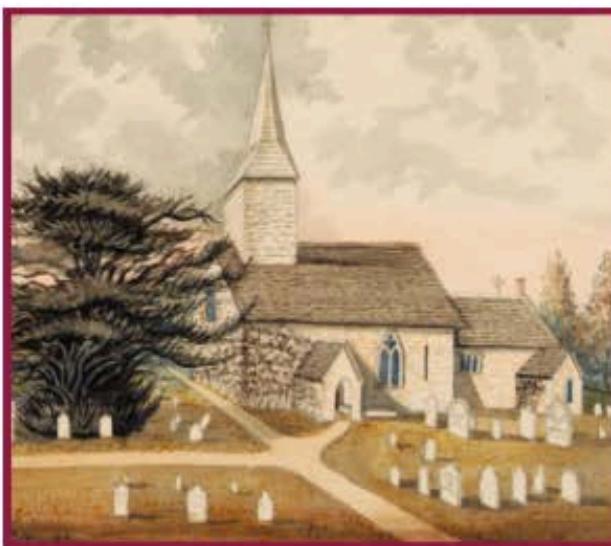
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OUR WORKING LIVES



During the IRA bombing campaign, officers like myself were ordered to the West End of London to stand at a junction of a street, in a high visibility jacket, thereby dissuading the IRA from blowing up that particular corner.

On one such operation, during the briefing, the local inspector told us that he would be doing the rounds and that any officer not at his pointx would be disciplined.

I took up my post at the corner of Parliament Square, on the adjacent corner was an 'old sweat', (which is a term used for an officer with considerable service), called Steve. I duly took up my position trying to spot any Republicans surreptitiously trying to plant bombs in my vicinity.

'DAVE!', someone suddenly shouted. I looked up, and on the top of one of those open-top tourist buses, with his helmet on was Steve. I looked on open-mouthed as he waved to me as the bus drove off towards Buckingham Palace. I was panicking about what to say if the guvnor came round. About an hour later the bus pulled up and Steve alighted. 'See you John' he shouted to the driver.

'Yes, take care Steve', he replied.

I walked over and joined him on his corner, 'Bloody hell Steve, you took a chance'; at this point the guvnor walked around the corner and shouted, 'PC Ross, what did I tell you about leaving your post?!'

'I tried to tell him guvnor,' said Steve.

Steve and I became friends and we got partnered up quite a bit. I had to keep a record of work book, detailing all the incidents and arrests I dealt with in my first 2 years as a police officer. We had been joined by a Sergeant from Hornsey, who became my reporting Sergeant. Due to us both being keen, Steve and I were posted together. Now this Sergeant had a bee in his bonnet about illegal immigrants, he arrested them by the dozen in Hornsey, but in Loughton there weren't many to be found. He once arrested a petrol attendant on night duty and closed the petrol station. As this was the only petrol station open 24 hrs, we had to take the cars back into the station before the end of our night shifts, to avoid running out of fuel.

He had posted us to the van, which in those days were Sherpa vans, with benches in the back. One evening, we attended a domestic call where the drunken boyfriend was trying to gain access to his ex-girlfriend's house. On our arrival, he was banging on the door and swearing up at the window, I tried to calm him down but he was having none of it. I tried to restrain him, but a full-on fight ensued. We were trying to pull him to the van, but he was punching out and trying to wrestle out of our grip. When we finally managed to get him in the back, Steve drove us back at speed.

At the station we pulled him out of the van by his arms, to stop him punching us and dragged him along the floor into the custody office, where the custody sergeant calmly asked from behind his desk:

‘What have you arrested this man for P.C. Ross?’

“Drunk and disorderly sarge”, was my breathless reply, still struggling with the man.

‘How many legs did he have when you arrested him P.C. Ross?’

‘Two sarge’.

“Can you tell me where his other leg has gone?”

I looked down and saw one of his trousers legs flapping, with obviously nothing underneath.

‘You b****d, you pulled my leg off in the van!’, shouted the suspect.

My mind raced, I'm sure I would have noticed. I was despatched to the van and underneath the bench was stuck, the gentleman's false leg. I retrieved it and brought it back into the custody office. The guy made a grab for it, but the sergeant told me to bag it as evidence, so we had this guy hopping around in custody, while I was trying to prevent him from grabbing his own leg. I did laugh though when he was being asked questions, one of which was,

“How tall are you?”

‘With or without my bloody leg?!’ he replied.

Mind how you go.

LENT & EASTER 2026

Shrove Tuesday 17th February

Pancakes & Prayers in The_Space

Ash Wednesday 18th February at St Mary's

11am & 8pm Holy Communion services with ashing

Lent Community Lunches all Wednesdays in Lent

12noon in The_Space

Palm Sunday 29th March at St Mary's & St Peter's

8am, 9.30am, 11am, 4.30pm & 6.30pm services

Holy Week Prayers at St Peter's

7pm - Mon 30th March, Tues 31st March, Wed 1st

Maundy Thursday 2 April

7pm Christian Passover Meal in The_Space with communion

8.30pm Stripping of the Altars in St Mary's

Good Friday 3rd April

10am - 11.30am Craft Morning for all in OCH

9.30am - 11.30am The Meeting Place in The_Space

12noon Seven Words on the Cross at St Peter's

12noon Walk of Witness (Council offices to the war memorial)

2pm An Hour at the Cross at St Mary's

Easter Sunday 20th April

6.15am Sunrise Service in St Mary's Churchyard

followed by breakfast in The_Space

8am Holy Communion at St Mary's

8am Holy Communion at St Peter's

9.30am Family Communion at St Mary's followed by
Easter Egg hunt

11am Family Communion at St Peter's followed by
Easter Egg hunt

6.30pm Holy Communion at St Peter's



St Mary's Oxted & St Peter's Tandridge

DIRECTORY **USEFUL NAMES AND NUMBERS**

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Chair, Board of Governors - Annette Schmidt - 07397 978 566

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Bookings secretary - Jules Iliffe - 07909 547 385

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Chair - Ivor Stamp - 01342 892 282

Clerk to the parish council - Clare Kennedy - 01342 604 338

tandridgepc@hotmail.co.uk

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cameron.mcintosh@surreycc.gov.uk

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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

safeguardingstpetertandridge@gmail.com

WEBSITE - www.stpetertandridge.uk

FACEBOOK - St Peter's Church Tandridge

DEAR READERS, PLEASE NOTE:

IF WE DON'T COVER THE COSTS OF PRINTING ETC, THIS MAGAZINE WILL FOLD.

SO, PLEASE MAKE A DONATION.

£2.50 SUGGESTED.

**SIMPLY POINT THE CAMERA ON YOUR PHONE AT THIS CODE,
TAP THE LINK THAT COMES UP AND MAKE A DONATION.**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

**WE CAN ALSO ACCEPT CASH/CHEQUES.
PLEASE CONTACT ANNETTE SCHMIDT.**



Charity Dog Walks at The Haycutter



2026 dates

Saturday 7th February

Saturday 21st March

Saturday 25th April

Saturday 16th May

Saturday 20th June



Meet at 9:30am for
breakfast at the pub

Set off at 10:30am



www.haycutter.co.uk

