
ST PETER'S CHURCH & TANDRIDGE VILLAGE PARISH MAGAZINE



*The Adoration of the Shepherds, about 1640,
Guido Reni, The National Gallery.*

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD. JAMES ASHTON:



We have reached that time of the year, where our shops begin to be adorned with Christmas colours and decorations; our minds turn to making plans for the festive season – we wonder what it will bring this year. Perhaps Christmas will bring something new for us? I trust the season is full of joy for each one of us.

Advent is the season prior to Christmas, and helps us prepare for the season. This year we will be marking Advent Sunday with our Christingle service – do come along, if you have never experienced it! Using an orange, some sweet treats, a red ribbon, and a candle, we recall the theme of Jesus bringing light into the world. As we hear in one of our Christmas readings in Isaiah

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone"

Where does Jesus shine his light for us? Perhaps we prefer to stay in the dark sometimes, but when things come into the light, we can find hope, comfort and knowledge that Jesus is with us.

Why not join us at one of our Christmas celebrations this year? The community carol-singing on Thursday 17th is always great fun, or one of the services much closer to Christmas can fill us with that sense of joy, as we celebrate our Saviour's birth.

Happy Christmas to everyone!

James A

FARMING NEWS

By John Nicholas



Adeline feeding the calves

Ho hum, off we go again.

With Autumn planting of wheat, barley, oats and beans completed, mostly in good conditions, you might be excused for thinking that's it 'till spring. But the arrival of 51 young calves, still being milk fed and not too experienced with the ways of the world soon changes any idea that we might be sleeping in.



Daughter Sally, ably assisted by her husband Bruce and granddaughter Adeline endeavour to keep the newcomers fed. During their first 40 days on farm they will drink more than 12,000 litres of milk! They are also given fresh water, hay, and rolled barley and bedded down with straw in a manner that ensures they get the best start possible.

We try to feed as much home grown food as possible, to keep costs of bought in feeds to a minimum and apart from milk powder, minerals, and some protein feed we try to be self sufficient.



In the spring, the weaned calves will be turned out to grass which walkers local to Tandridge will meet along our footpaths. A visit to a neighbour farm to meet up with our incumbent MP, Claire Coutinho, gave a chance for those in attendance to 'air their views 'on various subjects, from fly tipping, illegal settlements, Gatwick 2nd runway, tax on small business, local abattoirs, Godstone pothole and National Insurance costs.

I'm not sure how much is achieved by these meetings, but better, maybe, than staying silent?

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SURREY CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST - RIDE AND STRIDE

By Lynne Lloyd



Following on from my successful “stride” last year in aid of the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust, I decided to take part again this year. I started off at 9am from St Peter’s and St Paul’s Church in Lingfield where it was beginning to rain quite heavily. This unfortunately continued as we made our way across the fields to St George’s at Crowhurst followed by St John’s at Hurst Green.

I was fortunate to have my son accompanying me on this part of the walk, and it certainly helped to keep me going through the mud and rain! After a brief stop at St John’s, by which time the rain had stopped, I made my way to Tandridge and St Peter’s where of course I was given a warm welcome!



I then walked to St Mary's in Oxted, followed by All Saints and the URC Church. It was then across the fields to finish at St Peter's Church at Limpsfield at 3.30pm where I was quite impressed to see that I had walked 12.2 miles [28,881 steps!]. I had also achieved my goal of starting and ending with a St Peter's named Church plus one in the middle. The hardest part of the day was then having to walk home to Oxted!

Due to the generosity of our congregations I raised £745.20. Half of this amount goes to the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust and the other half to our own St Peter's Church. I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me and especially to Ava who is one of the children who attends our 11am service. She very kindly gave me a coin out of her own money and completely of her own volition. It meant so much to me and I actually took the coin with me on the walk to give me encouragement.

Will I "stride" again next year? Watch this space!

Lynne Lloyd



SCHOOL NEWS

By Lenia Greenaway



St Peter's School has enjoyed a wonderfully vibrant and heartwarming start to the autumn term, with a variety of events and initiatives that truly showcase the school's commitment to community, kindness, and learning.

The school's Harvest Festival held at St Peter's Church and led by Reverend Ashton was a very special occasion, where the children sang beautifully and expressed their thanks for our local farmers. The celebration was made even more meaningful by a prior visit to Strawson's field, where the children enjoyed a hands-on experience thanks to Alastair, Claire, and Zoe, who brought along tractors and produce for the children to see. This fantastic experience helped deepen their understanding of where our food comes from and the importance of the harvest. (This was later experienced by our Year 2 children when they visited Bigwood Estate and delighted in picking and eating apples straight from the apple orchards or feeding the apples to the delightful pigs. They absolutely loved it!)



The Faith Group also contributed beautifully to the festivities by creating natural-material crosses, which were displayed at church, blending creativity with spiritual reflection.

The generosity of our school community was truly fantastic. Donations from our families along with those collected from Tandridge pre-school and the church community were enough to fill a wheelbarrow and will go towards supporting Caterham Food Bank and Renewed Hope Trust as well as members of the local community.

In celebration of World Mental Health Day, the school launched an inspiring whole-school immersive arts project titled the "River of Kindness." Each class contributed their own creative elements—from origami prayer boats to riverside nests—symbolising compassion and unity. This beautiful project will continue to inspire future activities, including the upcoming Book Week, which will centre around the important theme of kindness.

The children also participated in the 'Great Big Assembly Live', as part of Black History Month where they learned about influential black figures and the importance of equality and pride. The school remains committed to embedding diverse voices throughout its curriculum year-round.



The Dragonfly Class had a very exciting and educational experience, bringing history to life when they re-created and burned model houses from 1666 to understand the Great Fire of London. This exciting activity helped the children to really grasp the historical context and understand how rapidly fire spread during that era. An experience they will always remember!

New House Captains, School Councillors, and members of the Faith Group, Eco Council, and Anti-Bullying Team have all been elected, giving our children wonderful opportunities to lead and serve our school community. The Eco Council, for example, met to discuss important environmental initiatives. The team enthusiastically shared ideas on recycling, composting, and reducing food waste. The Anti-Bullying team also led a Collective Worship for the school looking at kindness and how we can show this in the playground.

We continue to promote this term's Christian values of 'Love, Friendship, and Thankfulness', encouraging the children to embody these principles in their daily lives.

Our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning was a tremendous success, raising an impressive £219.40. This wonderful achievement reinforces the generosity and community spirit of everyone at St Peter's. We may be a small school, but we are a very generous and committed one!

Exciting events are on the horizon (without mentioning the wealth of activities that will present themselves as we head towards Christmas), including the 'Link to Hope' Shoebox Appeal, and the much-loved "Bring Your Grandparents to School" day during our own Book Week. What a wonderful start to the term!

Lenia Greenaway - Headteacher

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GARDENING NEWS

Hyacinths for Christmas

By Doug Knight

Potted hyacinths ready to bloom were a rarity when I first started working at the garden centre as a young boy, and if you wanted these deliciously fragrant flowers for the festive season you had to plan well ahead and plant prepared bulbs in September. Few of us bother with these now because hyacinths, in bud, are so easy to buy in December.

The great thing about hyacinths is that they are lovely in the house when in bloom, yet can be planted in the garden afterwards and will bring colour to the garden for many years afterwards. It is often said that prepared hyacinths are 'spent' after they have bloomed, but this is not true, if you treat them reasonably. So, hyacinths will bring pleasure for years to come and I would not be without a pot of hyacinths in the house over Christmas.



A few basics:

Hyacinths are hardy bulbs. In the garden they like a sunny spot and will live for many years but if planted in shade they tend to fade away.

When you buy your hyacinths, they will be in ornamental pots which may not have drainage. This is not a problem because the roots will survive standing in water for short periods. But the water level must not come above the base of the bulb. This is why we can grow hyacinths and other bulbs in 'hyacinth glasses' with their roots constantly in water. Do not allow them to dry out because this will cause the flowers to die quickly.

Hyacinths are hardy so will prefer cool rooms indoors. The flowers should last two weeks if they are in a cool room. In a hot, stuffy room they will not last very long and while hyacinths smell delightful, they can smell less pleasant in a hot room and when 'going over'.

As the flowers fade you can plant them straight out in the garden. Ideally, strip the flowers off the flower stem. Otherwise cut off the flower stem. Dig a hole in the border and plant them, as they are, in a clump of three or more. The bulbs will have been planted with the tops above the compost in the pot but when replanting, put them so the bulb is 10cm deep. They will look a bit odd until they die down but this will ensure a good, repeat performance next year.





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EXCITING NEWS FROM THE BIGWOOD ESTATE

By Kate Bigwood



Last time I wrote an article for the last edition of this magazine we had been selected as finalists for the Sustainability Award at the Tandridge Business Awards. I am even more excited to update this time that we WON!!! It was a great evening hosted by Tandridge Business Support and it was very exciting to be selected as winners. It has given us an opportunity to let more people know about what we are doing across the estate.

As a result of repeatedly being asked to share what we are doing and why we are doing it, we are now active on YouTube as well as the Instagram and Facebook (@thebigwoodestate) and there is the regular blog on our website (www.bigwoodestate.co.uk) for those who want to follow the journey in a bit more detail.

The biggest take-home message that I am keen to share is what we can all do if we work collectively to improve nature connectivity. Not everyone can plant a hedgerow or a tree nor can everyone create a pond or wetland, although if you do have the space for that, then great, but many people can leave longer grass, or have a dead-hedge instead of a fence. Or add a bird box, bat box, bug hotel or perhaps a log pile, stone pile or simply leave an area un-mown for part of the summer, deliberately so that pollinators have more to feed on, then the seeds created afterwards will feed birds. Or perhaps allow more dead stems to remain over winter as many insects use them to survive, and they look beautiful in the frost! Each small act, collectively, makes a massive difference and will allow more species to find more food sources and breeding sites across Tandridge and beyond, assisting in their survival.



For too long we have considered ourselves as individuals and what we need to do is realise we are in fact part of a connected community. Together we can create the necessary mosaic of habitat that we all need to thrive. If each individual only makes a small change, one that works well for them, but collectively we will all make slightly different adjustments (cont'd)

depending on what time we have available or the space we have got, then together, we can create the complex mosaic that is so rich and necessary for biodiversity. This can start a collective shift towards collaborating with our neighbours; other gardens, other farmers and landowners, as well as community spaces, schools, churchyards, roadside verges and railway lines.

If we all work together, we can give this very beautiful part of Surrey a more sustainable future, and most importantly, we will leave it in a better state for those generations who are to follow, both human and non-human.

Kate and the team



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MEMORY LANE PART VI

THE BODIES IN THE VESTRY, REVISTED

By Louise Jones

Gerry Walkden, celebrated his 100th birthday this year. For many years, Gerry has been a significant figure, not only in the village, but also at St. Peter's Church, where his valuable work was, and still is, much appreciated. He very kindly invited Annette and me to chat to him about a very small part of his considerable knowledge of the history of the church, the village and it's people.



Gerry standing beside an immaculate churchyard.

Gerry lived at Tandridge Court for 30 years and for 12 of those he served as the Chairman of the Parish Council. He was also responsible for the maintenance of St. Peter's Church and it's grounds. Since Gerry's retirement, he has spent a considerable amount of time researching and accurately recording the history of the building, its benefactors, clergy and the yew tree. The current booklet - The History of St. Peter's Church, was mainly written by Gerry Walkden, as was the booklet, The Parish Of Tandridge.

At various points during his time at the church and his compilation of it's history, it was found that various members of the congregation were in possession of important, historical papers, which subsequently found their way to Gerry. Typically, as Gerry remembers, these documents were reputedly 'stored' on top of the wardrobe. For instance, Mrs Pearson (who was related to the Hampden Turner family), had been the Clerk to the Parish Council for many years. *(Continued)..*

When Mrs Pearson decided to stand down, she passed on many documents, some of which were found to be of great significance. Discovered amongst her papers were the original set of Hassell paintings and engravings of Surrey's historical churches and buildings. These illustrations, now in the Caterham Museum, were created by the artists John and Edward Hassell, between 1820 and 1833 and provide a unique, detailed, visual record of the county during that period.



Hassell Watercolours 1821

Tandridge Hall, seat of
Joseph Wilks Esq.

Tandridge Court House, seat
of Matthias Wilks Esq.



Rooks Nest, seat of
Charles Hampden
Turner



In 1992, the Farrell family handed a set of papers to Gerry. They were associated with the church and the Farrell family's long association with it, which mostly related to the church's fabric. Interestingly, they included the diocesan architect's suggestions of 1932 which were that the whole of the interior of the church should be painted white, (which would have included painting over the mural above the chancel arch and the decorated rafters in the chancel).

They also suggested removing some of the stained glass windows and replacing them with clear glass. Happily the building work of 1936 excluded both these proposals, but it also led to some surprising discoveries.

In 1936, the exterior walls of the chancel were, in part, repaired and underpinned and 14 years after Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings, St. Peter's was about to uncover its own secrets. Gerry recounted to Annette and me who was buried there.

The first vault was an open chamber, discovered under the chancel, abutting the East face of the East wall, accessible by a flight of brick steps, leading to the vault of Colonel George Clerk Esq and his wife Mary, of Rooks Nest. For some years, (prior to 1936), their coffin plates had been fixed to the tower supports in the turret. When the building work was completed in 1936, the opening to this vault was filled with concrete.

Colonel George Clerk resided at Rooks Nest from 1781-1788.

The second tomb discovered in 1936 was found under the vestry and it belonged to the Wilks family. The vault could be entered by steps leading down from where the organ console now stands in the chancel. The tomb was a large limestone slab and read:

"Sacred to the memory of Robert Wilks Esqr. son of Matthias Wilks Esqr. who departed this life on the 29th day of April 1829 late of Tandridge Court aged 43 years, also of Mary beloved wife of Matthias Wilks Esqr. who departed this life on the 19th day of April 1838 late of Easton Neston Park Northamptonshire aged 73 years also of Matthias Wilks died June 8th 1841 aged 80 years."

In 1811 Matthias Wilks built Tandridge Court in it's current elevated position. Previously it had been sited somewhere around where the Clock House buildings currently stand. He also purchased Rooks Nest in 1810 from Sir Henry Strachey and lived in this house whilst the work on Tandridge Court took place. In 1817 he sold Rooks Nest to Mr. Charles Hampden Turner.

While Matthias worked on Tandridge Court, his son Joseph undertook a substantial redesign and extension to Tandridge Hall, transforming it into a stuccoed Georgian property, similar to Southlands, (which he also owned.)

Martin Lloyd contributed the following: " I worked very closely with Gerry in my earlier years at St. Peter's Church. As the years passed, Gerry would ask me to carry weighty items up onto the roof valleys or climb a ladder to repair a patch of the leaking header tank, and we would rod the rainwater drains together.

In 2007, Gerry orchestrated the entire interior redecoration of St. Peter's, gathering much needed help from the menfolk in the village. He would apply for faculties from the diocese and it is from Gerry that I would learn the process. Since Gerry has stood down and when I have been Churchwarden, I have used his knowledge to drive forward more projects which, without Gerry's wise words, I would have found more difficult to complete."

Thank you Gerry for revealing the "bodies in the vestry" which has led to a very interesting journey of discovery into the Wilks and Colonel George Clerk Family. Later in this issue, I have written more of what I have learned about these 2 families.

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS



BAPTISMS AT ST. PETER'S

September 13th Abigail South.

September 14th Luca Grima.

October 5th Finley & Freya Nimmo.

**Above: Freya Nimmo being baptised
by the Reverend Judith Brooks.**

FUNERAL AT ST. PETER'S, TANDRIDGE

August 15th. Joan Coulson.

Joan's family lived in Cairo, Egypt, before WW2, then settled in Oxted. Her father was in the RAF.

In 1948 Joan gained a degree in Domestic Science at King's College London and In 1950 she married Andrew Coulson, also from Oxted. They had three children, Tim, Clare (who died in 1986) and Juliet. In 1961 they moved to Limpsfield Court, a gracious house behind high walls in Ice House Wood. The house and garden show Joan's love of flowers and elegant thinking in design and decoration. She was also admired for her cooking and her playing of tennis, golf and bridge, indeed she watched some of this year's Wimbledon on TV.



Andrew Coulson's mother, Frances Coulson, was an Oxted School Governor and Council member. She also worshipped at St Peter's Church in Tandridge. Frances and her husband Claude were buried there, as was Joan and Andrew's daughter Clare.

Joan's funeral was on a grey day in August. Joan's family, of all ages, gathered for the burial at Andrew's grave. (Andrew passed away in 1993.)

By Sue Mallinson.

INTERMENT & SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

22nd October. Ethelwyn Ada Dixon

On 19th September, Ethelwyn's ashes were interred with those of her husband.

There was a service of thanksgiving on 22nd October. Ethelwyn's son Tony wrote, "Ethelwyn had a deep and personal Christian faith, influenced by her Quaker roots. The vocabulary of the 1662 Book of Common prayer was no barrier for her, so it was not surprising when the family gravitated from St. John's to St. Peter's, soon after the introduction of the Alternative Service Book (1980s).

She faithfully served the church, well past Dennis Lane's retirement in 1992, and to our surprise, because we rarely heard her speak in public, led services herself when clergy were not available.

It was a sad moment when she realised she could no longer attend Sunday Services at St. Peter's, but nevertheless she enjoyed the services at David Gresham House.

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MY TORTOISE BY WINNIE WESTOBY-LLOYD, AGE 8.

"HERO.....OR HOUDINI?"



My pet Hero is not a cat, dog or bunny. She is a tortoise. And a very cheeky one.

She has escaped 4 times! Would you like to know how? OK good, let me tell you. She had found a dislodged post in her pen, and managed to dig it out and tunnel under the fence.

Because Hero keeps escaping, she currently has an Airtag glued to her shell so that we can track her.

After her last escape my Mother has surrounded her outside pen with two bricks and other garden items from the garden, including the fire pit, to stop her from escaping again!

Hero is a Greek tortoise and 5 years old. It won't be long before she hibernates for the winter.



Hero meeting an old friend



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COLONEL GEORGE CLERK AND MATTHIAS WILKS, IN TANDRIDGE & BEYOND.

After speaking to Gerry Walkden and reading the parish magazine article he wrote in 1993, entitled “The Bodies in the Vestry”, I was intrigued and keen to attempt to discover more about these individuals. The Surrey Archive, the internet and various ancestry websites have helped in providing the following information.

As written earlier, (page 27), the tomb of Colonel George Clerk was discovered underneath the chancel in 1936. He resided at Rooks Nest from 1781-1788. He was one of 35 families who were responsible for the upkeep of the fencing surrounding St. Peter's. Colonel Clerk was responsible for 25 ft. of it.

Others responsible were:

Sir Robert Clayton, Tandridge Court,
who maintained 280 ft.

William Steer, Tandridge Hall - 20 ft.

Robert Palmer, Southlands - 14 ft.

Benjamin Hollamby, Priory - 85ft.

Robert Clayton, Brook House - 10ft.

*Sir Robert Clayton
bt. 3rd Baronet of
Marden Park,
Surrey*



Colonel George Clerk is primarily known for a series of letters he wrote to the eminent Scottish physician Dr. William Cullen, in which he detailed his various chronic health complaints. By the time of his death in 1790, William Cullen had long been recognised throughout Britain, Europe and the Americas as the most influential physician of his generation. (James Boswell corresponded with him regarding the health of Dr. Johnson.)

The correspondence between George Clerk and Dr. Cullen dating from the 1780s indicates Colonel Clerk suffered from issues such as “chronic costiveness” (constipation), “breathlessness”, a perpetual fever”, “emaciation” and “stomach complaints”. His letters to the doctor are rich in detail (*sometimes a little too rich!*) and provide his physician with an hour by hour description of his health, his intake of medicines, draughts and remedies, (salt of wormwood being one), in addition to the exact times he bathed.

Dr. William Cullen.
1776.

“He was president of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (1746–47), president of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (1773–1775) and first physician to the King in Scotland (1773–1790).



The letters have been transcribed and are available to read on The website - <https://cullenproject.ac.uk/>

The following is an extract from a letter from Colonel Clerk to Dr. Cullen dated 17th November, 1784:

Tho' I eat and drink sometime it hurts me greatly and dwells heavy on my mind. I at the same time when the weather permits can take exercise & can even trot on horseback but can find nothing that will carry off the oppression in my bowels, it is entirely flatulence. I mention also an extraordinary symptom, a constant itching on the outside of my nose & upper lip & chin specially in the mornings.

Do you approve of my taking a little Rhubarb before dinner which I often do? What wine do you recommend in cold weather?

Is acids good, such as oranges, jelly of currants, or any of that tribe? White or brown bread, toasted, or plain best? I don't know if you are acquainted with my age. I am in my 53rd year. My breakfast, I can't get off the habit of tea, with sometimes dry toast - butter I like more than any thing, but dare not indulge in it. Honey I eat a good of. My dinner, a little meat – fowls or fish with French red & white wines, in general – but very little of any. Were I to be put upon a regimen by you I should keep to it.

I never sleep above 3 hours and that unsound, it is astonishing how I exist. At the same, a stranger seeing me sitting or hearing me speak often would think nothing was the matter with me.

In my young days, I was all over dry and scaly - scurvy, but it has totally disappeared these 10 or 12 years – I had one severe fit of the gout – at the age of 18 years, but never since. For the care of myself, next winter, where is it best for me to spend it.? I am still very susceptible of cold, indeed having so little on my bones makes me so. I beg to have your opinion of my state in a particular manner – whether good or bad. I am now not to be affected much about my fate. I perhaps have lived long enough. I should be happy, was it possible, I could have the pleasure of seeing you at my place here. It is a dry situation and every way adapted for ease and tranquillity – much retired, altho' only 20 miles from London. I really think the most of my disorders proceed after the costiveness (constipation) from some great affection in the second digestion.

I beg pardon a thousand times for this long detail - of so shattered fabric. I hope you will excuse it and be pleased to answer it at your leisure.

I am with esteem – very truly

Sir your most obedient & most humble servant,

George Clerk,
Rooks Nest,
Godstone,
Surry,
11th. August 1783.

Col Clarke

Your letter was placed before me on 1. I have your manuscript now than ten days ago but for some circumstances or my present occupations and particularly some illness which has prevented my writing to you as soon as I wished.

I am concerned to find your feelings are very delicate and I am well persuaded that the Air and Violence of India is one of the fatal medicines, when one is frequently to be employed that I can think of but as you give me reason to suspect that the weakness of the nature has somewhat of your feelings I think you must take a little of your own medicine and I am particularly filled to write the nature of the matter but I would not have you take the medicine but for common rather is an ally to the Air. Please take notice also that the

can you yourself next winter and best for me to spend it in some of cold and having very little to do in the house - I try to have a good of my situation in a particular one good or bad. I am now not to be about my fate. I perhaps have a small but happy was it the possible pleasure of seeing you at my a dry situation and every way and to my quietness much better as much from London rather as the climate presents me from the Native place. I really think disorders proceed after the first of some great affection in the second degree of sea or anything else I am open disapproval of I am ready to give them up - is it worth it that occasional the affection in my stomach by breathing upon walking with the lightness and oppression. I beg pardon a thousand times for this long detail of so shattered fabric I hope you will excuse it and be pleased to answer it at your leisure my Brother will repeat them unless answer to him. I am with esteem very truly

Rooks Nest
Godstone
Surry
11th August 1783

Sir
Your most obedt. & most
humble servant
George Clerk

Dr. Cullen

Letters between Dr. Cullen and Colonel George Clerk.

The good doctor wrote a 13 page response/regime covering all manner of topics - diet, exercise, medication, clothing, climate etc. Here are excerpts from his letter to the Colonel:

“A light kind of food it you can like it is well boiled tripe. You must absolutely avoid pork, bacon, goose, duck or any water fowl. Young partridge you may take of and sometimes a little pidgeon. Fish will probably go down with you as easily as anything but a choice is necessary. The heavier kinds as salmon, herring, turbot and even cod you should avoid, but the lighter kinds as codling, haddock, whiting or flounder you may take pretty freely.

I think it very proper for you to take two to three glasses of wine every day at Dinner and even two at Supper time if you don't find it heats you. The wine that I would prefer are some of the strongest as madeira, sherry or port. Claret, French white wine, hock or rhenish I hold to be unsafe.

I would have you to be in the open air and in gentle exercise as the weather and your strength will allow.

You should always be warmly clothed. I think your flannel should be next your skin with as many waistcoats above it as you please and at the same time furred gloves on your hands will be of service. I must here give you my opinion fairly that a British climate will be very dangerous for you in Winter and if you can do it with ease and please I would advise you to pass the winter somewhere very near to the coast of the Mediterranean, for even the inland places of France are not sufficiently secure.”

The second tomb discovered in 1936, was found under the vestry at St. Peter's and belonged to the Wilks family. As written earlier (page 28), in 1811 Matthias Wilks built Tandridge Court in it's current elevated position.

Whilst working on Tandridge Court, his son Joseph undertook a substantial redesign and extension to Tandridge Hall.

The Wilks family originally came from Ireland and immigrated to Essex, before Matthias moved with his family to Tandridge.



Reference to *TANRIDGE COURT*

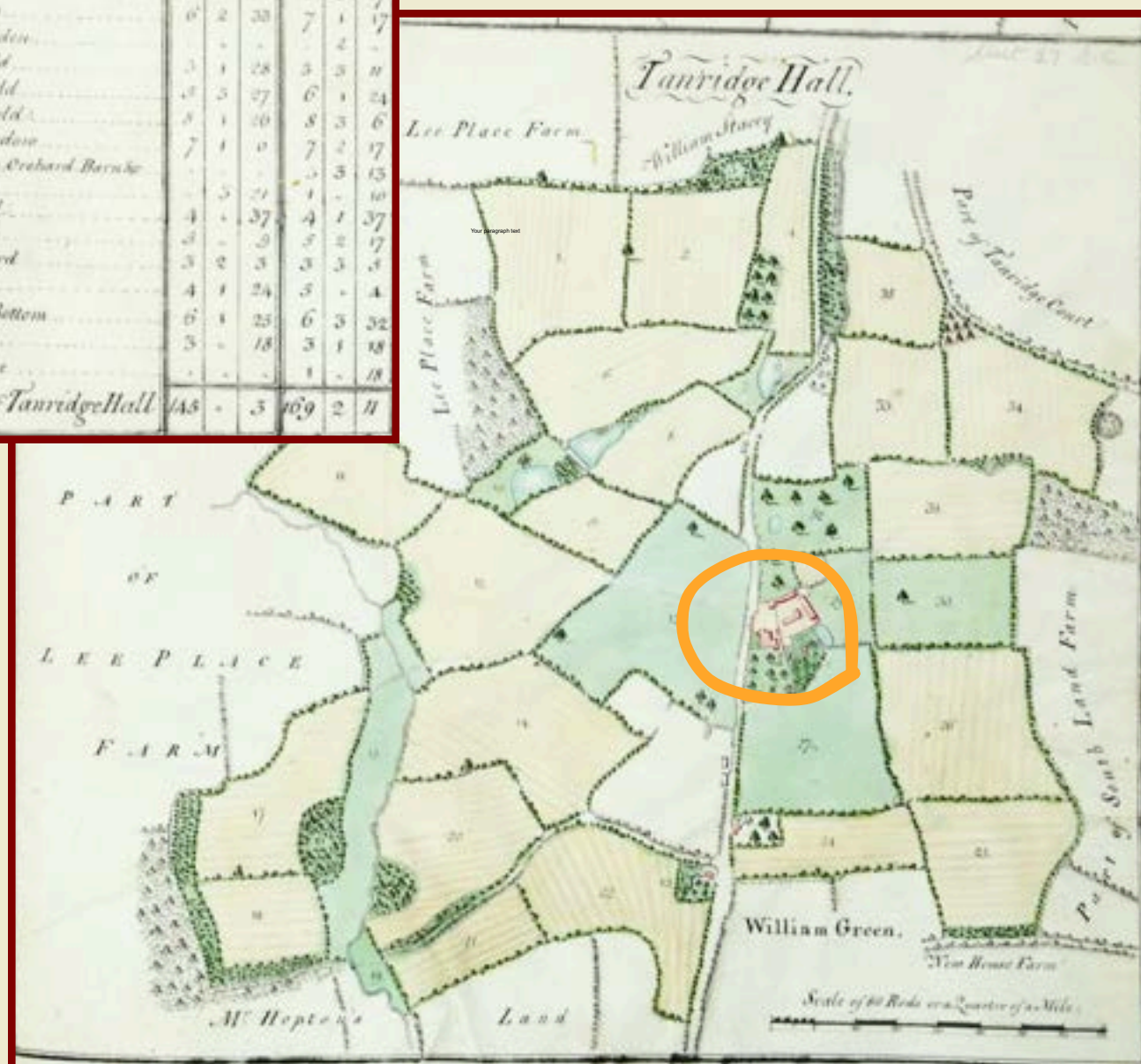
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N ^o	Names of the Fields &c	Content in Statute Measures					
		Arable			Outmost		
		A	R	P	A	R	P
1	The Two Acres	2	.	2	2	1	10
2	The Swamp .....	.	.	.	.	1	16
3	The Three Acres	3	1	2	3	2	13
4	The Four Acres	3	3	37	4	.	39
5	Lady's Hole	3	2	19	4	1	9
6	The Four Acres	4	.	43	4	1	31
7	Sweet's Grove	3	.	37	3	2	.
8	The Acre Piece	1	1	20	2	.	12
9	Church Field	6	2	13	7	.	2
10	Great Horse Hill	8	2	33	9	.	34
11	Little Horse Hill	3	1	20	3	3	36
12	Upper Birch Field	4	2	28	3	1	23
13	Lower Birch Field	6	.	.	6	1	12
14	Furze Bottom Field	6	1	11	10	1	23
15	The House Garden, Orchard, Barn &c .....	.	.	.	2	.	26
16	Bottom Field	4	2	22	3	.	29
17	Hop Garden .....	.	1	23	1	2	5
18	Lane .....	.	.	.	1	.	10
19	The Walk	2	3	8	3	1	11
20	The Mount	3	3	32	4	.	19
21	The Plisher	8	3	17	9	.	38
22	Spring Lane .....	.	.	.	1	1	20
Total of Tanridge Court		79	3	21	96	.	20

1761. The original position of Tandrige Court, showing it at the end of The Walk. (Ringed in red). In 1811 Matthias Wilks left the old Court House still standing (which then became occupied by labourers) and built a new house in the current elevated position.

In restoring Rooks Nest, some of the ancient oak beams of the old Court House were used.

TANRIDGE HALL							
1	Great Sand Field	6	3	26	7	2	18
2	Little Sand Field	3	2	34	6	1	-
3	Sand Field Shaw	-	-	-	-	3	13
4	Crabland Orchard	3	-	18	3	1	6
5	Orchard	-	-	-	-	3	14
6	Great Damsen Bosc	6	1	20	6	2	32
7	Little Damsen Bosc	-	2	27	1	-	33
8	Pump Field	3	2	27	4	1	33
9	Barn Field	2	3	32	3	-	9
10	Pond Plat	1	-	10	1	3	7
11	Little Downlands	4	1	20	4	3	20
12	Great Downlands	7	1	20	8	2	24
13	Wicket Meadow	10	-	20	10	-	20
14	Harts Meadow	8	3	25	9	1	30
15	Long Meadow	3	1	-	3	2	2
16	Mill Field Shaw	-	-	-	1	-	3
17	Great Mill Field	6	-	3	7	-	3
18	Little Mill Field	2	3	21	4	2	8
19	Rushy Plat	-	-	-	-	2	20
20	Brown Field	7	-	3	8	-	10
21	Little Bakers	3	-	24	3	3	7
22	Great Bakers	6	2	30	7	1	17
23	Cottage & Garden	-	-	-	-	2	-
24	Mantles Field	3	1	28	3	3	11
25	Little Old Field	3	3	27	6	1	24
26	Great Old Field	8	1	20	8	3	6
27	Kitchen Meadow	7	1	0	7	2	17
28	House Garden Orchard Barns	-	-	-	-	3	13
29	Hay Croft	-	3	21	1	-	10
30	Old Orchard	4	-	37	4	1	37
31	Foggs Field	3	-	9	3	2	17
32	Shade Orchard	3	2	3	3	3	3
33	Griggs Field	4	1	24	3	-	4
34	Moulbury Bottom	6	1	25	6	3	32
35	Coney Hole	3	-	18	3	1	18
36	An Old Lane	-	-	-	1	-	18
Total of Tanridge Hall				145	-	3	169
						2	11



1761. Tandrige Hall. Note: the road from the cage to the church passed directly in front of Tandrige Hall.

Matthias himself, owned a variety of mills, including those manufacturing gunpowder. In 1796 he spent £80,000 (£14,500,000 today) building the Phoenix Mill at 3, Allhallow's Lane, Upper Thames St. Dartford, as a seed crushing and cake manufacturing plant. It processed corn, mustard and oil. In 1824 he added a forty horse engine worked by a powerful stream of water aided by the River Darent.



Work at the Wilks gunpowder mills could prove fatal. In 1833, three massive explosions occurred, destroying seven mills, killing four women, two men and a young boy. 15 minutes after the first explosion, a second explosion rang out and a third blow took place which was the most destructive. The whole town was thrown into a state of commotion and all business was suspended. The workhouse was evacuated and several thousand people assembled in the vicinity of the mills.

In 1834, 5 years after his son's death and burial at St. Peter's and a year after the explosions destroyed his gunpowder mills, Matthias sold the Tandridge Court estate to Sir William Weller Pepys, Bart, (from whom it passed to his descendants, the Cottenhams). Matthias and his wife Mary moved to Easton Neston, where in 1838 Mary passed away. Matthias died in 1841 They were both buried, with their son, under the vestry at St. Peter's, Tandridge.



Easton Neston, Northamptonshire

It may be of interest to read that Matthias's mother was the daughter of a refugee. His mother was Martha D'albiac, the daughter of Captain James D'albiac. James D'albiac was one of two brothers who survived the persecution of protestants in the South of France, becoming two of the 50,000 Huguenot refugees who found freedom to practice their religion in England. The story is that sometime after 1685, two small protestant D'albiac boys were smuggled into England hidden in a hamper. The two boys were brothers - Scipion and Jacques, whose names were subsequently anglicised to Simon and James. James lived at 20 Spital Square in a beautiful weavers house. He became a wealthy manufacturer of silk and velvet and a fine upstanding member of the community who took 80 of his workers to defend King George II against the (Catholic) Young Pretender, Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Their skills and industriousness allowed them to establish one of the most successful businesses in London's Spitalfields which became a new centre of the silk trade, effectively leading to the collapse of the once dominant French silk industry. Both sons, James and Charles followed their father and Uncle into the family business, successfully growing the family's fortune and each going on to own their own country estates.



20 Spital
Square, 1909



The James
D'albiac family
portrait,
depicting
James, his wife
Louise and their
five children,
including
Martha -
Matthias Wilks'
mother. Painted
1703-1747.

In the painting, Louise Dalbiac holds an orange, alluding to the family's faith and their loyalty to the protestant King William of Orange and their adopted country, England.

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AN ORDNAND'S DIARY

By Sam Baker

The last few months of ordination training have included learning about church doctrine, interfaith and sacraments. One of the highlights was my additional placement where I spent a couple of weeks exploring fresh expressions of church in Sutton. I visited their art for well-being group, the local hospital to meet the Chaplain and spent time in the church community cafe.

Leading a session in their art for wellbeing group was fun and moving as we reflected on God's provision as we painted a picture on canvas. I enjoyed the space that was given to conversation and testimony of how God has worked in people's lives.

Leading sessions, joining in and reflecting with others has given me a sense of where my gifts might fit and what excites me most in ministry. Another highlight was at the recent college residential where I got to try on some of the clergy attire for the first time, which was a moving moment as I continue the ordination journey.



Painting by
Sam Baker

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HARVEST SUPPER

The Harvest Supper was held in the village hall on 4th October. An excellent meal was enjoyed by nearly 70 people and the evening raised £670 for the Village Hall and Church fabric funds.

Thank you to Vanessa, Annette and their team.



The Bells of St. Peter's

BY ANNETTE SCHMIDT



Whitechapel Bell Foundry - Bells cast by Mears & Stainbank

Bells of St. Peter's

An inventory of the church made in 1549 by Sir William Smyth (Curate) there with John Tanner and William Chett (Churchwardens) recorded "in the stepyll iij belles and one hande bell" There are, however, now five bells in the belfry; the one that rings the hours is dated 1744, and other bells were made in 1777, 1808, and two in 1870 respectively. For many years, though, it has no longer been safe for the ancient wooden tower framework to have the bells pealed by swinging them with ropes, and they are now rung through the hammers and cords of a carillon arrangement under the Tower..

One can only speculate how the bells were hoisted into the tight confines of the tower in the 16th Century. According to the minutes of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) dated Dec 1970, it was noted from a report by the Surrey Bell Ringers "no peel of bells rung since 1912 due to structural problems." In February 1971, it was reported to the PCC that "the bells were considered to be wrongly installed - special architect reported that alteration would be too costly."



(left) Bell No.1 Largest in size and lowest in pitch. Wm Mears of London 1777



(above and below) Bell No. 4 and 5 by Mills & Stainbank Founders of London 1870



(right) Bell No.2 Used for clock striking. "Thomas Lester of London made me" 1744



(left) Bell No.3 Thomas Mears & Son London 1808



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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.stpeterstandridge@gmail.com

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

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HON TREASURER - Julie Taylor - 07980 605 634

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CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER - Mike Hodgson - 01883 723041

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