

Sonya Oldfield 1933 – 2025

For many years Sonya and John Oldfield, with their children Anina, Lucy, Gemma and Guy, lived at Gillwood. In her Harvest floral arrangement, Vanessa Ringer, who now lives there, commented that some of her foliage came from Sonya's original planting in the garden.

On 6th October around 50 friends and family attended a Thanksgiving Service at Tidebrook Church for Sonya's long life. She is remembered for her generosity, hospitality, energy and sense of fun. Two of her grandsons spoke of this.

The Bible reading was from Revelation 21:1-5. David Payne, who led the service, reflected on "these words are trustworthy and true". So, we turn from our questions and uncertainties to what we can know in the scriptures. It was lovely to see Jane and Michel Insley in the congregation. Sonya had been a great supporter and encourager to them while Michael served as vicar. The service ended with 'Moonlight Serenade' by Glen Miller – Sonya's favourite music. Donations in memory of Sonya were given in support of Tidebrook Church.

Betty Payne

Tidebrook Breakfast with Prayer

On the first Saturday of each month a small group meets for breakfast at 8.30am in the Parish Room. We follow breakfast with a brief Bible reading and a time of prayer, ending at 9.45am. We welcome all who may like to come and also welcome prayer requests on behalf anyone who may not be able to attend. The next date is 1st November.

Contact David Payne at davidpayne07@gmail.com or on 01892 783731

Services in November

2nd	10.00am	Family Service – Shoebox Sunday
9th	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday Service
16th	10.00am	Family Communion
23rd	10.00am	Morning Prayer
30th	10.30am	Three as One Service at Wadhurst Church (No service at Tidebrook)

7th December 10.00am Family Service

Beverley Boylan and David Barker, Churchwardens

Deadline for October: Thursday 13th November

Please contact Rosie Pearson with your news or other contributions for the next newsletter on 01892 784802 or email: rosie@hucksters.co.uk



TIDEBROOK NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Tidebrook Coffee Morning – October 30th

Kerry Mills has kindly offered to host this from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Kerry lives at Lakefield House, Riseden Road, Tidebrook TN5 6NY. She is looking forward to welcoming anyone who may be available.

Contact phone numbers : 01892 784240 or 07962 264807

Shoebox Sunday – 2nd November

At the Family Service on 2nd November we will be packing gifts into shoeboxes to send to families in Eastern Europe who would otherwise not receive presents at Christmas. Please bring empty shoeboxes and gifts as suggested in the leaflets placed in the church porch or download the leaflet with list of items for filling your shoeboxes at linktohope.co.uk It's important to check this list before you buy anything. Your shoebox will make a huge difference to someone's Christmas.

Details Beverly Boylan 01892 782332 sean.boylan@btopenworld.com

Remembrance Sunday Service – 9th November 10.45am

Join us for our annual act of Remembrance in Tidebrook Church

Carol Service – Sunday 21st December 10.00am

We do hope you can join us for this special celebration of Christmas. Clare Preece will direct the choir again and will lead the first practice in the church on Thursday 11th December 5.00-6.30pm, the second practice on Friday 19th at 5.00-6.30pm and a final session Sunday 21st December, from 9.00am (just before the service). All singers are most welcome!

Contact David Payne (01892 783731) for further details

Defibrillator and CPR Training: Saturday 15th November, Tidebrook Church

Leigh Westwood, Team Leader and Sarah Russell from Crowborough Community First Responders will provide training in the use of a Defibrillator and CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) in Tidebrook Church from 10.00am on Saturday 15th November. Training will take about 1.5 -2 hours and a tea/coffee break will be provided. They will also talk on the role of Community First Responders and how they support the community. All members of the community are invited to attend.

Please register at Carillon Cottage or by email to: whatsonintidebrook@gmail.com

Lucy Maud's Diary - a Tidebrook History 1886

November 14th

Charlie told a naughty story, because he did not come home but went straight back to Oxford. However we got Auntie to let us have Louey over here for a Sunday, which was a great success. We have been spending an awfully jolly week in London with Aunt Eliza. We went up for the Lord Mayor's Show which was a great failure, as it rained the whole time and the soldiers all had their waterproofs on. The Socialists arranged to have grand excitements on that day - however they did not come off. Perhaps because it rained they thought better of it. There were heaps of people staying the day at Kings College and we enjoyed ourselves awfully. I because there were heaps of kids to amuse. Pussy because she played the hostess trick she always does when she is staying with Aunt Eliza in town. There was a funny old gentleman there. I was playing post in the big empty room upstairs when this old gentleman came in and told me he was my grandfather. I didn't quite see how I could have more than two, however he explained that he was Aunt Nelly's father and therefore he must be my grandfather. Fanny Arnett told me afterwards that he was in the habit of taking fancies for people especially children and inviting them to his house and if he had got nothing to amuse them there to take them out and show them some of the sights, which were to be about London. He took fancy for Ethel and Fred and I was awfully surprised to find him in a corner with Fred on one knee and Tups on the other talking as if they had known him all their lives.

November 30th

By the early train this morning Papa has taken Georgie to try for his scholarship for the second time at Marlborough. From what I have heard other people say, I'm afraid he won't get it. Breakfast was at a quarter past this morning and at ten past Auntie came up here, and we did not hear her coming and found Nelly and me in bed and Ethel half dressed. She was wild. However I managed dressing by twenty past which I call good time. We took a long walk with Puss and the Tupsies this morning and talked about all the funny things that have happened here this summer. I intend to make a huge entry of them as soon as I have time. We have finished our dove-cage repair quite today. And had an enormous book reform. First the lesson book and then the others, dividing the good from the bad to be burned by fire it is to be hoped. Kathleen is not the faintest bit shy now, but will chatter and play like anything. Nelly has been having an attack of sore eyes so I was reading her Aurora Leigh (a book which Puss brought home from London for her) in the drawing room after we had done our work and one day after I had finished my

practice in there Auntie came up to me and said that she could not have me read in there any more because we would wear out the furniture. Yesterday a thing happened which was disagreeable while it was going on, but comic when it was ended. Charlie had on Monday an enormous political meeting at Oxford of which he was chairman and had down Mr Dillon and Sir Wilfred Blunt whom Charlie had met once before at Castle Howard. It was so big that it got into the Times and Nelly was in deadly fear lest Uncle Charlie (who would have been furious at Charlie who is a bad Radical, now associating with "conwises" as he called them) and she declared we should not hear the end of a boring piece of nonsense for months and so she calmly tore the first sheet of the Times with the leading article on it. And when people asked what it was she remarked that she had torn it which was obvious. In the evening she showed Papa it and told him all about it. He was just amused.

The Harvest Festival Service and Lunch

The Festival Service on 5th October was led by our Associate Vicar, Andrew Goy, who spoke about how a small gift (a boy's picnic lunch) given to God can be a blessing to others. Donations and gifts of food were sent to Nourish Community Foodbank, a local charity. 30 people stayed to a harvest lunch in the parish room where they could help themselves to a delicious quiche and salads as well as seasonal apple crumble and other desserts. There was just enough room for everyone to sit at tables and enjoy being together for this happy occasion.

Betty Payne and Anne Stordy

The church looked beautiful. Andrew Goy wrote the following email to the flower arranging team:

Dear all,

I just wanted to add my thanks for the time and effort put into the arrangements. I always look forward to seeing the display in Tidebrook Church each year as I know it will be special, but I think you really outdid yourselves this year. There was such a feeling of warmth and delight in the church on Sunday from the moment people arrived and I think the atmosphere created by the harvest displays certainly played a part in that. So many people commented to me about how beautiful it looked and I noticed people going round and taking pictures of the various displays!

Thank you again,

Andrew