

## April Coffee Morning - date for your diary

The next Tidebrook coffee morning will be on Thursday 24th April at 10.30-12.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.

Coffee/cake/biscuits are served and it is an opportunity for people in Tidebrook to get together. All are welcome. Turn up any time between 10.30am and midday as gatherings are always very flexible. We are also looking for people to host future events.

*Vicki Soutar, [vickisoutar@gmail.com](mailto:vickisoutar@gmail.com); 01435 874897*

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## 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. Having shared our thanks and requests with God and each other, we leave feeling encouraged and strengthened.

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 dates are March 1st and April 5th.

*Contact David Payne at [davidpayne07@gmail.com](mailto:davidpayne07@gmail.com) or on 01892 783731*

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## Services in March

2nd 10.00am Family Service – Unquenchable Fire

9th 5.00pm The Five on the Second Sunday:  
teas from 4.30pm

16th 10.00am Family Communion

23rd 10.00am Morning Prayer

30th 10.00am Mothering Sunday, Family Service - Brave and Beautiful

*All ages are welcome at our Family Services.*

*Come and enjoy our new series: 'The Good News at Ten' – living the promises of God in our everyday lives.*

*Beverley Boylan and David Barker, Churchwardens*

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## Deadline for April: Thursday 20th March

We welcome your contributions of Tidebrook news and information.

*Please contact Rosie Pearson with any contributions for the next newsletter on 01892 784802 or email: [rosie@hucksters.co.uk](mailto:rosie@hucksters.co.uk)*



# TIDEBROOK NEWSLETTER

## March 2025

It is heartening to see daffodils and snowdrops, and the first primroses appearing on Tidebrook's grassy banks. In this month's excerpt from the 1886 diary of fourteen-year-old Lucy of the Old Parsonage there are mentions of primroses, Ash Wednesday, a wonderful anecdote about caring for a lonely dove, and other details of daily life nearly 140 years ago. Forward to 2025, Shrove Tuesday on March 4th marks the beginning of Lent. At the end of the month on 30th March the Family Service will celebrate Mothering Sunday, and the theme is "Bold and Beautiful". All are



## Tidebrook Nature Recovery Group

The Tidebrook Nature Recovery group met on Saturday 8th February to build two new compost and grass clipping areas in the churchyard. Despite the rain we had five volunteers who made short work of clearing the ground and erecting the hazel panels, in between chatting over tea and cake!

The date for the next work party will be late February or the early March. Please contact me at The Old Parsonage - [alex@alexmacd.co.uk](mailto:alex@alexmacd.co.uk), or 07961 128906 to join the group.

*Alex Macdonald*

## Lucy Maud's Diary - a Tidebrook History 1886

### March 4th

I have not written for ever so long because I have been making a kite for Georgie. I think I have made it all right but we have not tried it out yet because yesterday Papa asked us to come with to Wadhurst at least to Best Beach Hill and then we were going home and he was going on.

### March 10th

I have been awfully slack, but Charlie and Alf came home today on Saturday. Alf went away again on Monday morning but Charlie stayed until Tuesday afternoon. My kite was completely and thoroughly wrong. I had not made it any wings and put its tail on the wrong side. I don't think I shall make another because it takes up such a lot of time and I must get on with my drawing. I have got a bad sore throat and most likely shan't be allowed to go to church this evening (it is Ash Wednesday). Something is wrong with the doves. I don't believe they understand what it is to build a nest. We all heartily detest the present cook. She cooks pretty well, but hates my kitten Judy and will go and feed her and bring her indoors, then if Judy behaves herself unseemingly in the kitchen she goes and sneaks to Auntie instead of coming and telling me. Nasty old thing. Joseph has gone. They think a tramp has stolen her because he is so beautiful. I hope he will come back but there does not seem much chance of it. He has been away for two days. Talking of Joseph reminds me of Aunt Bertha's mythical cat. She was a common cat, not Persian like Joseph but she was the most beautiful cat alive, over two feet in length and broad to match. I don't much understand that but I suppose things grow as one gets older. Most likely when I am 80 I will tell my nephews and nieces of Jo's fabulous size. Charlies is going in for Mods. I shall be glad when he comes home because I am nearly certain he will get through or whatever it is. Tups and Fred are making a dirty mess with some clay. There are huge winds about now but they aren't much good except to make the roads clear, now we shan't have the kite. Bertie wrote to me this morning, for a wonder, and sent me an etching of a rabbit, he wants me to learn to etch, but I want to learn well enough how to draw, so as to be able to copy my brothers and sisters. It is a very humble wish, but perhaps I may be able to do even that in time, I must go and draw now or I shall never get on.

### March 19th

We all wrote to Bertie on his birthday but his poor little dove, Frost is dead. The other one is dreadfully lonely, but we have it in our room all night and in the morning it flies about while we dress, it's getting awfully tame. I'm sorry the poor little thing died, because we hoped this year we would get a good many more if the old ones laid eggs, but there is no hope for that now unless Bertie brings home another which I hope to goodness he will. It would be larks to have a whole flight of snowy doves at ones disposal. Though what we should do with them in the

winter I don't know. Lucy has written a letter to me. She generally writes to Nell, of course she has no time. I wonder she has time to write at all what with her letters home and lessons I know we have always got a pretty rush for it on Wednesday as it is. It's awfully funny but I can remember so little of these last six years and such a lot about the eight years before because I can remember ever so many things about Pa's pupils and I was eight when he gave up taking them. I mean when Auntie came here of course. There was no need to have them anymore when Auntie and Uncle came to live with us. I shan't write down what I remember today, I don't feel inclined. Some other day I will write it down. Evening in the summer when I feel inclined. It will always be some fairy tales to me, though they will never interest anybody else.

### March 29th

I am awfully bad I haven't written anything for ever so long. I must try and write every morning. Several interesting things have happened since I last wrote. First of all Aunt took some senna on Saturday so of course she felt rather ill, so she did not go to church and to our great disgust refused to go to London this morning to stay with Aunt Vacher for a week. We had so counted on this week you see, Charlie is at home, and we were going to cut dinner go to Bayham Abbey and have awful fun! But we may have Wednesday without anyone if she walks off the senna. Then Et and Pussy went to Tunbridge Wells to get their teeth stopped and I asked Etty to get me a basket and we would make it all square when she came home. But Papa got misled and thought the basket was for Etty and so of course when Etty showed me the basket I thought it was for me. I'm rather sorry I did not have it, because I should like it above everything else in the way of ornaments and those sort of things. But of course it could not be helped. Next Charlie has been taking Georgie in hand and making him write his Latin, he is not very good now, but I hope he will know more in a few weeks. Then the weather has changed entirely and it has been awfully warm, but it is just a little colder now because entire April weather has set in. I hope we shall have May in April as well. That would be splendid but even now our primroses and flowering raspberry which set vivid are lighting up and we have sown a good many seed. Charlie has been gardening in the big garden planting primrose seeds and all that till the front garden looks quite tidy. If possible I am going to get a collection of Tidebrook wild flowers this year. If I am not too lazy but it is the most enjoyable thing to sit and play with the kitten and laze over a book. There, I shan't write anymore today but I must be more regular in writing now.

### March 31st

Oh those great big clouds look lovely and the pale spring green of the fields. I could sit and look at them for hours I think. All the lovely days have gone and now we have had March.