

## Shoebox Sunday, 3rd November 2024

For several years at Tidebrook we have supported the work of Link to Hope and the Shoebox Appeal, and this year was no exception when we came together at our Family Service to hear and reflect on the difficulties communities and families are facing in Ukraine, Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania. At Christmas many of these families would not receive any gifts and it was in an atmosphere of so much love that adults and children moved to the Parish Room to pack 31 shoeboxes with essentials and treats. Thank you to all and to Annabel Barker, for helping coordinate the appeal this year. Link to Hope have this to say, "It is a privilege to be your hands and feet when we hand the boxes over to people living very different lives to the ones most of us do". You can feel helpless, or you can feel that you are at least giving joy and showing love, even for a short while to those that need it. Thank you to everyone that made a shoebox, donated, knitted, created, prayed, packed, delivered, gifted, and sacrificed. We simply couldn't do it without you.

*Beverley Boylan and David Barker*

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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 date is December 7th.

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

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## Services in December

1st	10.00am	Family Service – Advent Sunday
8th	5.00pm	The Five on the Second Sunday: teas from 4.30pm
15th	10.00am	<b>CAROL SERVICE</b>
22nd	10.00am	Holy Communion
25th	10.00am	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE followed by Holy Communion</b>
29th		No service at Tidebrook
	10.30am	3 as 1 service at Wadhurst

**5th January 10am Family Service – Epiphany**

*Beverley Boylan and David Barker, Churchwardens*



# TIDEBROOK NEWSLETTER

## December 2024

Good wishes to all for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Tidebrook Church has two special Christmas services: the Carol Service with choir on 15th December and a Christmas Day Festival Service.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the newsletter this year.

If there is something you would like to suggest for inclusion in 2025 feel free to get in touch (details below).

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## Carol Service – Sunday 15th December, 10.00am

We do hope you can join us for this special celebration of Christmas, which will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Clare Preece will direct the choir again and lead practices in the church on:

Saturday 7th December, **5.30 – 7.00pm** (note new time);

Saturday 14th December, **5.00–6.30pm**;

Sunday 15th December, from **9.00am (just before the service)**.

*Contact David Payne (01892 783731) for further details.*

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## Subscription update for 2025

This month I wanted to let you know Carillon Cottage has advised there will be an increase in the cost of the FOCUS magazine subscription. From January 2025 the annual cost for FOCUS will be £7.00.

Your local delivery person will be in contact with you to collect your subscriptions for the year 2025.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the 19 Tidebrook friends and neighbours who voluntarily deliver the FOCUS magazines and Tidebrook Newsletters to our doors each month.

Seasons Greetings to you all!

*Suzanne Hicks*

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## Early deadline for January: Thursday 12th December

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

## **Jane Larcombe ...Tidebrook's one of a kind Memorial at Tidebrook Church, 1st November 2024**

*The following is a shortened version of a fascinating piece written by Jane's husband Freddie. For the full version please email fred.burcombe@gmail.com*

Tidebrook Church represented a landmark, a symbol of home for Jane. She drove past it, entered it, walked by the doorway on her rambles and training stints when preparing for charity expeditions to Machu Picchu and Uganda. Sometimes she raced past it when chasing time for her early morning train or returning (often) after a late night working.

The sight of the lintel gateway signalled she was half a mile from her cottage. Her favourite place in the whole world, much of which she had visited. Her conversion to country life was complete. The commuting was a nuisance but the benefits of Tidebrook outweighed everything. She said: "The first day I moved into the area it was blazingly hot like being on holiday. I never lost that feeling in 38 years living down the farm track."

Born in Barnes, Richmond, the family moved to Kent when she was nine months' old. She attended a convent school and the teachers wanted her to be a librarian. Instead she became something of a legend.

A voracious reader as a youngster, the idea of being locked into a typing-pool existence, a normal job journey, filled her with horror.

Knocking on local newspaper editors' doors, she pestered so much that she was finally given a chance at the Chatham Observer and graduated to casual reporting shifts at the Daily Mirror. Despairing of the chance of a staff position, Jane launched herself into public relations, starting at P&O Ferries. She captivated the interviewing panel by outrageously declaring that her drink of choice was whisky. Neat. That won her over to these hard-lunching businessmen of the sea as surely as if she had said rum.

She was instrumental in the planning and development of the White Cliffs Experience at Dover. Played a part in the Liverpool Docks regeneration programme.

On going freelance she operated a 'genuine' cottage business from Tidebrook.

She loved travel and became a passionate disciple of Responsible Tourism.

Professor Harold Goodwin, who was at the memorial, says: "Jane played a significant role in moving RT into the mainstream and in the development of the movement and I am grateful for that. The RT movement is unquestionably part of Jane's legacy. She was a strong and creative woman."

The service highlighted her international reach. The congregation of 90 included guests from South Africa, Norway, and others who travelled from Swansea, Birmingham, Cheshire, Rutland, Hampshire and London.

Jane's PA, Karsalie Fane Harvey, from Ticehurst, recalled: "One high point is a

drinks reception on a luxury Thames cruiser where there were government ministers from around the globe including Iran, Palestine, Israel and Egypt with their armed bodyguards hovering nervously at the entrance. Jane engineered and planned that get-together and somehow we pulled it off. It was a demonstration of Jane's love for life and her ability to connect with people." Jane was a trustee of the travel industry's water charity Just a Drop, which she helped founder Fiona Jeffrey form and put on the map. "Jane's work for this worthy cause has done much to ensure its success and, indeed, brought relief to many over the world," said Colonel John Blashford-Snell. "Jane managed and coordinated the WTM Ministerial Summit as we sought to bring the private and public sectors together over key issues. She developed seminar content, briefed royalty, premiers and presidents. Such was her authority they all listened and remarkably obeyed including, surprisingly, former Prime Minister Boris Johnson." Jane was so feisty she even had her hair coloured the day before passing away. Jane's lasting impression will undoubtedly include playing a prominent role in giving Wadhurst village its U3A branch in 2013. She was its highly innovative, groundbreaking founder chair and many of her adventurous introductions remain in place today.

Membership soared from zero to 200 plus. From previously knowing barely a soul in Wadhurst it gave her deep satisfaction when somebody once told her "The U3A has become my life. My family."

Jane stopped her committee involvement only when becoming seriously ill and she died of multiple myeloma in September 2020.

As a born communicator, her final act for Tidebrook was, fittingly, to bequeath a donation, acknowledged by a plaque, to help the church install internet.

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## **Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2024**

Remembrance Sunday at Tidebrook was particularly poignant this year. With a backdrop of the most beautiful poppy floral arrangements, created by Jilly Burnett, we came together to remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away. Shining a light on the memorial plaque Anton Glanville read out all of the names of those who died in the First and Second World Wars which included the names of three members of Lorraine Grant's family. Lorraine was present at the service and read the moving poem 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke. Lorraine went on to explain that after this profound loss the family legacy was to live in peace. Thank you to all who attended the service.

*Beverley Boylan*