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## LETTER FROM CANON COLIN E.H. PERRY

Dear Churchwardens, Officers, Members of the PCC and Parishioners of Patricbourne, Bridge and Bekesbourne,

My last month as Vicar was saddened by the death of my Churchwarden at Bekesbourne Church, Wilfred Mowl. He was disciplined in the keeping of his deep faith, and his so difficult work as Coroner for East Kent was touched by a sensitivity and gentleness that could only have come by grace received through his worship. It is indeed a sorrowful gap in the life of St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne. However, we have gained so much in our knowing him. May God the Holy Spirit shed abundantly His comfort and love in the hearts of those dear to Wilfred.

It is with both a feeling of sadness and yet of joy that I am writing my last letter to you as Vicar of Bridge with Patricbourne and Bekesbourne. The sadness must always be personal when a sphere of one's ministry comes to an end. I remember as of yesterday my first sermon which I preached at St. Cadoc's Church, Raglan, in Monmouthshire. It was on the *Magnificat*, "My Soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour!". I still have the sermon, and by a strange coincidence when I looked it up, it was on August 20th 1933. It is now August 20th 1979 that I am writing this letter. Exactly forty-six years have passed. At the end of that sermon I said, "As we stoop to pick up the *fragments* — as we grope blindly about on our knees, suddenly in humility, understanding comes . . . As Christ was born of Mary, so He can be born again in us". So I perceive dimly maybe, and by God's good grace, an understanding of one's ministry. Each day is a *fragment* of the whole of one's ministry.

I believe it was Father Stanton who once said in a sermon on the feeding of the five thousand: "Treasure up the fragments. Gather up the fragments. Keep them in your heart". So in my over sixteen-and-a-half years with you there are so many "fragments" that I treasure and will keep in my heart, and so many of you, and those who are now at rest in our Lord, in those fragments that I treasure. So you will understand me when I speak of this feeling of inner spiritual joy. When one comes to a benefice, there is first (in our case) an offering from the Archbishop, as it has come to my successor, Raymond Gilbert. It requires the consent of both; and there must be a response to God's will, an acceptance — and an active acceptance — of God's gift, for it *is* God's gift on our side. This follows from the freedom of our will, in the sense of our power of choice. God influences our will in a thousand ways, but He does not compel it, for to do so would be to destroy the personality which He has created. The Old and New Testaments alike accumulate every motive that may persuade us, and then appeal to us to make our choice. "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." And this method of divine dealing with us is confirmed by the inner experience of Christians. So, from the first priest or incumbent, Walter de Burne, who came to the parish in 1189 and became a Crusader, this choice has been made. (*Walterus, accepta cruce, profectus est Jerusalem*).

Each priest down the ages contributes uniquely to those he serves that which he alone can give. For none of these fragments is ever lost "for Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and for ever".

My wife and I would like to convey to you our so grateful thanks for the so many kindnesses we have received from you. I was overwhelmed by the gift of the cheque, and the charming gift from The Close, which I received from you. It was a lovely party that you gave us which I shall always remember amongst the "fragments". It has been a most happy sixteen years. I know that you will welcome and give the same wonderful support and affection to Raymond Gilbert who will follow me — together with his family. I ask God's blessing on his ministry with you.



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## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 1979

BRIDGE

PATRIXBOURNE

BEKESBOURNE

2nd September, 12th Sunday after Trinity

11am Matins  
11.45 Holy Communion  
*Canon Packer*  
6.30pm Evensong  
*Rev. Harrington*

8am Holy Communion  
*Canon Packer*

9.30am Sung Communion  
*Canon Packer*

9th September, 13th Sunday after Trinity

9am Holy Communion  
(Series III)  
*Canon Packer*  
6.30pm Evensong  
*Rev. Harrington*

11am Matins and Sermon  
*Canon Packer*

8am Holy Communion  
*Rev. Harrington*

16th. September, 14th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 Parish Eucharist  
*Rev. Harrington*

8am Holy Communion  
*Rev. Harrington*  
6.30pm Harvest Festival  
*Canon Packer*

11am Songs of Praise  
*Canon Packer*

23rd September, 15th Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion  
*Rev. Harrington*  
6.30pm Evensong  
*Canon Packer*

9am Holy Communion  
*Canon Packer*

11am Harvest Festival  
11.45 Holy Communion  
*Rev. Harrington*

30th. September, within the Octave of Michaelmas, Sept. 29th.

9am Holy Communion  
*Canon Packer*  
6.30pm Evensong  
*Rev. Harrington*

11am Matins  
*Rev. Harrington*  
At 'The Close', 4.15pm.  
Harvest Festival  
*Canon Packer*

8am Holy Communion  
*Rev. Harrington*

## JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church will commence again on Sunday September 23rd at 11.00am and will also meet on September 30th. New members will be most welcome.

## MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union Corporate Communion will not be held during the interregnum, but we would draw your attention to the fact that the 9.30am Wednesday Holy Communion does continue as a service.

**THE METHODIST CHURCH** Morning Service is held at the Methodist Church in Patribourne Road, Bridge, every Sunday morning at 11.00am. Holy Communion is celebrated at 9.30am on Wednesdays at Bridge Church. The Friday morning Holy Communion services are suspended. Evensong is at 4.30pm at The Close every Sunday—except the first Sunday in the month when there is a celebration of Holy Communion.



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DAY AND NIGHT



## **PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE**

### *Churchwardens:*

Mr. C.A. Potter, Field House, Bridge (Bridge 830218)

Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, 'Tullymore', 72 Bridge Down, Bridge (Bridge 830472)

*Hon. Secretary:* Mr. D.R. Hill, 'Red Deer', Bridge Down, Bridge (Bridge 830426)

*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. C.A. Potter, Field House, Bridge (Bridge 830218)

*Organist (Bridge):* Mr. R. Smith, Wellington House, Canterbury Road, Lydden,  
Nr. Dover (Shepherdswell 830781)

*Organist (Patricxbourne):* Mrs. G. Allan, 'Ardpriory', Bekesbourne Lane,  
Canterbury (Canterbury 62695)

*Verger (Bridge):* Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne

## **BEKESBOURNE**

### *Churchwarden:*

Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge (Bridge 830522)

*Hon. Secretary:* Mr. J. Purchase, 'Mill Cottage', Bekesbourne (Canterbury 61500)

*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. G.D. Millyard, 'School House', School Lane, Bekesbourne  
(Bridge 830256)

*Organist:* Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge (Bridge 830522)

*Captain of the Bells:* Mr. H. Collard, 1 Mumpas Cottages, Little Pett, Bridge

*Magazine Advertising:* Mr. C.J. Barley, 49 Bridge Down, Bridge (Bridge 830612)

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Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with copy for the October and November issues of the Parish Magazine please send it to John Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne, by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

During the interregnum, parishioners wishing to contact Clergy for private services should get in touch as follows:— For BAPTISMS and WEDDINGS, please telephone Canon J. Packer (Bridge 830368); for FUNERALS, the Revd. C. Harrington (Bridge 830783). For any matter concerning the running of the Churches please contact a Churchwarden as listed above. The Revd. Raymond Gilbert will formally take over the Parishes following a service on October 29th, to be conducted by the Archbishop.

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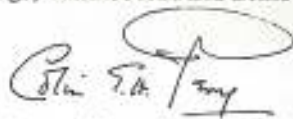
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Always with my love and my prayers for the parishes of Bridge, Patricbourne and Bekesbourne.

The total sum raised for the farewell gift to Canon and Mrs. Perry from 253 of their friends was £555. Thank you very much.



Hon. Canon of Canterbury Cathedral

### CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 1979

- 2 12th Sunday after Trinity
- 4 Tuesday. Senior Citizens' opening meeting at 2.30pm at Bridge Village Hall.
- 9 13th Sunday after Trinity.
- 11 Tuesday. Bekesbourne Parish Council meet at 7.30pm at Bekesbourne Village Hall.
- 12 Wednesday. Young Wives Group meeting recommences at 7.45pm at the Methodist Hall, Patricbourne Road, Bridge.
- 13 Thursday. Bridge Parish Council meet at 7.30pm at Bridge Village Hall.
- 15 Saturday. Patricbourne Festival *See elsewhere for details.*
- 16 14th Sunday after Trinity. *Songs of Praise* at St. Peter's, Bekesbourne at 11am. Harvest Thanksgiving at St. Mary's Church, Patricbourne, at 6.30pm.
- 18 Tuesday. Bridge and Patricbourne W.I. meeting at Bridge Village Hall at 7.00pm.
- 19 Wednesday. Bible Study Group meets at 20 Conyngham Lane at 7.45pm.
- 23 15th Sunday after Trinity. Junior Church recommences at 11.00am at Bridge Church.
- 26 Wednesday. Young Wives Group meeting at 7.45pm at the Methodist Hall, Patricbourne Road.
- 30 16th Sunday after Trinity.

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

#### HOLY MATRIMONY

- St. Peter's Church, Bridge  
11th August 1979      Antony Addison and Carey Mercer
- St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne  
28th July 1979      Joseph France and Shirley Elizabeth Patterson

#### HOLY BAPTISM

- St. Peter's Church, Bridge  
29th July 1979      Andrew Seary  
Mark Kenneth Jennings
- St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne  
11th August 1979      Samantha Jane Williams
- 19th August 1979      Debbie Deal
- 26th August 1979      Steven James Sawyer  
Matthew Moon

#### MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

- St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne  
8th August 1979      Wilfred Rutley Mowll
- St. Peter's Church, Bridge, and afterwards  
at Barham Crematorium  
10th August 1979      Harvey George Price

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