

Bridge says it with music and flowers

A flower festival organised by Bridge Parochial Church Council, helped by many willing hands, brought a blaze of colour to St Peter's Church with a display of flower arrangements.

White was the dominant colour at the altar and there were contrasting shades of pink, green and yellow around the pulpit and on window ledges. The arrangements were the work of committee members.

There was plenty of help, too, for the stalls, refreshments and raffle which helped swell the fund to maintain the fabric of Bridge and Patricxbourne churches.

On Saturday, a concert, opened by the Vicar, Canon Colin Perry, featured the church choir; the Blondel Recorder Ensemble, with Shaun Kennedy, Paul Young and Raymond Johnston, three senior students from Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone, under the director Richard Shields; Katherine Pahl (piano) and James Muir-Little (oboe).

The choir sang a Dutch traditional carol, King Jesus hath a garden, and the ensemble presented Bouree, by Michael Praetorius, a suite for four recorders by John Graves, Joseph Haydn's eight flute Clock Sonatas, and Benjamin Britten's Alpine Suite.

Katherine Pahl made an

excellent choice in the Sonata in E by Scarlatti and James Muir-Little's oboe solo was Bach's Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring.

After Richard Shields gave an amusing demonstration of different types of recorders, the ensemble completed the programme with Ralph Vaughan Williams' Prelude on Rho-symedne, the first set of pieces from Henry Purcell's Faerie Queen, and Fenland Suite by Colin Hend.

Peter Giles was organist and Mr Peter Lawrence thanked the performers.

On Sunday, Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Patricxbourne, was followed by festal evening at Bridge, when the preacher was the Rev Jesse Sage, agricultural chaplain to the diocese.

Among many helpers were the Women's Institute, Young Wives, St Peter's Church choir and the Mothers' Union.

Mrs Effie Johnson sold jewellery, Mr and Mrs John Barley, helped by Mr Ernie Down, sold raffle tickets and the flower arrangements were made under the supervision of the flower arrangement team.

Mr Bill Rose, a committee member, said: "This has been a co-operative effort and we are very grateful to all who have worked so hard."



Canon Colin Perry, Vicar of Patricxbourne with Bridge and Bekesbourne, with visitors to the flower festival at St Peter's Church, Bridge, on Friday.