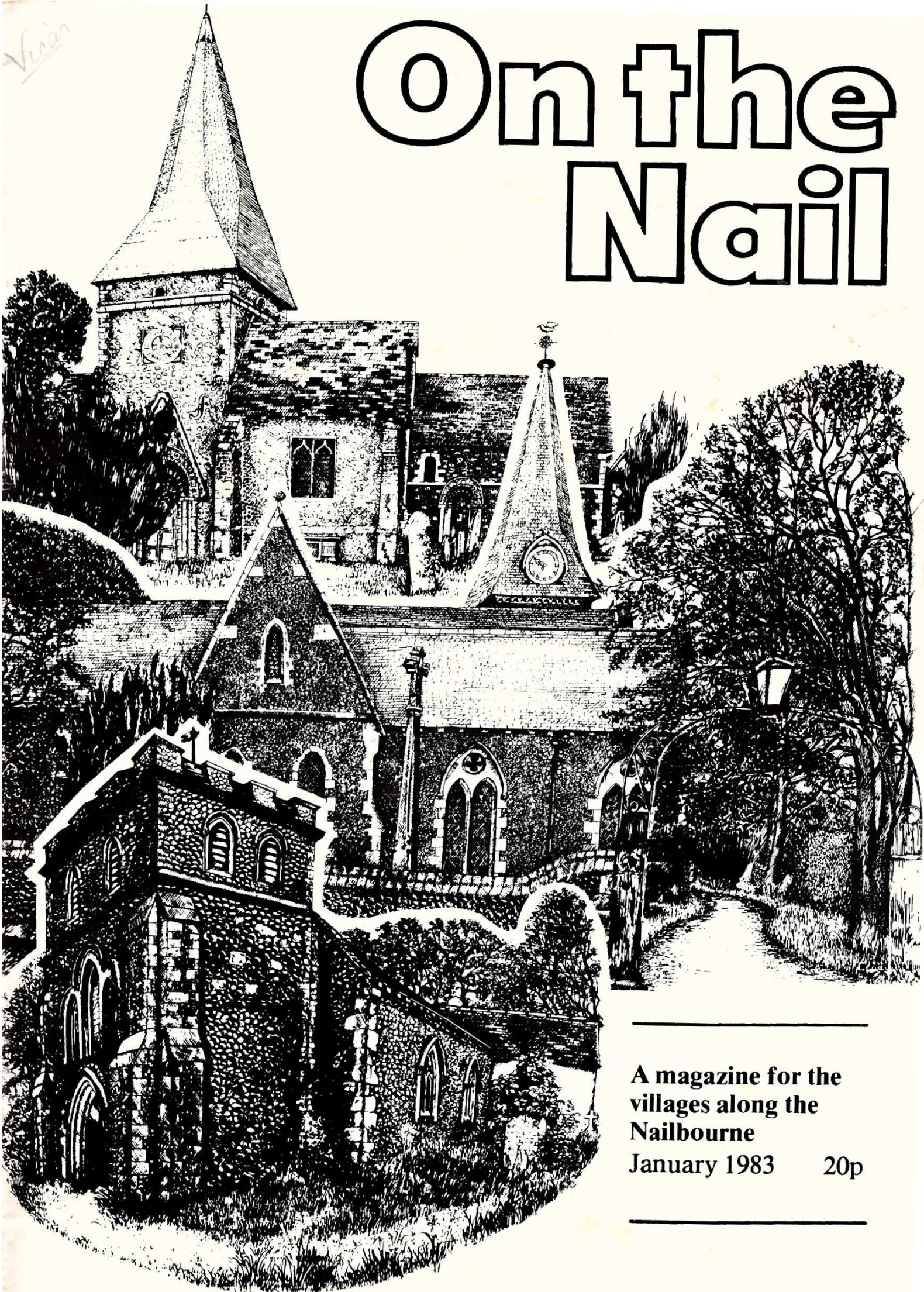


# On the Nail



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**A magazine for the  
villages along the  
Nailbourne**  
January 1983     20p

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# Sunday Worship in January

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

## 2nd:

11am Family Service  
4pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

## 9th:

9.30 Family Communion  
(Series 3)  
4pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

## 16th:

9.30 Parish Communion  
(Series 3)  
4pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion  
11am Matins

## 23rd:

8am Holy Communion  
4pm Evensong

9am Holy Communion

11am Matins & Holy  
Communion

## 30th:

9.30 Family Communion  
(Series 3)  
4pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

## 6th Feb:

11am Family Service  
4pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

**Bridge Methodist Church** at 11am: *2nd*, Mr. S.J. Rogers, M.A. D. Phil. *9th*, *Covenant Service*, The Revd. Peter Taylor, B. Met., B.D. *16th*, The Revd. Ian Laird. *23rd*, Mr. R. Santer. *30th*, Mr. L. Dron.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated in St. Peter's, Bridge on Wednesdays at 9.30am and Fridays (Series 3) at 7.30am. The monthly celebration in the Common Room of Churchill House is on Wednesday, 5th at 10.15am.

The weekly informal service at The New Close is on Wednesdays at 2.30pm

## For your diary and prayer list

1st **Naming of Jesus** or *Circumcision of Christ*, commemorating the event recorded in St. Luke 2 verse 21.

2nd **Second Sunday After Christmas**

6th **EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

This major festival of our Lord recalls his manifestation to the gentile world as recounted in St. Matthew 2 vv. 1-12. We celebrate the coming of the Wise Men to Jesus at a Sung Eucharist (Series 3) in Bridge Church at 8pm. Do join us on this special day, which is often so sadly eclipsed by Christmas.

9th **First Sunday After Epiphany**

11th Bekesbourne PCC meets at 8pm

16th **Second Sunday After Epiphany**

18th *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* until 25th

East Bridge Deanery Synod meets. Please pray for our representatives, John Purchase, Charles Potter, Joyce Rose and Stephen Pike.

- 19th Discussion Group, 20 Conyngham Lane, 7.45pm  
 20th United Service in St. Peter's, Bridge at 8pm.  
 23rd **Third Sunday After Epiphany**  
 25th **Conversion of St. Paul**  
 Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC meets at 8pm.  
 26th Study Group for those who were confirmed last November and anyone else who wishes to join us as a refresher course in the faith. This first meeting is in the Vicarage at 8pm.  
 30th **Septuagesima**

## Christian Unity—here we go again!

Are you fed up with talk of Christian Unity? Is it one of those subjects you just can't get enthusiastic about? Does the likelihood of there ever being a united Church seem so remote as to be not worth the bother?

Let's face it, quite a lot of sincere, committed Christians are beginning to tire of the apparent endlessness of the quest for unity. Each year from 18th to 25th January Christians of all persuasions fraternize over the denominational fences, clasping one another with the hand of friendship, well-knowing that at the end of the week they will all return to their individual patches to carry on exactly as they did before.

Does that sound rather jaundiced to you? It's not meant to be, because it happens to be true. Actually there is a growing sense of dissatisfaction within the churches where the Week of Prayer for Unity is concerned. In some instances it is due to a fairly common idea that unity may not be all that desirable, a point of view held by those who confuse unity with uniformity—a very different thing and not so desirable. But I detect the major reason that Unity Week begins to pall as due to its having settled into an annual rut, out of which nothing very startling ever emerges and no appreciable difference can be registered. There is also the justifiable criticism that the cause of Christian unity has progressed to such an extent that a week of prayer is now superfluous, and in any case doesn't go far enough.

Truth to tell, the traditional events of Unity Week presuppose less inter-church contact than really exists in many places. Christians nowadays are getting together on a much more regular basis, sharing church buildings, joining together in social concerns and in certain areas forming a local covenant relationship. One such is already in existence at Edenbridge, where, last October, the Roman Catholic Parish entered into a formal covenant with other local Christian Churches. The RC Archbishop of Southwark (we are in his archdiocese) wrote to his parishes in November urging them to copy the Edenbridge example, wherever possible, and certainly any such covenant would be likely to render Unity Week a less attractive proposition.

Not only is the cause of unity something to concern all Christians, it is advancing with pleasing rapidity and we must pray for the day when the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is no longer necessary. Until then the show must go on (by which I do *not* mean a charade) and the annual United Service for our villages will take place in St. Peter's, Bridge on Thursday, 20th January at 8pm. Do try and be there!

\* \* \*

Although the continuing troubles of Northern Ireland have, to all intents and purposes, escalated beyond the point of being merely religious squabbles, the terminology of Protestant and Catholic still forms the demarcation between the two communities and the residents of Ulster are still expected to be one or the other. Something stronger than Christian Unity is called for if the situation is ever to be resolved, but sincere Christians within the province believe firmly that before reconciliation can happen religious differences will have to be made up. For them ecumenism is very much the 'in' word, and not for just one week a year.

Attempts to heal the breaches are being made by a number of organisations, and we are happy to publish information of one that deals with the children of Northern Ireland, in the hope that they may be educated out of the intractable position of their elders, or at least be spared from entering it. We intend to send the collection from our United Service to *The Northern Ireland Children's Holiday Scheme*.

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SCHEME** is a strictly non-political and non-sectarian organisation. Both Protestants and Catholics are represented on its Executive Committee. The general aims of the scheme are:—

1. To offer holidays to children of any or no denomination from the troubled and deprived areas of Northern Ireland. The children enjoy a ten-day holiday away from the tension of their home environment and are able to meet other children from other denominations in an atmosphere of peace and friendship.
2. The Scheme has purchased a large house in Narin, Co. Donegal, which is used for holidays during the summer months and is used by Holidays Projects West throughout the rest of the year for 'reconciliation projects'.
3. N.I.C.H.S. brings the children of the divided communities together, to get to know and like one another and establish some basis for reconciliation for the future citizens of Northern Ireland.

**HISTORY**—The Northern Ireland Children's Holiday Scheme was started in 1972 by a group of students from Liverpool. In the first three years over 2,500 children aged between 8 and 15, boys and girls, Protestants and Catholics, received holidays at N.I.C.H.S. centres.

**ORGANISATION**—The general Council of the N.I.C.H.S. consists of representatives from various colleges and universities and other interested parties which support the scheme. The Executive Committee consists of representatives from the North of Ireland, England and the Republic, and it undertakes the detailed running of the scheme. Behind the scenes, care and reconciliation continue all the year round through the Scheme's local contacts in Belfast and Londonderry. The children are selected by social workers, teachers, community associations and other voluntary bodies on the basis that they need a holiday and would not otherwise have one unless it were provided on a charitable basis.

**CHILDREN FROM BELFAST AND DERRY**—The children who are selected for the N.I.C.H.S. camps are rather apprehensive for the first few days of the holiday. Some have never met children from "the other side".

But after a few days they begin to integrate and enjoy the activities together. The actual running of the camps is very demanding, both physically and emotionally, on the helpers. But it is all worthwhile when one sees children from different communities exchanging names and addresses on the last day. Perhaps they will not be able to meet and visit each other, but at least they will be able to keep in contact by letter. Hopefully their experiences on these holidays will convince them that they can live in peace together. As one child wrote to his parents: "You meet both Cafolicks and Protestants, and even play together. Them Cafolicks ain't such a bad lot".

## Wanted, a pair of helping hands

**Bridge Methodist Church** is currently without an organist. Would any **organist/pianist** who could spare an hour on Sundays from 11 o'clock please contact Mr. Pat Grant, the Church Steward, 62 Western Avenue (Tel: 830555). This is an honorary post making no very strenuous demands upon the person concerned.

## Thanks are expressed . . .

by Mr. Churchwarden Grey in the following terms and on behalf of Bekesbourne PCC: "The Dog Show held at Wingham Village Hall on 30th October, the proceeds of which were given to St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne, amounted to £96 gross, £83 nett. We wish to thank Mrs. Grace Allan and all her helpers for this good result".

\* \* \*

by Mrs. Diana Holway for the Family Gift Service on 5th December, as follows: "Thank you so much to everyone who so kindly gave to our residents for Christmas. All the gifts were so beautifully wrapped, it was a joy to receive them. Thanks from the residents will be on their way to those who also put their name on the package. Also gratitude for all who gave, helped, came and bought at our Christmas Coffee morning to make it such a success.

Whilst counting the money one of the school children watching reckoned we must have made millions. One of the boys at the gift service remarked 'There's an awful lot of sweets there'. Hope *he* was lucky for Christmas."

\* \* \*

by Col. R.F. Hearn, Chairman of the Bridge and District Branch of the Royal British Legion: "The very generous response to the Poppy Day Appeal was warmly appreciated by the Bridge & District Branch of the Legion. The total amount raised was £324, which comprised £300 from the sale of poppies and £24, being the collection at the Remembrance Service at Patixbourne, kindly donated by the church council. Our grateful thanks go to all those who worked so hard to achieve this amount, in support of a very genuine cause".

\* \* \*

by the PCC of both our parishes for these results from the two Christmas Markets — Bekesbourne raised the sum of £154.53 nett; a pleasing result for

which many thanks to those on both sides of the stalls. The break-down of the Bridge and Patrixbourne Market is reproduced for interested 'marketeters' but if you want a quick answer, we made £533 nett.

Teas and Cakes .....	£49
Patrx Pantry .....	21
Groceries .....	51
Produce .....	18
Plants, etc. ....	23
Stationery .....	38
Gifts .....	22
Toys and Children's Books .....	15
Stamps .....	2
White Elephant and Books .....	32
Guides and Brownies Stalls .....	19
Christmas Tree .....	7
"Best Offers" .....	22
Bottle Stall .....	118
Raffle .....	125
Donations .....	<u>5</u>
	£567
<i>Less:</i>	
<i>Hire of Hall .....</i>	<i>£12</i>
<i>Cost of Raffle Tickets .....</i>	<i><u>22</u></i>
	<i>34</i>
Nett Profit:	<u><u>£533</u></u>

## Family News

Those who were present, especially the candidates, will long remember the service of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion in Bridge Church on St. Andrew's Day, not to mention the splendid reception in the village hall afterwards. A more moving family occasion it would be very hard to find, and I, who have attended more services than I care to remember, class this among the very best. The new forms of service once again proved their worth by giving a whole new dimension to our worship and also stimulating a true sense of belonging and participation in a happening that did not hide its meaning or relevance. A special word of appreciation must be given to Kath Pierce and her eager band of helpers for such a tastefully laid out spread. What is more, our welcomed visitors from other parishes were full of praise for the way we integrated them in what could have been a purely local affair. Let one of them, Mrs. Pamela Harrak from Seasalter, voice their thanks. This letter was received by the Vicar: "I did want to express my feelings at such a beautiful service of confirmation in your church, and I was so overjoyed to be part of it. Thank you for the hospitality shown to myself and my family, and do please pass on the appreciation we felt at being invited to the marvellous supper after in the Village Hall—what a wonderful spread the ladies prepared. The confirmation was such a joyful moment for me and I am happy I was in such equally joyous company".

\* \* \*

We record the passing of Mrs. Emily Jordan, 20 Union Road at the end of November. Her funeral took place in Bridge Church on 7th December and cremation followed at Barham. May she rest in peace!



## *On The Nail*

Price increases are part of everyday life these days, so no one will be surprised to see that it has been necessary to put up the price of *On The Nail* by 2p an issue, making it 20p, or £2.40 a year. We feel this is still excellent value for money, and you will notice that this issue is a whole four pages larger than before. We have increased its size to accommodate the diocesan monthly put out by the Canterbury News Service. This is a professionally produced leaflet that provides items of diocesan and wider interest, and with a regular article by the Archbishop or one of our bishops. So, for the small increment you are given better value for money, and that can't be a bad thing! *On The Nail* will still contain news of general village interest as well as details of church services and all the usuals, not forgetting the valuable notices from our advertisers, whose monthly contribution is indispensable from the point of view of information and finance. Here's to another successful year of our own magazine!

## Pilgrims Hospice—Voluntary Sitting Service

Pilgrims Hospice provides trained volunteers to support families in their own homes by sitting with the patient during the night or day. It is not a nursing service, but the volunteers are carefully selected people who can look after the patient in the absence of the relative. This enables relatives to catch up on sleep or have a few hours break knowing the patient is well cared for. This support may enable the patient to stay at home for a longer period and can be given whether or not they are admitted to the Hospice.

The service is organised by local co-ordinators who aim to work closely with the patient's G.P. or District Nurse. If you know of someone who needs help, please contact your local co-ordinator, who is Mrs. Pauline Pope, North Hill, Bekesbourne Road (Tel: 830055).

*Peter R. Heartfield*

<p><b>PARISH PUMP</b> Parish Council News</p>	
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### **Bridge Parish Council**

The last Parish Council meeting of 1982 was held on 9th December, and, as the Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, was unable to be present, was presided over by the Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young.

#### **Bridge Hill to Bridge Down Stairway**

Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin had obtained the agreement of the Gas Board and British Telecom to his plans for the reconstruction of the stairway, and he hoped that he would also be able to persuade Seeboard to agree. He would then approach the Highways Department, and depending on their attitude to the proposal the Council would consider the best method of carrying out the work.

## **Budget for 1983/84**

The Council considered its likely expenditure for the next financial year in the light of present financial constraints, and decided it should be able to limit its normal expenditure to a figure approximately similar to that of last year, though it would be necessary to add a sum to cover the interest on the loan which was to be raised for the purchase of the Village Hall. Existing grants to the Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Committee were maintained.

### **'Trees in Your Villages' Competition**

Cllr. Mrs. Young told members that Bridge had not been successful in securing a place in the first fifteen villages in this year's competition. The judge had praised the work of Mr. Brian Mummery at Pett Farm, and had commented favourably on the state of the trees in Beech Hill and Western Avenue. Work needed to be carried out, however, on the Recreation Ground and in the Churchyard.

### **Generally**

The Council agreed to take up the suggestion of a local resident that a Telecom, A.A., or R.A.C. call-box should be installed near the Bridge slip-road from the by-pass; no progress had yet been made on the question of nuisance caused by the incinerator at the 'New Close', and members decided that if there were no early improvement the matter should be taken up with the Department of the Environment; while the Council's efforts for the past two years to obtain either a grant for the sweeping of the village streets or an undertaking that the City Council would do the work have proved unsuccessful, with the latter's final refusal to consider either proposal.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Thursday, 13th January, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, and members look forward to seeing as many local residents as possible.

\* \* \*

*From John Hill, Chairman, Bridge Parish Council*

I was delighted with the response to my letter sent to every parishioner and as a result we have raised over £900. When added to the amount raised after my earlier letter, the total is over £4,100. The previous Village Hall Fund has approximately £1,400 in it, so this means we have £5,500 in hand.

As a result of people covenanting their donations, another £1,070 will be coming in over the next four years or so. I would ask you to consider a covenant, as *at no cost to you*, you can give an extra £3 in every £10, as this is what we would get back from the tax man.

I would like to thank all who came carol singing with us (or gave us refreshment en route!)—we raised over £70.

Finally, thank you to all who have given to the Fund so far. However, we still have a long way to go, so it's not too late for you to send a donation to me, at 10 Conyngham Lane, Bridge.

*John E. Hill*

## **BEKESBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

There is still no real progress in the construction of a ramp at the end of the

Wappings footpath. Yellow survey lines have been painted on the path, but as the handrail has been mended on the existing steps it seems unlikely that the ramp will be begun until the Spring. This was supposed to be a City Council project for the *Year of the Disabled!*

Flooding under the railway bridge is still a problem. The Parish Council were told last winter that no money was available to unblock the drain beneath the road which is causing the trouble. However, the Parish Council have written again expressing their concern. The road is both a nuisance to drivers and pedestrians alike.

British Rail still say *they* have no money available to pay a man to keep the station litter-free and clean. Indeed, they have actually removed the litter-bin from the platform. They also give no imminent hope of repairing the shelters which are now in a bad state of repair. The council chairman hopes to pursue these matters with a higher authority within B.R.

Bramling Lime Works have applied for a licence to tip semi-inert materials at the Bramling Quarry. Although the Parish Council wrote objecting on the grounds of increased lorry traffic, no reply or result has been received.

\* \* \*

The Parish Council agreed to support possible applications from the Sports Club to the City Lottery Fund for money towards setting up a small bar in their pavilion and improving their facilities. Money has already been received from the fund towards repair of the gang-mower.

A representative for Bekesbourne for the 'Fish' scheme was discussed. Councillors heartily supported the good work of the scheme.

A grant of £50 towards the churchyard maintenance was made.

The Council have decided to precept in 1983 for the same amount as in 1982 but with the allowed increase of 4% under the government guidelines.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on 15th February and the proposed date for the Parish AGM is 19th April.

## 'Fish' News



The second Annual Meeting was held in the Village Hall on 18th November, with Cllr. Mrs. M.A. Young in the chair.

Mrs. Warren the organiser, thanked the volunteers for their help during the year. After giving a detailed report of the year's work she put forward the following suggestions: 1. that a committee should be formed to help her run the scheme. 2. that in future part of the proceeds of the annual coffee morning should go to Age Concern Canterbury who currently have to raise £5,000 a year to support their work in the area. This could be done by sponsoring any residents of the four villages who attend the Age Concern Day Centre (at present there are six). 3. that the possibility of starting an informal 'pop in' coffee morning for retired people should be explored. A resolution was passed to carry out these suggestions.

The committee elected for the following year was as follows: Mrs. M.A. Young, Chairman; Mr. W. Johnson, Treasurer; Mrs. J. Warren, Organiser and responsible for welfare and chiropody; Mrs. M. Packer, Assistant

Organiser and responsible for Lunch Club Transport; Miss V. Ford, Assistant Organiser and responsible for the emergency rota and Lunch Club; Mrs. J. Monk, Lunch Club Organiser; a member to be nominated by each of the four parish councils.

Mr. Pat Grant, Church Steward, suggested using the Methodist Church for the proposed 'pop in' coffee mornings and the meeting suggested that plans be made for the Lunch Club to remain open during August.

Cllr. John Hill, Chairman of Bridge Parish Council, thanked all the scheme's helpers and said that the council was proud of the work being carried out.

As the first Monday of the new year is a Bank Holiday there will be no Lunch Club that day, but it will move to Wednesday, 5th January. Club members are most grateful to Bridge Parish Council for their generous donation of £30 towards their fund.

## From the Vicarage

Thank you all very much for your Christmas cards and for your support, friendship and encouragement on so many occasions and in so many ways. May God bless you and all his Church members here in 1983.

*Raymond and Rosemary Gilbert*



Another clergyman entirely received, among other Christmas presents, a bottle of cherry brandy from one of his parishioners. Wishing to thank the parishioner without drawing attention to the exact nature of the present, the rector (There, I told you it wasn't me!) gave out the following notice in church.

"I have been so very pleased with all your Christmas wishes, with so many cards and so many presents. Especially do I wish to thank one friend for his gift of fruit, and the spirit in which it was given."

## St. Peter's, Bekesbourne—rotas

### *Cleaning*

Mrs. Grey .....  
 Mrs. Beckett .....  
 Mrs. Smith .....  
 Mrs. Stickells .....  
 Mrs. Hogben .....  
 Mrs. Watson .....

January 3rd .....  
 January 10th .....  
 January 17th .....  
 January 24th .....  
 January 31st .....  
 February 7th .....

### *Flowers*

.....  
 ..... Mrs. Farbrace  
 ..... Mrs. Ash  
 ..... Mrs. Ash  
 ..... Mrs. Ash  
 ..... Mrs. Ash

Vicar: The Revd. Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., The Vicarage, 23 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JZ (Bridge 830250)

### **PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE**

*Churchwardens:* Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)  
Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830472)  
*Hon. Secretary:* Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830426)  
*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)  
*Organist (Bridge):* Mr. D. Mathew, 27 Rivercourt, Chartham CT4 7JN (Canterbury 731548)  
*Organist (Patricxbourne):* Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD  
(Canterbury 62695)  
*Verger (Bridge):* Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5JD (Bridge 830660)

### **BEKESBOURNE**

*Churchwardens:* Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)  
Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)  
*Hon. Secretary:* Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)  
*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. G.D. Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5ER (Bridge 830256)  
*Organist:* Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)  
*Captain of the Bells:* Mr. H. Collard, 1 Mumpas Cottages, Little Pett, Bridge CT4 5PD  
*Magazine Advertising:* Mr. J. Barley, 49 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830612)  
*Magazine Editor:* The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On the Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. He would always welcome articles and photographs of general interest for inclusion in the Magazine which has a wide circulation in the three villages of Bridge, Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne.

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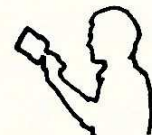
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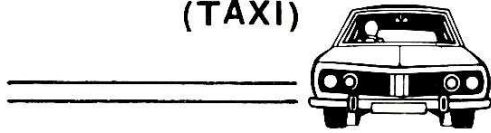
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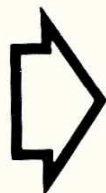
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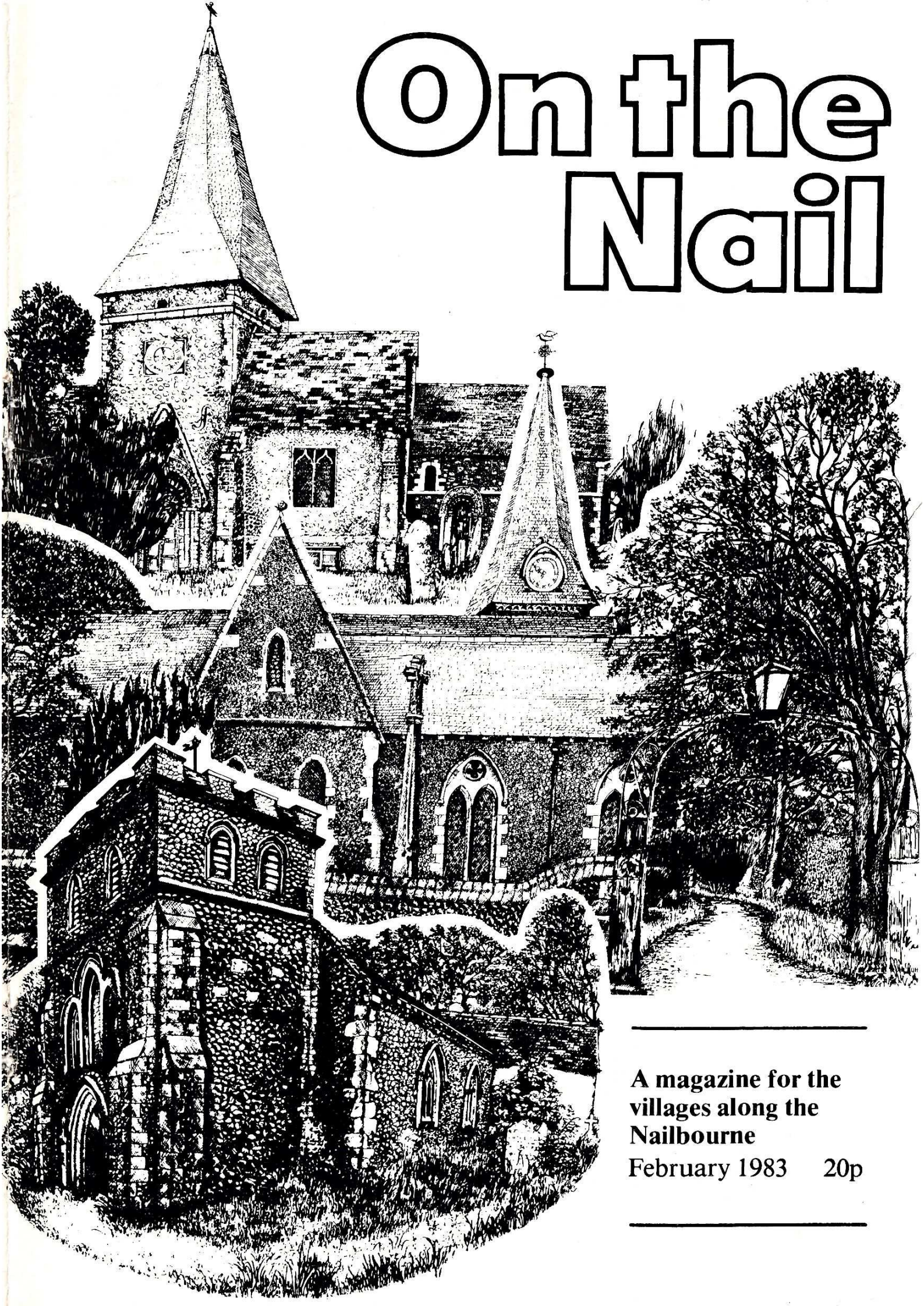
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# On the Nail



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A magazine for the  
villages along the  
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February 1983 20p

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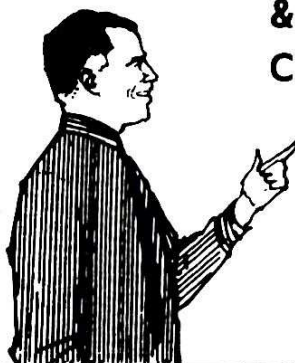
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# Sunday Worship in February

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

**6th:**

11am Family Service  
4pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish  
Communion

**13th:**

9.30 Family Communion  
(*Series 3*)  
4pm Evensong

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

**20th:**

9.30 Parish Communion  
(*Series 3*)  
4pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

11am Matins

**27th:**

8am Holy Communion  
4pm Evensong

9am Holy Communion

11am Matins and  
Holy Communion

**6th March:**

11am Family Service  
4pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

**Bridge Methodist Church** at 11am: *6th*, Mr. John Whalan. *13th*, The Revd. Peter Taylor, B. Met., B.D. *20th*, Mrs. H. Colyer. *27th*, The Revd. Raymond Goodburn, M.A.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated in St. Peter's, Bridge every Wednesday at 9.30am and Friday (*Series 3*) at 7.30am, and in the Common Room at Churchill House on the first Wednesday of every month at 10.15am.

A short informal act of worship is held in The New Close every Wednesday at 2.30pm.

## For your diary and prayer list

- 2nd **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**, celebrating the events recorded in St. Luke 2 vv. 22—39
- 6th **Sexagesima, Eighth Sunday before Easter**  
Queen's Accession, 1952 — God save the Queen!
- 8th Clergy of the Deanery Chapter meet this morning at Ash.  
Interchurch Group meets in the Methodist Church at 8pm.
- 13th **Quinquagesima, Seventh Sunday before Easter**
- 15th Bridge with Patricxbourne WI, 7pm — Talk: 'The Four Seasons'
- 16th **Ash Wednesday**, the first day of Lent  
Holy Communion at St. Peter's, Bridge at 9.30am.  
7.30pm in the Conrad Hall, Bishopsbourne, a slide show "Gardens of Kent and Sussex" by Mr. F. Atkins, on behalf of the Hall Restoration Fund. 25p including refreshments.
- 20th **First Sunday in Lent**
- 22nd Radio Medway Lent Course — 1

24th **St. Matthias the Apostle**

Nailbourne Horticultural Society slide show "Beautiful Gardens" by Mr. F. Atkins in Bridge Village Hall at 8pm.

27th **Second Sunday in Lent**

## Lent — that bit extra

It is no coincidence that the period of Lent corresponds with the length of time our Lord spent in the wilderness. The Bible tells us that for that long period he was tempted by the devil and it gives three examples. Now I would be the last person to encourage the idea that for forty days and nights Jesus wrangled verbally with a fiend with horns and tail. I am sure that is not what went on any more than that the personification of evil has that sort of recognisable form.

For me the most acceptable interpretation of what occurred was provided by Dennis Potter in his controversial play 'Behold the Man'. There the temptation takes the form of a rigorous self-scrutiny in which again and again Jesus asks with genuine enquiry, "Is it me? Is it me?" This was surely the time when for Christ the truth dawned about his real identity and purpose in the divine plan for the world. And what more natural than that he should be beset with doubts and fears and the temptation to opt out or mis-use the gifts given to him.

I see the actual temptations found in the Bible in these terms: 'If I am the Son of God and therefore so close to God as to *be* God I ought to be indestructible. If I am all that important to my Father he will guarantee my safety. I suppose if I threw myself off the temple roof he would despatch myriads of angels to see that I floated gently to the ground without coming to any harm. It's very bleak out here in the desert with nothing but stones for comfort. How like loaves of bread they are. Which reminds me, I suppose I had better do something about food. What am I thinking about? I could use my newfound power to change these stones into bread'. (Pause) 'But that's not what it is for.' Then we can imagine the Lord facing up to the seemingly impossible task of winning the world for God. How to go about it? Well, the easy way would be to go for rapid results. It wanted something spectacular, like that business of falling from the temple on an angelic blanket at a time when the forecourt below was at its most crowded. That should rake them in. Then he would pander to their material cravings: give them everything they want. They would flock to him and the kingdom would be established before you could bat an eyelid. Another pause, only long enough to realise that his kingdom is not of this world and that such a strategy would suit the devil to a T by helping to people *his* kingdom. "Get thee behind me, Satan!"

To my reckoning the forty days in the wilderness were not dissimilar from that; a period when Jesus was assailed with questions about himself, when he wrestled against the oh-so-tantalising wiles of satan, when he really discovered who he was and why he had been sent.

### And so to Lent

Is it any wonder the Church established a period comparable to this when its members would be urged to follow their Lord's example and do a spot of self-examination, a time when they would lay aside the mundane considerations of life and concentrate their efforts on a deeper involvement with their

Lord in prayer and meditation? For forty days and forty nights they were bidden to search their inmost souls and to purge them of the impurities they would find there. They were also recommended to use the time for some brain work, keeping themselves in the know about their religion, refreshing the memory from the days when they trained for baptism. When candidates for Easter baptism were hard at work learning the ropes, existing members were advised to do some learning of their own for it was never possible to know everything about the Christian faith. Clearly the intention was for the committed Christian to use Lent for the purposes of self-identification in the eyes of the world and of God. This is still what Lent is about, which is why the Church today encourages us to treat the forty days as a personal spiritual exercise, affording a good opportunity to deal with our sins in a big way, to improve our prayer life, to try harder where Bible reading is concerned and generally to enrich the quality of our Christian life. It all adds up to better Christians and thus a more effective Church, and we should always strive for that.

Look at page 8 for one suggestion that will make your Lent more worthwhile.

## How about you?

The joyful service of Confirmation back in November lingers in the memory and it is good to see those who were confirmed still very much involved in the life of our churches. Long may it continue!

Another service is booked for this St. Andrew's Day, 30th November, and although it may seem a long way away there is the period of preparation to be undergone, and that takes some time. I am appealing in the first instance to youngsters of 12-plus who have not been confirmed to give it serious thought. It is you who must make the decision, not your parents, but don't be put off because right now you are not convinced. Part of the preparation is to give you plenty of chance to make up your own mind whether you wish to be confirmed or not, and you should not expect to make a final decision until much nearer the time of confirmation. At least give the course a try. You know where the vicarage is and, like any other parishioner, you are always welcome to drop in and discuss the matter. If you would rather 'phone before coming my number is on page 13. Alternatively I shall be at home on Thursday, 17th February at 6pm, which can be treated as the first meeting of the new group.

I know there are a number of adults who are wishing to prepare for confirmation and I shall be very pleased to hear from them at any time. They will meet separately from the young ones, of course, but the same applies here: come and see me without feeling obliged to commit yourself from the start. Talk to the last candidates if you want more information or a second opinion.

## Here and There

Last year the Archbishop's C.E. Secondary School was twenty-five years old and to mark the occasion the children made a record to illustrate the varied musical activities at the school. Included was a song from Andrew Lloyd Webber's charming show *Cats* entitled 'Memory' and sung by our own

Bettina Walker. Her fellows in Bridge Church Choir are happy to bask in the reflected glory of having a recording star in their number. Copies of the record are available from the school at £2.50 each.

Jill Harvey and Ann King organised a most delightful Christingle Service in Bridge Church on 2nd January, though it sadly suffered the fate of so many church activities after Christmas Day in that it was not as widely supported as it deserved.

The same could not be said, so I am told, for the Children's Society's Christingle Service in the Cathedral Nave on Holy Innocents' Day. There was a full house and, I quote, "hundreds of children presented purses, including Rachel Atkinson and Lucinda Spencer from this parish". Rachel's brother, James read one of the lessons and helped the Archbishop collect the purses of money. Well done Bridge! It is a most impressive sight when the children gather at the front with their lighted Christingles providing the only light in the gathering gloom. £4,000 or more was raised at this service, which is a welcome contribution to the *Church of England Children's Society* funds at a time when it costs that much more to feed and clothe children. "The Society has no family allowance as do private persons", a point worth remembering!

Reg and Phyl Harvey, 11 Green Court, recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary and *On The Nail* happily wishes them many congratulations and good wishes. They wish, through these pages, "to thank Mrs. Warren and helpers for the lovely parcel and card sent to them, also for all their kindness and help through the year". I am sure a lot of parishioners would wish to associate themselves with these last sentiments. We are lucky to have the *Fish Scheme* serving so many of our needs in the community.

John Williamson has recently been appointed press representative for the two villages of Bridge and Patricbourne, and he would welcome news from any societies or individuals who would like to be reported under the weekly village news in the *Kentish gazette*. There are over twenty-three societies in the villages so if you have anything of interest send it to John Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge, CT4 5JX (Tel: 830399) if possible by 5pm on Friday, for publication the following week.

At a recent meeting of the distributors of *On The Nail* the idea was broached that readers may find it helpful to have a list of societies, etc. in all three villages, with a name and address potential members might contact. If Hon. Secretaries care to let me have this information I will be happy to compile a list which could be published in *On The Nail* from time to time. With the season of AGMs on us it might be better to wait until you have had yours before sending me the details.

The following deaths occurred on or around the Christmas holiday period: Mrs. Edith Farrow, 47 Riverside Close, a comparative newcomer, but a regular member of the Luncheon Club, Mrs. Lilian Higgs, 48 Union Road and Norman Ingham, father of Rosemary Gilbert. Though a Folkestone resident he regularly came to Bridge for Sunday morning worship. A service in Bridge Church was followed by cremation at Barham. The cremation of Edward Whiddett, 16 Bifrons Road, Bekesbourne took place on Tuesday, 25th January. To all who mourn them we extend our sympathy and prayers.

May the souls of the departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

## Lent on the air

As in previous years a number of groups are in process of formation to share in the BBC Medway Lent Course, which begins on Tuesday, 22nd February at 8pm. The theme this year is the same as that for the Week of Prayer for Unity, JESUS CHRIST THE LIFE OF THE WORLD. Among the speakers are Dr. Kenneth Greet, who as Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council had a prominent role in the Cathedral Service on the occasion of the Pope's visit last May, Terry Waite, the Archbishop's special envoy who secured the release of the Anglican missionaries held hostage in Iran, Mary O'Hara, the well-known harpist and singer — and Bill Westwood, Bishop of Edmonton in the diocese of London. The final speaker was to have been Canon David Watson the evangelist, but at the time of going to press he is in hospital after a sudden and very serious abdominal operation. His place is being taken by David Winter, Head of Religious Programmes for the BBC.

Details of our local groups for this course can be obtained from Mrs. Kath Pierce, 7 Windmill Close (Tel: 830844), who has copies of the leaflet which accompanies the course.

## Women's World Day of Prayer

This annual event that draws together in prayer women all over the world takes place on Friday, 4th March. The service for this area takes place in St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 2.15pm, when the speaker will be Mrs. Muriel Packer and the leader Mrs. Maggie Field.

The order of service was produced by women of the Caribbean and the theme is "New Persons in Christ". As it is an interdenominational day of prayer we hope our service will find support from all Christian communions in the district. It should be a most exciting and exhilarating experience, knowing the boisterous style of worship for which the Caribbean is justly renowned.

## Advance Bookings

To avoid a clash of dates it may help village organisations to know what has already been fixed for 1983. Here is a sample.

18th March	Bekesbourne Church Annual Meeting
29th March	Patixbourne with Bridge Annual Church Meeting
30th April	Bridge with Patixbourne Spring Supper (a new venture)
18th June	Bridge School Fête
9th July	Bridge with Patixbourne Church Fête
27-29th August	Bekesbourne Church Flower Festival
19th November	Bekesbourne Christmas Market
10th December	Bridge with Patixbourne Christmas Market.



## The Revd. Peter Taylor asks . . .

Have you ever written a play? Maybe not, but early in January I spent some time doing just that, with the help of some young friends. (Is it an occupational hazard for a minister to lurch from festival to festival? No sooner was Christmas over than Easter was staring me in the face.) We were writing a simple Easter Play — I do not think any of us were up to anything more than simple.

In this exercise some parts of the story had to be omitted and we found ourselves adding pieces to fill out certain parts of the story. For instance, what went on between the High Priest and Judas? *We* have the High Priest saying to Judas, "Sit down, sit down. Can I get you a drink? Some wine, perhaps?" Maybe a bit fanciful, but I think these ordinary touches help to bring out the extraordinariness of the whole story. They make afresh the power, the inevitability, the drama and the final triumph.

We are fast approaching Lent, Ash Wednesday is the 16th February, and the tradition is that people give up something for Lent. Mind you, New Year is traditionally the time for resolutions, but few people I have come across have done so. Perhaps we do not follow these old customs any more. This is a pity, and so to remedy this let us do something at Lent. Instead of taking something away, let us add something on, let us resolve to read during Lent the story of Jesus' last few days (if not the whole story), eg. Mark's account from the 11th chapter. If we cut through the words and experience the emotions, absorb the actions, and meditate on the meaning, then as for Easter playwrights the story will come alive for us.

<p><b>PARISH PUMP</b> Parish Council News</p>	
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### Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council at its meeting on 13th January, discussed provisional arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting. It was decided to hold this on Thursday 24th March, and that the principal item on the agenda would be the purchase and improvement of the Village Hall.

The Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, emphasized the importance of the meeting, and urged members to do all they could to ensure a good attendance, and the opportunity for as many villagers as possible to give their views, both on the Council's plans for the Village Hall and on any other matters affecting the village.

#### Village Hall

The Chairman said that his two appeals for funds for the purchase and improvement of the Hall had so far raised the very encouraging total of £4,500; and he thanked all those who had given, and also those who had

turned out carol singing on behalf of the Hall fund. They helped to raise £70. Cllr. Ken Greenaway reported that the City Council required £40 for the issue of an entertainments licence, for which they were now responsible. It was decided to take this matter up with the Kent Association of Parish Councils. The Council also decided that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young) should attend the Village Halls Conference, to be held at Coxheath on 19th March, on their behalf.

### **Recreation Ground**

Cllr. Peter Lawrence reported that he had, with Cllr. Greenaway, removed the chains and seats from the swings, and had asked the blacksmith at Barham to quote for repairs. He would then arrange for new seats to be ordered. The practice goal posts had been taken out of the ground by vandals, and the Chairman said he would speak to Mr. John Knight to see if he could help in their re-erection.

### **City Public Participation Meetings**

It was reported that these meetings, previously held by the City Council only for members of parish councils and amenity societies, would in future be open to any interested persons. Meetings will be held this year at the Sidney Cooper Centre, starting at 7pm on Monday, 21st March, and Thursday, 14th July, and the Council expressed the hope that Bridge residents would be well represented.

### **Generally**

Cllr. Mrs. Young raised the possibility of a recurrence of the accident caused by recent high winds, when a tree fell across Bridge Hill, and it was decided to take the matter up with the County Council; and although the Council has still made little progress towards a solution of the problem of nuisance from the 'New Close' incinerator, it was reported that the County Council was organising a site meeting to which local residents would be invited.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Thursday, 10th February, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Few members of the public have been present recently, and the Council would like to see many more.

## **'Fish' News**



### **Luncheon Club**

Our Christmas Dinner on 20th December was a happy occasion. As usual, the catering staff excelled themselves and we are grateful to them and to all those who gave gifts and donations, which enabled us to make it a real celebration meal. We were happy to welcome a few of the people who give us help and encouragement in our work — Cllr. L. Shirley, Cllr. John Hill representing the parish councils, Derek Cartwright representing the social workers, Mrs. Harvey representing members' families and Mr. W. Johnson representing our committee. We were delighted to have with us two ex-members — Mrs. Friend and Mrs. Baker. Christmas greetings were sent to members now in residential and nursing homes. May I take this opportunity of thanking Matron and all her staff for the hospitality they have given us throughout the

year — we all appreciate their helpfulness and cheerful tolerance of our 'invasion' every Monday.

### Keep Warm Over-65

This is the title of a leaflet prepared by *Age Concern* to help elderly people in winter time. It advises on preparing for cold weather; how to deal with large bills; how to get grants for heating, insulating and repairs to heating appliances and where to go for advice and help.

### Disconnections

If all the people in your home are over retirement age you should not be disconnected for a fuel debt between October and March, unless it is clear you can pay, *but* in order to prevent mistakes, you must tell them at once that you are elderly and having difficulty in finding the money. Please act promptly if you receive a heating bill you cannot pay. If you need help in dealing with this, contact me or the Citizen's Advice Bureau (Tel: 61493). I have spare copies of this leaflet which I can lend to anyone who is interested.

*Joan Warren*



The quest began at a PCC meeting when the Vicar commented he had passed a Bekesbourne Street whilst driving down Commercial Road in London. This interested us since the Beke family gave their name to the village many centuries ago, and Charles Tilstone Beke, the Victorian explorer is buried in our churchyard, with the title 'Deputy Lieutenant of Tower Hamlets' on his memorial. The street was tracked down in London A—Z and found to be by Stepney East Station.

On visiting the area last year I found it to be a street ravaged (like the village) by a railway line which ran diagonally across it on a wide bridge.



*Looking up the street to the Commercial Rd.*

Today there is only a pub at one end, and some garages and a block of flats at the other. A small piece of cleared ground opposite the flats was having foundations dug. Enquiries at the Railway Tavern of some of the older folk in the public bar revealed that the Beke family house in the street had been knocked down only the week before my visit! Since Charles Tilstone's time the house had been used as a Police section-house, and latterly converted into flats.



*At least a pub is there to show some life in the street!*

The Chief Librarian of Tower Hamlets, Mr. D.T. Elliott, has been very helpful with additional information:—

“Bekesbourne Buildings — the flats — was a block of dwellings erected in connection with the Rotherhithe Tunnel rehousing scheme and bears the name associated with the Cinque Ports. Bekesbourne Street was named on the 20th January 1888 and extended to incorporate London Street (part) on the 13th July 1937.

“A Charles Tilstone Beek (or Beke) of Walsingham Place, Lambeth is named in deeds 3320 (1846), 3327-8 5844-5 and 7261 held in the Local History Library, which confirms his interest in the Stepney area.

“The International Genealogical Index (London and Middlesex) shows that James *Beck* married a Susannah Hindle on the 10th May 1798 at St. Peter, Cornhill, and that Charles Silstone *Beck*, son of James Beck and Susannah was baptised in St. Dunstan's, Stepney on 3rd November 1800. The St. Dunstan's Parish Register manuscript entry confirms that Silstone was the middle name and that Beck, not Beke, was the surname recorded, and shows the father as James Beck, Mile End New Town Surveyor. However I think the names altered frequently and I regard it as the same person as Charles Tilstone Beke (1800-1874).”

The dates are certainly right, and since Charles Tilstone was awarded two Gold Medals, by the English and French Geographical Societies for his explorations in north-east Africa, it would seem that the street was named after a worthy son of the borough. In Bekesbourne he lived at the Gatehouse of the Old Palace.

*J.P.*

Vicar: The Revd. Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., The Vicarage, 23 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JZ (Bridge 830250)

### **PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE**

**Churchwardens:** Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)  
Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830472)  
**Hon. Secretary:** Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830426)  
**Hon. Treasurer:** Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)  
**Organist (Bridge):** Mr. D. Mathew, 27 Rivercourt, Chartham CT4 7JN (Canterbury 731548)  
**Organist (Patricxbourne):** Mrs. G. Allan, Ardriory, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD  
(Canterbury 62695)  
**Verger (Bridge):** Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5JD (Bridge 830660)

### **BEKESBOURNE**

**Churchwardens:** Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)  
Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)  
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**Magazine Editor:** The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On the Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. He would always welcome articles and photographs of general interest for inclusion in the Magazine which has a wide circulation in the three villages of Bridge, Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne.

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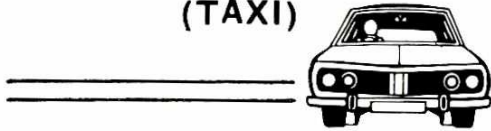
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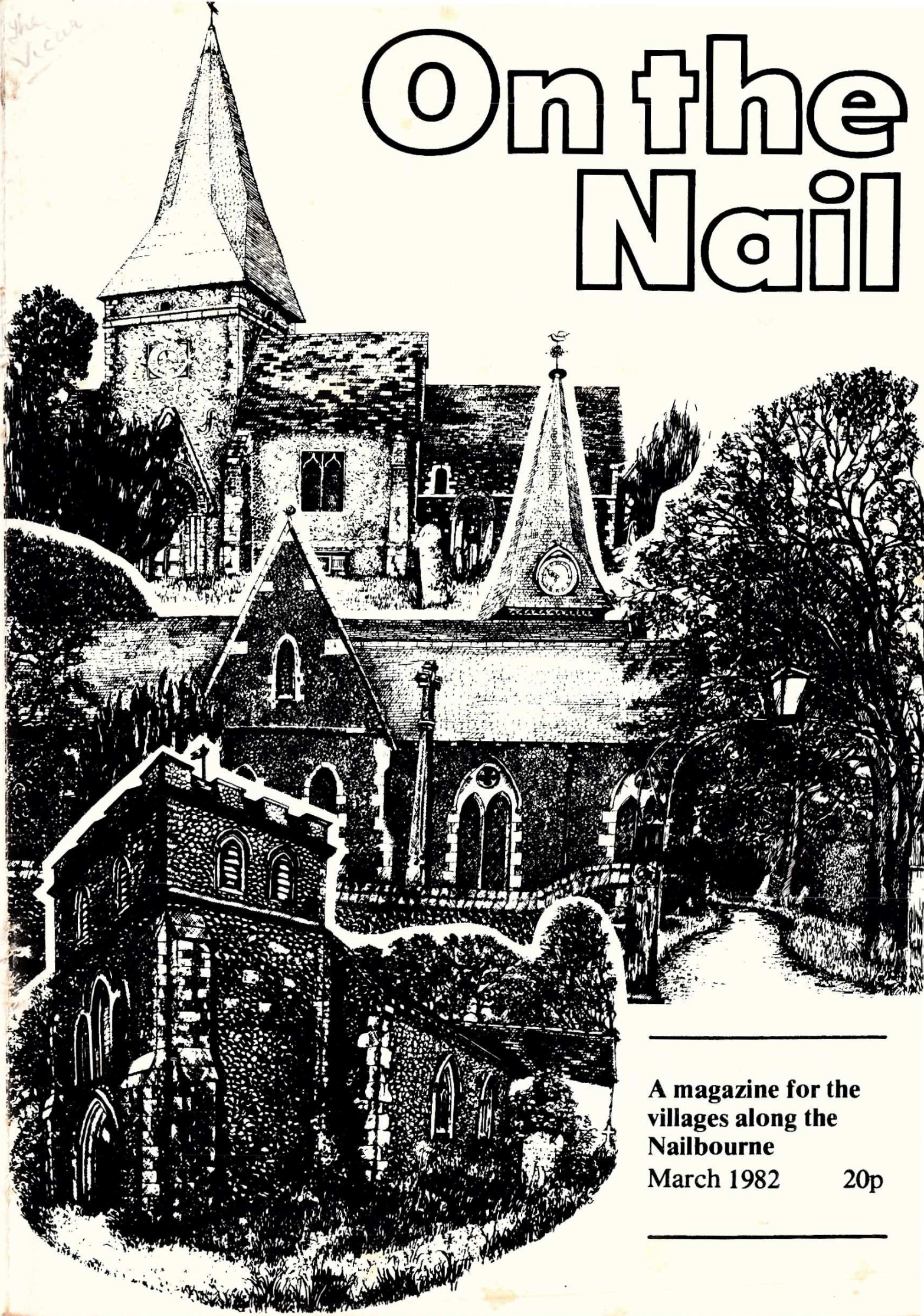
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*The Vicar*

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March 1982      20p

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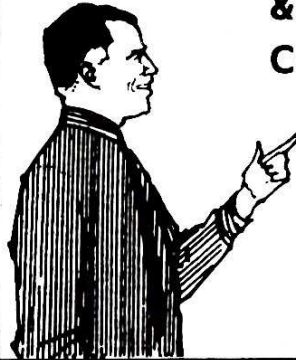
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# Sunday Worship in March

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

**6th:**

11am Family Service  
4pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

**13th:**

9.30 Family Communion  
(Series 3)  
4pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

11am Mothering  
Sunday Service

**20th:**

9.30 Parish Communion  
(Series 3)  
4pm Evensong

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

**27th:**

8am Holy Communion  
4pm Evensong

9am Holy Communion

11am Matins & Holy  
Communion

**3rd April: Easter Day**

9.30 Family Communion  
(Series 3)  
6.30 Evensong

8am Holy Communion

8am Holy Communion  
11am Matins with Holy  
Baptism & Holy Comm.

*Please note the changes at Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne on 13th and 20th, to accommodate the special Mothering Sunday Service for which Bekesbourne is renowned. Also please note that beginning on Easter Day (3rd April) Sunday Evensong will once again be at 6.30pm.*

**Bridge Methodist Church** at 11am: *6th*, Mr. Charles Robertson. *13th*, Mrs. J. Stewart. *20th*, The Revd. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *27th*, The Revd. Ralph Pritchard, B.A.

DURING THE WEEK Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's, Bridge every Wednesday at 9.30am and Friday (Series 3) at 7.30am and on the first Wednesday of the month at Churchill House at 10.15am. A short informal act of worship is held each Wednesday at 2.30pm in The New Close, to which visitors are always most welcome.

## For your diary and prayer list

1st *David, Bishop, Patron of Wales, c.601*

2nd *Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672*

4.30pm School Governors' Meeting

8pm Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC Extraordinary Meeting, the Vicarage

4th Women's World Day of Prayer service, St. Peter's Bridge, 2.15pm, Conductor: Mrs. Maggie Field, Preacher: Mrs. Muriel Packer

6th **Third Sunday in Lent**

7th *Perpetua and her Companions, Carthaginian Martyrs, 203*

9th Coffee "Pop in" organised by The Fish Scheme, 10.30 to noon in the Methodist Church, Patricxbourne Road (See 'Fish' News)

13th **Fourth Sunday in Lent, Mothering Sunday.** Special annual Mothering Sunday Service with flowers at Bekesbourne, 11am.

- 17th *Patrick, Bishop, Patron Saint of Ireland, c.460*  
 18th Bekesbourne Annual Church Meeting, St. Peter's Church, 8pm  
 19th **St. Joseph, Husband of the BV Mary**  
 20th **Fifth Sunday in Lent, Passion Sunday**  
 11am Matins at Patrixbourne, instead of 13th  
 24th School Assembly in Bridge Church to which parents and friends are invited, 10am.  
 Bridge Parish Council AGM, Village Hall, 7.30pm.  
 25th **Annunciation of Our Lord to the BV Mary**, celebrating the incident recorded in St. Luke 1 vv.26-38  
 27th **Palm Sunday**  
 British Summer Time begins: clocks should be put forward one hour.  
*See display below for details of Holy Week and Easter Day services.*  
 29th Patrixbourne with Bridge Annual Church Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER, 1983

<b>Monday in Holy Week:</b>	9.30am Holy Communion (Patrixbourne)
<b>Tuesday in Holy Week:</b>	9.30 am Holy Communion (Series 3: Bridge)
<b>Wednesday in Holy Week:</b>	9.30am Holy Communion (Bridge)
<b>Maundy Thursday:</b>	8pm Sung Eucharist (Series 3) commemorating the institution of the Holy Eucharist
<b>Good Friday:</b>	11am <i>The Cross of Christ</i> , a devotion for congregation and choir in St. Peter's, Bekesbourne 2pm Devotion for the Last Hour in St. Peter's, Bridge, conducted by the Vicar
<b>EASTER DAY</b>	
<i>Bridge</i>	9.30am Family Service of Holy Communion } <i>The Vicar</i> 6.30pm Festal Evensong
<i>Patrixbourne</i>	8am Holy Communion ( <i>The Vicar</i> )
<i>Bekesbourne</i>	8am, Holy Communion ( <i>The Revd. W. Owen</i> )
	11am Matins with baptism, followed by Holy Communion ( <i>The Vicar</i> )

Bridge Church will be decorated for Easter at 10 o'clock on Holy Saturday morning. Any help with arranging or providing flowers will be most welcome. Easter lilies this year will be £1 each. Anyone who would like to donate one is asked, please, to give their money to Mrs. Hunter, 24 High Street or Mrs. Apps, 34 High Street.

# Easter Communion

In the days when the Book of Common Prayer was compiled it was the custom for people to make their communion considerably less frequently than nowadays. As a result the compilers felt obliged to issue a directive about it, to the effect that church members should make their communion at least three times a year. This, to modern ears, seems totally inadequate when for most churchfolk a weekly communion has become the norm.

The Prayer Book's recommendation even then was to be considered the minimum rather than the recommended pattern of communicating, but the stipulation was carefully made that of the three occasions Easter Day communion should be classed as a must for all confirmed churchmen.

The reason for this is not difficult to understand when you realise that Easter Day (it is not necessary to call it 'Easter *Sunday*') is the greatest day in the Christian calendar, for on that day God raised his Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead and thus won for all mankind and for all time, deliverance from the many and varied works of evil with which the world is beset. Because of Easter the Good Friday event is seen as a victory — not a defeat, and the spin-off for us is that in our lives there is hope after despair, life of a quite unparalleled quality after death, healing for all our ills, and with it all, joy out of even the bitterest sorrow. From the dawn of Christian history Easter was *the* day that mattered and every aspect of the Christian life revolved around it: every Sunday became a little Easter and obviously the day of the week that was peculiarly the Church's own and upon which, without fail, was celebrated that special ceremony instituted by Christ on the night of his betrayal and which we know as the Holy Communion, the Eucharist, the Mass, or whatever of its many titles we care to use. It became the sacrament via which Christians gave expression to that family fellowship which was uniquely theirs and which best identified them as the Body of Christ, the community of the faithful.

Today the Church is rediscovering the eucharist as the focal point of its entire existence and through a more regular participation in the sacrament is experiencing fresh joys in both its worship and its wider fellowship. The contribution the new service has made to this community spirit is most pronounced, as those who have participated in it on many occasions know for themselves, but essentially it is not the rite used but the benefits of the sacrament that bring about a church-community that is both alive to the job of the contemporary Church and also equipped for it.

“Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you and that he lives for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.”

\* \* \*

The Vicar is always most willing to bring communion from the Reserved Sacrament to the sick and house-bound, either at Easter or any time throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to ask, particularly if you have been used to making your communion regularly.

## But before biting into your Easter egg . . .

. . . let's not forget Holy Week and all that that commemorates. It begins on a note of triumph with the Palm Sunday triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, astride a donkey, riding on the crest of a wave of palm branches and with shouts of glad welcome ringing in his ears. At that moment Christ was the tops, though his exultation was short-lived. By the Thursday he was a wanted man, one of his followers had grown impatient for action, became thoroughly disillusioned, and secured his master's arrest for an agreed price.

So began a time of suffering that was to end in death — death for the traitor, who took his own life once he realised the enormity of what he had done, and death for Jesus, who loved mankind so dearly that he gave himself in love and held nothing back

### Foot-washing

Holy Week is a period when every Christian wants to try harder by engaging in extra acts of prayer, both in public and on his own, and by thinking longer and deeper about this momentous week.

If you are looking for something new, try meditating on that highly significant act that the Lord performed at the last supper on Maundy Thursday: the washing of the disciples' feet by the Master. Read it first (and try different versions to get a wider picture of it) in St. John 13. Take it slowly and read it again to savour the meaning. The courtesy of washing the feet of one's guests was performed by the meanest slave, who could be trusted to do this menial task without making a mess of it. Yet Jesus took the job upon himself. Peter put up a token protest but ultimately submitted.

What went on in those disciples' minds while their revered Lord shuffled on hands and knees from one to the other, cleansing the already-clean feet, carefully wiping them dry and making a good job of it into the bargain? Did they feel revulsion? Did he go down in their estimation? Did they really understand? And what did he mean by saying, 'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you should also wash one another's feet. I have given you an example that you should do as I have done for you.'? What does this say to us in 1983? How are we supposed to wash other people's feet? What was Jesus endeavouring to teach us?

### Can you see me doing that?

There is a side to living the Christian life which is akin to foot-washing in so far as it encourages us to opt for the least attractive, the more demanding, the less prestigious. This aspect of Christianity has few takers because it bears little relation to the understanding of religion that many of us have grown up with: it is also rather unpleasant to contemplate. We have assumed the practice of the faith to be a highly respectable affair, to be done in our Sunday best and reserved for Sundays. The idea that perhaps God wants us to get down on our hands as well as our knees, to concentrate on the poorer and seamier side of life, maybe even to forego some of the traditionally pleasing parts of church life is a bitter pill to swallow. Yet, Jesus founded a predominantly *servant* Church that would concentrate its efforts and its resources on curing the world's ills. The specifically churchy aspects would be there, but not at the expense of the servant image.

We might remember that those whose feet he washed in the upper room and whom he told to go out and do likewise also shared immediately afterwards in that sacrament that enabled them to eat his body and drink his blood. To me this suggests that both are integral parts of the Christian lifestyle, and all I am asking now is that we ask ourselves if we have got the two properly balanced. Think on all these matters during Holy Week!

## Calling all young people

Each Easter Monday a great Youth Pilgrimage is made to the Cathedral by young people from all over Canterbury diocese. The pilgrimage is made on foot, groups from the more distant parishes starting out on Easter Day and spending the night in a church hall or parish room fairly near to Canterbury. The programme for the day follows roughly the same order each year and it always draws a crowd.

This year's pilgrimage commences at 10.30am in the Quadrangle of St. Augustine's College; a procession moves off to the Cathedral at 10.45am for the Pilgrimage Eucharist at 12 noon. This is usually celebrated by the Archbishop in a packed Nave and is invariably a most moving act of worship, specially geared to a young congregation. Lunch is at 1pm and at 1.30pm the Archbishop holds a Question and Answer Session in the Cloisters. This year the day ends with "INVITATION" in Concert and other happenings, commencing at 2 o'clock.

Although there is no youth group as such in our parishes there are quite a number of involved young people, so we have decided to join the 1983 Youth Pilgrimage, in the hope that a fair number will join us. If you are interested, and I can thoroughly recommend the experience, we assemble on Easter Monday morning at 9.15 outside Bridge Church ready to set off for Canterbury at 9.30 sharp. The route we shall take is that across the orchards. Bring your own lunch, by the way! It isn't essential that you let anyone know beforehand, although it would be good to have some idea of likely support. Any queries, contact either Mrs. Alicia Pentin or the Vicar!

## Day by Day

For 365 days every year nearly 6,000 children and their families turn to the Church of England Children's Society for help. And on every day there is someone somewhere praying, caring and raising funds to sustain the vital work which can only bear fruit in the future health and happiness of families and communities.

For thousands The Children's Society's supporters Family Week, March 20th to 26th, is the time to knock on doors, put collecting envelopes through letter boxes and to spread the word about the Society's work. It all started when a band of Christian folk met in a small south London parish on March 21st, 1881 to form the 'Waifs and Strays' — later The Children's Society. Their example will be continued, in this parish, by volunteers who will be out and about during the week visiting homes or organising events. And the Society depends on the success of Family Week to continue working with children and their families in the 84 centres, homes and projects throughout the country.

It's not just bricks and mortar either. It's families and children like Peter, a severely disabled boy who communicates through a word board. But his mind is as fast as any youngster of his age and is fascinated by computers. A local family takes a special



interest in Peter and his computer. They help write programmes and supplement the love and attention given him at the children's home. Or there is Jane who joined a youth employment scheme run from one of the Society's family centres. She left school with no qualifications but wanted to work and was willing to take any job if there had been one to take. Instead of hanging around on street corners she became a member of a team of youngsters who worked with toddlers at a local day nursery and then served meals at a luncheon club for the elderly. Every night, Jane goes home with a positive attitude; one which her younger brother and sisters see as an example and can copy. Her own family has benefited from the work of the family centre and the work scheme as well as those she helps.

It was over a hundred years ago that a young Sunday school teacher founded The Children's Society. Today it still remains the place of hope for thousands of children and families who may have no-one else to turn to; it remains a reservoir of Christian compassion which needs daily refilling with prayers and alms from those who have heard Christ's own dictum 'What you do for the least of your brethren you do for Me',

Your help is needed to make Family Week in this parish a success. Please contact Miss Mason, 33 High Street, (830772), who can let you know how you can help.

*Contributed by the Society*

## Shared Ministry

*Alicia Pentin, Stephen Pike, John Purchase and the Vicar, representing our two parishes, attended a day conference at the University on Shared Ministry along with a large number of church people from this area of the diocese. Alicia's subsequent report to Bridge and Patricxbourne PCC is here reproduced for the benefit of a wider audience.*

On arrival at Rutherford College we were divided into discussion groups of about eight to ten, with whom we stayed all day after an initial presentation of the theme. We were set various exercises to do which were all aimed at involving us in sharing tasks. I was in a group which consisted of a teacher, a solicitor, a printer (Ed: Guess who!), an architect, a priest and three housewives. We had an excellent group leader who was a doctor.

We discussed openly and frankly what each considered was our duty in the pastoral care of the community. Coming, as we did, from so many parishes it was interesting to learn how each person contributed to the smooth running of his or her community in different ways. Many of us felt that the involvement of parishioners in the pastoral care provided the link between the Vicar and the community.

In some areas a person had been nominated as the pastoral link for a particular street or group of houses. At times of crisis or distress the people in the community knew this person was prepared to help them, listen to their problems, or would arrange for other practical help to be provided. Good neighbour schemes were mentioned, including our 'Fish' Scheme. Visiting of the sick or infirm could be organised on a rota system. At times of bereavement it was felt that this community care could be particularly helpful.

The running of youth groups was a positive way of offering constructive help in society. Should the Church not be reaching out to young people to help them use their leisure time usefully? Discussion groups could be formed in such a way that they need not form an extra burden on the vicar.

One member of the group was a licensed reader and he told us how the

vicar of his parish depended on him to help with both the preaching and the planning of Sunday services.

After much discussion we concluded that there were three important factors which were necessary if we were to create an effective shared ministry.

These were:

1. **Discipline.** Like the disciples of Christ who followed his leadership, we should construct a Christian way of life. Helping to share the work of the ministry would require strength of character and tough discipline.

2. **Training.** Specialised training is essential for pastoral care, so that the most sensitive approach is ensured.

3. **Sacrifice.** Devoting time and energy to the ministry requires the sacrifice of other things, including time.

It was a stimulating day which gave us a great deal to think about. The discussion made us aware of the enormous responsibility of running a parish and how each one of us ought to contribute in this work in a positive way.



## **BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**

The February meeting of the Parish Council finalised the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th March. It will include a report by the Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, on the work of the Council during the past year, and reports from village organisations, as well as an account of the progress of the plans for the purchase and improvement of the Village Hall. It was also decided to seek the views of residents on a proposal to site a bottle-bank in the village. The Chairman reminded members that this was the last year of the present Council before a new Council was elected on 5th May next.

### **Proposed New Hotel**

The Council heard from Mr. C.A. Potter that an application had been made to the City Council for outline planning permission for the erection of a ninety-room hotel with bar, restaurant, and ancillary accommodation on a portion of the site adjacent to the A2 which readers will no doubt remember had been proposed for a motel. This site is, of course, in Patricbourne parish. The plan provided gave little useful information, and members decided that the City Council should be told that the Council wish to reserve its position so far as its own attitude to the proposal was concerned until more detailed plans were available, but that it retained its earlier doubts regarding the possibility of adequate road access. It was also decided that the Council should be represented at the public meeting which Mr. Potter had arranged, as Chairman of Patricbourne Parish Meeting, for Friday 18th February.

## **Village Hall**

The Council is still awaiting completion of the purchase of the Hall, for which contracts were exchanged early in January. It was decided to hold a fund-raising event on the Spring Bank Holiday — 30th May — arrangements for which would be discussed at an early committee meeting.

### **Generally**

It had not been possible to make further progress on the plans for the reconstruction of the Bridge Hill/Bridge Down staircase, as no reply had so far been received from the Highways Department.

A donation of £10 was made, as in previous years, to the Kent Association of Youth Clubs; and it was agreed to take up with the Social Services Department the fact that it was at present necessary to store in the open the chairs used for the Luncheon Club at The New Close.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 10th March, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, and will, of course, be open as usual to the public.

## **PATRIXBOURNE**

The Patrixbourne Parish Meeting met on Friday 18th February at the Methodist Hall, Patrixbourne Road, to hear the proposal for a Hotel to be built on the triangle formed by the Canterbury By-pass, the A2 and the lane by Pond Cottage. The Chairman of the Company planning to erect the buildings gave a brief outline of his plans, and questions were invited from the forty parishioners who attended.

At the conclusion a resolution was passed unanimously saying that although the residents had no opposition to the principle of a hotel being built on the site, there were considerable doubts over access, and the road problems should be cleared before the Canterbury City Council passed the outline planning application.

*C. A. Potter, Chairman*

## **Fish News**



### **Coffee 'Pop-in'**

Starting on Wednesday, 9th March we shall be having a 'Pop-in' Coffee Morning on the second Wednesday of every month to which all retired members of the community are invited. This will be a social gathering, not a fund-raising event, the idea being to give people an opportunity to get to know more of their fellow-residents and perhaps link up for outings and social activities. Bridge Methodists have kindly offered us the use of their church for our winter meetings and we shall meet in the Village Hall from May until October. We hope that as many people as possible will call in for coffee and a chat between 10.30am and 12 noon. I hope to bring a collection of books and leaflets which may be of interest to participants.

### **Blossom Time**

Arrangements are under way for the Luncheon Club's outing at blossom-time. We shall have a coach tour with a stop for cream tea at Chilham Fruit Farm and the date of the outing is Wednesday, 11th May

There will be some spare places which can be filled by people who live

alone and **who are not club members**. Please contact me in good time to avoid disappointment.

**For your diary**

Our fund-raising Coffee Morning will be on Saturday, 4th June in the Village Hall. Jot down the date now, although I shall jog your memory much nearer the time.

*Joan Warren, 830233*

*The following from Canterbury Volunteer Bureau may be of interest to some readers:*

Project Phoenix Travel Trust, which runs study tours in Europe for physically disabled adults, is looking for volunteers to accompany disabled people on these trips during 1983. The dates: Rome and Florence, 20th - 31st May, Bruges, 3rd - 10th August, Athens, 25th September - 6th October. Further details are obtainable from Valerie Saunders, Project Phoenix Travel Trust, 68 Rochfords, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes.

## Royal British Legion — *Jumble Sale*

£71 was raised at the Jumble Sale, held at the Village Hall on 12th February, sponsored on behalf of the Bridge and District Branch. The contributions received and all the hard work put in by helpers were much appreciated.

*F.R. Hearn, Chairman*

## Thinking about Confirmation?

If you are, then I should very much like to hear from you. Potential candidates for the Confirmation Service at Bridge on 30th November next are invited to contact me at any time; the sooner the better. I shall be at home from 6pm onwards on Thursday 10th March if you wish to call either in person or by telephone. Young candidates should not be less than 13 at the time of confirmation. Adults will be prepared in a group of their own. Please get in touch even if you are undecided or would like to talk the matter over in private. Over to you!

**ARCHBISHOP'S SCHOOL** entrance forms are available at the Vicarage and must be in by 25th March. A meeting of intending parents will be held at the school on 15th March at 7.30pm.

### **St. Peter's, Bekesbourne — Cleaning rota**

Mrs. Watson .....	March 5th
Mrs. Russell .....	March 12th
Mrs. Grey .....	March 19th
Mrs. Beckett .....	March 26th
Mrs. Smith .....	April 2nd

Vicar: The Revd. Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., The Vicarage, 23 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JZ (Bridge 830250)

### **PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE**

*Churchwardens:* Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)  
Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830472)  
*Hon. Secretary:* Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830426)  
*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)  
*Organist (Bridge):* Mr. D. Mathew, 27 Rivercourt, Chartham CT4 7JN (Canterbury 731548)  
*Organist (Patricbourne):* Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD  
(Canterbury 62695)  
*Verger (Bridge):* Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5JD (Bridge 830660)

### **BEKESBOURNE**

*Churchwardens:* Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)  
Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)  
*Hon. Secretary:* Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)  
*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. G.D. Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5ER (Bridge 830256)  
*Organist:* Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)  
*Captain of the Bells:* Mr. H. Collard, 1 Mumpas Cottages, Little Pett, Bridge CT4 5PD  
*Magazine Advertising:* Mr. J. Barley, 49 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830612)  
*Magazine Editor:* The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On the Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. He would always welcome articles and photographs of general interest for inclusion in the Magazine which has a wide circulation in the three villages of Bridge, Patricbourne and Bekesbourne.

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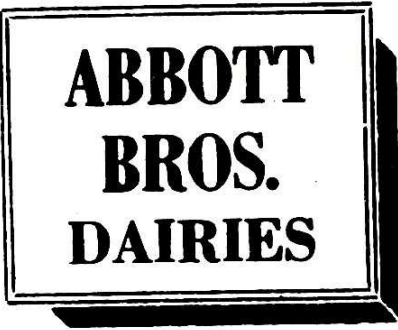
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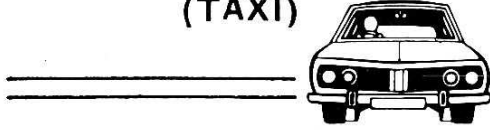
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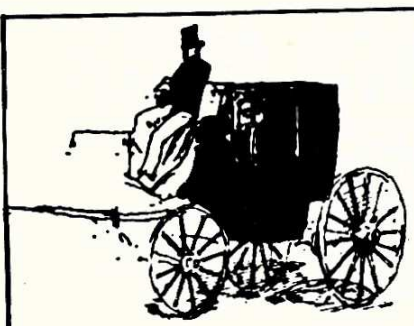
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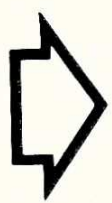
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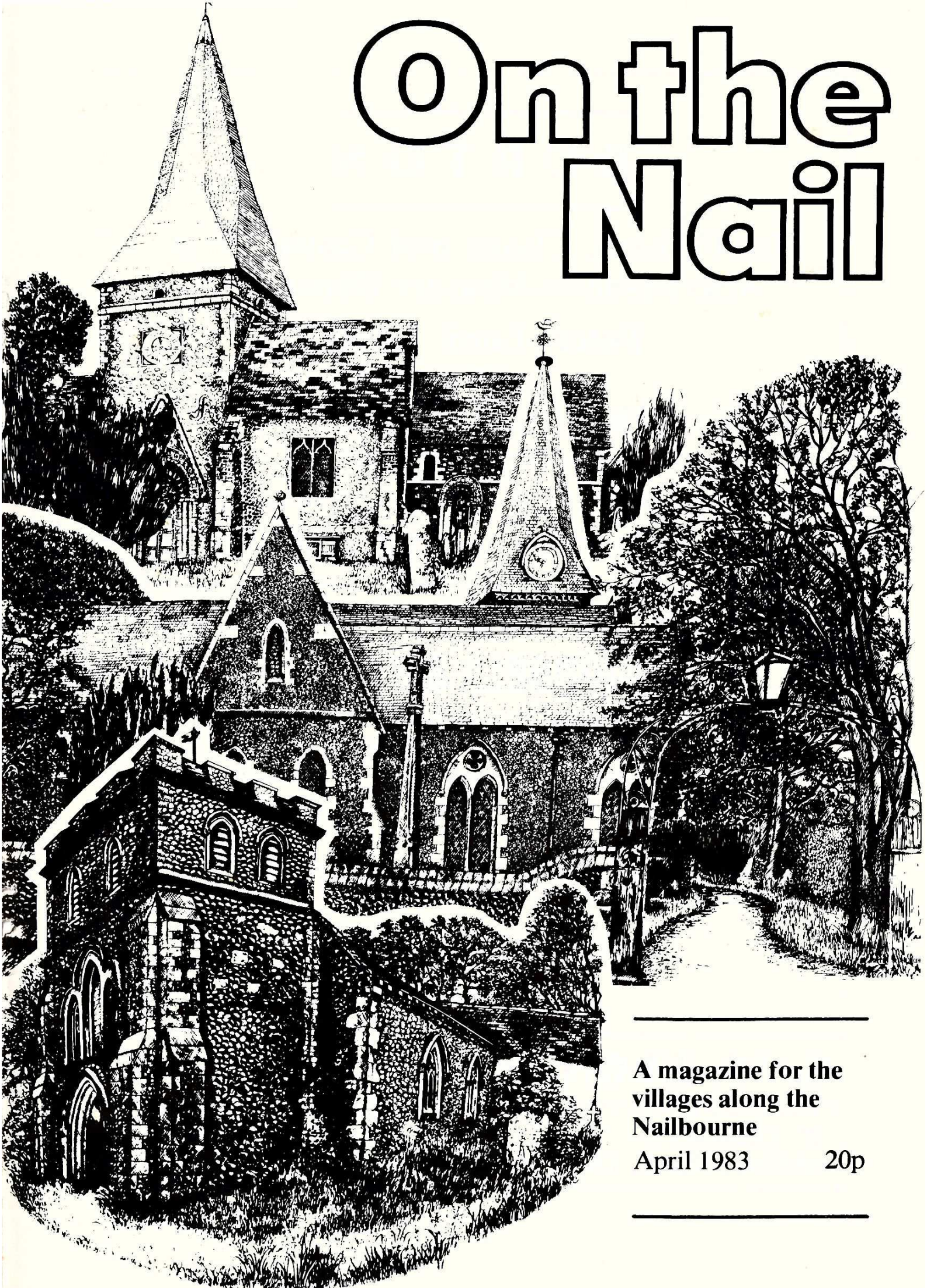
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A magazine for the  
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April 1983

20p

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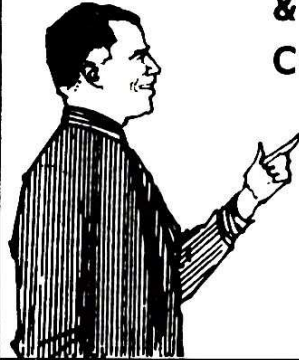
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# Sunday Worship in April

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

**3rd:** See 'Diary' below for Easter Day services

**10th:**

9.30 Family Communion 11am Matins  
(Series 3)

8am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

**17th:**

9.30 Parish Communion 8am Holy Communion 11am Matins  
(Series 3)

6.30pm Evensong

**24th:**

8am Holy Communion 9am Holy Communion 11am Matins & Holy  
Communion

6.30pm Evensong

**1st May:**

11am Family Service 8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion  
6.30pm Evensong

**Bridge Methodist Church** at 11am: *3rd*, Mr. W.E. Ingall. *10th*, The Revd. Peter Taylor, B. Met., B.D. *17th*, The Revd. Wilfrid J. Hill, M.C., B.Sc. *24th*, Mrs. H. Fairhurst, B.Ed.

DURING THE WEEK Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's, Bridge every Wednesday at 9.30am and Friday (Series 3) at 7.30am, and on the first Wednesday of the month in Churchill House at 10.15am. A short informal act of worship is held each Wednesday in the Main Hall, The New Close at 2.30pm, to which non-residents are always most welcome.

## For your diary and prayer list

1st **Good Friday**

*The Cross of Christ*, a devotion for congregation and choir, Bekesbourne, 11am. Devotion for the Last Hour, Bridge, 2pm, conducted by the Vicar.

2nd **Easter Eve**

3rd **EASTER DAY:** Bridge 9.30am Family Service of  
the Holy Eucharist } *The Vicar*  
6.30pm Festal Evensong }

*Patricxbourne* 8am Holy Communion *The Vicar*

*Bekesbourne* 8am Holy Communion *Revd. W. Owen*

11am Matins with Baptism *The Vicar*  
followed by Holy Communion

4th **Monday in Easter Week**

Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage at the Cathedral  
(Assemble Bridge Church 9.15am. Bring packed lunch. Walk to  
Canterbury)

9th Pray for Robert Ludlow and Jane Fowler who are to be married at  
Bridge Church.

- 10th **First Sunday After Easter** *Low Sunday*  
 12th Bridge Tennis Club AGM, Village Hall 8pm.  
 16th Bridge Churchyard 'Springclean', 10am.  
 17th **Second Sunday After Easter**  
 20th Study Group at the Vicarage, 8pm.  
 21st Patricxbourne Parish Meeting, Old Vicarage, 8pm.  
 22nd League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals Bridge Group AGM,  
 Village Hall, 7.30pm.  
 23rd *George, Patron Saint of England, 4th cent.*  
 24th **Third Sunday After Easter**  
 25th **St. Mark the Evangelist**  
 26th Pray for the clergy of the Deanery who meet this morning at Adisham.  
 29th *Catherine of Siena, Mystic, 1380*  
 30th Spring Supper, Bridge School, 7 for 7.30pm

## Easter is for real

It frequently strikes the young that of the Church's two major festivals, Christmas and Easter, the former has pride of place.

The mistake is understandable because Christmas impinges on many more peoples' lives: even Jews keep it, in their way! The Christmas spirit is abroad weeks in advance and then there is the magic of presents, traditional fare, the office party (not much magic about that!) and the religious bits, Carol Services and Midnight Masses — the list seems endless. In comparison all Easter has to offer the populace at large is chocolate eggs at an exorbitant price and an extended weekend's holiday. It hasn't even got a decent run-up period to get everybody into the mood; the commercial world is lost for seasonal enticements!

But it is the religious side of Easter that kills it for all but the committed, for it is more understandable to celebrate the birth of a baby than the resurrection of a man from the dead. Birth is a universal experience: hardly a day goes by but what we see a baby or young child out with its mother. Resurrection, on the other hand, is a far more dubious notion, even more so when it is claimed that the one who rose from the dead all of 1950 years ago is alive today.

No matter, in Christian eyes — and these *are* Christian feasts Easter is far and away the more important of the two, precisely because of Jesus being the *living* Lord of the Church. It can be historically verified that he lived, so at some point he must have been born — nothing very marvellous in that! What is less easy to explain is that after suffering death on a cross and being buried in a sealed and guarded rock tomb he should be restored to life — and here we get the really difficult bit — never to die again. Christians go on to affirm that he lives today in the bodies of his followers wherever they are, guiding and strengthening and upholding them by his perpetual presence.

This Easter experience defies verbal description and a person is only likely to grasp its significance once he knows the presence of the risen Jesus in *his* life and can recognise it as such. It is perfectly possible, mind you, to perceive the effects of the risen Christ in someone else's life, but it will only become real to us when we perceive him in our own.

The crowning glory of Easter is the way it touches our individual emotions, enabling us to register the fact. Such a reality is not shared by the Christmas story as such, from which we must inevitably stand aloof, though curiously enough this may help to pinpoint the popularity of Christmas over Easter: we can enjoy it without getting too involved, which suits most of us down to the ground.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead profoundly affects the life of the believer today just as it did those disciples in the upper room or on the road to Emmaus centuries ago, and to share it we must willingly surrender to Christ. If we are sensible we will pray that God will help us to do just that and so appreciate at first hand all that the resurrection means for the life of mankind in every generation. Once we have taken that step of faith the joy of Easter will flood our consciousness all day and every day, for we shall know Jesus as our constant companion and thus 'evermore dwell in him and he in us'.

## Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

The church communities at both Patricbourne and Bekesbourne have been greatly saddened in recent weeks by the death of two of their members.

The distressing illness which came suddenly to Mrs. **Elizabeth Fleming** of Waterfall Cottage, Patricbourne on Christmas Day of all days, together with the long period of unconsciousness before her death at the end of January, put a great strain upon her husband, Ben. We have endeavoured to sustain them both by our prayers and the large congregation at St. Mary's Church at the service which preceded cremation was a real indication of the concern of the entire village. The service was conducted jointly by the Vicar and Canon Colin Perry, who officiated at the committal in Barham crematorium chapel.

The name of **Betty Cruse** was on the prayer lists of all three churches for the very many weeks of her troublesome illness, most of them spent in hospital at London. It was her husband, Norman's interest in old country churches that brought him weekly from their Herne Bay home to Bekesbourne, ultimately to share the warm Christian fellowship there as a regular member of the congregation, a church councillor and sidesman. Betty joined him on most of these visits and quickly established herself as a keen and active participant in the church's life. The beautiful dolls which she dressed were a popular feature of Bekesbourne Christmas Markets.

Sadly Betty died at the beginning of March and her funeral service in St. Peter's Church was attended by a large company of relatives and friends. It was followed by interment in Bekesbourne Churchyard, a privilege richly deserved.

As I write, news has reached me of the tragic death of one of our Assistant Bishops, the 91-year old **Bishop Kenneth Warner**, who drowned while out exercising his dog. Bishop Warner was Bishop of Edinburgh until he retired to live at Selling, since when he has served this diocese most faithfully and lovingly. Increasing age had begun to restrict his work as an assistant, yet he enjoyed excellent health for a man of his years and was held in great affection all over the diocese. It is sad that his life should have been eclipsed in so distressing a way.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace!

# BBC Radio Medway Lent Course, 1983

Another successful Lent Course has come to an end. Under the general heading 'Jesus Christ the Life of the World' we were taken on a spiritual journey through Bethlehem, Galilee, along the Via Dolorosa (Christ's walkway to the cross) to the Holy Sepulchre, culminating at the Mount of the Ascension. The five speakers dealt with Christ's Birth, Ministry, Death, Resurrection and Ascension.

We have had lively discussions, have differed more than once, yet remained friends throughout. After each session we have come away with a greater respect for one another, a stronger faith and a deeper fellowship.

We are indebted to our hosts and hostesses, who opened their doors to as many as fifteen people some evenings. Radio Medway can only be received with clarity in the evenings if you live on the 'hills' of Bridge, so we are very grateful to Stuart and Maggie Field, Douglas and Joan Hill, John and Irene Barley and Charles and Eve Harrington for offering their homes. Without their hospitality there would not have been any Lent Course and that would have been a sad loss indeed.

It is good to be able to share our thoughts and experiences with each other, whether we profess to be Methodists, Baptists, Roman Catholics, Anglicans or of no specific faith. Bringing the resurrected Christ into our lives is the only sure hope we have for making a better world. Christ said, "Because I live, ye shall live also". (*St. John 14; 19*) That is the glorious message of Easter.

K.P.



## CHRIST IN THE TOMB

They took the body down from the Cross and one of the few rich men among the first Christians obtained permission to bury it in a rock tomb in his garden . . . It was well that the tomb should be sealed with all the secrecy of an ancient eastern sepulchre and guarded by the authority of the Caesars . . . [For] it was the end of a very great thing called human history; the history that was merely human. The mythologies and the philosophies were buried there, the gods and the heroes and the sagas. In the great Roman phrase, they had lived. But as they could only live, so they could only die; and they were dead.

On the third day the friends of Christ coming at daybreak to the place found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but the dawn.

G.K. CHESTERTON (1874-1936), *The Everlasting Man*

## **TIME AND TALENTS — Bridge Churchyard Springclean**

Winter is past (we hope) and it is once more time for both the old and the new parts of Bridge Churchyard to have a much-needed springclean.

This is planned for Saturday, 16th April at 10am and we hope that a large number of friends will turn up, armed with whatever garden tools they can bring, really to get to grips with things.

Last November the thought was aired that the Spring and Summer growth of grass and weeds, which rapidly turns the new part of the yard into a semi-wilderness, could easily be controlled if sufficient volunteers would undertake to keep one or two grave spaces neat and tidy. This would only call for perhaps an hour every week or so, and would make a great difference to its past neglected appearance.

Perhaps because Spring seemed so far away at the time the response was not as forthcoming as we hoped. Now that the growing season is upon us again we would ask all friends to give the idea some thought and, if you feel able to help in this way please contact the Vicar as soon as possible.

*Alan Jackson*



### ***ANYONE FOR TENNIS?***

The 1983 tennis season will commence shortly with the Bridge Tennis Club's AGM, to be held on the 12th April at 8pm in the Village Hall. The Tennis Club is always keen to welcome new-comers to Bridge as well as those who have been resident for some time and always meant to join, in order to keep fit. This is a friendly club, and anyone who has seen the playing standards will realise that 'brilliance is not a must' and that MacInroe can assuredly sleep at nights!

Why not reserve the date — Saturday, 30th April and come along at 2.15pm to join in the Seniors' American Tournament? Or, if you know of any youngsters who are keen to play, let them know about our Coaching Scheme, and, if they already have the basic skills, then they may like to know that a *May-Day American Junior Tournament* will be organised for the first time on Monday, 2nd May at 2.15pm — open to all interested!

If you want any further information, please 'phone me on Bridge 830506.

*Hilary Whiting, Hon. Secretary*

**DID YOU KNOW** that the 1st Bridge Guides and Brownies' Jumble Sale held on 5th March produced the magnificent profit of £113? Our grateful thanks to all who gave raffle prizes, made cakes, sent jumble and helped in whatever way .

*M. Ashdown, Brownie Guider  
T. Harvey, Guide Guider*





## The Methodist Minister writes . . .

A young minister, speaking from the pulpit, said, “If you enjoyed the service it is available on cassette, price £1.75 . . .” — thus went the cartoon in a newspaper recently. A horrifying thought?

‘Church services are bad enough live, let alone repeated in the comfort of your own home! After all, for many people the services don’t mean much to them — boring, long, and unsatisfying.’

Whose fault is this? Is it the Church’s fault? Maybe we should change our worship to suit better those who rarely, or never, attend. But are the latest versions of the Bible, and the newest hymns always the best? Should the sermon be abandoned along with organ music to be replaced with dialogue, discussion and guitars?

Maybe worship should be up-to-date, but need it be either/or and could it be both/and? Is there not room for sermon *and* dialogue, new *and* old hymns, organ *and* guitar? The Church has a vast heritage and tradition of worship which should not be lightly abandoned, but we cannot afford to fossilize this asset. Today’s novelty may become tomorrow’s treasured tradition. Remember that in the Seventeenth Century the Authorised Version was a dangerous novelty, organs were considered the devil’s instruments, and hymns were hardly even a thought in someone’s mind. Those of us who are satisfied with things as they are have a responsibility to listen to others’ criticism, but those who are dissatisfied should ask themselves why.

I think that television, amongst other things, has led many to believe that life should be one big round of entertainment, that we have a *right* to be happy, and that if we do not enjoy something (or someone?) then we need not bother with it any more. Is this how we see worship? Should it be entertaining like a sort of religious variety show? No. Though worship should show the joy of the Easter message it is not entertainment but an expression of our relationship with God together, and in any relationship there are joys *and* sorrows. These are expressed in a church service in a variety of ways, all having their place and purpose.

I find *Coronation Street* boring, but then I do not understand it; if I sat there for long enough I would begin to realize what so many find in it. If a church service seems boring, maybe it is because we do not understand it; perhaps if we took part more often we would begin to realize what so many find in it . . .

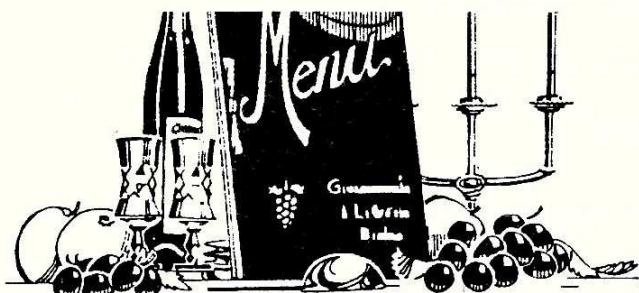
Incidentally, I’ve started recording services for anyone who wishes to listen to them. If you would like to take advantage of this offer please contact either Pat Grant (830555) or myself (63816)

“If you enjoyed the service it is available on cassette, price £1.75 . . .” Well actually they are free for loan! Any takers?

*Peter Taylor*

## Who's Who 'On The Nail'

If the many village organisations care to let me have a note of their Hon. Secretary and address, together with their usual meeting date and time, I will compile a list for publication in a future edition of *On The Nail*. Clerks of Bridge and Bekesbourne Parish Councils may care to submit lists of newly-elected councillors, following the forthcoming elections.



## Bridge Spring Supper

A purely social evening with no strings attached, organised by the Church as a village function. The date is 30th April. The venue is Bridge School. The time 7 for 7.30pm. Cost of tickets £1.50 a head. Tickets on sale by Alicia Pentin, 14 Brewery Lane; Kath Pierce, 7 Windmill Close and the Vicar; also after church services.

**PARISH  
PUMP**  
Parish Council  
News



## BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on 10th March, and a fairly full agenda included the following matters:—

### Village Hall

The Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, said that he was still receiving contributions to the Improvements Funds, and would welcome more. The purchase of the Hall had not yet been completed, largely because of delays caused by the fact that the vendor company was domiciled in Sark.

### “The New Close”

Members of the Council had attended a site meeting on 4th March with representatives of the City and County Councils to discuss, with neighbouring residents, the complaints which had been made, since the opening of the new Home, of unpleasant smells emitted by its incinerator. They had seen the incinerator in operation, and the Chairman reported that it had been agreed that the chimney stack, which Cllr. Tim Hoare had earlier pointed out did not in any case comply with building regulations, would be raised. The situation will, of course, continue to be watched by the Council.

### **Recreation Ground**

Cllr. Peter Lawrence told the Council that the blacksmith at Barham had carried out repair work to the swings, and that when new seats were purchased he would re-assemble the equipment. The City Council had agreed to install a new refuse bin in place of that at present sited by the play area, and which had been badly vandalised. The Council decided to ask for this to be placed nearer to the exit over the bridge.

### **Proposed New Hotel**

The Chairman reported to the Council on the public meeting held by the Chairman of the Patricbourne Parish Meeting, Mr. C.A. Potter, on 18th February. A representative of the developers had explained the plans, and while few residents opposed the principle of the development, many were uneasy that substantial additional traffic would be created in Bridge by vehicles joining the Canterbury by-pass for London. The Council decided to support the Patricbourne proposals for a direction board at the exit from Pond Lane indicating a left turn for Canterbury and London.

### **Generally**

The County Surveyor had agreed to install a direction sign to the Bridge telephone box at the top of the slip road from the by-pass, in order, it is hoped, to relieve nearby residents of having to deal with stranded motorists at all hours. The Council decided to ask for a further sign at the fork junction on the other side of the bridge.

Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin had had a reply from the Highways Department indicating that they had no objections in principle to the Council's proposals for improvements to the Bridge Hill/Bridge Down stairway, though they had asked for further details, which Cllr. Gulvin had supplied.

The next Council meeting, the last before the election, will be on the 14th April, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

*F. L. Edwards, Clerk*

## **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS May 5th 1983**

On the 5th May all the members of the Parish Council retire and several of the existing members are not seeking re-election. I hope that a number of new faces will put up for election — we need some new blood.

The Parish Council meets every 2nd Thursday in the month and anyone can attend and speak on any issue of particular interest to them. It is non-political and of course none of the members draws expenses.

A Councillor should be able to attend Council Meetings regularly and he or she is expected to serve on at least two Sub-Committees as and when the need arises.

If you would like to know more, or require a nomination form, please give me a ring or speak to any Councillor you are acquainted with.

Please note, however, **Nominations close April 9th, so HURRY!**  
**BRIDGE, like Kitchener some years ago, NEEDS YOU!**

*John Hill, Chairman* Bridge 830215

## PATRIXBOURNE PARISH MEETING

The annual assembly of the Patricxbourne Parish Meeting will be held at 8pm on Thursday, 21st April, 1983 at the Old Vicarage, Patricxbourne by invitation of Dr. and Mrs. D. Pratt. Agenda: To elect a Chairman for 1983/4. To receive the accounts for 1982. Any other business.

*S. Martin, Acting Clerk*

## Fish News



The **Coffee 'Pop-in'** proved to be very popular. A large number of retired residents from our four villages met in the Methodist Church for a happy morning of companionship and conversation, and we were pleased to have the Methodist Minister, The Revd. Peter Taylor, and the Vicar drop in to wish us well. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, 13th April from 10.30am until 12 noon, also in the Methodist Church.

Nunnery Fields Hospital is starting a new after-care project for patients who live alone. A volunteer will be allocated to each patient and will visit in hospital and be briefed by the sister about help that will be needed when the patient returns home. A home visit will be made as soon as possible after discharge. The hospital social worker will arrange for help from the statutory services and the volunteer will give help and support until independence is regained. A new Community Liaison Sister has been appointed at the hospital, who will give help and advice where needed. It has been agreed that the 'Fish' Scheme shall provide cover for our four villages. We have already been giving help of this sort, but the new project will give us improved back-up from and liaison with the hospital. Four of our 'Fish' volunteers have been on the first training course, arranged by the Red Cross, which covered a wide range of topics concerned with the care of the elderly in the community. Any of our volunteers will be welcome on future courses and I can give more information to anyone who is interested.

*Joan Warren, 830233*

**The League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals Bridge Group** AGM will be held in Bridge Village Hall on Friday, 22nd April at 7.30pm. We hope all our members will make a big effort to attend. There will, as usual, be refreshments of Cheese and Wine following the business.

*F.E. Apps, Hon. Secretary, Bridge Group*

Lady Mount gives advance notice that the **garden of Woolton Farm** will be open to the public on Whit Sunday, 22nd May from 2pm till 6pm in aid of the Disabled Drivers' Association. More details in the May issue of *On The Nail*.

### **ST. PETER'S, BEKESBOURNE — April rotas**

*Cleaning*

*Flowers*

Mrs. Smith .....	April 2	
Mrs. Stickells .....	April 9	Mrs. Clifford
Mrs. Hogben .....	April 16	Mrs. Smith
Mrs. Watson .....	April 23	Mrs. Farbrace
Mrs. Russell .....	April 30	Mrs. Russell

Vicar: The Revd. Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., The Vicarage, 23 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JZ (Bridge 830250)

### **PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE**

**Churchwardens:** Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)  
Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830472)  
**Hon. Secretary:** Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830426)  
**Hon. Treasurer:** Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)  
**Organist (Bridge):** Mr. D. Mathew, 27 Rivercourt, Chartham CT4 7JN (Canterbury 731548)  
**Organist (Patricxbourne):** Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD  
(Canterbury 62695)  
**Verger (Bridge):** Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5JD (Bridge 830660)

### **BEKESBOURNE**

**Churchwardens:** Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)  
Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)  
**Hon. Secretary:** Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)  
**Hon. Treasurer:** Mr. G.D. Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5ER (Bridge 830256)  
**Organist:** Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)  
**Captain of the Bells:** Mr. H. Collard, 1 Mumpas Cottages, Little Pett, Bridge CT4 5PD  
**Magazine Advertising:** Mr. J. Barley, 49 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830612)  
**Magazine Editor:** The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On the Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. He would always welcome articles and photographs of general interest for inclusion in the Magazine which has a wide circulation in the three villages of Bridge, Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne.

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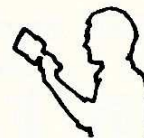
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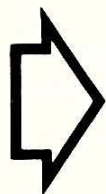
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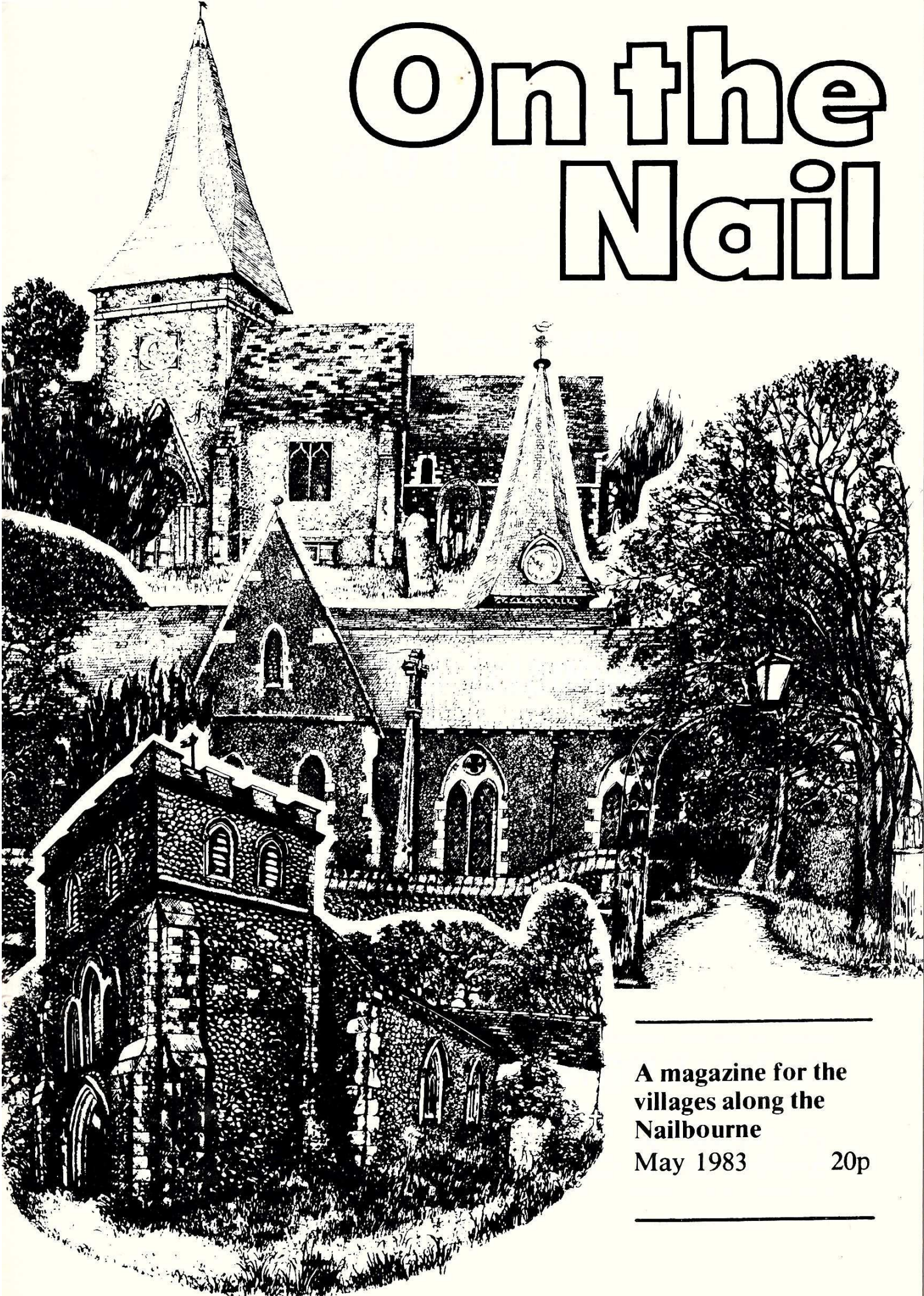
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# On the Nail



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villages along the  
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May 1983

20p

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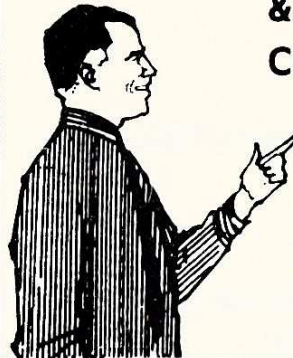
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# Sunday Worship in May

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

**1st:**

11am Family Service  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

**8th:**

9.30 Family Communion  
(Series 3)  
No Evensong

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

7pm Concert

**15th:**

9.30 Parish Communion  
(Series 3)  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

11am Matins

**22nd:**

9.30 Parish Communion  
6.30 Festal Evensong

8am Holy Communion

11am Matins & Holy  
Communion

**29th:**

9.30 Family Communion  
(Series 3)  
6.30pm Evensong

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

**5th June:**

11am Family Service  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

## Bridge Methodist Church in May

Sunday Preachers at 11am: *1st*, The Revd. T. Mervyn Willshaw, M.A., B.D. *8th*, Miss J. Charlesworth, M.A. *15th*, The Revd. Peter Taylor, B. Met., B.D. *22nd*, Mr. E.R. O'Mahony. *29th*, Mr. J. Whalan.

The 89th Anniversary of the chapel will be commemorated at 11am on 15th, when, at the same service the Christian Aid Week collectors will be commissioned. This last is a new departure which we feel will be valued by everyone concerned, and as Christian Aid Week is an ecumenical event it is hoped all the local collectors will be present. The Chapel Anniversary continues on Tuesday, 17th May, with an evening meeting at 7.30 conducted by the Revd. Raymond Goodburn, M.A. of St. Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury. Bridge Methodists extend a cordial invitation for both of these occasions.

One further item of Methodist publicity is an open invitation to a Coffee Morning at the chapel on Tuesday, 24th May from 10.30am to 12 noon, with stalls selling cakes, jams, marmalade and other goods.

**Weekday Services** will take place as follows: Holy Communion each Wednesday at 9.30 and Friday (Series 3) at 7.30 in St. Peter's, Bridge. The weekly informal act of worship at The New Close is every Wednesday at 2.30pm.

## For your diary and prayer list

1st **Fourth Sunday After Easter**

2nd **St. Philip and St. James, Apostles** Transferred from 1st.

- 3rd Bekesbourne PCC Meeting, School House, 8pm
- 4th Cathedral Lecture, 8pm "Medicine and the Church — in partnership?"
- 8th **Fifth Sunday After Easter**  
 There will be no Evensong due to a concert in St. Peter's, Bekesbourne to be given in aid of church funds by The Occasional Singers, conductor David Flood. Many will remember this group's initial concert at Bridge last year and we hope for good support for a pleasant evening of choral and organ music starting at 7pm.
- 10th Pray for the Deanery Synod which meets this evening.
- 11th Fish Scheme Coffee Morning for the elderly, Village Hall, 10.15 till 11.45.  
 Blossom Tour leaves Western Avenue 2.15pm  
 Cathedral Lecture, 8pm "What hope for the Family?"
- 12th **ASCENSION DAY**  
 Evening Eucharist (Series 3) at 8pm, St. Peter's, Bridge  
 Bridge Parish Council, 7.30pm
- 14th **St. Matthias the Apostle**
- 15th **Sunday After Ascension Day**
- 16th Christian Aid Week until 21st
- 17th Archdeacon's Visitation, Cathedral Quire, 7.30pm, which Churchwardens and Sidesmen should endeavour to attend.
- 18th Cathedral Lecture, 8pm "The healing impact of marriage"
- 19th *Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988*
- 21st Pray for Gordon Lennox and Julie Banks to be married this afternoon at St. Peter's, Bekesbourne
- 22nd **WHITSUNDAY**, one of the Church's major festivals, increasingly called Pentecost.
- 24th Methodist Coffee Morning, 10.30am.
- 25th Cathedral Lecture, 8pm "Healing — where is God leading us?"
- 29th **Trinity Sunday**

## The Search for Health and Healing

The present age is surely the most health-conscious there has ever been, what with a plethora of slimming techniques, health food shops in abundance, associations to combat this, that and the other diseases, support groups for sufferers of serious or less common complaints and an assortment of fringe medical practitioners each peddling their own brand of the alchemist's elixir of life. Almost daily you can read where one doctor recommends the total absence of, say, common salt from one's diet and an equally qualified colleague is all for the opposite approach, such that by the time this shuttle advice service has embraced the majority of food-stuffs and medications available you begin to wonder if it is safe to eat or take anything into one's system. Perhaps Howard Hughes was right and the only safe way to avoid catching anything is to withdraw into a life of total exclusion from germ-spreading humanity in a completely sterilised atmosphere.

Hints on health are currently in such plentiful supply, and being added to all the time, that we shall soon be on the look out for something to counteract this super-abundance of information that threatens to make hypochondriacs of us all. Some of it makes one wonder if it is ever safe to go to a conventional GP or to take the medicine he prescribes. When once we get to that stage the

time has surely come to cry enough is enough!

### **You just can't win!**

Let's not pour scorn on the search for health, however, for there is more than a grain of truth in the familiar dictum, "Look after your health: that's the main thing!" We owe it to those who care about us to care for ourselves, and most of us have a responsibility to our employer that demands we take steps to keep healthy. Only a fool would court ill-health, which is not saying a great deal for those who persistently ignore the health warning on every packet of cigarettes.

Yet the most diligent health-fiend who eats only organically-grown products and spurns all junk foods is lucky if he gets through life without contracting something, even if it is only the common cold. For all our carefully planned eating habits and personal hygiene we are never immune from illness and the scourge of the age, cancer, is no respecter of either, or so it seems.

### **What price the Church?**

Concerned as it is with all aspects of life the Church does not stand aloof from the debate and in these times is reassessing its attitude towards the whole business of health and healing. Not that its contribution is either original or new, for the Christian Church has always had a hand in man's bodily and mental wellbeing, and not just his spiritual. From earliest times it has seen itself as the Body of Christ, i.e. the vehicle through which the living Christ works in the world, and as its Lord went about healing the sick so it believes itself to be called to share in that never-ending work of healing, no matter at what period of history it happens to be. For an insight into this healing work at the dawn of Christian history let me refer you to the letter of St. James, where he clarifies the current practice of the Church in his day. Read James 5 vv. 14 - 16.

Sadly, the Church's ministry of healing was permitted to lapse for many of the ensuing years until the idea of such a ministry disappeared from its thinking. It is only just undergoing a resurgence, although homes of healing at Burrswood and Crowhurst have been in operation for some time and individuals have been exercising a healing ministry based on New Testament lines in various parts of the country. In recent years congregations have begun to take seriously James's words and see themselves as essentially healing communities, giving themselves over either to specifically healing services (St. Dunstan's, Canterbury is a case in point) or to meeting in prayer for the sick on a regular basis.

In order to regularise this ministry and to educate parishes in what ought really to be a commonplace aspect of its work, diocesan councils have sprung up and in this diocese a body now exists to promote this called the *Canterbury Council of Health and Healing*. I am a member of that council.

### **Get the message!**

With the co-operation of the Cathedral authorities the Council has been able to arrange a series of four lectures in the Nave on the Wednesdays of May at 8pm, under the umbrella title 'The Search for Health and Healing'. Participating will be a panel of speakers eminent in this field and of national renown, including the newly-appointed Adviser to the Archbishops on the Ministry of

Healing, Bishop Maurice Maddocks, Dr. Jack Dominian, a Consultant Psychiatrist and active Roman Catholic, Dame Cicely Saunders of Hospice Movement fame and the Archbishop himself. Posters giving details are displayed in all three churches and I hope that many parishioners will join the party already going from the villages. Come and be enlightened about this much-neglected rôle of our Church and of the great work already being done to bring, in the name of God, support to the medical profession in its vital work and health and healing to mankind as a whole. Jesus healed the sick and he is calling us to do the same in the power that comes only from him!

## Youth Pilgrimage, 1983

*Catherine Hodgson reports on this exciting day of fellowship and festivity at the Cathedral in company with our Archbishop.*



“When in April the sweet showers fall  
And pierce the drought of March to the root, and all . . .  
Then people long to go on pilgrimages . . .  
And specially, from every shire’s end  
In England, down to Canterbury they wend . . .”

*from Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales*

On Easter Monday, young people from all over the Canterbury diocese joined together in a pilgrimage to the Cathedral. A group from Bridge and Bekesbourne led by the Vicar, set out enthusiastically from St. Peter’s Church, Bridge at 9.30am and took route via the orchards and along the Pilgrims Way, undeterred by the occasional ‘sweet showers’ of April. We then joined an assembly from churches and youth clubs throughout the diocese. There were more than a thousand young people at St. Augustine’s College and we all joined heartily in singing “Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son”. Then the cheering and banner waving procession of pilgrims marched joyfully through the streets of the city to the Cathedral, where the Archbishop greeted everybody at the West Door before presiding at the thrilling Pilgrimage Eucharist. During the service we renewed our baptismal vows and the Archbishop lit a candle from the great Paschal candle and distributed the light to every member of the congregation. Each pilgrim held his candle high and the cathedral was flooded with a magnificent light. The Archbishop said, “Receive this light” and we again celebrated the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

After the service, the Archbishop held a question-and-answer session in the Crypt. He explained to us that, although a peace-maker, he did not believe in

all the things the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament stood for. He also talked about his work throughout the world and his involvement with the London Marathon through 'Runcie's Runners'. After lunch many activities took place including drama, music and visits to the top of Bell Harry Tower.

The aim of the pilgrimage was to make us more aware of the joy of the resurrection and, by sharing this experience, we all felt this had been achieved.

## Christian Aid Week, May 16-21 1983

Do you remember the water strike? Perhaps the memory of it has not lingered as long in this area as in the areas where people had to boil water or carry it from stand-pipes. It was a difficult and anxious time, especially for the elderly and the sick and those caring for them. Yet, for millions of people all over the world, obtaining water from a stand-pipe is an unheard-of luxury. We have all been shocked by the television pictures and accounts of the drought in Ethiopia. Lack of water remains one of the greatest problems in many countries and much of Christian Aid's work is directed to the relief of those suffering the consequences of drought and, better still, helping to avoid further tragedies by finding new sources of water and methods of collecting it when the precious rain does fall.

Christian Aid's work goes on all year, every year — and once a year they try to give an opportunity to everyone to share in that work. Will you help to give the week the right start in Bridge, Patixbourne and Bekesbourne by coming to the Methodist Church at 11am on May 15th when we shall ask God's blessing on all we are trying to do in His service during the following week? Can you help by being a collector to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to contribute? The more collectors we have, the more sure we shall be that nobody is left out. If you are willing to act as a collector, please let me know. Whether you can help in this way or not, when the collector comes to your door will you give as generously as possible, in gratitude for the water which you know is always there whenever you turn the tap?

“In Christian Aid Week we ask your blessing, God our Father, in seeking the means to give Christian Aid to those in need. Help us to make our giving a prayer, a sacrament; and never let us forget to praise you for beauty — the smile on the face of a wounded Palestinian child; the hospitality of the poor sharing their small resources; the tenderness in the face of a relief worker moving among the wretchedness of a refugee camp; the hope that lives among the poor who seem to us in our affluence to have no grounds for hope but who have so much to teach about how to live.”

*Muriel Packer, (phone: 830364)*

## In sorrow and in joy

The end of a perfect day left a Bridge family bereft of their eldest son. **David Cheng**, 71 Bridge Down was returning from a day-trip to France with his girlfriend, Adele Johnson of Sturry, when their car was in collision with a motor coach on the A2 beyond Whitfield roundabout and both lost their lives. David's funeral took place at St. Peter's Church on 8th April and was followed by interment in the churchyard. May both youngsters rest in the peace of God and those who mourn them find their hope in the risen Christ.



Saturday, 9th April dawned bright and clear for the wedding at St. Peter's, Bridge of **Jane Fowler**, River House, High Street to **Robert Ludlow** of Hythe. An innovation was the most pleasant guitar music during the signing of the registers.

Baptized in the course of Easter Day Matins at Bekesbourne was **Rachel Margaret Gall**, daughter of a former choir girl of Bekesbourne, Sheena (née Walker) and husband Martin of the Royal Marines.

## Change of Office

At Patrixbourne with Bridge Annual Church Meeting on 29th March there was a change in churchwarden. After thirteen years in office Mr. Peter Lawrence decided to call it a day and not seek re-election as churchwarden. In expressing its appreciation of his tenure the meeting gave a warm welcome to his successor, Mr. Douglas Hill. Replacing Douglas as Hon. Secretary of the PCC is Mr. L.W. (Sandy) Sanford and we offer our very best wishes to all three, who have served the church most diligently in the past and I know will continue to do so in the future. Including the sixteen elected members and two ex-officio Deanery Synod members the full complement of the PCC is as follows: Chairman, The Vicar. Churchwardens, Charles Potter and Douglas Hill. Deanery Synod Representatives, Joyce Rose and Stephen Pike. Elected at the AGM, Mesdames Elsie Apps, Dorothy Bedingham, Pat Hulyer, Joyce Hunter, Alicia Pentin, Kath Pierce, Diana Potter and Enid Wintle. Miss Joan Carpenter. Messrs. John Barley, Alan Jackson, Peter Lawrence, Bill Rose, Leonard Sanford, Barry Whiting and John Williamson.

## Thanks are expressed . . .

by the Matron of The New Close, who writes, "On behalf of residents and staff may I thank the Brownies for their Easter Concert and for the delightful Easter Ducks filled with eggs, which were readily eaten and thoroughly enjoyed. We hope you will come again soon".

\* \* \*

by the local Honorary Secretary of the Church of England Children's Society for the generous contributions made in the Family Week house-to-house collection. A total in excess of £157 was raised and thanks are particularly extended to all the helpers of Bridge, Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne. Watch out for details of a coffee morning in July in aid of this worthwhile charity!

**Woolton Farm Gardens**, Bekesbourne, will be open to the public on Sunday 22nd May from 2 till 6 pm in aid of Riding for the Disabled. Don't miss this marvellous opportunity to visit the magnificent Spring Gardens at Woolton Farm, which contain spectacular displays of azaleas and rhododendrons, exquisite spring blossom, rare shrubs and trees — all in a beautiful landscaped setting. Teas will be provided and there will be a Home Produce Stall. All entrance fees go to the Cobbs Meadow Group, your active local branch of Riding for the Disabled. Free entrance for the disabled.

# Pilgrimage to Bekesbourne

Canterbury was thick with tourists  
swarming the cathedral  
which had no memorial to Cranmer.

Bekesbourne was another world:

the train left us on a deserted platform

BEKESBOURNE

an iron gate led to a long hot lane  
between birdsong and corn  
and on to Cranmer's manor which I found  
tucked in a fold of field and wood:

a man we met cutting a hedge  
referred to it as 'the Old Palace'

it was all just so right:

Cranmer's retreat: his home:  
the secrecy of wife and family:

the Old Palace was occupied it seemed:

a tiny bridge over a stream was dated 1667  
which itself no doubt replaced an earlier one:

nearby the church was locked:  
the church with its Norman entrance  
and its pathway to the Old Palace:

there was no sound except the birds,  
a tractor, the hum of a distant car.

I photographed:

Sacrilege?

vulgar perhaps but I wanted the evidence  
to reassure myself:

this was my pilgrimage  
not to Canterbury with all its splendour:

and so it was with Cranmer  
in the summer of 1546:

was it here that the portrait was painted?  
if not I fancy Gerlack Flicke must have come  
to make his sketches and as a friend.

*Denis Griffiths*



*This poem was printed in The Lady recently. As soon as it became known to me I wrote to Mr. Griffiths inviting him to see the church interior on his next visit, and sent copies of the booklets on St. Peter's. The portrait by Flicke is shown above (detail). J.P.*

# PARISH PUMP



## **BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Parish took place on 24 March, and attracted twenty parishioners to hear the Report by the Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, on the work of the Council during the past twelve months, and Reports from the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committees and the Mary Gregory Trust. Interesting short Reports were also given by representatives of the churches and the various village organisations. A proposal to site a bottle bank in the village was also discussed.

### **Village Hall Improvements**

The main item of business was, however, a progress report on the purchase and improvement proposals for the Village Hall, which was presented by the Chairman and Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin, who is also the architect for the scheme. Cllr. Hill said that the Council had now paid over the purchase price, £5,000, which had been borrowed from the bank, and it was hoped that City and County grants totalling £21,000 would be received towards the improvement costs of £28,000. Funds in hand totalled £8,200, of which £4,668 had been raised by his recent appeal; so that assuming — though this was by no means certain — that the Council grants would be forthcoming, only £3,800 would remain to be raised. Further contributions would be essential if this sum was to be met. Cllr. Gulvin showed and explained plans of the improvements; which would provide an upper floor room, and a modern kitchen adequate for weddings and other functions. A lively discussion, which members found useful, then took place on such matters as storage, heating and provision for wheelchairs.

### **April Council Meeting**

The meeting of the Council which was held on 14 April was the last before the elections; and despite Cllr. John Hill's appeal for those interested in serving the community to stand for election, only

nine nominations had been received for the nine seats. There will, therefore, be no election, and the Chairman was able to announce that the new members would be Mrs. Margaret Jones and the Vicar. The Council endorsed the Parish Meeting's recommendation to enter the 'Best Kept Village' and 'Trees in Your Village' competitions, but although the Chairman asked residents to keep the village, and their own gardens, clean and tidy, it was decided that any special plans should be discussed at the first meeting of the new Council.

### **Recreation Ground**

Cllr. Peter Lawrence reported that he now had the new swing seats, and that he proposed to put them in place at the week-end. Reference was also made to the state of the see-saw site and to the practice goal-posts, and Cllrs. Ken Greenaway and Mervyn Gulvin undertook to inspect and report back.

### **Generally**

It was agreed that representations should be made to the County Council regarding the state of various footways in the village; and Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young reported on the last Public Participation Meeting organised by the City Council, at which she and other representatives had pressed for parish representation at planning site meetings.

In closing the meeting the Chairman said that their colleagues would miss the contributions made by the two retiring members, Cllrs. Mrs. Olive Knight and Eric Hawkins, and he thanked them for their work during their years of service on the Council.

The first meeting of the new Council, open to visitors, will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 12 May at 7.30pm.

## **BEKESBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Report on the Annual Parish Meeting will be given in the next issue of *On The Nail*, due to pressure on space in this issue. *Ed.*



## The Occasional Singers

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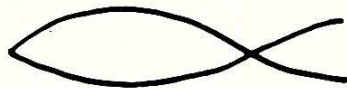
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## 'Fish' News



A large number of people came to our April **Coffee 'Pop-in'** in the Methodist Church. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, 11th May from 10.15 till 11.45am in the Village Hall. This new venture is proving to be very popular and is providing an opportunity for people to meet old friends for a chat and to make new contacts. If you are coming into Bridge to do your shopping on our coffee mornings please would you offer a lift to neighbours without transport — you could even join them for a cup of coffee before returning home (we don't mind if you are under age!).

The **Blossom Tour** is also on 11th May. The coach will be at Western Avenue, Bridge (opposite Green Court) at about 2 o'clock and will be leaving at 2.15pm. Transport will be arranged to the pick-up point where necessary.

A **Stroke Club** is being formed in Canterbury. This will provide an opportunity for stroke sufferers to meet together for advice, support and social activities. Final arrangements will be made at a meeting on 28th April and will be reported in next month's *On The Nail*.

*Joan Warren, 830233*

## Bekesbourne rotas for May

### *Flowers*

Mrs. Russell ..... May 7  
Mrs. Grey ..... May 14  
Mrs. Smith ..... May 22  
Mrs. Farbrace ..... May 28  
June 4

### *Cleaning*

Mrs. Grey  
Mrs. Beckett  
Mrs. Smith  
Mrs. Stickells  
Mrs. Hogben

Vicar: The Revd. Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., The Vicarage, 23 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JZ (Bridge 830250)

### **PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE**

Churchwardens: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patrixbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)

Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT5 5BA (Bridge 830426)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. L.W. Sanford, 11 Windmill Close, Bridge CT4 5LY (Bridge 830411)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patrixbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. D. Mathew, 27 Rivercourt, Chartham CT4 7JN (Canterbury 731548)

Organist (Patrixbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriory, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD

(Canterbury 62695)

Verger (Bridge): Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5JD (Bridge 830660)

### **BEKESBOURNE**

Churchwardens: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G.D. Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5ER (Bridge 830256)

Organist: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Captain of the Bells: Mr. H. Collard, 1 Mumpas Cottages, Little Pett, Bridge CT4 5PD

Magazine Advertising: Mr. J. Barley, 49 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830612)

Magazine Editor: The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On The Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. He would always welcome articles and photographs of general interest for inclusion in the Magazine which has a wide circulation in the three villages of Bridge, Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne.

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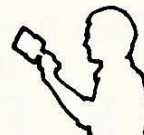
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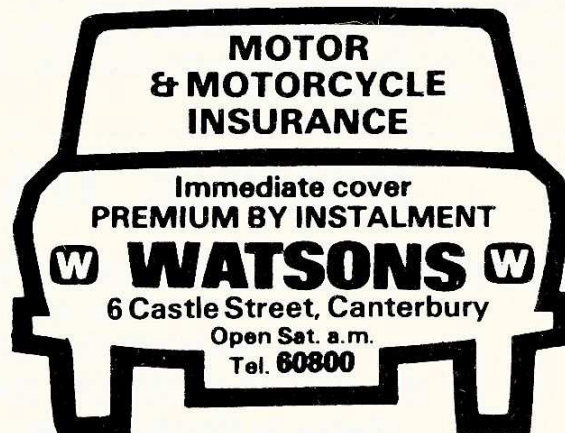
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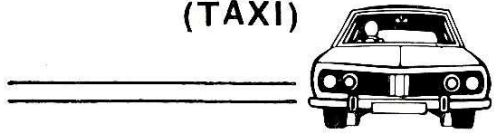
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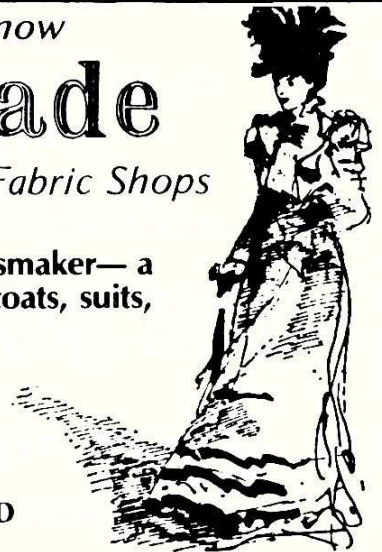


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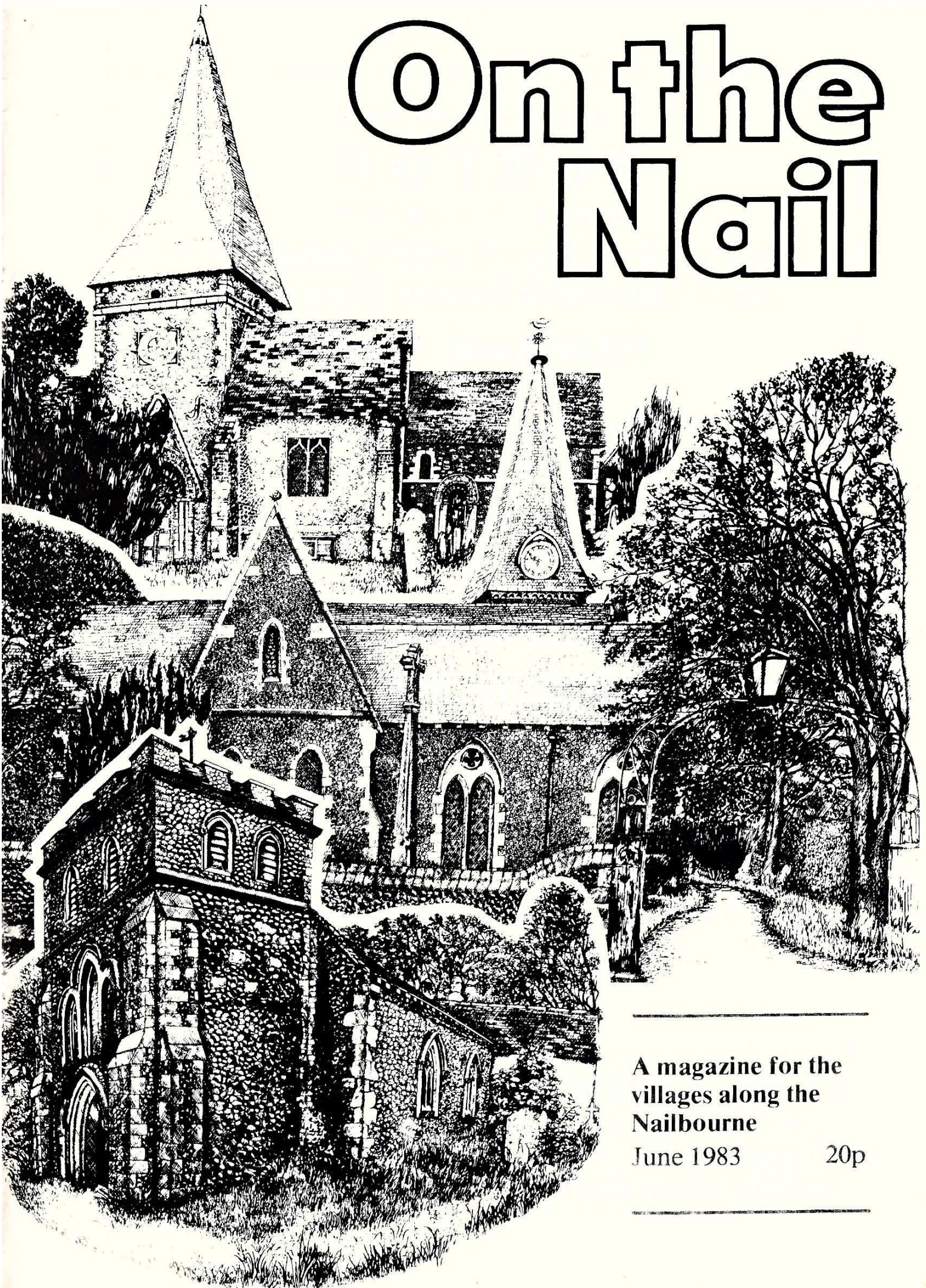
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June 1983

20p

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# Sunday Worship in June

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

**5th:**

11am Family Service  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

**12th:**

9.30 Family Communion  
(*Series 3*)  
6.30pm Evensong

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

**19th:**

9.30 Parish Communion  
(*Series 3*)  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

11am Matins

**26th:**

8am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evensong

9am Holy Communion

11am Matins and  
Holy Communion

**3rd July:**

11am Family Service  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

**Bridge Methodist Church** at 11am: *5th*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *12th*, The Revd. J. Raymond Goodburn, M.A. *19th*, Dr. G. Chapman, Ph.D. *26th*, Miss E. Tressider, B.A., Ph.D.

WEEKDAY COMMUNION in St. Peter's, Bridge — Wednesdays at 9.30am, Fridays (*Series 3*) at 7.30am.

## For your diary and prayer list

- 3rd Pray for the parish of Aylesham and for Alan Frostick, to be inducted Vicar this evening.
- 4th 'Fish' Scheme Coffee Morning and Bring-and-Buy Stall, 10-12 noon.
- 5th **First Sunday After Trinity Pentecost 2**
- 7th Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC Meeting, 8pm
- 8th Coffee Pop-in
- 9th Bridge Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm in the Methodist Church
- 11th **St. Barnabas the Apostle**
- 12th **Second Sunday After Trinity Pentecost 3**
- 14th Bridge Ecumenical Group, 8pm in the Methodist Church: open to all
- 17th Coffee Morning for Bekesbourne Church, School House, 10.30-12 noon
- 18th Bridge School Fête, 2pm
- 19th **Third Sunday After Trinity Pentecost 4**
- 22nd School Governors meet
- 24th **Birth of St. John the Baptist**
- 25th Pray for Robin Hutson and Judy Hill to be married today.
- 26th **Fourth Sunday After Trinity Pentecost 5**
- 29th **St. Peter the Apostle**

Pray for Bekesbourne and Bridge Churches on their Patronal Festival  
RC Mass in St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 8pm  
30th Abbeyfield Coffee Morning at The New Close, 10am till 11.45am  
(*Abbeyfield Society provides family sized houses where seven or eight elderly people can live together with a resident housekeeper. The Canterbury branch, for which this coffee morning is being held, is negotiating for such a house in South Canterbury.*)

## Steeple in a storm

Like many stories it began on a quite ordinary day. Bridge was either at lunch or dozing after it. The children were in the playground waiting for afternoon school to begin. Then it happened — an almighty clap of thunder simultaneous with lightning. The children squealed and rushed indoors as the rains came, and the village found itself the target of one of the most violent thunder storms in many a long day.

At the time Ernest Cassell was washing up in the kitchen of his Brewery Lane home. He glanced up and saw pieces of timber splintering from the church spire. Realising it had been hit he watched to see any signs of fire. Mercifully none appeared and he put through a call to the vicarage to report matters to me.

A preliminary inspection in torrential rain revealed a gaping hole in the steeple about sixty feet up and a considerable quantity of debris littering the churchyard.

### Counting the Cost

Nothing much could be done until the rain stopped, save for telephoning churchwardens and the architect John Clague of *John Clague & Partners*. A hasty site meeting was fixed for when the storm was over but the sound of the fire brigade tearing along Bridge High Street found me back at the church, happily to discover we were not the object of their attentions. Does anybody know who was? Unconfirmed rumour said it was Highland Court!

Acting with great speed two representatives of *John Clague & Partners* were on site and had arranged for a builder to stand by for emergency repairs. Unfortunately the damage was beyond their reach but thanks to the telephone the architects were able to contact a steeplejack and he was on the job first thing the following morning. By an odd coincidence he was due to survey the weather vane at St. Mary's, Patixbourne on the Friday,

### It could have been worse!

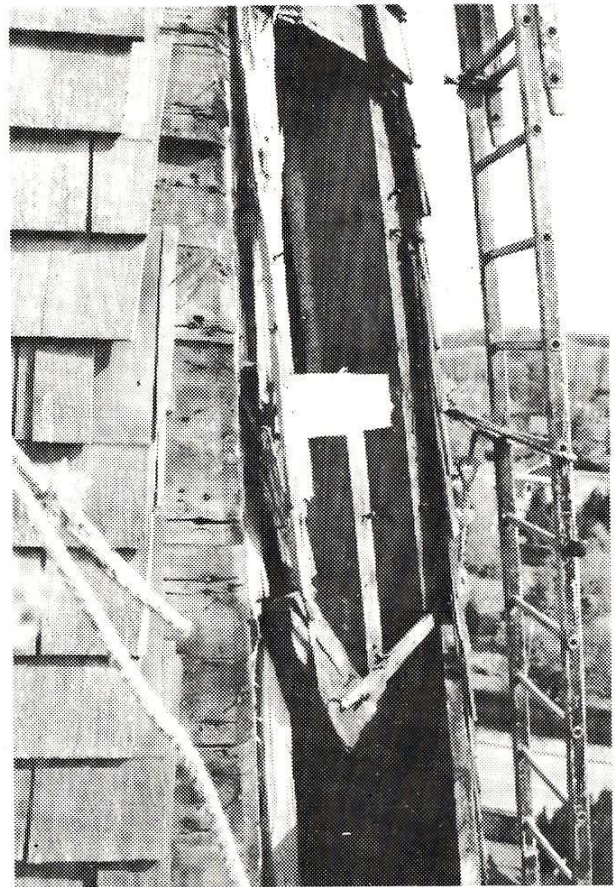
Steeplejack Peter Harknett had ladders up to the weather vane with incredible speed and to the astonishment of villagers, who had never seen the like. His is undeniably a highly-skilled profession. 'How *does* he do it?' was the question on everyone's lips!

An immediate and thorough inspection of the steeple, inside and out, produced the reassuring news that it could have been worse. The basic structure was untouched, the bulk of the damage being to the surface wooden shingles. However the beam that supported the enormous clock weight had been quite seriously split necessitating its replacement once the clockwork had run down and the weight come to rest at ground level.

Before starting his repairs Mr. Harknett made a comprehensive record of the storm damage, some of his pictures appearing here.

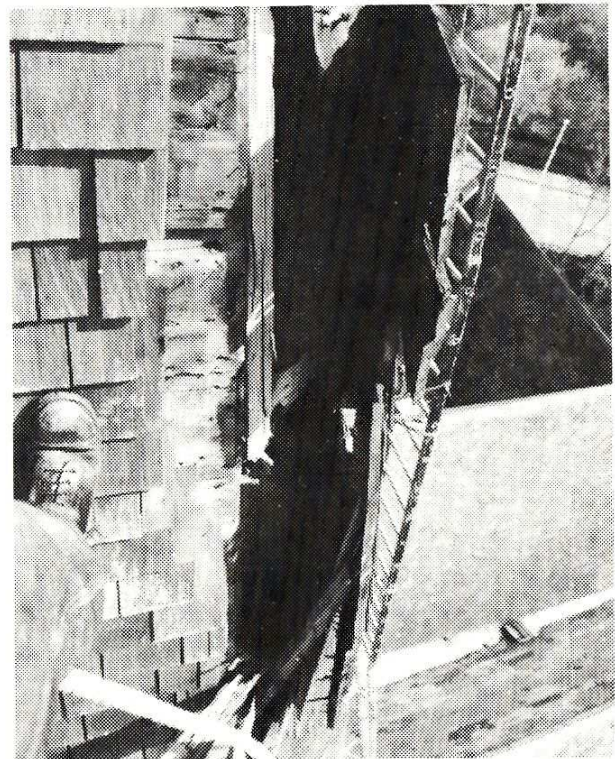


*Left: Mr. Harknett ascending*



*Photographs: John Clague, Peter Harknett*

*Some of the damage in close-up.*



## Weather Vanes re-seated

Also discovered in the inspection of the spire was considerable decay in the vertical timber in which the weather vane was imbedded, so it was decided to have this put right while the other work was being done. Once the four feet long post had been removed evidence of charring was revealed where the metal rod had passed through it, showing how near the spire was to catching fire. Had it done so we would have undoubtedly lost the whole steeple, which is made entirely of wood.

Observant people will have spotted the ladders up the steeple at Patricxbourne, and once the more urgent job at Bridge is completed Mr. Harknett will be moving along to St. Mary's to replace some missing shingles and also the weather vane, which is suffering from the same trouble as St. Peter's.

## The lid off Lightning

Was it a thunder bolt that caused the damage or common or garden lightning? Is there such a thing as a thunder bolt? What is lightning? To find out the answers to these questions I spoke to Dr. John Strange, a Physicist at the University of Kent.

He told me that a thunderbolt is simply a poetic way of speaking about lightning and is anathema to scientists as is the notion of ball lightning.

Lightning is a rapid discharge of electricity from hundreds of feet up in the clouds that is trying to get to the ground by the shortest and easiest route. It takes the way of least resistance and travels easier to a wet surface, though is not helped on its way by falling rain, which comprises individual droplets.

Dr. Strange was not chancing his arm as to the area affected, which is not measurable, nor would he put a figure on the voltage of the charge, but he did make the interesting observation that one flash is enough to light the whole of Canterbury for several hours.

I asked him what accounted for the shingles being flung over a wide radius and he recalled the magnetic principle which I remembered from my school days. The charge of lightning is of one polarity, so that when it meets an object it charges that object with the like polarity. Like poles repel (try it with a pair of magnets), consequently with the tremendous power of lightning striking adjacent objects, even ones fixed together, the magnetic force causes the component parts to fly away from each other, hence the hole in the spire and the flying splinters.

A further spin-off from this concerned the electric flex that passes from the church tower to the Baptistry beneath and which provides light for the chap who winds the clock. Though it was not connected to the power supply we discovered that the plug on the bottom end of it had been blown clean off and shattered: also the result of like polarity.

End of science lesson, but I thought you would like to know. I am grateful to Dr. Strange for his information.

## High living



*Rising to the occasion — Peter starts up his network of ladders.*

## Portrait of a Steeplejack

Peter Harknett, Master Steeplejack is a Londoner by birth, the son of a Steeplejack. He came to work on the spires at Bridge and Patricbourne from his home in Petersfield, Hants and through the good offices of *John Clague & Partners*, our church architects.

Peter, as a church repairing steeplejack, is one of a rare breed, but would not do anything else. He says he makes a good living at it but not a lot of money: he earns less than a bricklayer or carpenter. It is pure job satisfaction with him, and he despairs of the current approach to a trade that is purely money-based. The controlling body is the National Federation of Master Steeplejacks, and whereas it has an apprentice school at King's Lynn recruitment to the trade is very meagre, due again to the poor financial returns, and not to a lack of men with a head for heights.

The official definition of a steeplejack is a man who climbs without scaffolding and our villages have had abundant evidence of Peter's skill in scaling ladders. He believes the church could save itself millions if its advisers could get away from the scaffolding syndrome and quotes a job he did on Chichester Cathedral for £7,000 as against the £50,000 asked for the same job with scaffolding.

Bridge spire is only the second he has been on following a lightning strike in over thirty-five years in the trade. The first was on the Isle of Wight in 1948, when he was with his father.

He is amazed our spire did not catch fire and although the photographs which he took close to before commencing work are startling, the spire's basic structure was so well made it withstood the strike with the minimum of damage. Peter is generally in favour of lightning conductors with the reservations that (a) they only lessen a strike, they do not take all the electricity, getting blown off the wall in the process, and (b) few steeples get struck by lightning anyway.

The village's spire is now as good as new, thanks to Peter Harknett's expertise in working to a high standard just from ladders and a bosun's chair. He has left his mark on our village also by putting in an airtight and light-tight compartment at the top of Bridge and Patricbourne steeples a copy of this edition of *On The Nail* together with one or two other jottings that will ensure a record of village history for our successors up to two hundred years hence. There's fame for you!



best flowered when byrus was being  
built - held up early works,

## The Nailbourne flows at last

In recent years the Nailbourne has given a very poor account of itself, on occasions hardly qualifying as a brook. Now it is in full flow and residents along its length are declaring they can't remember it so active. I am surprised some readers have not been boating along it. At least it can be designated a river without risk of embarrassment!

### The Woe Waters

With its return, of course, the old wives' tale has been revived, that when the Nailbourne flows a national catastrophe is imminent. The suggestion has already been put forward (I suspect with tongue in cheek) that the catastrophe in this case was the lightning strike at Bridge; but that is hardly a national event, nor, as luck would have it, was it a catastrophe.

Mind you, there is the General Election on 9th June; though I have never thought of a river as having strong political leanings in any direction.

Meanwhile perhaps we had better tread warily. It could be the swift course of the 'Woe Waters' points at you! Agh-h-h-h!!

\* \* \*

The swirling waters by the church gates at Bekesbourne, plus the heavy rainfall this Spring did nothing to dampen the joy and happiness that marked the wedding on 21st May at St. Peter's Church of two of Bekesbourne's 'children', **Gordon Lennox** and **Julie Banks**. The sun shone for them and the church was filled with family and friends who gathered to share their joy. We wish them well in their new life together at Sandwich Bay.



**Bridge Mother and Toddler Group** should not be confused with the Village Hall Play Group, says Mrs. Evelyn Andrews.

"Mother and Toddler Group caters for pre-school children. We even have babes in arms, the mums staying with their children, the latter benefiting by mixing with other youngsters even at a very early age. The afternoon is also beneficial to the mothers: many of you will recall life at home with small children can sometimes be rather trying. At M & T we enjoy a chat and occasionally arrange an evening out.

"Last year we took the children to a 'Teddy Bears Picnic' in Canterbury. It was a somewhat hectic day — children and teddy bears everywhere — but thoroughly enjoyed by all.

"As with any club new members are always welcome, so if you are at home all day with young children do pop along any Wednesday afternoon from 2 o'clock onwards. Further details from me at 830960!"

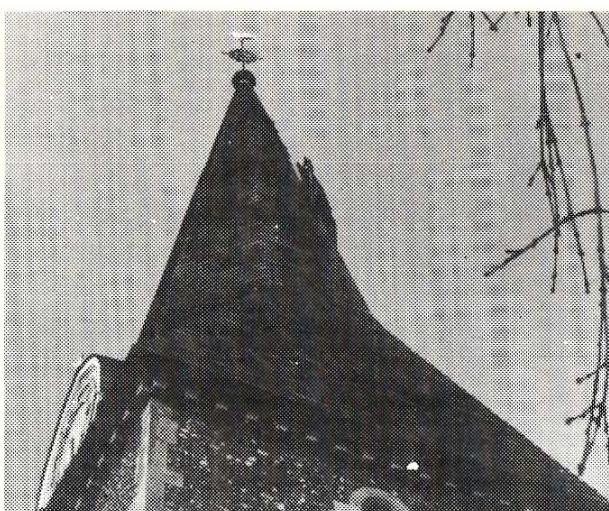


Photo: Rosalind Gilbert

## APRÈS LE DÉLUGE

the golden weathercock  
still stands above the shattered Tower  
unviolated  
calm  
and the clock's blue face  
still counts the hours

*Roger Hunter*

## The Revd. Peter Taylor writes . . .

I never voted at the last General Election. It was not that I was too young, nor too lazy, nor that I forgot, but quite simply that my name was not on anyone's Electoral Roll — my landlord forgot! Anyway, I checked the one in Canterbury and my name's there, so I can and will vote this time. But how on earth do you decide which party to vote for? I mean, they are so petty and bickering, and out for their own ends, and not ours, at least that is how it sometimes seems.

I suppose some people vote for a party out of habit, or because it is expected of them, but most of us in the past made a decision after careful thought and have voted accordingly. If the issue and parties have changed over the years, then we need to review our decision. How?

First, we should examine the problems and issues around which the election is being fought — defence, the economy, unemployment to name but three.

Second, look at what the parties have to say on these issues. One help here are the manifestos; we should read the lines carefully, and read between the lines, for what is omitted is as important as what is included.

Thirdly, assess all this and make a decision. The criterion I use is to ask which party God can best work through in order to bring in his Kingdom. No party is perfect, no manifesto will read like a blueprint for the Kingdom, but one will be the nearest as far as I am concerned.

So it all boils down to theology. Typical of a minister; whoever heard of theology as a General Election issue? But perhaps it should be . . .

## Over the farm gate

Spring is here and it seems incongruous to mention the sledging and tobogganing which took place on Church Bank this winter to the great enjoyment of children and adults alike, but it is now that the 'grumpy' Farmer once more vows never to allow it again and threatens to erect the dreaded "Trespassers will be prosecuted" signs. Many people had the courtesy to ring up and ask permission and it was granted happily with only one condition, that entry and exit were *through the gate*. Many more people just joined the band-wagon, taking the easiest route possible from Patribourne and climbing over the fence. What did it matter that the fence sagged a bit as they climbed over — less likely to tear the trousers. Some even brought wire-cutters for convenience. No doubt it is now the same families

who are irate about the number of lambs seen straying along the road and who so kindly telephone to point out how dangerous it is to allow livestock to wander in the path of cars, and does the Farmer realise his lambs have done untold damage to their gardens, munching and stomping their way across the flower-beds?

The message I hope is clear.

The extra work and expense caused by farming stock escaping through broken fences does not encourage Farmers to welcome the public on their land, so come on, let's be a little more neighbourly, leave your wire cutters at home, use the gates (always remembering to close them afterwards!) and let us *all* enjoy the countryside which surrounds us.

C.J.A.



## Bridge Parish Council

The May meeting of the Parish Council was the first following the elections, and the Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, welcomed the two new members, the Revd. Raymond Gilbert and Mrs. Margaret Jones. The new Council unanimously re-elected Cllr. Hill and Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young chairman and vice-chairman respectively, while of the two new members Cllr. Mrs. Jones was appointed to the Streets, Footways and Lighting Committee and took over responsibility of Footpaths Officer, while Cllr. Gilbert joined Cllr. Mrs. Young as the Council's representative on the Kent Association of Parish Councils.

### Village Hall

The Chairman told the Council that both the City and County Councils had agreed to provide grants totalling almost £21,000 towards the cost of the improvements to the Village Hall; while the Council decided to accept the tender for the work of Messrs Chapman & Humphreys of Canterbury, subject to certain assurances; Cllr. Gilbert pointing out that it would be necessary to postpone the provisional date of commencement, 6th June, as this would mean that the Hall would not be available on polling-day. The

Chairman undertook to let organisations concerned know that it would be necessary for them to find alternative storage for the next four months for items stored at the Hall. Cllr. Mrs. Young reported that her waste-paper collection on behalf of Village Hall funds was proving increasingly successful; and she complained that certain users of the Hall failed to clean up the kitchen before leaving, and emphasised that the Council expected this to be done in the interests of subsequent users.

### Recreation Ground

Cllr. Ken Greenaway said that he and Cllr. Peter Lawrence had reinstated the swings, greased the see-saw, and were arranging for paving stones for the see-saw site. Cllrs. Mrs. Young and John Anderson had attended to the new trees, and had noted that one of the conifers had been broken by vandals who had endeavoured to light a fire under it.

### 'Best Kept Village' Competition

The Council discussed measures to improve the appearance of the village, and agreed on a number of measures, including a suggestion to sponsor a poster competition at the school on the slogan 'Keep Bridge Tidy'.

### Generally

Cllr. Mrs. Young reported on the last meeting of the Area Committee of the Kent Association of Parish Councils; it was agreed that a number of highway problems should be pursued with the County Council; and to propose the siting of a bottle-bank on the lay-by on Town Hill. Two important items, the City Council Report on Economic Development and a discussion on Parish finances, were deferred until the next meeting, which will, as usual, be open to the public, and will be held at 7.30pm on 9th June at the Methodist Church Hall — a change of venue made necessary by the election on that day.

*F.L. Edwards*

### Bekesbourne Parish Council

At a well-attended Parish Meeting on Tuesday, 12th April, the Chairman, Cllr. Johnston gave his report.

He was pleased that the new wheelchair ramp had eventually been built after years of effort, and hoped it would benefit the disabled and those with small children.

There was no progress towards improving the state of the railway station and it was steadily deteriorating. Cllr. Johnston appealed for help from anyone in the Parish who might be able to bring influence to bear with British Rail on this matter.

Lottery money had gone towards such work as repairing the Sports Club gang-mowers with which the Recreation Ground is mown. Money was being put aside towards a tennis court fund.

Questions from the floor were concerned with heavy lorries passing through the village, increased cess-pit emptying charges (up from £28 to £35 a time) and the sudden change of the local 'bus route. On this latter point Cllr. Johnston said that the Parish Council had complained to the 'Bus Company at the abruptness of this change and the complete lack of consultation, but to no avail.

A film was shown about the work of Kent County Council and everyone was able to discuss matters informally over tea and biscuits.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be after the elections held on May 5th. Members of the public are always welcome at these meetings, to ask questions and support the Council.

\* \* \*

Six Councillors were returned unopposed to Bekesbourne Parish Council; there is still one vacancy for which a bye-election may be necessary. Serving on the Council are Ian Johnston, John Ash, Mrs. M. Gabbé, R. Moon, D. Millyard and R. Fisher.

*M. Gabbé*

### 'Fish' News



Our Annual **Coffee Morning** will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday, 4th June from 10am till noon. Do come and support this our only fund-raising event of the year.

A party of fifty-three enjoyed the **Blossom Tour** on 11th May, which included a cream tea and visit to the garden shop at Chilham.

The **Stroke Club** mentioned in last month's *On The Nail* got under way last month and further details will be given as they become available. Its aim is to support stroke patients and their families.

*Joan Warren (830233)*

### ST. PETER'S BEKESBOURNE — Rotas for June

#### Cleaning

Mrs. Hogben .....	June 4th .....	Flowers
Mrs. Watson .....	June 11th .....	Mrs. Beckett
Mrs. Russell .....	June 18th .....	Mrs. Watson
Mrs. Grey .....	June 25th .....	
Mrs. Beckett .....	July 2nd .....	Mrs. Grey

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Churchwardens: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)  
Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT5 5BA (Bridge 830426)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. L.W. Sanford, 11 Windmill Close, Bridge CT4 5LY (Bridge 830411)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. D. Mathew, 27 Rivercourt, Chartham CT4 7JN (Canterbury 731548)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD

(Canterbury 62695)

Verger (Bridge): Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5JD (Bridge 830660)

**BEKESBOURNE**

Churchwardens: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G.D. Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5ER (Bridge 830256)

Organist: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Captain of the Bells: Mr. H. Collard, 1 Mumpas Cottages, Little Pett, Bridge CT4 5PD

Magazine Advertising: Mr. J. Barley, 49 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830612)

Magazine Editor: The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On The Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. He would always welcome articles and photographs of general interest for inclusion in the Magazine which has a wide circulation in the three villages of Bridge, Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne.

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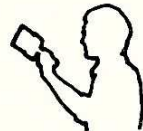
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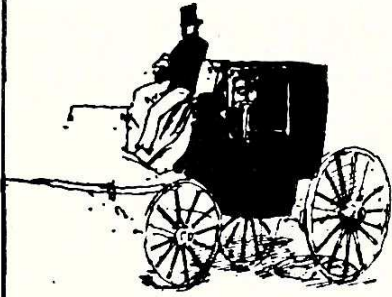
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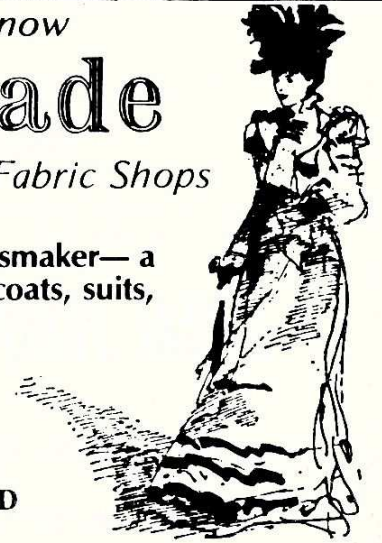


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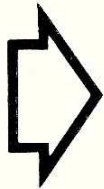
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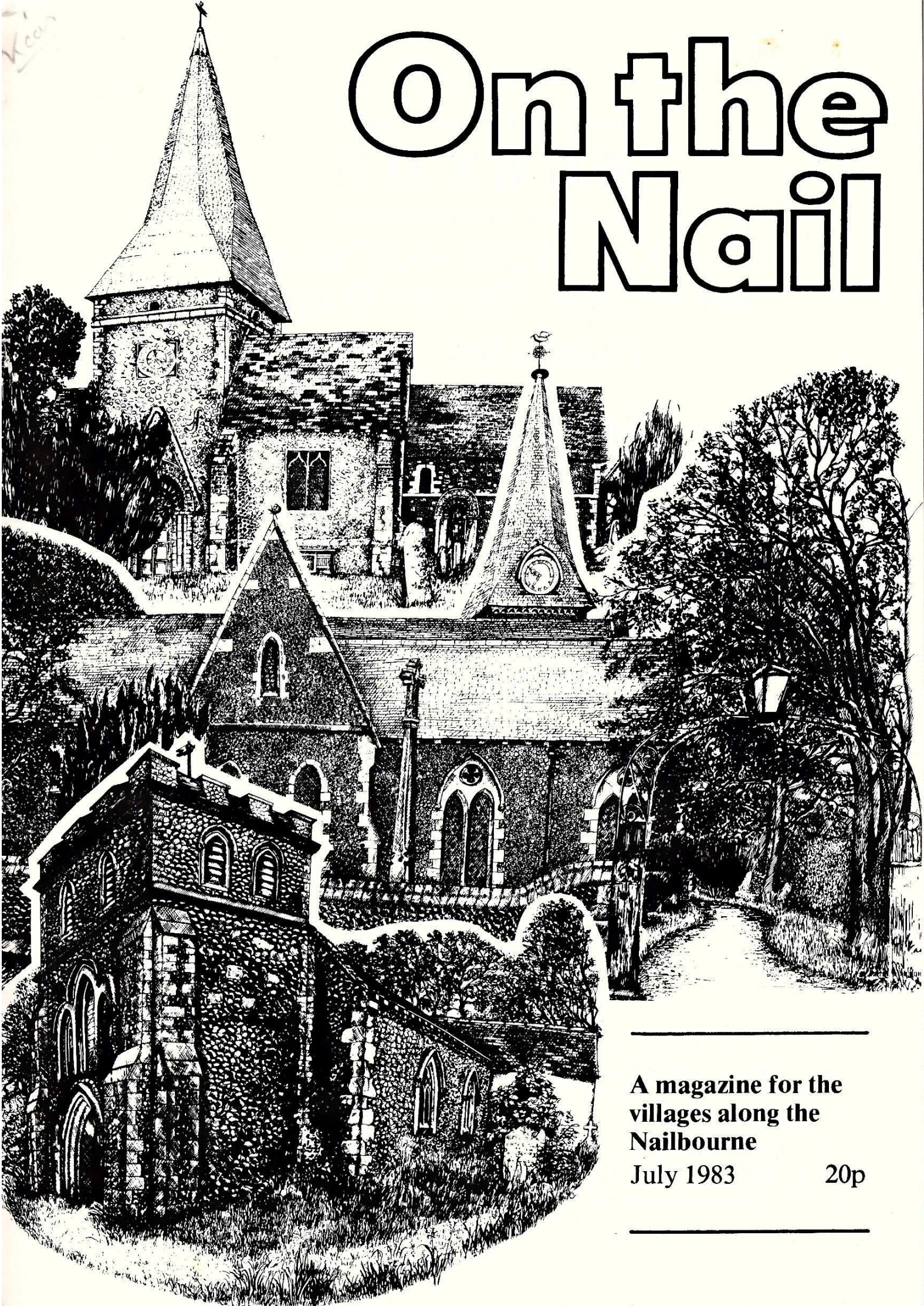
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# Sunday Worship in July

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

## 3rd:

11am Family Service  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

## 10th:

9.30 Family Communion 11am Matins  
(Series 3)

*No Evensong at Bridge*

8am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evensong

## 17th:

9.30 Parish Communion 8am Holy Communion  
(Series 3. Guest  
Preacher)

6.30pm Evensong

11am Matins

## 24th:

8am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evensong

9am Holy Communion

11am Matins & Holy  
Communion

## 31st:

9.30 Family Communion 11am Matins  
(Series 3)  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

## 7th August:

11am Family Service  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

**Bridge Methodist Church** has a weekly service at 11am. For preachers see notice-board outside the church.

The Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's, Bridge every Wednesday at 9.30am and Friday (*Rite A*) at 7.30am, and in the Common Room, Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am. Communion can be administered to the sick and housebound at any time by arrangement with the Vicar.

The weekly service at The New Close is on Wednesdays at 2.30pm. Volunteers are sought to help the residents with this short act of worship. Please contact Kath Pierce (830844) for further information. The job is chiefly a matter of helping to find places in the hymnbooks and sharing in the service, which seldom lasts more than twenty minutes.

The Guest Preacher at Bridge's Parish Communion on 10th July is Mr. Charles Best-Shaw, who is Area Secretary for the USPG, our main Missionary Society.

## For your diary and prayer list

1st Fête Preparation Meeting at the Vicarage, 8pm

3rd **Fifth Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 6**

The School Choir will participate in the Family Service which is on the theme "Fishermen at Sea".

5th Please pray for the clergy of this Deanery who meet in Chapter this morning at Littlebourne.

- 6th *Thomas More, Martyr, 1535*  
Please pray for the work of St. Dunstan's Church, Canterbury.
- 9th *BRIDGE & PATRIBOURNE CHURCH FÊTE*, 2pm. See you there!
- 10th **Sixth Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 7**  
To coincide with the opening of Cobham Court Garden to the public Evensong today will be held at Bekesbourne and not at Bridge, 6.30pm. We shall also be observing Sea Sunday at the request of the Missions to Seamen.
- 11th *Benedict, Abbot of Monte Casino, c550*  
Please pray for those monks and nuns, Anglican and Roman Catholic, who to-day follow the Rule of St. Benedict.
- 14th Bridge Parish Council meets, 7.30pm
- 16th Study Group Barbecue, the Vicarage, 6.30pm
- 17th **Seventh Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 8**  
9.30am Preacher: Charles Best-Shaw, USPG
- 22nd **St. Mary Magdalen**
- 23rd Please pray for Gina Muir-Little and Tim Roberts, to be married to-day at Patribourne.
- 24th **Eighth Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 9**
- 25th **St. James the Apostle**
- 26th *Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- 28th *Church of England Children's Society* Coffee Morning, 33 High Street, 10am to 12 noon.
- 31st **Ninth Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 10**

*The garden at Cobham Court, Bekesbourne will be open on Sunday, 10th July and Wednesday, 13th July from 2.30pm until 6.30pm. Tea and biscuits will be available and there will be a plant and produce stall. Admission is 50p (children free) and the proceeds will be divided between the Queens Nursing Institute, the National Trust and the Pilgrim's Hospice.*

## Saint with a reputation

It is frequently said that you can make the Bible prove anything if you try hard enough! You can certainly concoct some weird notions from it, though only if you juggle the words about quite a lot until you arrive at the interpretation you want. Such a misuse of Holy Writ, however, might be said to *engineer* a point; it certainly does not prove it!

One victim of biblical misconstruction is the saint whose feast day falls on the 22nd July. Tradition has dubbed St. Mary Magdalen a loose woman who was converted by Jesus from her immoral ways, and the evidence for this reputation is a questionable reading of two passages in St. Luke's Gospel; one of which refers to St. Mary Magdalen by name while the other is taken to refer to her.

In chapter 8, verse 2 Luke mentions 'Mary (called Magdalen) from whom seven devils had come out' and the inference certain scholars drew from this was that she was an evil liver. At that time demon-possession, like ill health generally, was ascribed to sin and if the person was a woman the sin, as like as not, was prostitution. So they concluded, Mary Magdalen was a converted prostitute.

Then they looked back to the story told in Luke 7 vv. 36-50 about a woman 'who was a sinner' who gatecrashed a respectable dinner party and upset the guests with her tears and alabaster jar of costly ointment. Although St. Luke only talks of her as a woman, giving no clue as to her identity, early Bible students noted how in character this woman was with their picture of Mary Magdalen and assumed them one and the same. From a somewhat dubious reading of the scriptures, therefore, the St. Mary who is denoted by her home town of Magdala has had to live with an unsavoury background that in all probability she never had. How's that for putting two and two together and making five?

\* \* \*

What is a more probable picture of St. Mary Magdalen? The likelihood is that she had suffered a severe mental disorder which, in those days, would have been put down to evil spirits. This is about as accurate an interpretation as could be put on the text of St. Luke. The further assumption can be drawn, though it is not stated in so many words, that Jesus had healed her. Such an understanding of her situation tallies quite well with other New Testament references to her. There she comes over as a very intense woman with an almost fanatical devotion to Christ.

See her before the empty tomb on that first Easter morning. She is quite demented with grief, not only at the death of Jesus but also at the loss of his mortal remains — her last link with her Lord. She will not leave the place until the riddle of the missing body is solved. Such is her despair — or was it her blinding tears? — she fails to recognise Jesus until he speaks her name. Then, what a transformation! We can almost hear the screeched 'Rabboni!' and see her dart forward to clasp and hold him. Here is a woman who has suffered greatly in the past, who has been delivered from her suffering, who can never forget the source of her deliverance and, I venture to suggest, has settled down as the extremely excitable, emotional, demonstrative woman she was before it all happened.

\* \* \*

Was it St. Mary Magdalen's supposed immoral origins that caused the compilers of the 1662 Prayer Book to exclude her from the calendar of saints? Either way we can be glad that from 1928 onwards she has been restored to our notice, for her contribution to the gospel story is by no means minimal. She exemplifies those Christian virtues that we associate with sainthood; unbounded love for Christ and commitment to his cause. However unclear it may be about her beginnings the Bible portrays Mary as ultimately all that the model Christian should be, and that is what really matters.

## Joys and sorrows

Warmest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Griggs of 8 Downside Cottages, Bekesbourne who have just celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They were married at Patricxbourne on 3rd June, 1933, a lovely sunny day, by the Vicar, the Revd. H. Knight.

The baby grand-daughter of Peter and Isabel Lawrence was baptized Victoria Jayne at St. Peter's, Bridge on Sunday, 5th June. A fortnight later

Matthew James O'Brien, Springfield, Bekesbourne Lane was baptized at St. Peter's, Bekesbourne.

Long-standing Bekesbourne residents will note with sadness the passing of Mrs. Ruth Peach, The Cottage, Aerodrome Road at the age of 86 years. The Vicar conducted a cremation service at Barham on 21st June.

*It's here again!*

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# Bridge Churchyard working party

*Alan Jackson writes:*

Our last clean-up, accomplished a great deal due to a splendid turn-out. With the aim of completing the work begun in the old churchyard and tidying-up the already riotous growth in the new, a further clean-up will be held at 10am on Saturday, 23rd July. Please try to make it with any garden tools you can bring!

The scheme for keeping uncared-for graves tidy in the new churchyard still needs volunteers. If you would like to give a little of your time to do this work during the summer and autumn please contact the Vicar or me, or just go along to the churchyard at any time to do what you can.

\* \* \*

*Editor: I do hope prospective volunteers will step forward and fight down that inbuilt reticence about doing something without a prior personal invitation. The job depends on you making the next move. Thank you in anticipation.*

## On the buses

Are there any parents who live in the Bridge, Patricbourne, Bekesbourne area who are concerned about the practice of bussing village children who have not been selected, following the 'Kent Test', all the way to Sturry when there are various suitable schools much closer to our homes? This is not a criticism of the school or pupils at Sturry, but voices concern about the time and money lost in this wasteful practice, not to speak of depriving children of extra-curricular activities because of the necessity of catching their bus home.

Should parents be interested in putting pressure on the relevant authorities would they please contact either the undersigned on 830761 or Mrs. Maureen Baker on 830715.

*Tony Walder*

## Bits and pieces

Barry Whiting advises readers that the group discussion meetings held at 20 Conyngham Lane will be discontinued until the autumn. If the regular attenders wish to renew these friendly discussions Hilary and Barry would be willing to provide the venue again from 21st September and thereafter on every third Wednesday in each month.

\* \* \*

Members of the Study Group that meets monthly at the Vicarage and includes last year's adult Confirmation candidates, decided at their June meeting to hold a Barbecue in July. Everyone is welcome, whether of the group or not! It will be in the Vicarage garden on Saturday, 16th July at 6.30pm and tickets (adults £1, children 60p) can be got from the Vicarage or at the Sunday services.

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The visit by Mother Teresa mentioned above the headline opposite was unable to take place since she was unwell. — Ed.

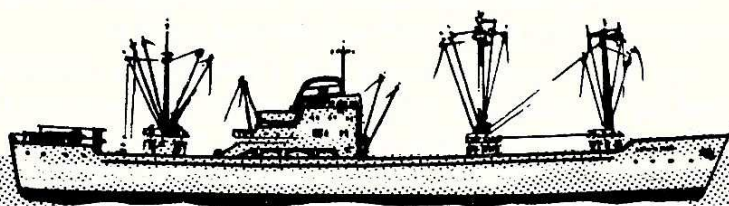


\* \* \*

Bekesbourne PCC would like to thank Mrs. Jane Millyard for holding a Coffee Morning for church funds on 17th June. Despite a somewhat disappointing turn-out the sum of £55 was raised, and thanks are therefore due to those who supported the event with such obvious generosity.

## Sit in comfort

The Lady Chapel at Bridge has been greatly enhanced by the addition of ten pew cushions, for which we are very grateful. Worked on a blue background, each has a symbol of three interlaced fishes, which could not be more apt for St. Peter's Church. The idea was that of Mrs. Joy Monk who, together with the eight ladies who shared the task with her, is to be congratulated on such a charming and skillful outcome. Each lady's name is to be found on the underside of the cushions. Very many thanks!



## Sea Sunday 10th July

is a chance to share in the Church's ministry to seafarers and their families. Seafarers are often forgotten members of the community. Their jobs take them away from their homes and families and everything this means in terms of security and stability. Sea Sunday is aimed at increasing awareness of seafarers, of the vital job they do in bringing us things we need, of their families who are left at home, and of our mission to them.

There are approximately one million merchant seafarers around the world. They not only have to brave the dangers of the sea, but when in port they are often preyed upon and exploited. If they have problems or are in any kind of distress they have to cope alone, possibly thousands of miles from the support of families and friends, and receiving bad news away from home can lead to the worst kind of anxiety and worry.

The Church offers security and stability for seafarers as they move around the world. It is there to welcome them when they arrive in port, to provide help in times of emergency and counselling for those with problems.

The help the Church offers to seafarers of all races and creeds is both spiritual and material: it is a ministry of practical concern and a ministry of proclamation. The Gospel teaches Christians to care for men and women in their totality and this the Church sets out to do for seafarers.

The Roman Catholic Church carries out its ministry to seafarers through the Apostleship of the Sea. The Anglican Church reaches out to seafarers through The Missions to Seamen. The British Sailors' Society is interdenominational but it largely represents the Reformed Church tradition. In many ports these three societies work together to minister to seafarers. By doing so they show that the mission of the Church is one mission and ensure that the best use is made of limited resources. They also join together to sponsor Sea Sunday.

*Contributed by the Missions to Seamen*

*Many know the work of the Salvation Army, but the Church of England's own Army — the Church Army — is less often in the headlines, but it is an organisation that beavers away on behalf of us all.*

## Compassionate and consistent across the years

On April 3rd 1883, Alice May Sampson was born. She was Commissioned as a Church Army Sister in September 1907 by Wilson Carlile, Founder of the Church Army and until her retirement in 1961 served in the slums of Glasgow, with the Forces work in two world wars and in Birkenhead and Lowestoft where she had many contacts with the 'Herring Girls'. She has since then been tireless in her desire to serve her Lord.

Alan Marley is a young man who was commissioned in June 1982 and during his first year as a Church Army Officer has been at the sharp end of human need in the East End of London.

Alice and Alan represent that which spans the years in Church Army, a commitment to serving Christ by word and through action.

At the present moment 138 Officers are attached to Parishes as the 'Evangelist' seeking to reach the man in the street, to show sensitive understanding of contemporary problems and the relevance of the Gospel in every age; of these some 63 are involved in the Inner City or deprived situations. That Officers care as they do often surprises many people hardened and cynical by deprivation and loss of identity. Captains like Dave Florence, working on a vast housing estate in Liverpool and John Hotchin, running amongst other things a Community Information Centre in Manchester with welfare and counselling as part of the outreach.

Eighteen hostels for the single homeless offer a 'home' to some 1,200 men and women night after night. the 42 men in the Manchester Hostel receive very personal attention, as they do in other towns; former residents are visited and helped to cope with their new independency.

Imaginative schemes arise out of every area of Church Army concern, whether it is a Boat building project for young unemployed, a Shop in a busy shopping precinct offering clothing and other necessities, a listening ear and practical advice, schemes for Holiday Clubs amongst the families of those serving with the Forces in Germany, resettlement teams in the Cities to help Hostel residents achieve more independence, a short term Christian Service Scheme which challenges young people to roll up their sleeves and 'show they are Christians by their love for others'.

Whether in Parish or Prison, with children, teenagers or older folk, Church Army ministry begins in the College of Evangelism where a demanding three year training is concluded by the Admitting to the Office of Evangelist by the Archbishop of Canterbury. An imaginative scheme of further training seeks to ensure an ongoing competent dedication and consistent witness.

Obviously a steady supply of men and women to be trained for this Army of the Church is vital, so is prayer and every Parish can be part of both these aspects of need. If the work is to continue, those serving in this Anglican Society must have adequate financial resources behind them. Many Parishes support them through offerings, fund raising events, a personal 'link' who can disseminate news and see that parishioners are informed and encouraged by what the living God is doing through the Church Army.

So often we hear Church people say 'something ought to be done about it' when they read of teenage problems, homelessness, loneliness or some other 'ill' of society. The Church Army is active in many situations and we can all share the 'action' with them. As someone put it, — "We can put our money where their need is and we can support them regularly in prayer".

*Contributed*

# Christian Aid Week 1983



*Thank you — and Please!*

It has been a heart-warming experience to work with such an enthusiastic team of old and new collectors. Thanks to them and to the generous response of so many people in our villages we reached a total of £300.56, which is an increase of over £60 on last year. The commissioning service at the Methodist Church was a new venture and gave us an inspiring start to the Week; for which we are deeply indebted to Peter Taylor and the members of the church who so readily enabled us to share their anniversary service with them.

It is good to know that our increased giving was repeated throughout the Canterbury area producing a total collection of over £7,000, as against £5,400 last year. This reflects a growing awareness of the desperate need of many people all over the world. It is a heartening response to our Lord's command, to love our neighbours as ourselves.

We must not be complacent about the welcome increase in this year's collection because, sadly, we know that the needs for Christian Aid will not lessen during the current year. What a challenge to us to do even better next year, for which we shall need more collectors and a still more generous response from everyone! Please book May 24 - 19, 1984 for our next major effort and try in the meantime to learn more about the world's needs and Christian Aid's response to them. Let us thank God that through Christian Aid we have come to know better that in serving one another we are the disciples of Christ the Servant.

*Muriel Packer*

## PARISH PUMP Parish Council News



### **Bridge Parish Council**

The meeting of the Parish Council on 9th June coincided with the date of the General Election, and as the Village Hall is required on such occasions as a Polling Station, the Council met in the Methodist Church.

#### **Village Hall**

The contractors were due to commence work on the improvements to the Hall on the day following the meeting, and although the Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, had written to all users of the Hall advising them of the position and notifying

a reduction in charges for the summer period, a number of problems remained, and members discussed the necessary arrangements. It was suggested that the Marquis of Conyngham, on his annual visit to the village in the autumn, might be asked to visit the Hall, and, if the work were completed, perform an opening ceremony. The Transfer, which at long last completed the purchase of the Hall by the Council, was signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young).

### Recreation Ground

It was decided last year that the play equipment should be repainted, and it was reported that Mr. P.M. Davies, who was to carry out the work, hoped to commence in the immediate future. This work, which will include the painting of the bridge over the Nailbourne, had been delayed by the wet weather. It was agreed to make enquiries as to alternative methods, which might be used without danger to users of the ground or to animals, of dealing with the grass on those areas which the mower is unable to reach; and further arrangements were made for attention to the trees.

### Parish Finances

The Council discussed at length the question of parish expenditure, but members agreed that, in the overall long-term interests of the parish, the present method of financing by precept on the City Council should be continued.

### Proposed Bottle Bank

At the previous meeting the Council

had decided to recommend the siting of a bottle bank on the lay-by in Town Hill, but members now felt that the vacant concrete slab adjacent to the entrance to the telephone exchange might be more convenient for the village, and it was agreed to inform the City Council of this change.

### Generally

Other matters discussed included further plans for the Best Kept Village competition, when it was agreed that the Brownies, Cubs and Guides should be asked to help; the bussing of children to Sturry, regarding which Mr. Walder had been invited to speak to the Council, and on which it was decided to await further information on numbers and parents' attitudes; the condition of certain footpaths, which Cllr. Mrs. Jones is to discuss with the appropriate officer of the City Council; the Bridge Hill/Bridge Down stairway, and a number of other highway matters.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 14th July, at 7.30pm.

*F. L. Edwards*

## 'Fish' News



Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and the generous support of the community, our annual coffee morning raised £110 to help finance our work for the year.

We should like to thank Bishopsbourne Parish Council and Patrixbourne Parish Meeting for their recent valued donations to our fund.

This year, by popular demand, the Luncheon Club will carry on through August. We are hoping to enlist the help of older teenagers during their holidays from school and college — please contact me if you are interested.

Because of the alterations to the Village Hall our July Coffee Pop-in on 13th will be held at the Methodist Church, Patrixbourne Road. Transport can be provided if needed.

*Joan Warren (830233)*

## St. Peter's, Bekesbourne — Rotas

### Cleaning

Mrs. Beckett .....	July 2nd	..... Mrs. Whigham
Mrs. Smith .....	July 9th	.....
Mrs. Stickells .....	July 16th	.....
Mrs. Hogben .....	July 23rd	..... Mrs. Ash
Mrs. Watson .....	July 30th	..... Mrs. Farbrace
Mrs. Russell .....	August 6th	.....

### Flowers

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Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT5 5BA (Bridge 830426)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. L.W. Sanford, 11 Windmill Close, Bridge CT4 5LY (Bridge 830411)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. D. Mathew, 27 Rivercourt, Chartham CT4 7JN (Canterbury 731548)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardprory, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD

(Canterbury 62695)

Verger (Bridge): Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5JD (Bridge 830660)

**BEKESBOURNE**

Churchwardens: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G.D. Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5ER (Bridge 830256)

Organist: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Captain of the Bells: Mr. H. Collard, 1 Mumpas Cottages, Little Pett, Bridge CT4 5PD

Magazine Advertising: Mr. J. Barley, 49 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830612)

Magazine Editor: The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On The Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. He would always welcome articles and photographs of general interest for inclusion in the Magazine which has a wide circulation in the three villages of Bridge, Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne.

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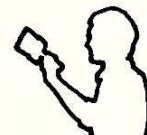
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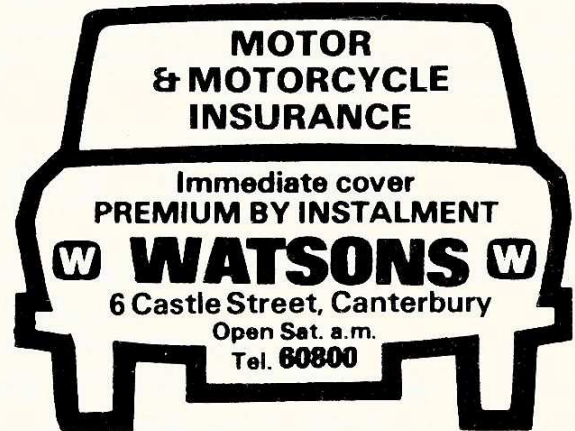
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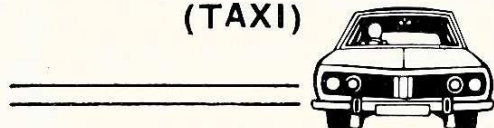
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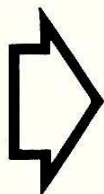
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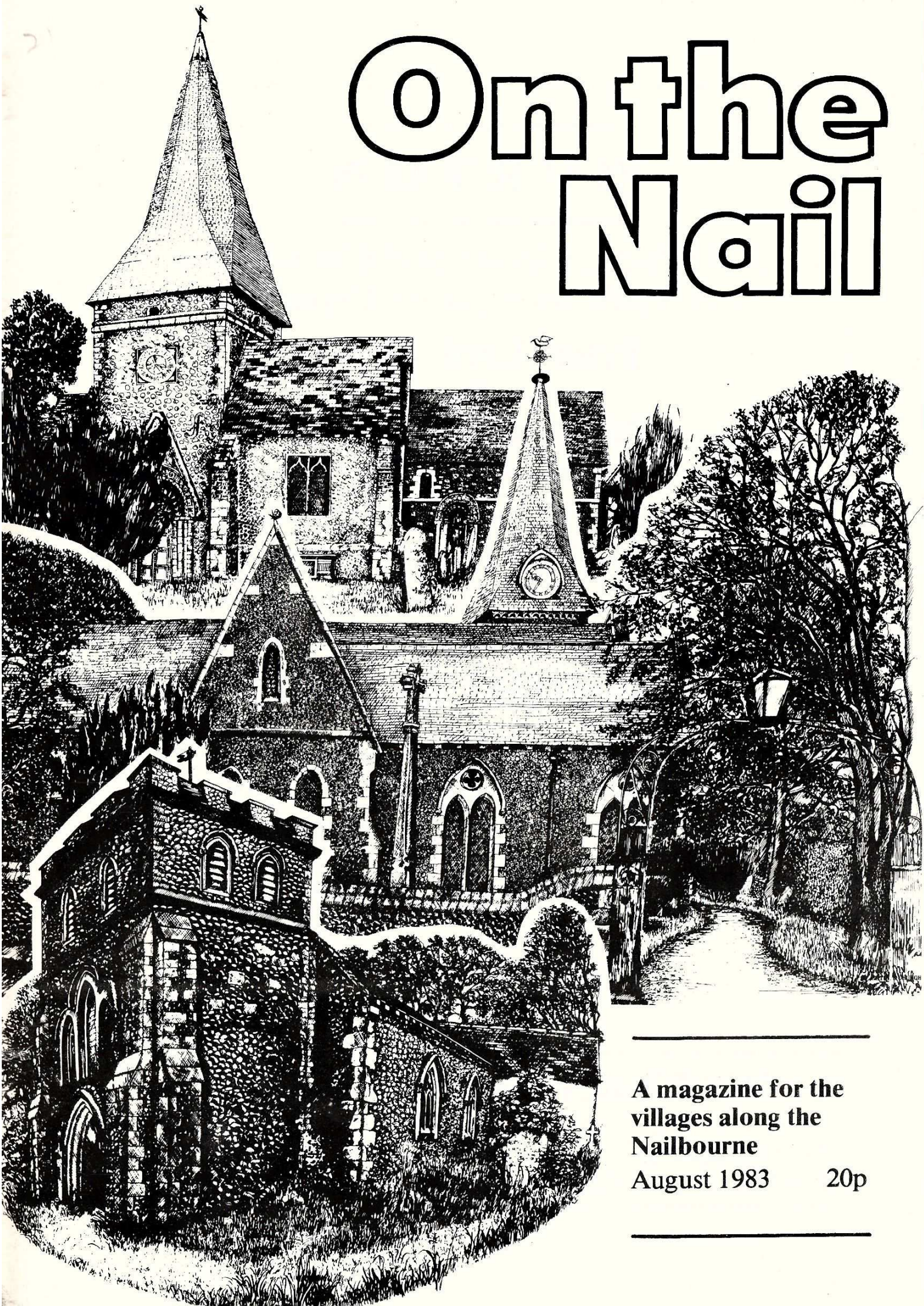
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# On the Nail



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**A magazine for the  
villages along the  
Nailbourne**

August 1983

20p

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# Sunday Worship in August

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

**7th:**

11am Family Service  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

**14th:**

8.30 Family Communion 11am Matins  
(*Series 3*)  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

**21st:**

9.30 Parish Communion  
(*Series 3*)  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

11am *Songs of Praise*

**28th:**

8am Holy Communion  
*No Evensong at Bridge*

9am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

**4th Sept:**

11am Family Service  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

**Bridge Methodist Church** at 11am: *7th*, Mrs. H. Colyer. *14th*, The Revd. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *21st*, The Revd. Peter Boyden, M.A. M.Lit. *28th*, Miss K. Knight.

Week-day celebrations of the Holy Communion at St. Peter's, Bridge will be held this month on the following dates only: Wednesdays 23rd and 31st at 9.30am and Friday, 26th at 7.30am (Rite A). Regular weekly celebrations resume in September. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday 3rd at 10.15am.

A short informal service is held each Wednesday in The New Close at 2.30pm. Parishioners are always welcome to attend this act of worship and to lend a hand with finding places in the hymn book. Just turn up and bring your voice with you: if you have no voice don't let that put you off, we are still glad to see you. The residents always enjoy a new face. Further details from Kath Pierce (830844).

## For your diary and prayer list

6th **Transfiguration of our Lord**

7th **Tenth Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 11**

10th *Laurence, Deacon, Martyr, 258*

'Fish' Scheme Coffee Pop-in, Methodist Church

11th *Clare of Assisi, Virgin, 1253*

14th **Eleventh Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 12**

20th *Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153*

Pray for Mark Collymore and Rosemary Crowe, Stephen Pearce and Lyn Studham to be married today in St. Peter's, Bridge.

21st **Twelfth Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 13**

27th **Bekesbourne Flower Festival until 29th inclusive.**

28th **Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 14**

Evensong is at Bekesbourne, not Bridge, as part of the Flower Festival.

The following article was produced by the Vicar for publication in all parish magazines in the East Bridge Deanery, but as Bridge is the host parish this year an extra appeal for support locally seems in order.

If the success of last year's Deanery Festival at Ash is anything to go by we can expect quite an influx into the village on Sunday afternoon, 11th September and I very much hope the local Church community, led by the PCC, will be on hand to welcome our visitors and share with them in a celebration that we have called "Together For God".

As you will see below, the bulk of the festival takes place at Bridge School and in a way it is far more important to be in at the beginning than to attend the service at the end of the day. Don't be afraid that the programme of events will result in your being press-ganged into doing something you would rather not do. There will be no duress and everyone will be quite free to pursue whichever activity he or she chooses. The Bishop of Dover is coming and he will be leading his own event, as will Canon Packer. Mike Windess is doing music for children and I shall be training an *ad hoc* choir for adults.

The tea is usually a high spot and whereas Alicia Pentin has agreed to spearhead the brewing of tea and the serving of squash, the food will be brought by participants from all over the deanery. There is invariably plenty for everyone and a good opportunity for meeting one another while we eat and drink.

Do come and help to play the host! You'll kick yourself afterwards if you miss it, I promise you!

## Calling the Family

"Family occasions tend nowadays to be few and far between, so anything that draws the family together is to be encouraged.

This applies not only to the domestic situation but also to those other family units that Christians in particular belong to.

East Bridge Deanery is one such family, though the relations seldom have much to do with one another. Not good for family feeling, is it, when one branch knows little of the others!? What a lot we lose by sticking to our isolated groups.

All the more reason, then, to take whatever chance we can to remedy the situation. A golden opportunity will be offered at the annual

### DEANERY FAMILY FESTIVAL

which this year is on **Sunday, 11th September** at Bridge Primary School and Church. The Bishop of Dover will be with us for the whole afternoon and an exciting programme of events has been planned, offering something for everyone and — most importantly — plenty of time to meet fellow members of the deanery family. Bridge Parish will provide the liquids and, as in previous years, you are asked to bring with you the eatables to be pooled for the great deanery tea party.

Book the date now and give us the pleasure of your company from 3.30pm until about 7 o'clock, starting at the school and ending in church. How about a bit of good old family spirit: it takes some beating!"

# The Church Fête — an undoubted success

We certainly had the weather for it! Nor was it only the weather that did us proud, for everyone who took a hand in the annual Bridge and Patrixbourne Church Fête contributed towards an afternoon to remember.

There was such a friendly atmosphere which made for a social success let alone a financial one, and all who came felt it was worthwhile; even though we had competition from St. Augustine's Hospital and the Langton Boys School, both of whom had fêtes that afternoon.

The only sour point, about which comment must be made, was occasioned by the misguided sense of humour of certain householders who off-loaded substandard or opened goods on our collectors. In some instances the 'joke' was not spotted until the articles were sold and justifiably irate purchasers came back to complain. A straightforward refusal to donate would have been preferable to this kind of thing. However, these were in the tiniest minority, and we express our warmest gratitude both to those who trudged the streets collecting gifts (a thankless job at the best of times) and especially to the very many who generously subscribed towards a memorable church fête. Thank you all!

The treasurer's meticulous accounts for the day are published for your information.



<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>
Teas, Cakes, Strawberries .. .. .	76
Groceries .. .. .	90
Produce .. .. .	33
Soft Drinks .. .. .	5
Patrixbourne Stall .. .. .	80
Children's Books and Toys .. .. .	10
Gifts Stall .. .. .	29
White Elephant .. .. .	33
Best Offers .. .. .	38
Bottle Stall .. .. .	120
Raffle .. .. .	167
Side Shows (Net) .. .. .	55
Sundry Donations .. .. .	5
	741
<i>Less</i>	
<b>Expenses</b>	
Canterbury City Band	50
Hire of School	4
Raffle Tickets & Prizes	35
Loudhailer	1
	90
<b>NET PROFIT</b> .. .. .	<b>651</b>



## From our Methodist Minister

As we all know the House of Commons voted against the restoration of capital punishment. Most people have strong views on the matter which are based on facts. Since facts are supposed to be neutral it is odd that the same ones can produce opposite opinions from two people. Probably this is because some facts are more important than others, and what I consider important you might think unimportant. One of the key areas of discussion in the debate is why we have punishment. Some reasons follow:—

‘We want to get our own back.’ Vengeance and retribution. It sounds barbaric but victims and their relatives often feel this quite strongly. So a murderer is seen to deserve death.

‘You’ve been a bad person.’ Punishment is one way of telling people that they have done wrong. Capital punishment tells them that it is very wrong.

‘You don’t deserve to be in our society.’ An appropriate punishment ends with the offender being reintroduced into society. If a crime is so bad that there can be no readmittance then it may deserve the death penalty.

‘We don’t want others doing the same.’ Deterrence. But for some would-be murderers a punishment of death might be preferable to being caged up for many years like an animal.

‘We must protect society from these crimes.’ A murderer who has completed his sentence can repeat his crime, a dead man cannot.

‘By punishment we hope the offender will realise his error and reform his character.’ It is difficult for a dead man to reform.

The above reasons are not in any order, but if each person puts them in order of importance the results would be different. This is one of the reasons why people’s views on capital punishment differ, for some of those reasons favour one side, some the other side. Of course, there are also moral arguments (e.g. Is it right to kill?) and practical ones (e.g. It costs more to feed a prisoner for twenty years than to kill him); and these too play their part, but I have highlighted the above since they are relevant to all punishments. Incidentally, if anyone wants to know what my opinion is and cannot guess from what I have written, ask, and you shall receive.

*Peter Taylor*

*The following from Diocesan House will, I am sure, answer the needs of many people in our parishes who feel they could do with a firmer FRAMEWORK FOR FAITH.*

## Are you equipped?

“The reason we Christians too frequently feel ineffective is that we are insufficiently equipped; blind to the power of God at work among us because we have not been taught to see; deaf to God’s call to us because we have not been taught to hear; dumb when it is vital to utter a word for Christ because we have not been taught how to communicate the Gospel of truth.”

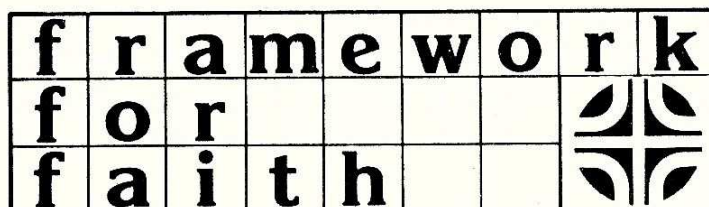
This is the challenge from Bishop Morris Maddocks in a recent lecture in Canterbury Cathedral. It echoes our own Archbishop’s plea for opportunities to strengthen ordinary church members in a Gospel way of looking at the world, and of living their own lives.

“FRAMEWORK FOR FAITH”, a new Diocesan Course for Adults meets this need. It will have sections on the Christian and Society, on Prayer and Worship, on Communicating the Faith — as well as help for those wishing to understand the Old and New Testaments more deeply.

Starting in October of this year in this Deanery, “FRAMEWORK FOR FAITH” will be offering you in your own area six weekly sessions of two hours each on “The People of the Book” (Old Testament), and “Marriage

and Family Life". You study the subject of your choice. Each group of between six and twelve people will have a tutor. No qualifications are needed to join, and there will be no exams! Study material will be provided.

A leaflet giving you full details and a registration form is available from your Vicar and at Church. If you have any difficulty then write to the Revd. David Ratcliff, 1 Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1TL.



## Joys and Sorrows

St. Peter's Church, Bridge was beautifully decorated for a quite moving service blessing the marriage of **Judy Hill**, daughter of our own Douglas and Joan, and **Robin Hutson** on Saturday, 25th June.

On 23rd July St. Mary's Church, Patricbourne was the setting for the marriage of **Gena Muir-Little** and **Tim Roberts**. In the vicar's absence on holiday in North Yorkshire the service was conducted by the Revd. Peter Brownbridge, a Non-Stipendiary Minister licensed to the Deanery.

Not to be outdone, St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne welcomed the family of **Donna Louise Fagg**, 'Wayside', Aerodrome Road, who brought her for Holy Baptism on 17th July.

The vicar officiated on Friday, 8th July at Barham Crematorium for the funeral of Mrs. **Phylis Woolcock**, 10 Ford Close, whose sudden death followed a brief and very sad illness. Our sympathy is extended to Mr. Fred Woolcock, her widower after an all-too-short marriage.

## 'Fish' News

Sadly Mrs. Joy Monk, our Luncheon Club Organiser, has had to retire due to poor health. Joy made a big contribution towards the successful establishment of the club and has attended virtually every meeting. She supervised the difficult task of serving and latterly took on the general running of the club. In wishing her a speedy return to health we send her our grateful thanks for all she has done for the Luncheon Club. Mrs. Marjorie Allman has nobly offered to take Joy's place.

### Holiday Arrangements

*The Luncheon Club* will be held on every Monday in August except the 29th, which is Bank Holiday Monday.

*The Chiropody Clinic* will be closed on August 25th and September 1st.

*The Emergency Scheme* will carry on as usual.

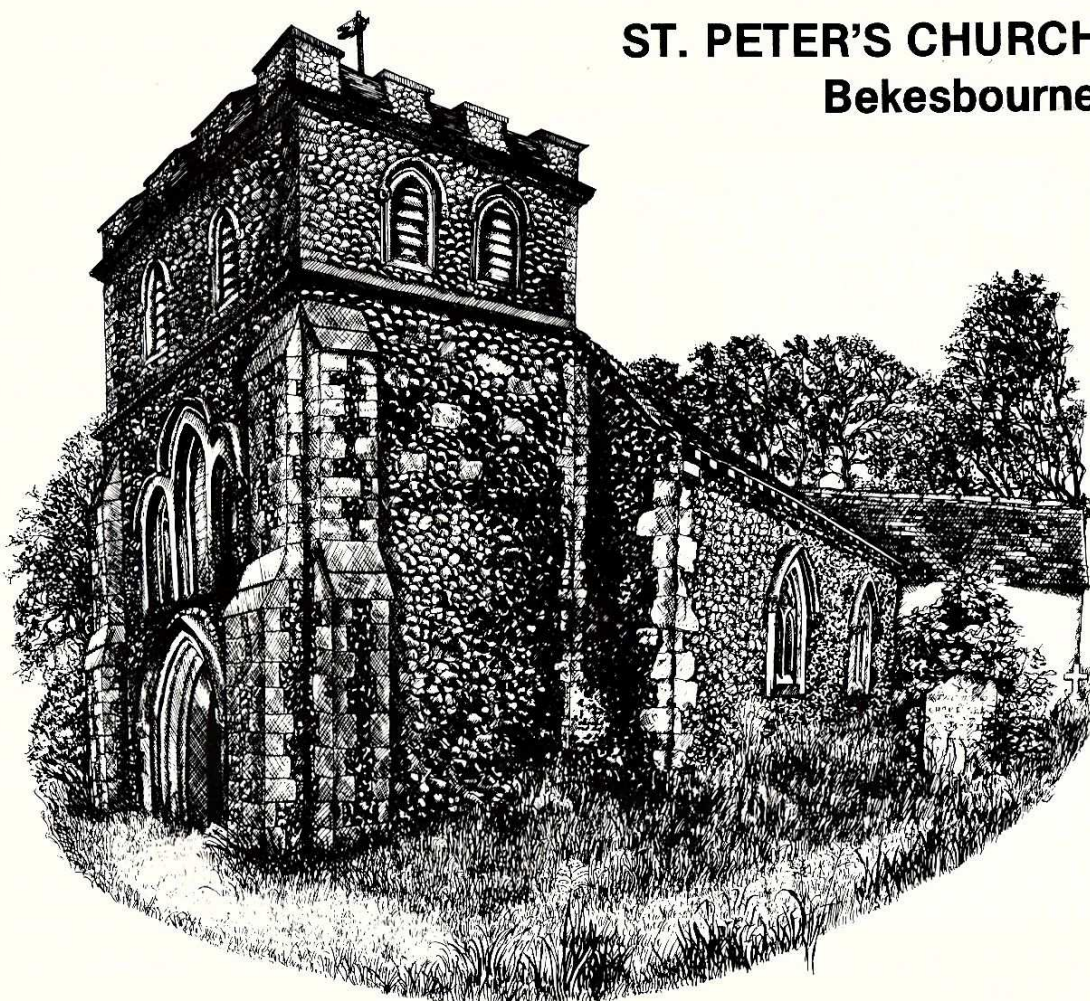
*Transport and Welfare Calls*, please try me in the first instance. If you cannot contact me please try Mrs. Packer (830364) or Miss Ford (830687).

*The Coffee Pop-in* this month is on Wednesday, 10th in the Methodist Church.

*Joan Warren (830233)*



**ST. PETER'S CHURCH,  
Bekesbourne**



## **1983 FLOWER FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 27th: 10am—7pm**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 28th 10am—6pm**

**MONDAY AUGUST 29th 10am—7pm**

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Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, who compiled much of the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* knew St. Peter's well, as it was the church closest to his Palace at Bekesbourne. He preached here, as did Archbishop Parker who followed him. Our present Lord Archbishop, Dr. Robert Runcie preached here in 1980 when we celebrated 800 years of the recorded priesthood at the church.

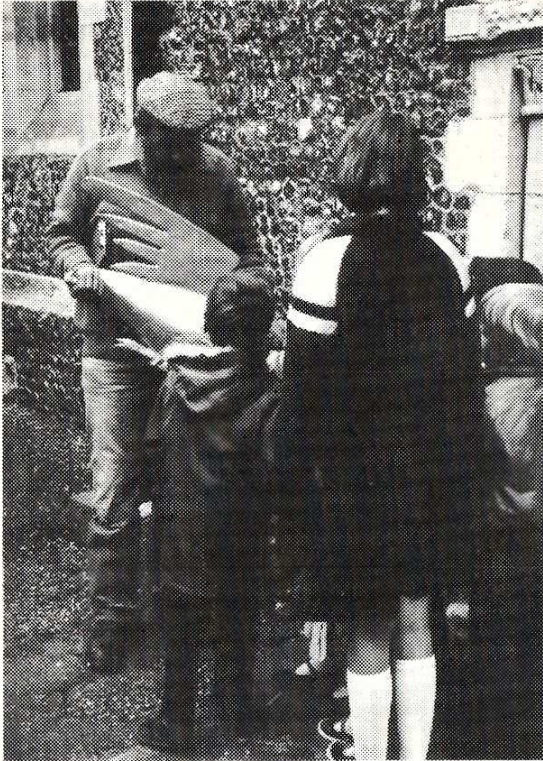
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**EVENSONG:  
Sunday Aug. 28th  
at 6.30pm**

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## Bridge steeple — The end of the story

The shingles have all been replaced, the weather-cock is back on station, the scaling-ladders are down and steeplejack Peter Harknett has moved on to his next assignment at Guildford Cathedral.



*A bird in the hand, before it resumed its perch.*

Almost the last act in the drama was played out to an audience of staff and children from Bridge School. They assembled in the church for a short talk by Mr. Harknett and then, as they filed outside, had the chance of a life-time to see the weather-cock close to and even to touch it. Mr. Harknett felt it was something of a misnomer to call it a weather-cock, for the bird in question looks more like a seagull. It is certainly the oddest cockerel known to zoology!

Once outside the church everyone watched entranced as the steeplejack shinned up the spire, holding the 'bird' in one hand as if it was lighter than it really is. He popped it back on its pivot and to cheers from below gave it a twirl for luck.

Before rejoining us at ground level Mr. Harknett gave a demonstration of how he manoeuvres himself in his bosun's chair.

\* \* \*

The surprise competition at the Church Fête was to guess the height of the church from the topmost point to ground level. Before his departure Mr. Harknett measured the church with great accuracy: it is 91 ft 4ins.

Who won the prize? Who else but the Head-teacher, Mr. Farley, who perhaps ought to be able to make such assessments. His guess, 91 feet. For anyone of a suspicious nature I had better point out that the steeplejack sent the measurement in a sealed envelope after he left, and it was not opened until the end of the fête.



*All eyes on the weather-cock.*

# Cancer Research

*Your attention is drawn to the following from Mrs. Ruth Simpson, 29 The Precincts, which I hope will receive your serious consideration:*

Please can you help me? I have taken over the Chairmanship of the Canterbury Branch of the Cancer Research Campaign from Mrs. Ena Buckworth. We are very short of collectors for the Flag Day week, which is Monday 26th to Friday 30th September, and the Flag Day in the City on the 1st October.

Most of us know someone who has suffered from cancer, either a member of our family or a friend. Thanks to the research which has been done there are now cures for certain forms of cancer, but there is a great deal still to be done. Unfortunately in this time of cut-backs there is little money available for this, the bulk has to be raised by charity.

If anyone can help either by collecting in the street where they live, or (and as well) in the City on the Saturday: or if anyone wants to help but is too shy to knock on doors, there are home boxes available. Please will you let me have the names and addresses as soon as possible (63036).

I appreciate that there are many calls on people's generosity, but this is a particularly worthwhile and valuable cause, and I know it would be a tremendous help to the Campaign for Cancer Research if we are able to give it our whole-hearted support.

With many thanks, Yours sincerely

*Ruth M. Simpson*

## PARISH PUMP Parish Council News



### Bridge Parish Council

The Council met on 14th July in the Village Hall, in conditions surprisingly near normal, considering the extent of the improvement work now under way at the rear of the main hall.

#### Village Hall

Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin reported that the contractors had experienced no major problems so far, although the excavations at the rear had proved more difficult than had been anticipated. This meant that they were at present a week behind schedule, though they expected to be up to the eaves in three weeks' time. Cllr. Gulvin added that he would like to thank the neighbours for the very

generous co-operation which they had given to him and the contractors.

#### Recreation Ground

The Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, welcomed Mr. Beer and the Messrs. Chaney from the Bridge Football Club, who outlined their need for changing facilities. Members were not able to offer any direct assistance, but made certain suggestions which the Club will follow up. The Council discussed also some problems in connection with a proposed lease to the Cricket Club, and the Club's complaints regarding the condition of the outfield. Members

noted that the painting of the playground equipment was at last under way, and arranged for the cutting and spraying of the grass areas which the mower was unable to deal with. Cllr. Ken Greenaway said that vandals had broken the seat of the cradle swing, which Cllr. Peter Lawrence and he would repair if it were possible — otherwise a new seat would be necessary; and they had also re-erected the practice goal-posts which vandals had earlier removed from the ground.

#### Traffic Problems

The Council discussed at some length the apparent increase in heavy lorry traffic through the village, and it was decided to write to the Highway Authority regarding signposting, and to ask Highland Court Farm to point out to its suppliers that its premises could be reached from the by-pass. The Highways Committee would also look into the question of High Street parking; and representations would be

made again for a bus stop on Bridge Hill.

#### Generally

The Vicar said that he would on the following day be presenting the gifts to those pupils at the school who had produced posters for the Best Kept Village competition; and the Council expressed its appreciation at the offer of the Guides to help to keep the Recreation Ground tidy. Concern was, however, felt at the extent of the weed growth in some of the less-used estate roads. The Council had earlier agreed to accept a bottle-bank offered by the City Council; and they were surprised that the City now appeared to suggest that there was no certainty that they could supply one.

The next meeting of the Council will take place, after the summer recess, on the 8th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, when visitors will, as always, be welcome. *F. L. Edwards*

## The Abbeyfield Society

A sum of £52 was raised at the Coffee Morning on 30th June and we wish to thank all those who supported us by their help, attendance and generosity.

*Joan Warren*

## Bekesbourne Praise in Song and Flower

Now that we are well advanced into the season of Trinity *Songs of Praise* returns to St. Peter's Church on Sunday 21st August at 11am. Would anyone who would like a particular hymn included please contact either Churchwarden, Stanley Grey or John Purchase who are arranging the service.

The August Bank Holiday sees the return of a Flower Festival to St. Peter's and we shall welcome all who can come to see the ancient church decked to praise the Lord with Flowers. A Festal Evensong is on the Sunday, with augmented choir — and we do thank sincerely all those good folk from Bridge choir who join us for such occasions.

*Stanley Grey*

## Rotas for August

### *Cleaning*

Mrs. Russell .....	August 6th .....	Mrs. Russell
Mrs. Grey .....	August 13th .....	Mrs. Beckett
Mrs. Beckett .....	August 20th .....	
Mrs. Smith .....	August 28th .....	<i>Flower Festival</i>
Mrs. Stickells .....	Sept. 3rd .....	

### *Flowers*

Vicar: The Revd. Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., The Vicarage, 23 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JZ (Bridge 830250)

### **PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE**

Churchwardens: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)  
Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT5 5BA (Bridge 830426)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. L.W. Sanford, 11 Windmill Close, Bridge CT4 5LY (Bridge 830411)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. D. Mathew, 27 Rivercourt, Chartham CT4 7JN (Canterbury 731548)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD

(Canterbury 62695)

Vergar (Bridge): Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5JD (Bridge 830660)

### **BEKESBOURNE**

Churchwardens: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G.D. Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5ER (Bridge 830256)

Organist: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Captain of the Bells: Mr. H. Collard, 1 Mumpas Cottages, Little Pett, Bridge CT4 5PD

Magazine Advertising: Mr. J. Barley, 49 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830612)

Magazine Editor: The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On The Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. He would always welcome articles and photographs of general interest for inclusion in the Magazine which has a wide circulation in the three villages of Bridge, Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne.

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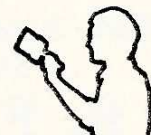
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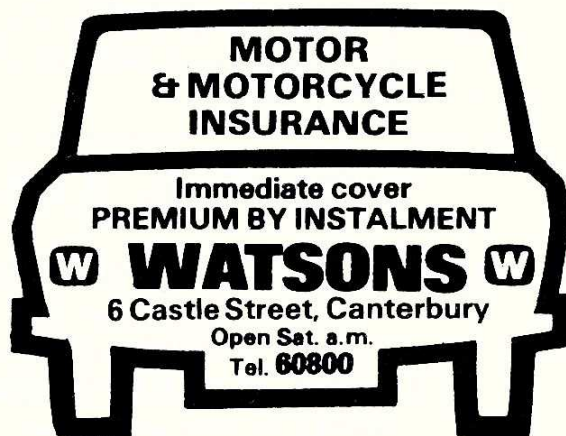
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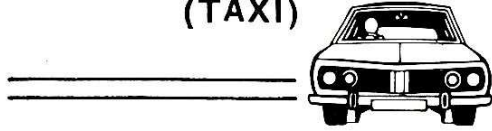
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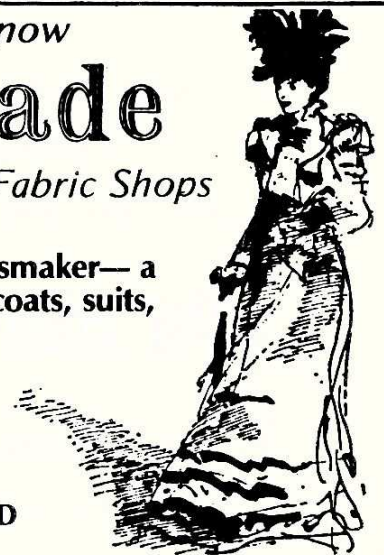
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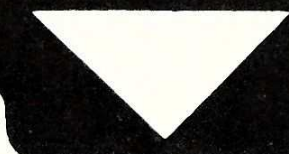
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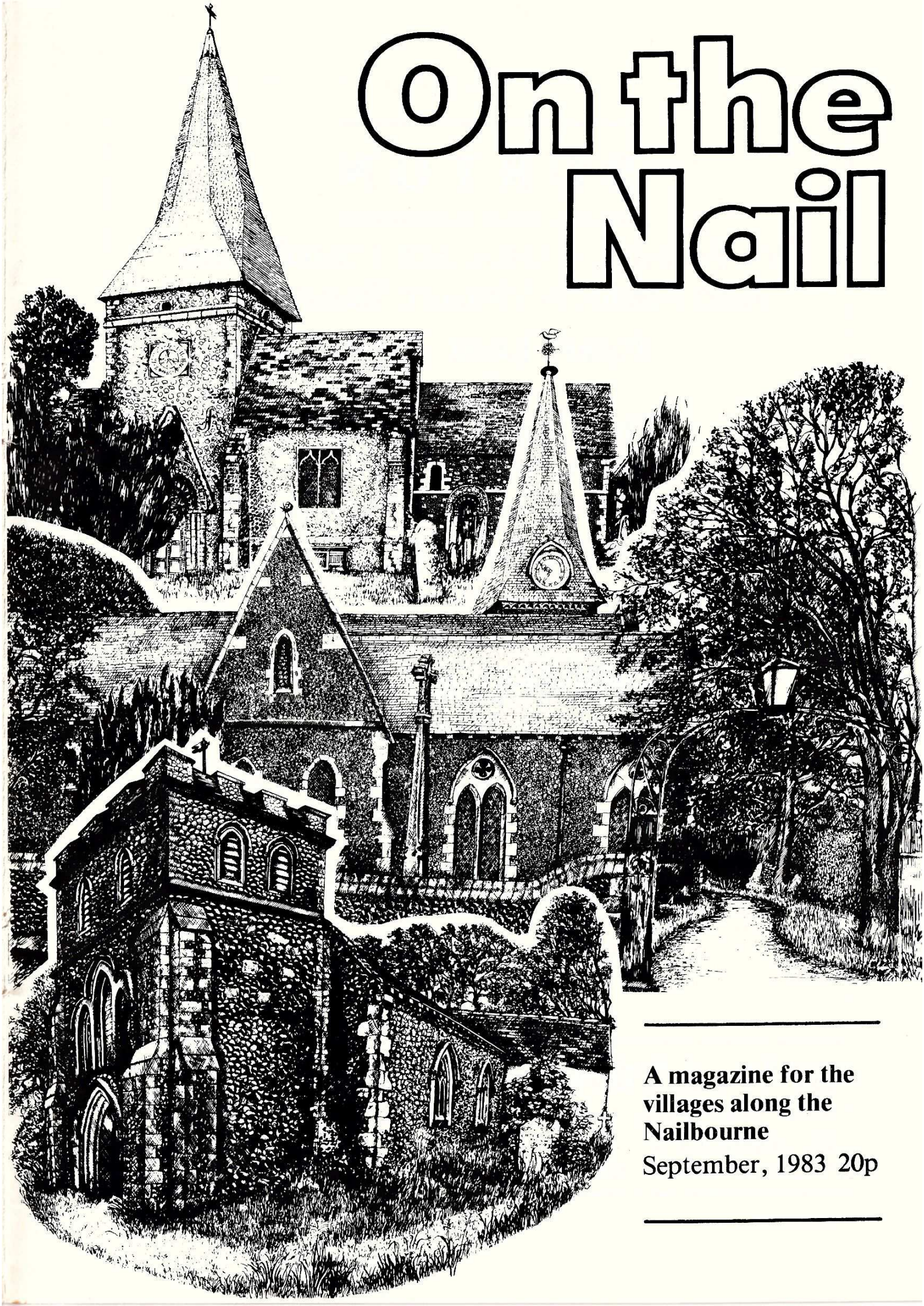
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# On the Nail



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villages along the  
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September, 1983 20p

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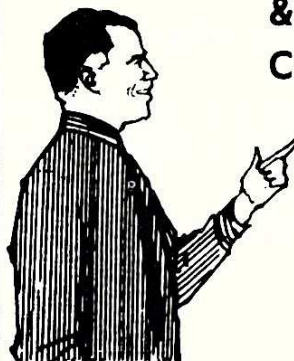
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# Sunday Worship in September

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

**4th:**

11am Family Service (Eucharist & Baptism)      8am Holy Communion      9.30 Parish Communion

6.30pm Evensong

**11th:**

9.30 Family Communion (Series 3)      8am Holy Communion      11am Matins

*No 6.30 Evensong, due to the Deanery Family Festival at Bridge School and Church, commencing at 3.30pm in the School.*

**18th:**

9.30 Parish Communion (Series 3)      11am Harvest Festival      8am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

**25th:**

8am Holy Communion      9am Holy Communion      11am Harvest Festival

6.30pm Evensong

**2nd October:**

11am Family Service      8am Holy Communion      9.30 Parish Communion

6.30pm Harvest Festival

**Bridge Methodist Church** at 11am: *4th*, Miss E.A.H. Tresidder, B.A., Ph.D. *11th*, Harvest Festival, Miss J. Charlesworth, M.A. *18th*, The Revd. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *25th*, Mr. J. Whalan.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in St. Peter's, Bridge every Wednesday at 9.30am and Friday (*Rite A*) at 7.30am, also in the Common Room at Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am. The weekly informal act of worship at The New Close is on Wednesdays at 2.30pm, and on 14th September this will be a Harvest Thanksgiving conducted by Canon Packer. Visitors have a standing invitation to all these services and especially to the Harvest service.

## For your diary and prayer list

3rd *Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher, 604.*

4th **Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 15**

5th We share the joy of Ron and Peggy Beckett on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

6th A new school year begins. Pray for our children at school, especially those attending for the first time and those at new schools.

The Young People's Confirmation Preparation begins in earnest at the Vicarage at 6pm. Late joiners still welcome.

Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC, Methodist Church, 8pm.

8th **The Blessed Virgin Mary**

Bridge Parish Council, 7.30pm

11th **Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 16**

*Matins is at Bekesbourne today, not Patricxbourne.*

3.30pm till 6.45pm East Bridge Deanery Family Festival at Bridge School and Church, with the Bishop of Dover and guests from all over the Deanery. Please regard it as a must for the home parish.

13th *Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258*

14th *Holy Cross Day*

Harvest Service at The New Close, 2.30pm.

Please pray for Raymond Gilbert, Vicar, who enters St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy for tests.

17th Pray for Kate Giles who is to be married today in the Cathedral.

18th **Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 17**

Harvest Festival Matins at Patrixbourne, 11am

20th Interchurch Group meets, Methodist Church, 8pm — open to all-comers.

21st **St. Matthew the Apostle**

25th **Seventeenth Sunday After Trinity. Pentecost 18**

Bekesbourne Harvest Festival Matins at 11am.

29th **St. Michael and All Angels**

## HARVEST SERVICES

Bridge Methodist Church: Sunday, 11th at 11am *Miss J. Charlesworth*  
Tuesday, 13th at 7.30pm *The Revd. Peter Taylor,*  
*B.Met., B.D.*

Patrixbourne: Sunday, 18th at 11am

Bekesbourne: Sunday, 25th at 11am

Bridge: Sunday, 2nd October at 11am & 6.30pm

*What does the word 'harvest' mean to you? If you are a farmer it denotes the end product of your labours and is thus, hopefully, a happy concept. To the townee 'harvest' is a word that is seldom used. For the average country-dweller — as most of our readers probably are — an evocative, even nostalgic picture is conjured up centred around a beautiful old church decorated with sheaves of corn, fruit, vegetables and flowers in plenty. It is a setting of traditional hymns, swollen congregations and thankfulness that all is once again safely gathered in.*

*The following from Christian Aid, however, shows us how for many people in the world neither the fruits nor the land can be taken for granted, where, as in Central America*

## People and development go to the wall

**Rooted in structural inequalities and years of neglect for the living conditions of the poor, the wars in El Salvador and Guatemala have cost 60,000 lives in the past four years. In addition three million are homeless, living as refugees outside their countries or struggling to survive within them. Changes in government in El Salvador and Guatemala in the past year have brought no lessening of the suffering and killing.**

No longer able to support community based development programmes in these countries because projects have been wrecked and their staff killed or driven into exile, Christian Aid sent £89,837 for urgent humanitarian relief in 1982-83.

But relief programmes and workers too are subject to disruption and intimidation. In El Salvador five workers attached to our partner organisation, the Ecumenical Aid Committee, have been killed in the course of their duties, three of whom were members of the Baptist Churches. In Guatemala relief work is officially controlled by the armed forces along with development work by non-governmental institutions. The Catholic and Protestant agencies that dispense relief outside the government network face persecution and even death for carrying out their pastoral responsibilities.

### **Crisis widens**

As the toll in human suffering mounts, the task of reconstruction, once peace is established, is greater. Peace is not an option, however, whilst the wars are forced into the framework of the East-West conflict. Arms shipments have been pouring into El Salvador from the United States to contain what it considers to be a Communist threat. Guatemala, notorious for its human-rights record and treatment of its 3·8 million Mayan Indians, now receives military assistance. Honduras and Costa Rica, hitherto relatively unscathed by the conflicts of their neighbours, are being drawn increasingly into the crisis.

In Nicaragua at least, Christian Aid has been able to continue funding self-support projects. In the four years since the overthrow of General Somoza, Nicaragua has made great strides in raising the living standards of the poorest. Christian Aid has helped the literacy crusade, which cut the illiteracy rate from 52% to 12%, environmental health and inoculation programmes and agricultural training.

Although accumulating economic and social pressures highlight differences of opinion, particularly within the Churches, on the management of the country, Christian Aid's main partner CEPAD (Evangelical Committee for Development Aid) praises the government for its attention to the needs of the poor. CEPAD brings together thirty-six Protestant Churches and has eleven regional offices attending to four hundred communities, often in the most isolated areas.

### **Development at risk**

Tragically, however, peaceful development in Nicaragua is now at risk as the country struggles financially and militarily, faced with unreserved hostility from the US Government and large scale armed incursions by anti-Sandinist forces operating out of Honduras and Costa Rica.

A Christian Aid delegation to El Salvador and Nicaragua learned first-hand that it is the leaders of development projects, co-operatives, Church-based self-help programmes, health and agricultural development projects who are singled out for execution by the raiders. Entire communities are leaving homes and land given under the Agrarian Reform, for safety further inside the country.

Elsewhere in Central America, Christian Aid supports Christian and lay groups who seek to help the poor, recognise the root causes of their problems and work with them towards solutions. CENAP, Costa Rica, was helped with its basic education programme for peasant and urban self-help groups; medical support was given for the Guaymi Indians in Panama when 10,000 Guaymi delegates walked for up to seven days to attend a conference to discuss their land and legal rights.

In Honduras, financial help was given to a legal advice service for peasant

groups and families suffering the loss of children and/or breadwinner because of political violence. In Costa Rica we contributed to the Project Counselling Service's small fund to help groups of refugees and displaced people set up workshops and self-help projects.

Christian Aid is one of many Christian organisations urged by the Churches of Central and North America to support them in their plea for peace negotiations between government and opposition. Accordingly we aid groups in Great Britain which provide reliable information on the needs and suffering of the poor, such as the Latin America Bureau, the Catholic Institute for International Relations and the Central America Human Rights Co-ordinating Committee.

## Joys and Sorrows

On Friday, 29th July the Revd. Charles Harrington officiated at the cremation of Mrs. **Patricia Stiles**, The White Horse, Bridge. Pat's death came after a long traumatic illness which she bore with great fortitude. The very full crematorium chapel showed how popular she was and her family will be comforted by the large number of tributes paid to her.

Also during the Vicar's holiday Mr. Harrington took the funeral of a former resident of Bridge, Mrs. **Lucy Carpenter** on Tuesday, 9th August. A service in St. Peter's Church was followed by interment in the churchyard.

Bridge Church was the scene of two joyful occasions on Saturday, 20th August when the Vicar officiated at the weddings of **Mark Collymore** and **Rosemary Crowe**, **Stephen Pearce** and **Lyn Studham**. We wish both couples every happiness in the future.

## All one body we . . .

Group activities are all the rage: but then, they always have been, except perhaps for the hermit in his cell and the castaway on his desert island!

For most of us life is made up of groups, be they tightly-knit like the ideal family or loosely formed, as we experience on a housing estate or at work or in the classroom.

Some groupings demand more involvement than others and generate a greater sense of kinship among members. We are likely to feel closer to others in our tennis club than to fellow-patients in our doctor's waiting room. There is also a considerable difference between a social activity that only really functions when people are assembled and one that seldom, if at all, calls its members together.

In this scheme of things the Church comes out as both an involved group and an extended family; with a possible leaning towards the latter. Only at the local level is it really possible to feel close ties with fellow members of a congregation, for no matter how hard we try to see ourselves as brothers and sisters in Christ with Christians in Africa or Asia it never comes off because we cannot know them as individuals.

Where this fails in the parish we have only ourselves to blame because it probably means we do not attend church often enough or we abstain from whatever opportunities are given us to meet together. There may be something to be said for church societies like the Mothers' Union or the

Men's Society, though where these exist there is a feeling that they tend to be divisive by splitting particular groups off from the mainstream fellowship of the Church in that area. It works both ways.

Sometimes it is necessary to create specific groups to serve specific purposes and two such groups are about to get under way in our parishes. They are the pre-Confirmation groups — one for adults and one for children in their early teens. If you are still not sure about being confirmed or if you seriously wish to consider it then come along to whichever of these groups is appropriate. The preparation group for children starts in earnest on the day the schools are back, Tuesday, 6th September at 6 o'clock. We meet for half an hour at a time in the Vicarage and will be assembling weekly until the Confirmation. Parents, do talk to your children about it, though you will know not to pressurise them! Adults, please give me a ring or call to see me.

Watch this space for more groups, e.g. the Study Group, the Discussion Group at 20 Conyngham Lane, a Healing Group and the 'Framework for Faith' course due to begin this autumn. Let's develop a bit of group-consciousness in our churches!

## With an eye to business . . .

. . . the *Church of England Children's Society* believes in getting in early. Consequently, and in response to a request from the Canterbury support branch, advance notice is given of the society's Christmas plans for the area.

Thoroughly to be recommended are their re-made Christmas & Greetings Cards which are always most beautiful and very reasonably priced. Invariably in big demand this year's stock is on sale in the society's shop, 'Rudolf's' in Palace Street, open six days a week from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Last year's cards raised about £2,000 for the Children's Society, and if that is not proof of their quality I don't know what is.

### Christmas Gifts

Then you should make a firm booking in your diary to attend the annual Christmas Gift Sale, which this year is on Friday, 11th November from 10am until 12 noon in the Old Palace, Canterbury. Definitely not to be missed!

Our own Miss Mason, who keeps the *Children's Society* flag flying in our villages, has a sweet stall at the sale and asks for your kind donations of sweets for it.

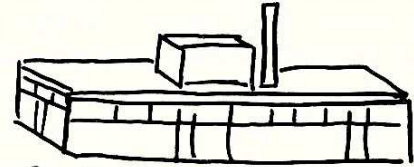
The *Church of England Children's Society's* work deserves all the support we can give it and if you are unable to help through either of the above perhaps you may care to consider sending a sum of money — be it large or small — to the Hon. Secretary, Miss J. Churchill, 228 Old Dover Road, Canterbury.

### Coffee Morning Success

The coffee morning in aid of the *Children's Society*, held at 33 High Street in July raised the sum of £35·72, for which thanks are extended to all helpers and contributors.

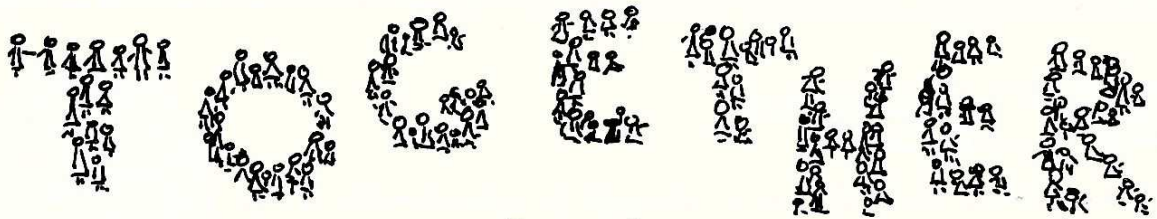


# EAST BRIDGE DEANERY FAMILY FESTIVAL



Bridge School

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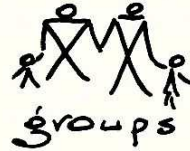
Family  
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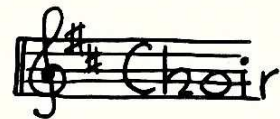
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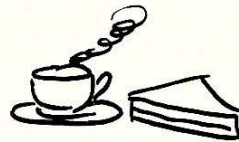
Children's



groups



Fun with



at 5.0 pm



The above poster, which reminds us that we are the host parish for the event, was drawn by the Revd. Desmond Sampson, Rural Dean of East Bridge.

## Rather a shock!

*A young student of Physics was having a tough time in an oral examination. 'I'll give you one more chance,' the examiner told him. 'What is electricity?' The student clutched his forehead desperately. 'I'm terribly sorry, sir,' he said, 'I knew it when I got up this morning, but now it's completely gone out of my head.' 'I see,' replied the examiner. 'This is a much more serious matter than you seem to realise. This morning only two persons knew what electricity is: Almighty God and yourself. And now you've forgotten.'*



**CHRISTIANS  
AWARE**

Last summer I was fortunate enough to join a work camp, building an agricultural centre in Thika, Kenya, with the *Christians Aware* Group. This summer it was the turn of the Kenyans to experience the way of life in Great Britain. As members also joined us from India, Turkey, Zimbabwe and Egypt, it was a truly international gathering of the *Christians Aware* movement.



Before I met up with the group they had been working in Yorkshire with mentally handicapped villagers at farming and a variety of crafts. I joined the group at Blaithwaite House in the Lake District, where we had many discussions while walking in the mountains and visiting the local area. Later the group went on to Hastings and visited local parishes and places of interest including our own cathedral in Canterbury.

It was a great joy to see the Kenyans again and also to meet many new people of different nationalities. We came to the conclusion that it is important to be "committed to developing an awareness of the gifts and needs of God's people everywhere and to action to enable gifts to be shared and needs to be met" and we hope that through future international gatherings of the *Christian Aware* movement this aim can be fulfilled.

*Catherine Hodgson*

## 'Fish' News

On 8th August Howard and Eva Crouch delighted their fellow Luncheon Club members by inviting them to share in their Diamond Wedding celebrations. Their generous gift of cake and wine, added to the delicious meal prepared by The New Close catering staff, made it a gala occasion long to be remembered. It was a happy celebration which enabled us all to offer our congratulations and best wishes for many more happy years together.

This month's Coffee Pop-in is on Wednesday, 14th in the Methodist Church.

*Joan Warren*

## Parish Pump

Bridge Parish Council's *Keep Bridge Tidy* campaign was well supported by the schoolchildren with their colourful, eye-catching posters. What a pity their message was not better heeded by those who use the village High Street, *i.e.* who come to it from outside and thus perhaps care less for its appearance.

Four young residents of Dering Close (see the accompanying picture) decided to do more than paint posters and as an example to us all actually swept and weeded the close as part of their summer holiday. Lucinda and Timothy Spencer, Elizabeth and David Walder are seen hard at work.



Mrs. Penny Spencer took the photograph and sent it to the Vicar. Well done all four!

### Refurbished Village Hall

It is expected that the work on the Village Hall will be completed this month and Bridge will have a hall to be proud of.

As he will be in the area at the time, the Marquis of Conyngham, who once owned the hall, has agreed to perform an official opening ceremony, and this will take place on Tuesday, 27th September at 5.30pm. The Parish Council hopes as many parishioners as possible will be present to give our new premises a good send-off.

## 1st Bridge Guide Company

*Guider Teresa Harvey presents a report for 'On The Nail' that recalls a successful year's Guiding.*

Another busy year has passed, with our numbers still increasing through members coming from Bokesbourne, Kingston, Bishopsbourne and Barham as well as Bridge.

This year has seen many new ideas take shape. A very popular first aid course resulted in many badges gained. A day trip to Windsor Safari Park, cook-outs and a camp holiday have given the Guides a chance to learn many new skills and crafts and enabled them to enjoy new horizons.

A challenge undertaken by some of the older members has been to spend an adventurous day with the Army. Activities included shooting, rock climbing, abseiling and a demanding assault course. The participants ended the day with few bruises and a great sense of achievement in meeting their own personal challenges.

Not only has there been good support from the girls but also from their parents, whose enthusiasm and encouragement have helped me considerably. Thank-you everyone for a very fulfilling year.

We start up again on Friday, 9th September from 6.30pm to 8pm. If you would like further details please telephone me on Bridge 830494.

# Bekesbourne rotas for September

## *Cleaning*

Mrs Stickells .....	September 3rd .....	Mrs Clifford
Mrs Hogben .....	September 10th .....	Mrs Millyard
Mrs Watson .....	September 17th .....	Mrs Grey
Mrs Russell .....	September 24th .....	Mrs Smith
Mrs Grey .....	October 1st .....	Mrs Farbrace

## *Flowers*

# Bekesbourne congratulations

Everyone at Bekesbourne wishes to congratulate Peggy and Ron Beckett on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on September 5th. We all hope they have a most enjoyable anniversary day and see many more happy years together.

# The Flower Festival

The weather was kind as the preparations mounted to a frenzy for the opening of the Bekesbourne Flower Festival last weekend. The usual loyal band of helpers were all hard at work under the direction of Pam Farbrace, and the colour scale from white to red — from west to east end — looked as competent and beautiful as ever.

*Pam Farbrace writes:* Dozens and dozens of beautiful gladioli, chrysanthemums, carnations and dahlias were turned into a magnificent spectacle, starting in the Chancel with five very different arrangements all in red. At the steps from the nave a touch of pink was introduced, leading on the next section in various shades of pink. The Font, as usual, was a work of art with masses and masses of pink and white blooms cascading towards the floor. The final section was all in white with either green or grey foliage. The whole thing was completed by small posies on the pew-ends.

Our thanks are due to the loyal band of flower ladies without whom the whole event would not have been possible, Mesdames Ash, Beckett, Broadwater, Millyard, Purchase, Smith and Whigham — not forgetting young Emma Geering who helped her grandmother, Mrs. Purchase, with the pew ends.

Thanks also to the tea-ladies who worked tremendously the three days (Mesdames Fitzgerald, Gillanders, Grey, Purchase and Watson, and Emma Geering); together with those who manned the stalls, Mesdames Beckett, Broadwater, Grey and Millyard.

Again, the gentlemen who looked after the church, Messrs. Beckett, Cruse, Grey, Millyard and Purchase; the *Mile-of-Pennies* entrepreneurs Fay and Nicola Gillanders.

Finally, everyone who did or gave anything, or just came to enjoy the Flower Festival.

Incidentally, *adds J.P.*, it was a great pleasure for all in the church on the Saturday afternoon when Canon and Mrs. Perry visited the Flower Festival. We were delighted to see Colin visiting us after his illness, so that we could have a word with him. We know he keeps in close touch with all that goes on in the parishes.

Vicar: The Revd. Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., The Vicarage, 23 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JZ (Bridge 830250)

### **PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE**

Churchwardens: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)

Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT5 5BA (Bridge 830426)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. L.W. Sanford, 11 Windmill Close, Bridge CT4 5LY (Bridge 830411)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. D. Mathew, 27 Rivercourt, Chartham CT4 7JN (Canterbury 731548)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD

(Canterbury 62695)

Verger (Bridge): Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5JD (Bridge 830660)

### **BEKESBOURNE**

Churchwardens: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

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Magazine Advertising: Mr. J. Barley, 49 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830612)

Magazine Editor: The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On The Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. He would always welcome articles and photographs of general interest for inclusion in the Magazine which has a wide circulation in the three villages of Bridge, Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne.

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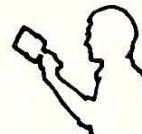
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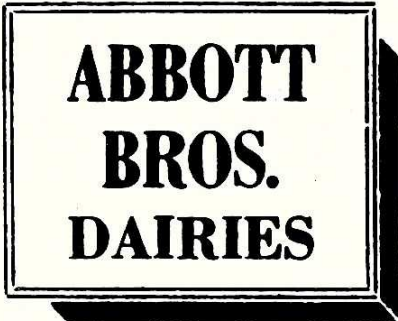
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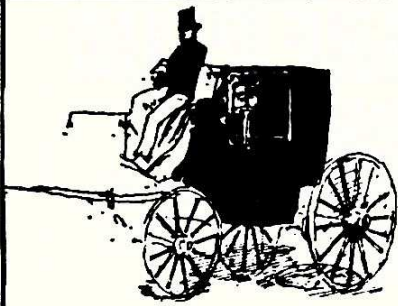
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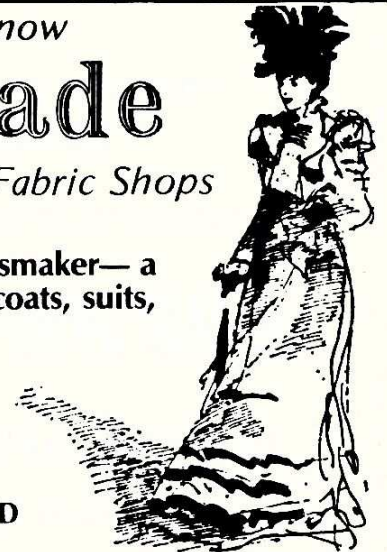


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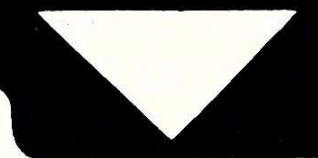
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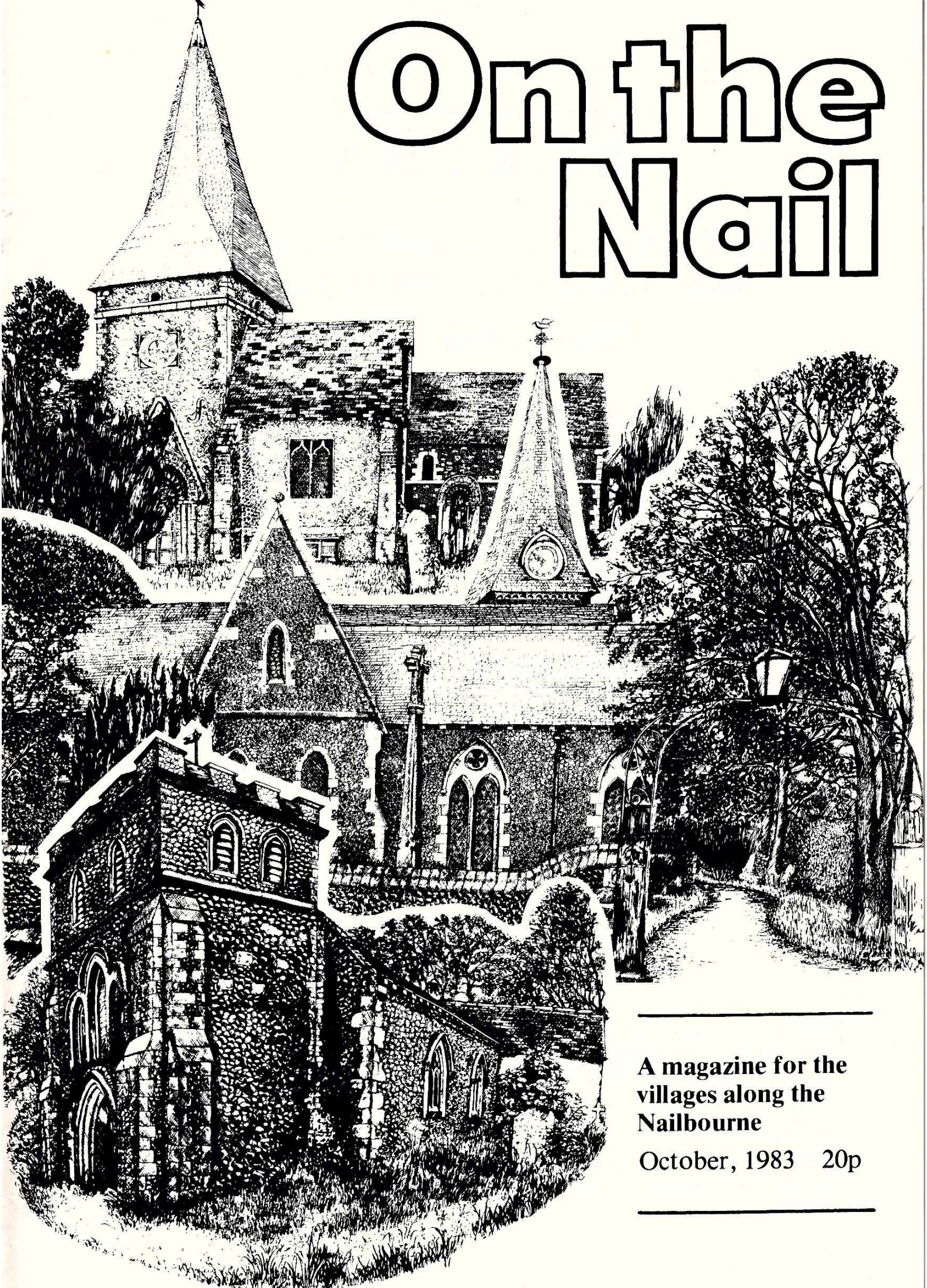
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# On the Nail



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villages along the  
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October, 1983 20p

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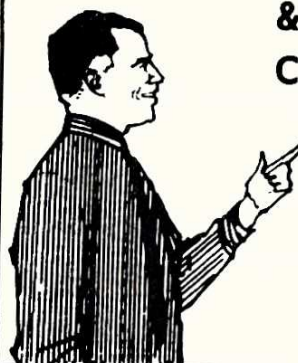
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# Sunday Worship in October

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

## 2nd:

9.30 Family Service

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

6.30 Harvest Evensong

(Preacher: Norman

Wareham, Esq.

Licensed Reader)

## 9th:

9.30 Family Communion 11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

(Series 3)

6.30pm Evensong

## 16th:

9.30 Parish Communion 8am Holy Communion

11am Songs of Praise

(Series 3)

6.30pm Evensong

## 23rd:

8am Holy Communion

9am Holy Communion

11am Matins & Holy  
Communion

6.30pm Evensong

## 30th:

9.30 Family Communion 11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

## 6th November:

11am Family Service

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

**Bridge Methodist Church** at 11am. *2nd*, The Revd. Wilfred Hill. *9th*, The Revd. Peter Taylor (*Communion*). *16th*, The Revd. John Turner. *23rd*, Miss K. Knight. *30th*, The Revd. Dr. Derek Brice.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated each Wednesday at 9.30am and Friday (Rite A) at 7.30am in St. Peter's, Bridge, also in the Common Room, Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am.

A short informal act of worship is held every Wednesday in The New Close at 2.30pm. Parishioners are always most welcome to join us for that service which lasts about a quarter of an hour.

## For your diary and prayer list

2nd **Eighteenth Sunday After Trinity** *Pentecost 19*

Bridge Harvest Festival will be kept at both services.

4th *Francis of Assisi, Friar, 1226*

Pray for the clergy of the Deanery who meet this morning at Wickham-breaux.

Bekesbourne PCC meeting, School House, 8pm

6th *William Tyndale, Translator of the Bible, 1536*

8th Bekesbourne Harvest Home Feast, Village Hall, 7pm.

9th **Nineteenth Sunday After Trinity** *Pentecost 20*

13th *Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066*

Bridge Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm

15th *Teresa of Avila, Mystic, 1582*

16th **Twentieth Sunday After Trinity** *Last after Pentecost*

17th *Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c.107*

18th *St. Luke the Evangelist*

23rd **Twenty-first Sunday After Trinity** *9th before Christmas*

British Summer Time ends at 2am. Clocks go *back* one hour.

26th A meeting to begin preparations for Bridge & Patricbourne Christmas Market will be held at the Vicarage at 8pm. Willing helpers and people with ideas are more than welcome.

28th *St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles*

30th **Twenty-second Sunday After Trinity** *8th before Christmas*

## The Living Truth

On the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park stands the village of Great Ayton. A pleasant enough spot in itself, Great Ayton is immensely proud of its most famous son, Captain James Cook, the explorer. The house where he spent his boyhood was shipped brick-by-brick to Australia in 1934 and an obelisk now marks the spot, but the village school which Cook attended is still there, howbeit a museum piece. There is a tremendous pride in their former resident and his connections are widely used to attract visitors to Great Ayton.

The Baptist Church in the village is clearly a very go-ahead church, and this summer the noticeboard outside has borne the following message in bold lettering:

“Captain James Cook once lived in this village. Jesus still does!”

### For all time

The message of Great Ayton's Baptist community is the message every Christian community anywhere in the world is pledged to deliver, for the Church's constant witness is (or should be) that Jesus lives amongst us. He did not come to grief when he was crucified, he was raised to life again, and that resurrection life was not for the time being but for all time. Jesus is still alive right now, as you read these words!

**‘I'll live in you if you'll live in me.’**

The basis for this belief in a living Lord is partly because the Bible says so and partly through experience. The biblical evidence comes supremely from the closing words of St. Matthew's Gospel, where Jesus himself told the disciples, “I will be with you always, to the end of time”. (*Matt 28.20*). But the fact that Christ lives is implied throughout the New Testament, and certainly the book of the Acts of the Apostles, the story of the young Church in action. We are presented with an ever-expanding community of people whose sole motive force is the spirit of Christ working in and through them, and gloriously so.

If the Church nowadays would only realise that the presence of Christ has never been withheld from his people and that he functions now in and through them there is no telling what might be achieved. In addition the Church needs to realise that Christ depends on his twentieth-century disciples for the continuation of his work of redeeming the world. If Christians don't

come to terms with this fact and get stuck into it, the work will not get done and Christ's power will lack its vital outlet.

Happily it is the experience of so many in the churches that Christ *does* live in them for they sense his presence constantly, and voluntarily submit to him. These good souls have readily responded to the old hymn that prays:

“Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee”.

### **It's up to you!**

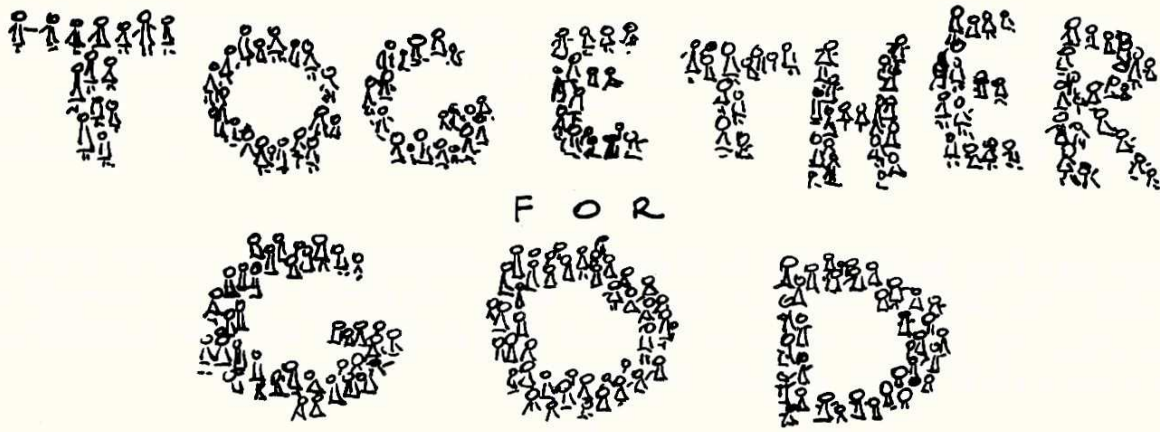
The fifteenth of this month is the feast of St. Teresa of Avila, the sixteenth-century mystic. St. Teresa felt very strongly the need for Christians to discern the power of the living Jesus in their midst, and in words that are as powerful as they are beautiful she gave substance to her thoughts.

*Christ has  
No body now on earth but yours;  
No hands but yours;  
No feet but yours;  
Yours are the eyes  
Through which is to look out  
Christ's compassion to the world;  
Yours are the feet  
With which He is to go about  
Doing good;  
Yours are the hands  
With which He is to bless men now.*



*The Revd. D. Steven of Littlebourne shows some boys from Kingston the symbols of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ in "Together for God" at Bridge.*

Photo: KENTISH GAZETTE



## *Together for God at Bridge*

From the Vicar's initial welcome in the school hall to the Bishop of Dover's blessing in church the Deanery Family Festival was everything we hoped for.

It was a real family occasion and people from different parishes enjoyed being together for God, getting to know one another and making festival as a family. The afternoon's varied activities came together in a splendid and highly unusual act of worship and celebration in a crowded Bridge Church and between the two a sumptuous tea was shared by all.

The Rural Dean told us to enjoy ourselves and that is exactly what we did, and not even a cold, rainy day deterred us. The children, ably directed by Mike Windess, produced three songs for the service, making use of an assortment of instruments and voices, and other children made banners to embellish the procession which took place despite threatening skies and empty village streets. Dr. David Bowen from Ash gave the banner-makers a helping hand and kindly allowed us to retain the banners in the church. They are worth seeing.

A body of adults, about half of whom had never sung before, made up a choir, and sang an anthem by Schubert with great feeling and accuracy. Then, spearheaded by Miss Mary Ambrose of Kingston, seven ladies, including our own Kath Pierce, Bettina Walker and Wendy Lewis, wrote and produced a playlet that was very moving and instructive. It contrasted a congregation that is beset with backbiting and self-seeking with one that is together in love for God, and how the latter can help those in need, as should be the case.

Thanks are due to the many in our parishes who helped behind the scenes and enabled us to live up to our friendly reputation, not least to Alicia Pentin, who did the teas with her band of assistants, and to the school staff for putting up with us. It just shows what can be done when you are 'Together for God'!

## **Nail Noticeboard**

Bridge Village Pre-school Playgroup is now one year old. Twenty energetic youngsters gather twice weekly, (Tuesday and Thursday mornings), under the guidance of Mrs. Webb, her Assistant Supervisor Mrs. Sylvia Wraight and mothers who work a rota system.

This coming Christmas sees some of our youngsters leaving the Playgroup

to start school; naturally we want to fill these vacancies so if you have a child aged between 2½ and 5 years of age, who you feel would benefit from joining our Playgroup for one or two mornings a week, please ring Sharon Sperling, Bridge 830042.

*Evelyn Andrews, Secretary*

\* \* \*

*Peggy and Ron Beckett wish to thank all their friends in Bekesbourne, Patixbourne and Bridge for making their Ruby Wedding such a wonderful occasion; the trouble taken to make it a special day and the warmth of everyone's good wishes will not be forgotten.*

\* \* \*

**Bridge Folk Dance Group:** We are continuing our Dancing on the first and third Thursdays during October, November and December, in the Village Hall at 8pm. New dancers welcome.

\* \* \*

**Kent Trust for Nature Conservation:** A Barn dance will be held in the Village Hall, Bridge, on Saturday October 29th at 8pm. Caller, Alf Matthews. Tickets £1.50, children 50p, obtainable from Dot Whittaker, 9 High Street, Bridge.

Mrs. Whittaker will be having her usual Christmas Sales Stall open on November 5th and 6th, 26th and 27th, 9am to 6pm.

\* \* \*

**Bridge Churchyard Working Party:** For our last clean-up in the churchyard at Bridge we were unlucky enough to pick almost the only wet Saturday of the summer. That and holidays meant only a few turned up. They did a fine job, but a lot of work remains.

The next 'blitz', aimed at tidying up for the winter, will be on Saturday, 29th October at 10am. Please come along to St. Peter's to help, with any garden tools you can muster.

*Alan Jackson*

## League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals

The Bridge Branch ran a stall at the Kent & Canterbury Hospital Fête on Thursday, 25th August. It was a most successful afternoon, very well attended, with the total proceeds for the fête coming to over £6,000.

The Branch also ran a 'Bring and Buy' Coffee Morning at 'Rosebank', Colonel Hearn's house, on Wednesday, 31st August. Total proceeds came to over £90.

The annual Christmas Fair of the Bridge Branch will be held on Saturday, 19th November in the Village Hall, starting at 2pm. Please give it your support.

*Richard Hearn, Chairman*

## Royal British Legion: Bridge & District Branch

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2nd November at 8pm in Bridge Village Hall. All members are asked to make a special effort to attend.



### Remembrance Sunday

The Remembrance Service will be in Bekesbourne Church, commencing with the Two Minutes' Silence at the War Memorial in Bekesbourne Churchyard at 11am. This service will involve other branches in the neighbourhood as well as us. For Bridge itself a short Act of Remembrance and wreath-laying will take place at the Memorial at 10.30am.

### Poppy Day

On last year's Poppy Day the branch raised over £300. Naturally we would hope to do even better this year, so please do give generously to a worthy cause.

*Richard Hearn, Chairman*

### Saint Demetrius' Day

*by Roger Hunter*

Stentor's voice  
leads the chants at St. Demetrius  
on Friday  
day of preparation for the coming feast  
his relics on display  
kissed by the faithful  
and behind the altar screen  
a blaze of candlelight  
surrounds the Host  
the tall mosaics look down  
in monumental stillness  
\*‘Aleethia aleethia’ the priest intones  
the glowing church bears witness  
to that inner truth  
the truth we do not understand  
but know deep in our hearts

*Salonica, October 1982*

\*Greek: Truth

### It's a crying shame: *by the Revd. Peter Taylor*

When was the last time you cried?

Last week? A month ago? A year ago? Years ago? Or can you not remember the last time you cried?

Our society is one in which we do not like people to cry, especially in public. There are, of course, exceptions. We let children cry and that annoys rather than upsets us; and the old can cry, but then they cannot help it. Someone can cry if a close relative dies but only at the funeral in public. Beyond this crying is taboo.

The group 10cc wrote a song called ‘I'm not in love’ which contained the

phrase, 'Big boys don't cry', which reminds us that men especially are not supposed to cry; women can because we are told that they are emotional creatures. (Do men have emotions?)

Have you ever noticed nurses in a hospital whipping round the curtains when someone begins to cry? Our first reaction to tears is to try and hide them. We tell the person to wipe away the tears, pull themselves together, and put on a brave face, believing that this will help. It might help us, but it is unlikely to help them. You see, it is those who see the crying who are more upset than those doing the crying, we are more embarrassed than they, and so we try to stop it.

Why?

Probably crying is seen as a sign of weakness and dependence in a world where there is stress on strength and independence. But few of us are strong in this sense and none of us is truly independent, for as John Donne put it, 'No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, part of the main'.

In the Gospel of John, chapter 11, Jesus hears of the death of his friend Lazarus, and in the shortest verse in the Bible we find that "Jesus wept". Now if Jesus, the most complete person who ever lived, could cry, if God himself was not ashamed to cry, then why should we, and why should we try to stop those who wish to, or try to make them feel ashamed? God the all-powerful shows us that it is not a sign of weakness, but of strength. This is typical of God who always upturns our values; it makes you want to cry . . .

## PARISH PUMP

Parish Council  
News



### Bridge Parish Council

After the summer recess the Parish Council met on 8th September in the Methodist Church Hall, which was made available to them at very short notice because of the condition of the Village Hall.

#### Village Hall

Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin said that the contractors had made good progress, and had made up much of the time previously lost, although additional work had been necessary to the flooring of the Hall. It was expected that all the work would be finished by 7th October. The Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, said

that he had paid a number of visits to the premises with Cllr. Gulvin, and he praised the work which he had done for the Council. The Marquis Conyngham had agreed to open the extension on 27th September, and arrangements for this ceremony were discussed. It was decided, in particular, that it should be suggested to the Village Hall committee that the new room should be named "The Hunter Room", in recognition both of Dr. Roger Hunter's contribution to the Improvement Fund and of his work for the village community.

## Recreation Ground

The Council agreed to discuss with the Football Club the siting of a hut for use as a changing room; and the Chairman said that he had made several minor amendments to a draft lease to the Cricket Club, and was now awaiting a final draft from the Solicitors. Cllrs. Mrs. Anne Young and John Anderson had discussed the question of the grass remaining uncut at the foot of the trees with the judge visiting in connection with the 'Trees in your Village' competition and their view that these areas should not be sprayed was accepted by the Council. Cllrs. Peter Lawrence and Ken Greenaway had fixed stone slabs at the base of the see-saw and the slide, and Cllr. Lawrence had repaired the vandalised cradle swing.

## Traffic Problems

Highland Court Farm had agreed to remind transport firms with which they dealt that their stores should be reached direct from the by-pass, and the County Council had expressed themselves sympathetic to the suggestion that Chartham-bound traffic from Dover should not now be sign-posted through

Bridge. The Council had also achieved a success in securing the agreement of the Police and County Council to the provision of a 'bus stop on Bridge Hill just below the steps. It was decided not to pursue the question of a downhill stop.

## Generally

Cllr. Mrs. Young thanked all those who had contributed waste paper to her collection, which had realised £30 for Village Hall funds, and she mentioned in particular Churchill House, who bundled their papers very expertly, and Mrs. Flanders, who collected from her neighbours. Discussion took place on the matter of the oil which had invaded gardens in Union Road when a tank was cleaned at the oil terminal, and it was decided to press the matter with the authorities in the hope of avoiding a recurrence. The bottle bank, on which the Council had spent some time in past months, is not now to be supplied by the City Council.

The next meeting of the Council will take place in the Village Hall on Thursday, 13th October, at 7.30pm. Visitors will, of course, be welcome to the proceedings. *F. L. Edwards*

## Fish News

**Luncheon Club** members found it helpful to meet during August. However, it was difficult to find volunteers for the rota during the peak holiday period. Fortunately, a small group of teenagers came to our help and their hard work was much appreciated by both members and staff.

**Age Concern** runs a Day Centre in Canterbury which cares for elderly, frail and handicapped people. The extra support it gives, combined with help from the Social Services and our 'Fish' Scheme, enables many of our local residents to maintain their independence and continue to live in their own homes. Although the Centre gets a grant from the KCC, this only covers part of the cost and very heavy cuts have been made in next year's grants. A house-to-house collection will be made in Canterbury from 16th to 22nd October and during this time collecting tins will be in some of our Bridge shops for our local contributions. Please give generously to help care for our own residents.

In connection with Age Concern, may I draw to your attention the Chairman's appeal for a new minibus, which follows in this edition of *On The Nail*. It is something that benefits us and not just Canterbury people.

This month's **Coffee Pop-in** will be on Wednesday, 12th in the Methodist Church.

Canterbury Volunteer Bureau **Christmas Shopping evening** will be on 24th November this year. Please let me know by 15th October if you would like a ticket.

Joan Warren, (830233)

# AGE CONCERN

## Minibus Appeal

CANTERBURY

*The following letter from the Chairman of AGE CONCERN Canterbury, Air Commodore W.C. Taylor, is self-explanatory. It is brought to the notice of On The Nail readers because one or other of the minibuses appears in the villages quite regularly, so we do have an interest in them. Offers of help and donations should be given to the Organising Secretary, Mrs. Joan M. Pritchard, The Centre, Castle Row, Canterbury. The telephone number is 62368 and the office is open each weekday from 9am to 4pm.*

I am writing on behalf of Age Concern, Canterbury to ask if you would support our Appeal to raise funds for a replacement vehicle. Our first ambulance minibus is ten years old, and we must raise £12,000 to purchase a new one, so that we can continue to serve all elderly and handicapped people in our area.

We run three minibuses which are used for the benefit of all elderly and handicapped persons. Nine organisations regularly use our buses, as well as the members of our lunch clubs and day centre. In ten years our first 'bus has done 95,565 miles, mainly within the City limits, which adds to the wear and tear of vehicles. We have in fact had the vehicle reconditioned, but it is now becoming uneconomical to maintain on the road. We were told that the lifetime of a minibus under such conditions would be five years, so we have had good service from this vehicle. Unless we buy a replacement vehicle our service to the community would be restricted, and this we would not like to happen.

Our second 'bus was purchased by Canterbury Round Table in 1974, this also has been reconditioned — and our third 'bus was purchased in 1978 by money raised in an appeal. The ages and condition of these vehicles makes it imperative that we take action now to replace the oldest one.

Please, if you can help either with a donation or by a fund-raising event, do let me know. We thank you in anticipation for your help and support.

Yours sincerely,

W.C. Taylor, Chairman

## St. Peter's, Bekesbourne rotas

### Cleaning

Mrs Grey	October 1st	Mrs Millyard
Mrs Beckett	October 8th	
Mrs Smith	October 15th	Mrs Smith
Mrs Stickells	October 22nd	
Mrs Hogben	October 28th	Mrs Farbrace
Mrs Watson	November 5	Mrs Whigham

### Flowers

*Vicar:* The Revd. Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., The Vicarage, 23 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JZ (Bridge 830250)

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Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT5 5BA (Bridge 830426)

*Hon. Secretary:* Mr. L.W. Sanford, 11 Windmill Close, Bridge CT4 5LY (Bridge 830411)

*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)

*Organist (Bridge):* Mr. D. Mathew, 27 Rivercourt, Chartham CT4 7JN (Canterbury 731548)

*Organist (Patricxbourne):* Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD

(Canterbury 62695)

*Verger (Bridge):* Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5JD (Bridge 830660)

**BEKESBOURNE**

*Churchwardens:* Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

*Hon. Secretary:* Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. G.D. Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5ER (Bridge 830256)

*Organist:* Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

*Captain of the Bells:* Mr. H. Collard, 1 Mumpas Cottages, Little Pett, Bridge CT4 5PD

*Magazine Advertising:* Mr. J. Barley, 49 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830612)

*Magazine Editor:* The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On The Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. He would always welcome articles and photographs of general interest for inclusion in the Magazine which has a wide circulation in the three villages of Bridge, Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne.

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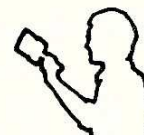
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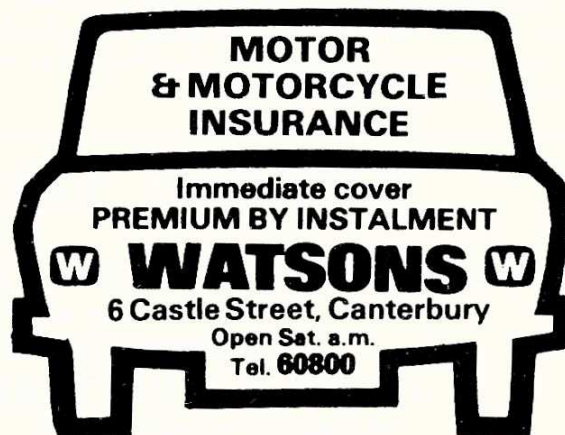
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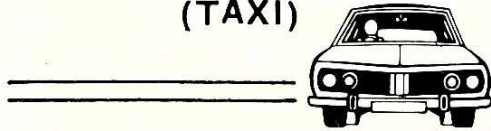
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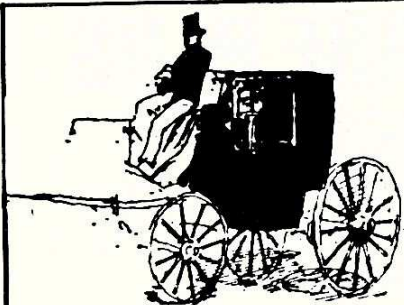
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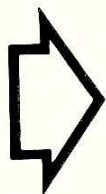
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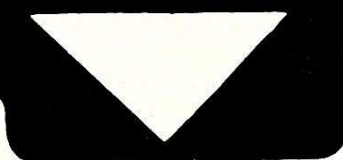
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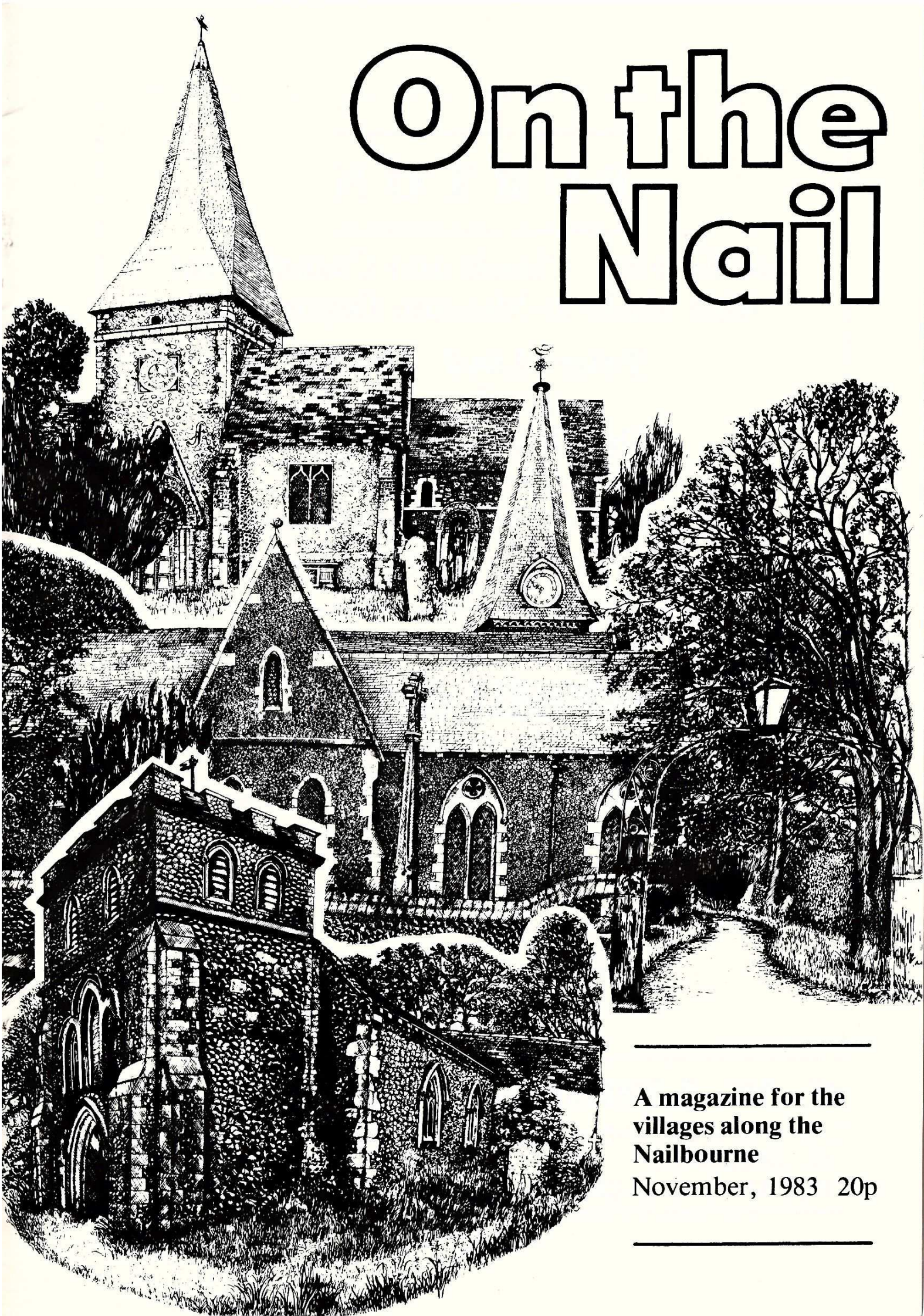
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# Sunday Worship in November

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

**6th:**

11am Family Service  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

**13th:**

9.30 Family Communion  
(Series 3)  
10.30 *Act of Remembrance*  
(War Memorial)  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

11am *Service of Remembrance*

**20th:**

9.30 Parish Communion  
(Series 3)  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

**27th:**

8am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evensong

9am Holy Communion

11am Matins & Holy Communion

**4th December:**

11am Family Gift Service  
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

**Bridge Methodist Church** at 11am — 6th, Mr. W.E. Ingall. 13th, Mrs. Hazel Colyer. 20th, The Revd. Peter J. Gausden. 27th, The Revd. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in St. Peter's, Bridge each Wednesday at 9.30am and Friday (Rite A) at 7.30am. These celebrations are, need it be said, for all-comers and those who regularly attend them would be delighted if others joined them as and when they wished. The Friday morning eucharists particularly afford greater opportunity for that intercessory prayer that is the life-blood of any Church.

The monthly celebration of the Holy Communion for the residents of Churchill House is on Wednesday, 2nd at 10.15am and the weekly Wednesday services at The New Close, to which parishioners are always invited, are at 2.30pm.

## For your diary and prayer list

1st **All Saints' Day**

Senior Citizens Club Bazaar, Bridge Village Hall, 2pm

2nd *Commemoration of All Souls*, when we pray for our own departed loved ones. The 9.30am Eucharist will be of requiem. Names you would wish commemorated at that service should be handed to me beforehand.

Bridge British Legion AGM, Village Hall, 8pm.

5th Bridge School PTA Firework Party, Church Meadow, 6.45pm

6th **Twenty-Third Sunday After Trinity** 7 *before Christmas*

8th *Saints and Martyrs of England*

- 11th *St. Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397*  
 'Choral Evensong', pre-recorded in the Cathedral, is transmitted on BBC Radio 3 at 4pm, with the Vicar conducting the service in his rôle of Honorary Minor Canon.
- 13th **Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Trinity** *6 before Christmas*  
 This being Remembrance Sunday neighbouring branches of the Royal British Legion asked if they might come to St. Peter's, Bekesbourne for their Service of Remembrance. Consequently Matins at Patricxbourne will be held next Sunday instead of this. The Service of Remembrance will be preceded by a wreath-laying and observance of the Two Minutes Silence in the churchyard at the War Memorial. The congregation should gather there in time for the Silence on the stroke of 11am.
- 16th *St. Margaret of Scotland, Queen, Wife, Mother, 1093*
- 17th *St. Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680 & St. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200*  
 Coffee Morning in aid of St. Peter's Church, Bridge, April Cottage, 1 Meadow Close at the kind invitation of Mrs. Green. Admission 5p: Coffee, Bring-and-Buy from 10.30 to 12 noon.
- 18th Study Group, Vicarage, 7.30pm (*See page 8*)
- 19th Bekesbourne Church Christmas Market, Village Hall from 2.15pm
- 20th **Sunday next before Advent** *5 before Christmas*  
*N.B. 11am Matins at Patricxbourne.*
- 23rd Bridge School Governors Meeting, 4.30pm
- 26th League of Friends Christmas Market, Bridge Village Hall, 2pm
- 27th **First Sunday in Advent** *4 before Christmas*
- 30th **St. Andrew the Apostle**  
*Confirmation Service*, within the setting of the Eucharist, 7.30pm in St. Peter's Church, Bridge. The sacrament will be administered by Bishop Harold Isherwood, Assistant Bishop in the diocese. Please support the candidates with your presence on the night and with your prayers now. Remember last year's glorious service!

September's *On The Nail* carried a leading article that was culled from *Christian Aid News*. No apology is made for devoting a further leader to Christian Aid, in the light of the appalling atrocities reported in their October publication. Any doubts as to the sincerity of Christian Aid or the degree to which it gets involved in the world's need, must surely be dispelled when you read of

## 'THE TERRIBLE COST OF LOVE'

**Margarida Maria Alves, who was killed on her doorstep in North East Brazil in August, was the third person from Christian Aid-supported programmes in Brazil, Sri Lanka and Lebanon to be murdered within three months. During the same period five relief workers in El Salvador were detained and tortured.**

Dr. Charles Elliott, Christian Aid's Director, has expressed deep concern at the latest atrocities. "These were all innocent, devoted and caring people, killed because they dared to put love into practice. The Gospel warns us of the dangerous cost of doing that; these people remind us of the truth, the terrible truth, of that Gospel."

Margarida was a founder of CENTRU — the Rural Workers Education and Cultural Centre in Recife — a project supported by Christian Aid since 1981. One of its tasks has been to provide education for the peasants and landless seasonal

workers in the sugar plantations and refineries of the region. It has also offered assistance to those involved in land disputes. She was watching her eight-year-old son playing in the street when she was killed.

### **Horror**

At the time of her death Margarida was leading a small trade union, the Sindicato de Trabalhadores Rurais de Alagoa Grande, in the State of Paraiba, seeking to implement minimum salaries already decreed by law.

The National Conference of Brazilian Bishops of the North East has voiced horror at the killing and is supporting a campaign to have the assassin arrested.

On July 27th Dr. Somasunderam Rajasundaram, Secretary of the Gandhiyam Society of Sri Lanka, which supports poor Tamil communities through agricultural and health care schemes, was one of seventeen Tamil political detainees clubbed to death at Welikada Prison, near Colombo, by rioting Sinhalese prisoners. Dr. Rajasundaram, who was committed to Gandhi's principles of non-violence, had been imprisoned without trial since April.

On June 12th Samiha Taha, a kindergarten teacher working with Association Najdeh in southern Lebanon, was killed by unidentified gunmen in Bourj el Shemali Palestine refuge camp. Christian Aid provided funds to assist the rebuilding and staffing of the kindergarten, which was destroyed during the Israeli invasion last summer. The kindergarten had just reopened when the killing occurred.

In El Salvador, five relief workers assisting the nine refugee centres administered by the Social Secretariat of the Archbishopric of San Salvador, including the centre at San Roque, were illegally abducted and tortured in July. Three are now in police detention, held as political prisoners and charged with terrorism. The five included a doctor, two health and education assistants, and two workers delivering food and basic materials for workshops.

### **Charges**

The police authorities have declared that the three now in detention are members of a guerilla organisation and the refugee centres of the Archbishopric house guerillas and their dependents. They also claim that food and water from the workshops have been passed to guerillas using a van belonging to the Archbishopric. According to the official statement: "The refugees in San Roque are a support base for a guerilla organisation. There are other members of guerilla organisations in the refuges which are administered by the Archbishopric".

The charges have caused panic and increased hardship in the refuges themselves. The centres are guarded by troops and those inside are frightened of leaving or of receiving new refugees. Priests who normally visit the centres at least twice a week, have been unable to enter.

Archbishop Rivera y Damas has unequivocally denounced the arrests and detentions, and defended the status of the refugees: "If we are to stop the flow of refugees it won't be by denouncing them as guerillas, but by stopping the repression in the villages and cities. While repression exists, while illegal arrests and detentions continue, while military operations and indiscriminate bombardments continue, there will be many, many people filling the refugee centres of the Archbishopric, the Green Cross and others, so many that more will have to be opened".

Dr. Elliott commented: "I visited some of these refugee camps last November. I can imagine all too vividly what is going on there now. One can almost taste the

fear, the terror . . . The Archbishop is a brave, brave man. He speaks the truth in love. In El Salvador, that's a courageous witness not just to the truth, but to truth incarnate — I hope he makes it".

## Joys and Sorrows

Bekesbourne Church was the venue for the wedding of **Francis Whiddett** and **Janet Vincent** on Saturday, 24th September and also for the baptism of **Katie Bines**, Greenways, Aerodrome Road on Sunday, 2nd October

The Vicar officiated at the cremation of Mrs. **Audrey Newington**, 4 Downside Cottages, Bekesbourne on Friday, 21st October at Barham Crematorium. We offer our sympathy in their sad loss to Mr. Newington and his family.

At the time of going to press we hear with great sadness of the very sudden death of **Bernard Rampe**, 29 Bridge Down, and offer to his wife and family our sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

## Raven Run *by Sarah Millyard*

On Sunday, 16th October, a team of four 1st Bridge Guides took part in an event called the 'Raven Run', organised for Guides and Scouts of the area. All the guides and scouts arrived at the Wally May Centre in Ross Wood at about 8am on the cold and windy morning. Luckily it was reasonably dry, unlike the day before!

Each team was given a list of grid references and a large scale map. The teams were then taken to different points around the course by mini-bus. Then they had to find their way from grid reference to grid reference following the map. En route there were several incident points. At these there were different challenges for the teams to attempt, and they were awarded points out of 50 for each. Examples of these were putting up a tent within a marked out area, without stepping outside it, lifting up a brick half a metre off the ground from a distance of two metres away, popping a ballon from a distance of ten yards, and standing in a stream shooting with rifles at targets underneath a small bridge.

Out of twenty-eight teams taking part our guides did very well, achieving 277 points out of a total of 400. Incredibly they came in second, narrowly beaten by some scouts!

The guides taking part were Fiona Hollands, Sarah Millyard, Joy Palmer and Julia Helbling. The day ended at about 6pm and everyone went home rather tired, after a very enjoyable day.

## It's never too late to learn . . .

Being a Christian in today's world is every bit as difficult as it always was, which is why we all need to go on learning about our faith and to seek for new ways of commending it to others. Merely to have gone through a course of Confirmation preparation, often many years ago, hardly equips us for the Christian life.

As a gesture towards becoming better informed about the faith a Study Group was set up in the wake of last year's Confirmation, though by no

means restricted to the newly-confirmed, and it is due to resume this month. Certain of the original group are currently in the throes of Framework For Faith, which is a weekly course of study on Marriage and Family Life, but with others in mind, perhaps younger marrieds, the original Study Group is resuming.



The basis of our study will be the book *Christian Life Style* by Edward Patey, so if you wish to join us (and we hope you will) you will need to buy the book: it costs £1.50. The easy way will be to place an order with me and I will send for as many copies as we need from Mowbrays bookshop in London.

Let me appeal to everyone who would like to share in a course of study to make us better able to live the Christian life in today's world. Do get in touch with me and come along to the initial gathering which is in the Vicarage on Friday, 18th November at 7.30pm. I think I can promise you a stimulating and rewarding evening.

## Around and About

The **Senior Citizens' Club**, Bridge, will hold their Autumn Bazaar in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 1st November at 2pm to raise money for their Amenity Fund. Contributions to the stalls — all sorts — will be gratefully received at the hall on the day from 10.30am.

The PTA Secretary gives the following details of the **Fireworks Party** on Bonfire Night, Saturday, 5th November. Venue — Church Meadow, Brewery Lane. Time — 6.45pm light the bonfire and 7.15pm fireworks. Entry — £1 for adults and 50p for children on the night. 90p and 40p if bought in advance — available in local shops. Soup and hot dogs will be on sale at the party.

**Christmas Sales Goods** on behalf of *Kent Trust for Nature Conservation* will be on sale at Mrs. D. Whittaker's, 9 High Street, Bridge on Saturday & Sunday, 5th & 6th November, also on Saturday & Sunday, 26th & 27th November between the hours of 9am and 6pm on each occasion.

Mrs. Frances E. Apps, League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals (Bridge Branch) wishes to announce that the annual Christmas Market of the **League of Friends** is to be held on Saturday, 26th November, *not* the 19th as was inadvertently stated in the October *On The Nail*.

Nevertheless, there is a **Christmas Market** on 19th November; it is the annual market for Bekesbourne Church, held in Bekesbourne Village Hall, and we look forward to welcoming friends from far and wide to this important church function.

### Two dates for early December:

1. Mrs. Evelyn Andrews writes: "Saturday, 3rd December, 10.30am to 12



noon, Bridge Playgroup will be holding an 'Open Morning' in the Village Hall. All villagers are invited and will be able to see the children doing various activities. A selection from their term's work will be on display. Other attractions include a cake stall, raffle and refreshments'.

2. Bridge's Family Service on 4th December at 11am will, like last December's, be a **Gift Service**, when we invite families to bring a Christmas gift for a resident of The New Close. We hope Matron or one of her staff will be with us to receive the gifts, which are kept for Christmas Day. To give you some idea what to get, any of the following are most acceptable: sweets (soft preferably), chocolate, pop-socks, stretch-stockings (not tights, please), hankies or tissues, talc, toiletries, small ornaments.

Once you have gift-wrapped your present you may like to put your own 'To . . . From . . .' label on it, in which case, if you fill in the 'From' section the staff will put the other name on it, as appropriate. It would also help to decide who gets what if you fix an easily removable label on the parcel saying what is inside.

Last year's service was a great success and the recipients of your gifts enjoyed them enormously. It is good to reinforce the link between village and New Close in this way and we are sure you will rise to the occasion again this year.

We hope to welcome to the service musicians from the school and also to baptize the baby brother of one of our school children.

Barry Whiting writes: "As a result of flagging interest, after three years or so the monthly discussions at 20 Conyngham Lane will come to an end as from 19th October. Hilary and I have much enjoyed the delightful company on these occasions and would not be averse to renewing them at some later date". Participants will wish to extend a public word of thanks to Barry and Hilary for this valuable ministry of theirs which lasted for surely more than three years and will particularly bear in mind the last phrase of Barry's notice. Thank you both very much indeed!

Mrs. Pauline Pope, North Hill (830055) has a selection of **Pilgrim's Hospice** Christmas Cards for sale at 7p and 11p each, which can be bought from her house or she will call on you if you prefer. In addition she would be grateful for any unwanted wool, stuffing for soft toys or cushions that you have, so that they can be taken to some people who make soft toys, blankets etc. to sell for Hospice Funds.

## Confirmation Service

Those who were there will recall with great pleasure the service of Confirmation held last St. Andrew's Day at Bridge. Another service is to take place this year on the same day, 30th November at 7.30pm, also at Bridge, when it is hoped four young people and three adults will be confirmed, together with candidates from other parishes. The confirming bishop this time will be one of Canterbury's assistant bishops, the Right Revd. Harold Isherwood, and we hope you will be with us on this important occasion.

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Any gifts for stalls would be most welcome. Please contact Stan Grey or John Purchase if you want items collected. On the day the Hall will be open from 10.30am to receive items. Thank you!



## The "Christingle"

gives its name to a special church service created from an ancient Moravian custom which celebrated the coming of Christmas. Families gathered together in their own homes. The children were given a Christingle and by the light of these alone they sang their favourite carols.



The Christingle oranges were kept by the children and relit on Christmas Day as a reminder of their meaning.

The *orange* represents the World, the *candle* — the Light of the World, the *fruit and nuts* — the Fruit of the Earth, and the *red ribbon* tied round it — the Blood of Christ, shed for us all.

The first Christingle Service as we know it was held in Manenborn, Moravia on December 20th, 1747, organised by Count Zinendorf (1700-1760). But the service seems to have its roots much deeper in history. The Romans had an orange decorated with fruit at one of their pre-Christian services, and the ancient Welsh church certainly knew it by the name "Calenig".

Today **The Children's Society**, who have always put 'Children First', have adopted the Christingle Service and introduced it to the Anglican Church. It is a wonderfully moving event for all the family and an opportunity to say "Thank you for my own childhood" or "Thank you for my family".

Several weeks before a service is to be held children (and adults) are given special collecting sheets of **Christingle Stamps**, and these can be 'sold' in return for a small donation. Each collector puts their donations together and places them inside a Christingle purse. The purse is taken to the Christingle Service and presented to the Children's Society, who use all the donations to help in its work for children all over the country.

For every Christingle Envelope presented a real **Christingle** (orange) is given back in return and when they are lit everyone joins in to sing the special Christingle Hymn and some favourite carols. Afterwards they take their Christingle home.

\* \* \*

The annual Christingle Service at Canterbury takes place in the Nave of the Cathedral on Holy Innocents' Day, 28th December at 3pm, and this year the purses will be received by Lord Coggan, who will also speak to the children.

The Children's Society asks for at least £5 per purse and it would be good if our parishes could be represented at this service. Anyone who would like to start collecting for a purse should see the Vicar or Miss Mason, our local Society representative, and anyone who would like to present a purse at the service should do the same. Children presenting purses are given seats in the centre of the Nave, and it is they only who receive a Christingle and take part in the procession.

### **ADVANCE NOTICE - 10th December**

Make sure you have a note in your diary that Saturday, 10th December is Bridge & Patricbourne's Christmas Market in Bridge Village Hall from 2 o'clock onwards. Gifts for stalls gratefully received!

<p><b>PARISH PUMP</b> Parish Council News</p>	
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### **Bridge Parish Council**

The Parish Council returned to the Village Hall for their meeting on 13th October, and heard reports from the Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, on the opening ceremony on 27th September, and from Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin, the architect for the improvement works.

The Chairman said that the ceremony had proved most successful, and that the Marquis Conyngham had been genuinely glad to have been invited. He had expressed his appreciation of the venture, and had sent a cheque for £250 for the Village Hall funds. Guests at the opening had contributed £35 to the collection at the

door. Cllr. Revd. Raymond Gilbert underlined the importance of the Chairman's opening remarks in setting the right note. Cllr. Gulvin in his report said that it would take the contractors a further two weeks to complete the work, and that they were anxious to ensure that bookings which had been made could be honoured.

### Recreation Ground

Cllr. Gulvin said that he had had discussions with the cricket and football clubs regarding the latter's changing facilities, and the two clubs had come to an amicable arrangement regarding the use of the extension to the cricket pavilion. Cllr. John Anderson had removed redundant stakes from some of the trees on the ground, and the question of dressing the ground with fertiliser was discussed.

### Highways Matters

Detailed costings of the proposed new steps to Bridge Down from Bridge Hill were provided by Cllr. Gulvin. Expenditure of over £1,300 for materials would be necessary, and it appeared that assistance from

the Lottery Fund was not likely to be available. The Council confirmed its readiness to proceed with the scheme, Cllr. Gulvin pointing out that without help from the Community Programme the cost to the Council would exceed £3,000. A number of other matters concerning the condition of footways and boundary hedges were also dealt with.

### Best Kept Village Competition

The Council heard that the village had not been successful in the competition this year, but the judges' report nevertheless praised a number of village features, including the condition of the private gardens. Several members felt that the judges could not unreasonably have been more critical.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Thursday, 10th November in the new Committee Room in the Village Hall, at 7.30pm. Visitors, who will still be welcome, but — it is hoped — more comfortable, should enter by the rear staircase from Union Road.

*F.L. Edwards, Clerk*

## 'Fish' News

Members and guests celebrated the third anniversary of the Luncheon Club with a gala luncheon on 3rd October.

Miss Mason, who has acted as our 'cashier' since the beginning of the club, has handed over her duties to Mrs. Taylor. Miss Mason has hardly missed a meeting, arriving early every week, collecting members' contributions, balancing the books and checking that all the members have been collected. We all send her our grateful thanks for the hard work she has done and hope that she will now be able to sit back and enjoy her lunches, free from monetary worries.

The Coffee Pop-in this month will be held in the Village Hall on 9th November — do come and join us! Meanwhile we thank Bridge Methodists for kindly allowing us to use their church while the village hall has been out of commission. It has been a very relaxed and enjoyable meeting place.

*Joan Warren (830233)*

## Bekesbourne Rotas for November

### Cleaning

Mrs. Watson .....	November 6th	.....	Mrs. Whigham
Mrs. Russell .....	November 12th	.....	Mrs. Wraight
Mrs. Grey .....	November 19th	.....	
Mrs. Beckett .....	November 26th	.....	
Mrs. Smith .....	December 3rd	.....	

### Flowers

Vicar: The Revd. Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., The Vicarage, 23 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JZ (Bridge 830250)

### **PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE**

Churchwardens: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)

Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT5 5BA (Bridge 830426)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. L.W. Sanford, 11 Windmill Close, Bridge CT4 5LY (Bridge 830411)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. D. Mathew, 27 Rivercourt, Chartham CT4 7JN (Canterbury 731548)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD

(Canterbury 62695)

Verger (Bridge): Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5JD (Bridge 830660)

### **BEKESBOURNE**

Churchwardens: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G.D. Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5ER (Bridge 830256)

Organist: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Captain of the Bells: Mr. H. Collard, 1 Mumpas Cottages, Little Pett, Bridge CT4 5PD

Magazine Advertising: Mr. J. Barley, 49 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830612)

Magazine Editor: The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On The Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. He would always welcome articles and photographs of general interest for inclusion in the Magazine which has a wide circulation in the three villages of Bridge, Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne.

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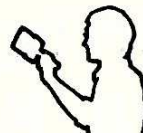
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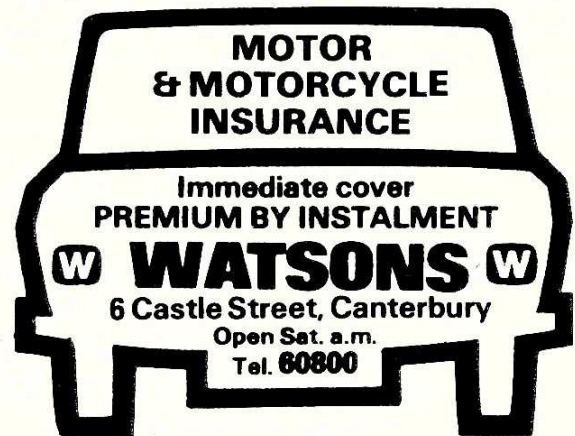
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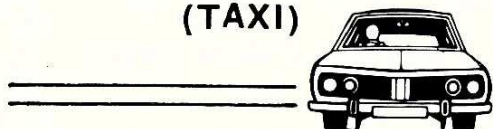
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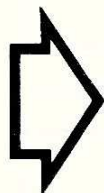
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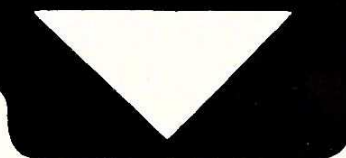
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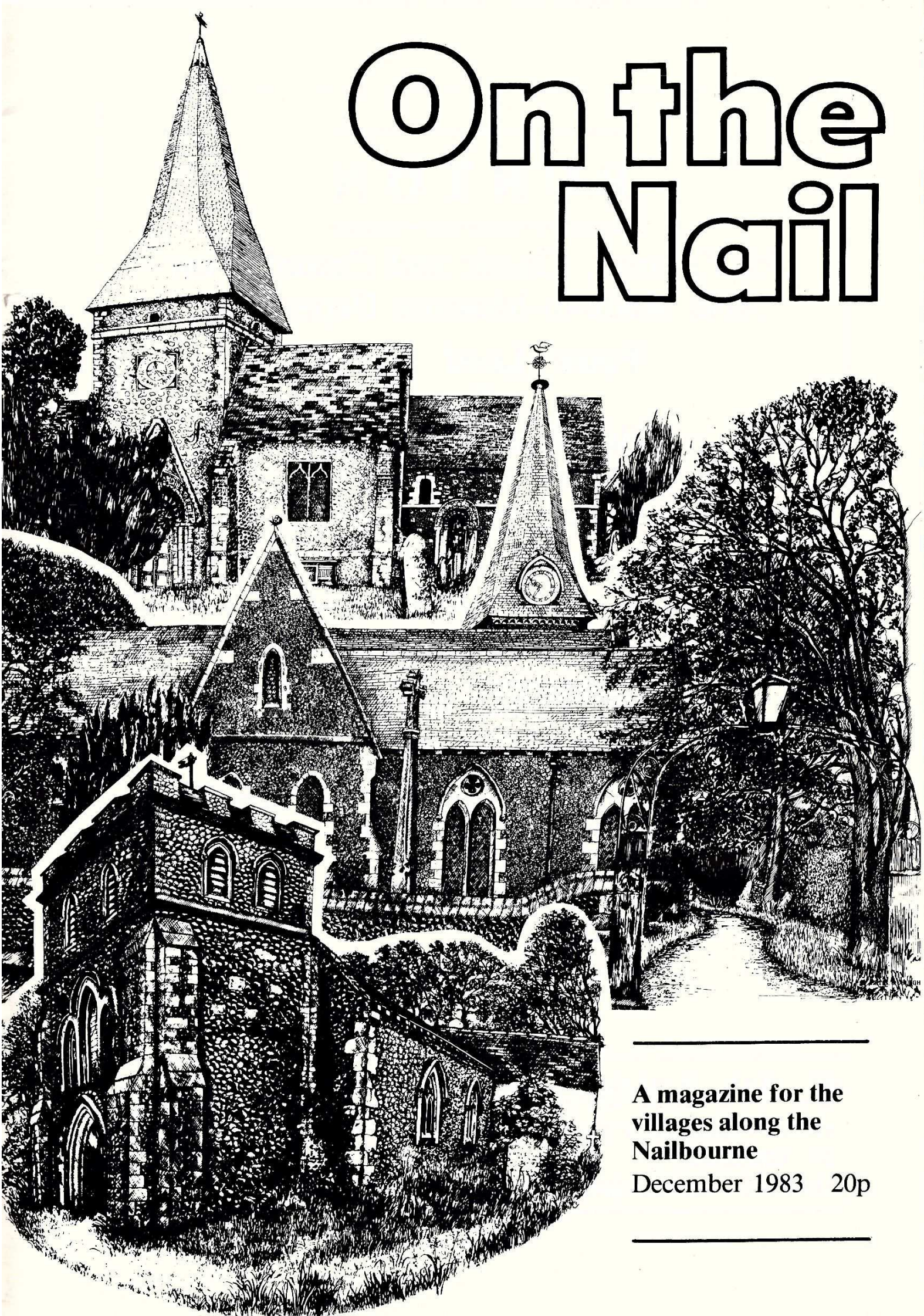
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# On the Nail



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A magazine for the  
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December 1983 20p

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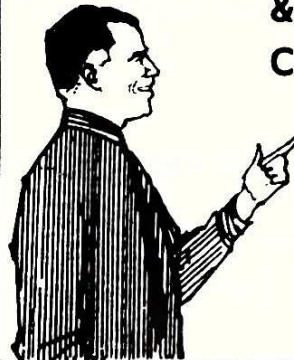
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# Sunday Worship in December

Bridge

Patricbourne

Bekesbourne

**4th:**

11am Family Gift Service

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

6.30pm Evensong

**11th:**

9.30 Family Communion 11am Advent Carol  
(Series 3) Service

8am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

**18th:**

9.30 Parish Communion 8am Holy Communion 11am Matins  
(Series 3)

6.30pm Carol Service

**25th:** Christmas Day services as in the display opposite

**1st Jan:**

11am Family Service

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

6.30pm Evensong

**Bridge Methodist Church** at 11am — *4th*, Miss J.M. Anderson. *11th*, Miss D.M. Rosman, Ph.D. *18th*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *25th*, Mr. E.R. O'Mahoney.

HOLY COMMUNION at St. Peter's, Bridge on Wednesdays at 9.30am and Fridays (*Rite A*) at 7.30am.

## For your diary and prayer list

**4th Second Sunday in Advent**

The Family Service will be a gift service when presents are brought for the residents of The New Close. Holy Baptism will also be administered.

**6th St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.326**

East Bridge Deanery Chapter meet at Aylesham this morning.

**7th St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher, 397**

Patricbourne with Bridge PCC meets, Methodist Church, 8pm

**10th Bridge and Patricbourne Christmas Market, Village Hall, 2pm**

**11th Third Sunday in Advent**

14th Magazine Distributors meeting, Methodist Church, 2.30pm

16th Bridge School Carol Service in the church at 10am. All welcome!

**18th Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Bridge Church Carol Service, 6.30pm

**21st St. Thomas the Apostle**

23rd Patricbourne Church Carol Service, 7pm

**24th Christmas Eve**

First Eucharist of Christmas at Bridge and Bekesbourne commencing at 11.30pm.

**25th CHRISTMAS DAY** (See display for details)

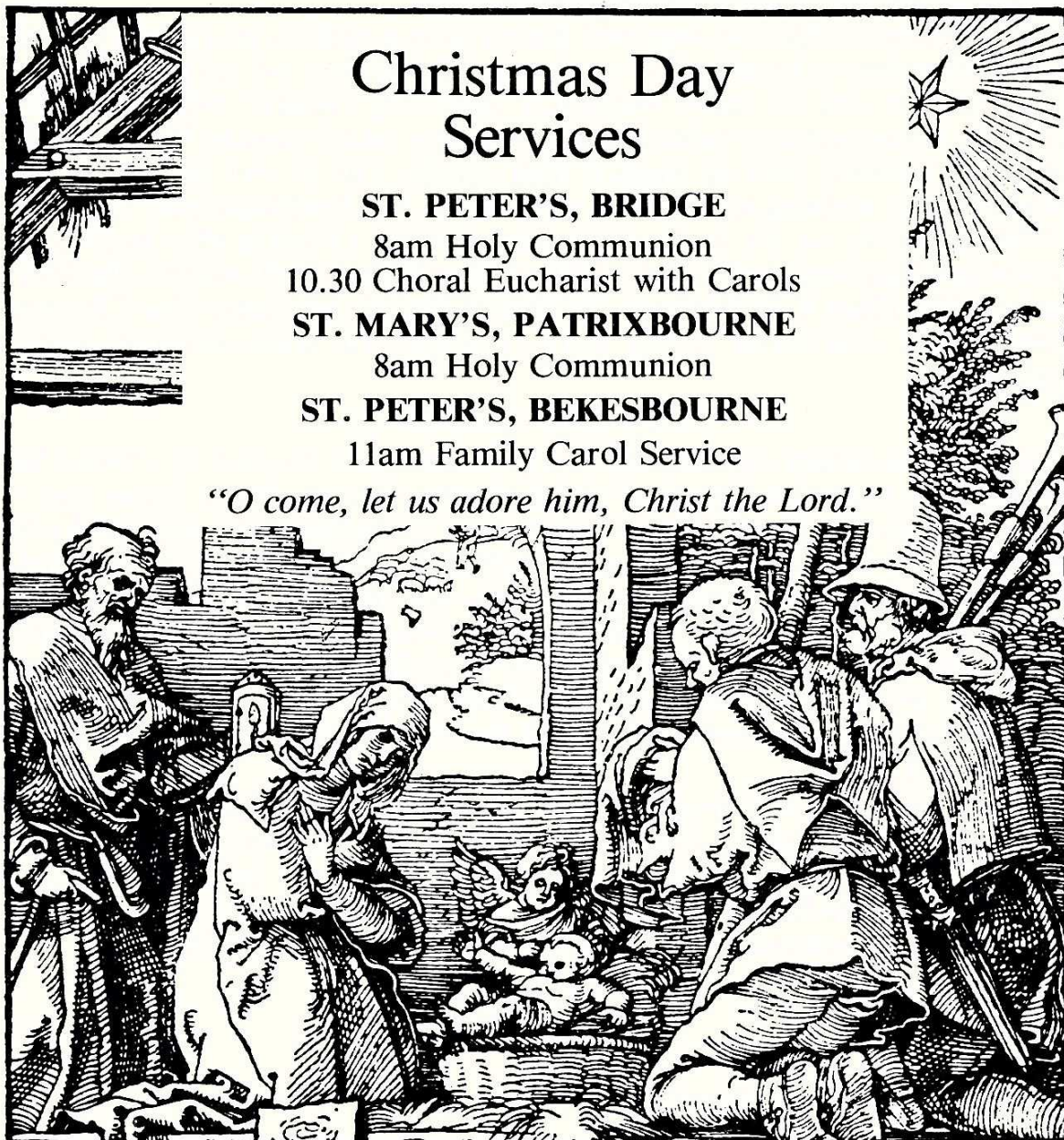
**26th St. Stephen the First Martyr**

**27th St. John the Evangelist**

**28th Holy Innocents**

29th *Martyrdom of St. Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1170*  
January

1st The Family Service will be a Christingle Service



**Christmas Day  
Services**

**ST. PETER'S, BRIDGE**  
8am Holy Communion  
10.30 Choral Eucharist with Carols

**ST. MARY'S, PATRIBOURNE**  
8am Holy Communion

**ST. PETER'S, BEKESBOURNE**  
11am Family Carol Service

*"O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord."*

## Christmas — an appealing time

Now is the time when a clergyman's mail is liberally sprinkled with blurb from an assortment of charities, each one seeking publicity for and a contribution to its Christmas Appeal.

To date I have been approached by Christian Aid, Crisis for Christmas, the Bible Lands Society and the Church of England Children's Society, but I should be very surprised if it stops there.

Please don't think I am complaining, for I understand only too well what valuable work they all do. In a way each organisation's task is unique, and if it folded up an area of concern would be left uncatered for, so charities need all the money they can get (after all, they are voluntary organisations whose

solvency depends entirely on our goodwill and generosity). Also I can appreciate that for many charities Christmas is the best time to launch an appeal, for on the whole the public is more amenable to parting with its money while thoughts of Christmas grow daily more inviting.

The problem is which to support! Do we give a little to all-comers or shall we steel ourselves to be selective, knowing full well that we are going to have to say 'no' to one or more eminently deserving causes? Which of these courses a person pursues rather depends on how much money he has to give away, but I would dare to suggest that hardly any of our readers is in a position where nothing is available for charity at Christmas-time. In Bridge and Patricbourne we are in the fortunate position of being able to give our Christmas collections away, and usually it is to the two well-known children's charities, the *Church of England Children's Society* and *Save The Children*. Perhaps your Christmas giving may therefore be done through church collections.

### God's great donation

The Christmas season is used by many people as a chance to count their blessings and sending a donation to the charity of your choice is one way of offering thanks for family life or health or a reasonable standard of living. Nor should we forget that Christmas celebrates God's great donation to the world, the gift of Jesus, and that warrants our undying gratitude. We can never make an adequate thanks for such a Saviour but that should not stop us trying. Each day the realisation of what God did for us in Jesus induces a fresh wave of thankfulness, and one of the ways in which the committed Christian expresses his thanks is through the Holy Eucharist (the word means 'thanksgiving').

It seems somehow too inadequate to suggest giving to charity as an indication of thanks to God: the contrast in God's gift and ours is too stark for any comparison to be made. Nevertheless it is God's initial giving that prompted folk to celebrate Christmas by making gifts, and it is at least understandable why Christmas is the charities' most lucrative time of year.



## Joys and Sorrows

On Sunday, 30th October in St. Mary's, Patricbourne **Lucy Doremy Govier**, 4 Riverside Cottages was made 'a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven' in the sacrament of Baptism. Sadly Lucy and her family will soon be leaving Patricbourne and we shall be sorry to see them go.

The cremation of **Bernard Rampe** was preceded by a service in Bridge Church on 28th October. A large company of his relations and friends gathered in church and their presence was a great comfort to Joy, Chris and Jenny. Bernard's ashes were buried at sea, the Vicar conducting the brief ceremony from Dover lifeboat.

**William Sloggett**, 18 Windmill Close passed away at the age of 84 years. A service in Bridge Church on 7th November was followed by cremation at Barham.

## On The Nail in 1984

The likelihood is that the church will make a loss of approximately £50 on the magazine *On The Nail* in 1983, and whereas that kind of deficit can be borne one of £250 cannot. The latter is the shortfall that would be made in 1984 if we stuck to the current price of 20p per month.

Printing costs next year will go up by 5% to £1,200 and in addition there is the very excellent *Diocesan News Service* inset, which costs us £103 a year. In order, therefore, to continue to offer our readers a quality magazine that has a wide circulation and contains varied news of local interest, plus the popular diocesan inset, some increase in price is necessary.

In order to avoid a drain on church funds, which would be a bad thing, and in the confident hope that we shall be able to hold the price without increase for three years, a proposal is to go before Bridge and Patricbourne PCC on 7th December that from the January issue *On The Nail* shall cost 25p per month.

Assuming this is accepted we are sure readers will understand that this increase is purely and simply to allow the magazine to pay its way and not to make a profit. A church magazine should never be run on a profit basis, but neither ought it to make a loss. *On The Nail* is a widely-read vehicle of local news and views as well as being part of the church's outreach, and we feel it still has a great service to render the community along this stretch of the Nailbourne.

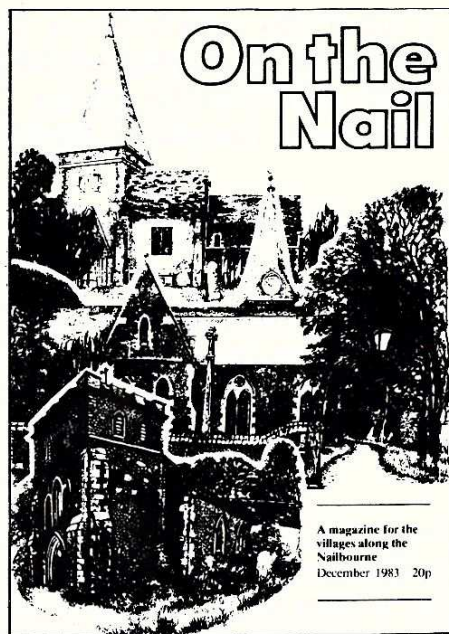
\* \* \*

Now is a good time to place on record our deep gratitude to the gallant band who distribute *On The Nail* month by month. Thank you Magazine Distributors! A Magazine Distributors meeting will take place on Wednesday, 14th December at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church and I very much hope that you will all be able to attend. As usual, a copy of your round would be appreciated, preferably before the meeting.

## Bible Reading Fellowship

Now that we are drawing near to the close of the year and the advent of another, may I remind readers that the annual subscription of £2.25 will be due shortly for *Awake to the Word* and *Discovery*.

During the sixty-three years of the BRF's existence its particular strength has been to encourage Christians to read the Word of God regularly and to offer a clear exposition of each of the daily scripture readings. In this way the reader is helped to think and develop a richer faith and a deeper Christian commitment. 1984 will see the end of our familiar *Awake to the Word* which is to be replaced in 1985 by *Daylight*, but more of this when I write again in the December 1984 issue of *On The Nail*.



I am always interested to hear of new members who would like to join our world wide fellowship of Bible readers. If anyone in our parishes would like further information please contact me at Ardpriory, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury. Telephone 62695.

*Nigel Allan*

## Bits and pieces

The Mayor of Canterbury's Christmas Gift Fund benefits are this year to be extended across the entire district, which means that our villages will not only be recipients but asked to contribute to the fund. Councillor Tim Hoare will act as collector and anyone who feels able to give a donation to the fund is asked to contact him.

\* \* \*

The Friends of The New Close are holding a Christmas Coffee Morning at the home on 3rd December from 10.30 till 12 noon. The Secretary, Mrs. J.E. Foster says there will be a mammoth Christmas Draw again, the prizes to be drawn on 19th December at 10.30am, when coffee and biscuits will be served. Any enquiries to The New Close, please (Tel: 830265).

\* \* \*

The Revd. Charles Harrington has just produced a book of prayers for the whole of life entitled *The Great Adventure* and designed for group and private use. The Dean of Canterbury has provided a Foreword to the book, and of the prayers it contains a number are from recognised sources but the majority are Mr. Harrington's own work. The book is published by Arthur James Limited of Evesham, designed and printed by our Magazine printers and costs 95p.



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# CHRISTMAS MARKET

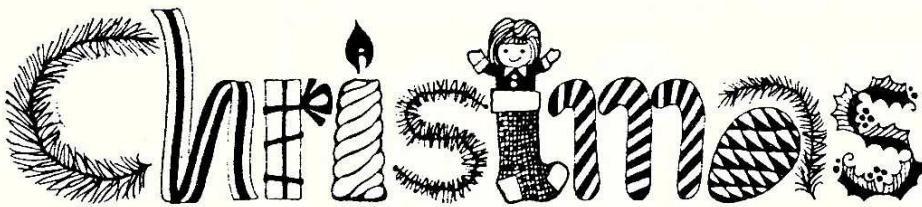
in THE VILLAGE HALL,  
SATURDAY, 10th DECEMBER at 2 o'clock

*Plenty for everyone: Teas, Cakes,  
Competitions, Christmas Tree, Toys*

*Not to be missed!*







## Success on both counts

The Christmas Market held at Bekesbourne on Saturday, 19th November made a grand total of £257.07 for the funds of St. Peter's Church and Bekesbourne Brownies. We are extremely grateful to all who supported this very successful village event and helped in any way, with special mention of David and Jane Millyard who were the mainstays of the whole enterprise.

The Christmas Sale held in Canterbury by the Children's Society on 11th November produced £1,200, the sweet stall from Bridge making £28.90. Thanks to all who so warmly contributed.

## 'Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown'

In the Christmas story, which character do you think you are most like? Are you the wise man, whose intelligence and insight did not stop him from being freely generous to some apparently insignificant human being: or are you a shepherd, who heard the voice of God and acted upon it obediently? Or maybe you are an innkeeper, who despite all his problems gave shelter to a couple in great need? Of course you might say that you are a bit of each of these people. Fair enough. But could you say that you are a bit like King Herod? I do not mean you might be the sort of person who goes around butchering babies and shouting orders like some demented Basil Fawlty. So what do I mean?

What was King Herod worried about? He was living in awkward times for a Jewish King. Romans threatened to take over complete control of the country (which they had done by the time of Jesus' death — Pilate, and not a king, was ruler). Herod also knew that he was not too popular and feared being overthrown. A new-born king would challenge his fragile position, and if there was an uprising or civil war, then Romans would remove what freedom the people had left.

Many people today are worried about losing their jobs. Redundancy and retirement, which are looked forward to by some, are feared by others, and anyone who threatens their jobs is not at all popular, whether they be foreign firms increasing sales at others' expense, or domestic firms or governments slimming down the numbers employed.

Many people today are worried about the threat of war or invasion against the country. Anyone who threatens to upset the peace, either by war itself, or by 'upsetting the balance of power', will find many enemies. Our freedom is at stake, as was the freedom of the Jews . . .

Yes, there is probably a bit of Herod in most of us, and although we would not copy him, at least we can understand something of his feelings, which led him to do such extreme things in the cause of his own position, and in the cause of his own country.

*Rev. M. Peter Taylor*

# PARISH PUMP

Parish Council  
News



## Bridge Parish Council

The November meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, but for the first time in the rather more intimate surroundings of the new Committee Room. Members heard from Councillor Mervyn Gulvin that the work to the Hall was now virtually complete, although the path to the rear entrance remained to be laid, and the stairs would be realigned; and the Council decided that a bulkhead light to illuminate the entrance was essential. A number of other matters regarding the Hall were discussed, but most of the detailed questions were left to the Village Hall Committee.

### Recreation Ground

The treatment of the Recreation Ground with fertiliser was discussed, and it was decided that an endeavour should be made to carry this out in the spring. No comments had yet been received on a draft lease to the Cricket Club either from the Club or from the Council's landlords.

### Highway matters

Cllr. Tim Hoare said that he had raised with City Cllr. Mrs. McCabe the ruling of the City Treasurer that the Council did not qualify for a grant from the Lottery Fund to assist with the cost of the proposed new Bridge Hill/Bridge Down stairway. In the meantime, the City Council was insistent on establishing ownership of the banking before agreeing to provide assistance under the Community Programme Scheme, and Cllr. Hoare had advised them to make enquiries of the County Property Services. A number of highway proposals which the Council had raised with the County Surveyor's Department locally had been sent to Maidstone for consideration, and the

Council's suggestion of a revised routing to Chartham from the by-pass had already been adopted. The Council decided that the County Council should be asked also to consider making Union Road a one-way street at the High Street end, with 'entry only' from the High Street.

### 'Trees in your Village' Competition

The Council heard that, as with the 'Best Kept Village' Competition, Bridge had not secured a place in the contest. The judge had, however, made a helpful and not unsympathetic report, for which the Council had in some measure no doubt to thank Cllr. Mrs. Ann Young, who had shown the judge around the village. It was decided that the report should be posted on the notice board.

### Kent Association of Parish Councils

Cllr. Mrs. Young reported on the proceedings at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, and referred in particular to an emergency resolution dealing with a possible threat to the Green Belt in the Government's recent draft circular on the release of Green Belt land; and it was agreed that the Council would inform Mr. David Crouch of the Council's support for the Association's views.

Members were particularly grateful to Cllr. Ken Greenaway, who had thoughtfully brought to the meeting wine and glasses in order that the Council might drink to the success of the new Hall; which they did with enthusiasm. There were, unfortunately, no members of the public present; but visitors will still be welcome at the next meeting, which will be held in the same location at 7.30pm on 8th December.

*F.L. Edwards, Clerk*



## **Bekesbourne Parish Council**

At the Council's October meeting it was decided that the play equipment in the Recreation Ground was in need of repair. A safety report had suggested repair to the roundabout and swings. Replacement of the swings was also discussed.

The Parish Council had agreed with Patricbourne Parish Meeting that an amalgamated council which involved one Annual Meeting and joint council meetings was preferable.

A letter from the Community Programme Manager in Canterbury was favourable to the suggestions put forward for projects in the parish by the council: these include the clearing-up and laying out of the allotment land adjoining Bifrons Road and the improvement of the land adjacent to Downside Villas. The manager expressed an interest in an early start on these projects.

It was decided to apply for a grant from the City Lottery for repair of wiring in the Village Hall and for the parish to pay for the two extractor fans recently installed in the hall.

Suggestions had been received regarding some street name signs in the

village and it was agreed to ask the Highways Department to look into erecting signs for School Lane and Bekesbourne Hill in particular. It was also agreed to request a well-displayed 'public footpath' sign to point out the path alongside the Unicorn Public House to walkers who otherwise tended to use the much more dangerous hill.

There was some discussion regarding heavy lorries using roads through the village but it was felt unlikely that much progress could be made at an official level as there was an industrial site at the Aerodrome. However, it was decided that some approaches might be made to particular individual lorry companies whose drivers were using the roads when other routes were available to them.

The subject of street lighting along Bekesbourne Lane towards Bifrons Road was raised, prompted by two recent attacks on young people on this dark footpath. However, as regulations do not allow street lighting in an unrestricted (speed) area this was felt to be an unlikely possibility.

The next meeting of the council will be on Tuesday, 10th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are always welcome.

*M. Gabbé*



## **The Abbeyfield Society**

Negotiations have been going on for the purchase of 76 New Dover Road for the Abbeyfield House in Canterbury. Contracts have been exchanged and the purchase should be completed by 14th December. Extensive work will have to be done to convert the house and satisfy fire prevention regulations.

The next fund-raising event will be a *Turkey Trot* Party at the Dominican Priory on Wednesday, 14th December from 7.30 till 10pm. The cost will be £3 per head, which includes turkey supper and a glass of wine. A children's choir will sing carols and the Kent School of Music will play during the evening. Tickets should be purchased in advance and may be had from me.

*Joan Warren, 830233*

*Statistics are usually as dull as ditch water, but the following, provided by Mrs. Warren and gleaned from the OPCS Ward & Civil Parish Monitor, Kent, will be of interest to the majority of our readers.*

## THE 1981 CENSUS — Local Figures

	Bekesbourne	Bridge	Patricbourne
Present on Census Night .....	580	1,302	342
Usual resident Populations .....	573	1,294	331
Males .....	285	606	162
Females .....	288	688	169
% aged under 16 .....	26.00	19.32	21.15
% pensionable age .....	15.36	*27.28	19.64
Total in private Households .....	573	1,236	295
<b>Accommodation</b>			
No. of households .....	195	479	98
% owner occupied .....	62.56	70.77	63.27
% rented from council .....	13.85	11.48	2.04
% households with car .....	77.44	73.49	94.69

\*17.7% of residents in England and also in the United Kingdom are of pensionable age. Bridge with 27.20% is well above the national figure, even when residents of the old Close have been excluded (56 residents and 2 staff). 24% of residents in private households are of pensionable age. d.

### ‘Fish’ News

At a recent committee meeting it was decided that the Annual General Meeting should be moved from November to March. The following dates were fixed for the coming year:

Annual General Meeting, Thursday, 5th April

Blossom Tour, Wednesday, 2nd May

Annual Fund Raising Coffee Morning, Saturday, 2nd June.

I am often asked about membership of the Luncheon Club, so the following details may be of interest. Almost all of our 36 members live alone, 24 are over eighty and of these 15 are over eighty-five. The club, together with the Chiropody Clinic, enables the Fish Scheme to have regular contact with a large number of our elderly residents. We always welcome news of people who may be in need of help. We have had a new supply of our ‘Fish’ cards printed — these are shortly to be distributed in Bishopsbourne and Bekesbourne and there will be a supply at Bridge Post Office for new residents or for anyone who has mislaid their original card. With winter upon us, may I remind people to look out for our red ‘Please Call’ cards in the windows of elderly neighbours.

The next Coffee Pop-in will be on Wednesday, 14th December in the Village Hall from 10.15 to 11.45am.

*Joan Warren, 830233*

### Bekesbourne Rotas

Cleaning	Flowers
Mrs. Smith .....	December 3rd .....
Mrs. Stickells .....	December 10th .....
Mrs. Hogben .....	December 17th .....
Mrs. Watson .....	December 24th .....
Mrs. Russell .....	December 31st .....

*To  
be  
arranged  
for  
the month.*

Vicar: The Revd. Raymond Gilbert, A.K.C., The Vicarage, 23 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JZ (Bridge 830250)

### **PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE**

Churchwardens: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)  
Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT5 5BA (Bridge 830426)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. L.W. Sanford, 11 Windmill Close, Bridge CT4 5LY (Bridge 830411)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. C.A. Potter, 7 St. Mary's Road, Patricxbourne CT4 5BY (Bridge 830218)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. D. Mathew, 27 Rivercourt, Chartham CT4 7JN (Canterbury 731548)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD

(Canterbury 62695)

Verger (Bridge): Mr. J. Hopkins, Old Station Cottage, Bishopsbourne CT4 5JD (Bridge 830660)

### **BEKESBOURNE**

Churchwardens: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Purchase, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (Bridge 830937)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G.D. Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5ER (Bridge 830256)

Organist: Mr. S.H. Grey, 63 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA (Bridge 830522)

Captain of the Bells: Mr. H. Collard, 1 Mumpas Cottages, Little Pett, Bridge CT4 5PD

Magazine Advertising: Mr. J. Barley, 49 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (Bridge 830612)

Magazine Editor: The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On The Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. He would always welcome articles and photographs of general interest for inclusion in the Magazine which has a wide circulation in the three villages of Bridge, Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne.

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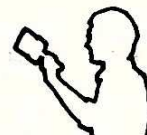
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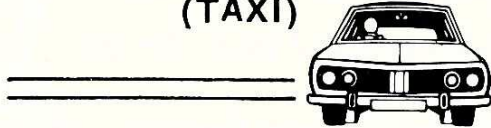
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PATRIXBOURNE with BRIDGE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Accounts 1982

		REVENUE	ACCOUNT		
1981	RECEIPTS			1981	PAYMENTS
	<u>Church Collections</u>				<u>Salaries</u>
662	Bridge	741		242	Organists 252
184	Patricxbourne	205	946	120	Verger 120
	<u>Planned Giving</u>			53	Bridge Choir 37
4275	Covenants	4198		96	Assisting Clergy 40
1383	Tax recovered	1476	5674	80	Church Services 186
1425	Envelope Scheme		1179		635
	<u>Church Wall Boxes</u>				<u>Light &amp; Heat</u>
37	Bridge	39		487	Bridge 553
108	Patricxbourne	77	116	77	Patricxbourne 77
457	Donations		145	665	Insurance Premium 689
295	Investment Income		305		<u>Repairs and Maintenance</u>
	<u>Other Income</u>			67	Bridge 339
234	Fees		207	193	Patricxbourne 80
90	Bridge Parish Council Grant	90		113	Organs and Piano 110
50	P/b Parish Meeting Grant	50	140	278	Churchyards 190
451	Summer Fete	639		3596	Diocesan Share & Deanery Levy 4604
70	Patricxbourne Concert	15		672	Vicar's Working Expenses 710
584	Christmas Market	534	1188	459	Donations to Missions, etc. 733
	Parish Magazine (net profit)		8	22	Parish Magazine -
				72	Sundry Expenses 98
				3013	Balance c/f 1090
<u>10305</u>		<u>9908</u>	<u>10305</u>		<u>9908</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

3013	Balance b/f from Revenue Account	1090	3885	Major Repairs rewiring P/b	1259
	Trans'd from Rev Reserve Account	1350	2330	Less grant from Chancel Fd	674
			1555		585
	Sundry Legacies	250	1488	Trans to General Reserve Account	1600
				Deposited in Bridge Organ Fund	50
131	Opening Balance 1.1.82	101	101	Closing Balance 31.12.82	556
<u>3144</u>		<u>2791</u>	<u>3144</u>		<u>2791</u>

Checked from vouchers and records presented and found to be correct.

GRAHAM SONES

15th February, 1983

PCC RESERVES AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1982

1981		
1256	General Reserve	2508
577	Patricxbourne Church Reserve	631
206	Bridge Organ Fund	269
1335	Revenue Reserve	592
<u>3374</u>	(244) including Int €326	<u>4000</u>

MISSIONS AND CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY THE PCC IN 1982

<u>Vicar's Allocations</u>		
75	USPG	100
50	CMS	75
75	Sue Ryder Polish Appeal	100
50	Pilgrim's Hospice	100
	Delhi Brotherhood (Pappu)	50
	Church Army	25
	Blind Society (Indian eye ops)	50
<u>250</u>		<u>500</u>

MISSIONS AND CHARITIES . . .

<u>Church Collections</u>		
55	C/E Children's Society	61
55	Save the Children Fund	61
20	Christian Aid	25
10	Royal Agricultural Benevolent Soc	15
30	St. Luke's Hospital for Clergy	47
19	Royal British Legion	24
20	'Fish' Scheme	-
<u>209</u>		<u>233</u>
459	TOTAL given away	733

\* \* \*

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Dealing with Revenue Account, on the receipts side there was a welcome increase of £100 in Church Collections. However, there was a net reduction of £397 in receipts compared with 1981, the chief items being a reduction of £246 in the Envelope Scheme and £312 in Donations (the amount of Donations in 1981 was particularly high.)

On the payments side there was a net increase of £1606, which was largely due to an increase of £1044 in the Diocesan Quota and £274 in donations to Missions and Charities.

It is remarkable that in spite of this comparative worsening in our position we were still able to show a surplus of £1110 on the Revenue Account.

Turning to the Capital Account, the balance of £1110 was brought forward from the Revenue Account and we transferred £1350 from the Revenue Reserve Deposit Account. This enabled us to pay the balance of £585 for rewiring Patrixbourne Church, to transfer £1600 to the General Reserve Deposit Account and to carry forward £576 on the Current Account.

The results for 1982 are very satisfactory.

Looking forward to 1983, the position is by no means as encouraging. The Diocesan Quota has been increased by £1840 to £6440 (that is £537 per month) and allowing for minor increases in other items of expenditure I forecast that there is likely to be a deficit of approximately £750 at the end of 1983. However, we should not be unduly alarmed because our reserves are sufficient to cover a deficiency of this amount in the current year.

As regards 1984 the final payments on the vast majority of our covenants are not due until the end of 1983 or early 1984. We shall be faced with the necessity of having a renewal campaign of Christian Stewardship during 1984, the success of which will vitally affect the future of the Church here in Bridge and Patrixbourne, and not merely from the financial angle.

C.A. POTTER