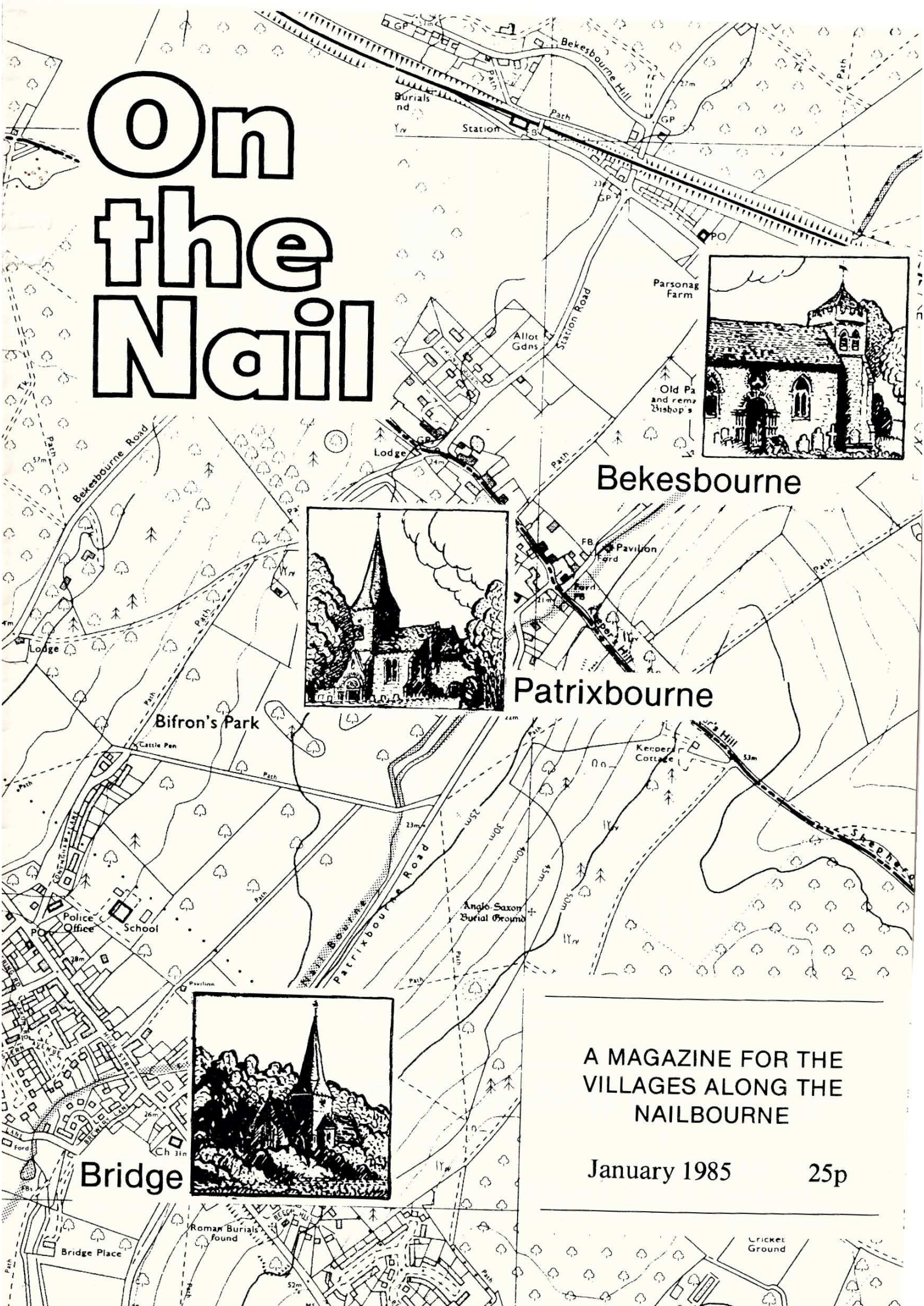


On the Nail



Bekebourne



Patrixbourne



Bridge

A MAGAZINE FOR THE
VILLAGES ALONG THE
NAILBOURNE

January 1985

25p



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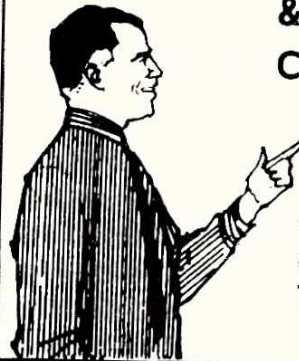
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Sunday Worship in January

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

6th:

11am *Christingle Service*

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

6.30pm Sung Eucharist
(*Series 3*)

13th:

9.30 Family Communion 11am Matins
(*Series 3*)

8am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

20th:

9.30 Parish Communion 8am Holy Communion 11am Matins (*Preacher:*
The Revd. John

6.30pm Evensong

Coveney)

27th:

8am Holy Communion 9am Holy Communion 11am Matins

6.30pm Evensong

3rd February:

11am Family Service 8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

6.30pm Evensong

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *6th*, Miss K. Knight. *13th*, Covenant Service, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *20th*, The Revd. Wilfrid Hill. *27th*, Mr. E.R. O'Mahoney.

Weekdays: Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday at 9.30am and Friday (Rite A) at 7.30am and at Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am. Residents of Churchill Close are especially welcomed to this latter service, which takes place in the Common Room, the first door on your right just inside the main entrance. The weekly informal act of worship in The New Close is on Wednesdays at 2.30pm.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st **Naming of Jesus** or *Circumcision of Christ* (See St. Luke 2.21)
Hail and farewell to the Croydon Archdeaconry, which today becomes part of the Diocese of Southwark.
- 6th **Epiphany**, or *the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles*. This major festival of Our Lord celebrates the coming of the Wise Men (St. Matthew 2. 1-11). It will be observed at Bridge at the 6.30pm service, which, because of the day and because of the Christingle Service in the morning, will be a Sung Eucharist and not Evensong.
- 13th **First Sunday after Epiphany**
- 15th Pray for the East Bridge Deanery Synod, meeting this evening.
- 17th *St. Anthony of Egypt, Abbot, 356*
- 18th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity until 25th
- 20th **Second Sunday after Epiphany**
We shall welcome to Bekesbourne the Revd. John Coveney, a priest

from New Zealand and nephew of Mrs. Ruth Grey.

21st *St. Agnes, Virgin, Martyr, 304*

22nd Bokesbourne PCC meets this evening at 8pm.

24th *St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Teacher, 1622*

Christians of all denominations are welcomed at a **United Service** in St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 7.30pm, with light refreshments afterwards in the Methodist Church.

25th **Conversion of St. Paul** (*See Acts 9*)

26th *St. Timothy and St. Titus, Companions of St. Paul*

27th **Third Sunday after Epiphany**

28th *St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Teacher, 1274*

Rosemary and Raymond Gilbert thank all those who sent Christmas greeting to them and the family, and all who give their support in so many ways. God bless you all in 1985 and always!

New Year Resolutions

I have yet to meet someone who takes the business of new year resolutions at all seriously. We are always *told* people make them but in a very light-hearted manner, and those who do freely admit they buckle at the first onslaught and have generally abandoned their good intentions before January is out. Unless we mean to start the year by turning over a new leaf and really stick to our guns it all seems rather a waste of time and so much humbug. Knowing something of the weakness of human nature the only sensible new year resolution would seem to be not to make any new year resolutions this year — if you see what I mean!

In the January 1982 issue of *On The Nail* Pat Grant, Bridge Methodist Church's Steward wrote about the world-wide Methodist practice of renewing its Covenant with God. Not exactly making new year resolutions, of course, but the same idea on a grander scale! The first Sunday every year is Covenant Sunday, as it has been since 1755, and in the course of worship on that day some very searching responsive prayers are offered, which confront the worshippers with their personal failings, lack of diligence and caring. Sounds like something other Churches ought to engage in!

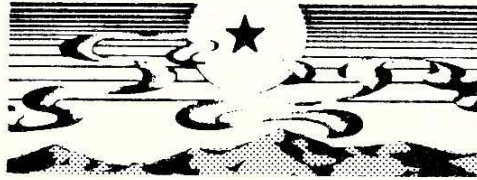
The real test comes in the last section where the following commitment is made:

"I am no longer my own but Thine. Put me to what Thou wilt, rank me with whom Thou wilt, put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for Thee or laid aside for Thee, exalted for Thee or brought low for Thee; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to Thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Thou art mine and I am Thine. So be it. And the Covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

I have never been one for making new year resolutions, but I applaud most heartily some such new year restatement of belief and determination in the faith as this Methodist renewal of Covenant, which it would be a very good thing if Christians of other persuasions were to adopt. Perhaps our several

churches could set a trend in future years and take a tip from the Revd. John Wesley, who, let it be remembered, remained a priest of the Church of England to his dying day.



THE CELTIC MONK'S RUNE

Star-gleam leads me
Down to the sad seashore,
Where the grey waves beat
On the wild, the sad seashore.

Star-gleam leads me
To the lands over the waters.
I must go, I must go
To the lone lands over the waters.

Star-gleam led them,
The Wise Men with their gifts,
To the Babe at Bethlehem,
Bearing their precious gifts.

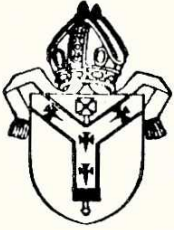
Star-gleam showed them
The place of the Holy babe,
He that was Christ the King, God's Son,
But a helpless babe.

Grew he to manhood
Showed men the Father's love,
Died he for Man's sin,
Died he for very love.

Star-gleam calls me
'Show this in other lands'
O'er the lone hills going
To the far off, the unknown lands.

He goes with thee,
The bright the morning star.
Over the seas, the waters,
Follow the shining Star.

Gertrude Dimmock



f	r	a	m	e	w	o	r	k
f	o	r						
f	a	i	t	h				

For newcomers and those who have shortish memories *Framework For Faith* is an attempt by the diocese of Canterbury to educate its lay people. A series of courses has been assembled by the diocesan education team and are made available over two terms each year, one in early summer and the other in the autumn, each term offering two topics for study.

The primary aim is an informed Church membership but there is an added spin-off in the development of contacts spread across parish boundaries.

Not for me!

Initial reaction to this idea might well be, "Why do I need educating? I went to Sunday School. I can get by". That's the trouble; far too many Church folk are just content to get by. Unfortunately, that is not sufficient nowadays when society as a whole is better informed than ever before about a wide-ranging number of subjects. For Christians to keep their end up they need to know as much about their faith as they do about other non-religious matters and a childish education many years ago is insufficient for present day witness. Here's where *Framework For Faith* comes to the rescue!

This term we have been studying either 'Prayer' or 'The Christian in Society' and both of these subjects are of importance to the job of being a Christian in the nineteen-eighties.

Those of us who did *Framework For Faith* last term found the course material far easier to understand than we dared hope, and truly it is the case that you don't need to be academic to join in. The courses are thorough without being complicated so no one need fear they are too much of a dimwit to take part.

The parish next door

In addition to learning more about our faith, we have valued enormously the chance to meet and befriend Church people from other parishes in the deanery and to share one another's joys and problems in belief. Anything that encourages us to see the faith deanery-wide is fruitful at a time when the tendency in rural areas is to amalgamate parishes at the drop of a hat (or vicar), and this trend is not likely to diminish. Happily we can take this in our stride: we have been doing it for years!

A fruitful exercise

In the 'Prayer' course my group covered the parishes of Wingham, Littlebourne, Elmstone, Ickham as well as Bridge (I was the sole representative) and on the final evening we were asked to compile an extended version of the Lord's Prayer and then actually pray it. I felt the end product worth reproducing. See if you agree!

“Our Father, who art in heaven, around us and within us, we worship thee. Hallowed be thy name throughout all generations and among all people, in this world and the next. Thy kingdom come in our hearts and lives, and in the affairs of all men.

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Make us understand thy loving purpose for us and give us the grace to follow thy will at all times. Give us this day our daily bread and make us ever thankful for it. May we, from our plenty, never shrink from sharing it willingly with others. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Make us willing so to forgive and to be forgiven, in our dealings with others. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil and help us to recognise it. By thy power show us always how to choose the good. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.”

On The Nail Noticeboard

Bekesbourne Christmas Market on 24th November was a real success and grateful thanks are due to stallholders and customers alike. Staged by the church and Brownie pack jointly it raised a net sum of £250·55 of which one third went to the Brownies.

Bridge and Patricxbourne Church Christmas Market on 15th December was a most festive occasion and in expressing our thanks for all the hard work that went into it on both sides of the stalls I can record a figure of £505 for the day's takings.

Miss Mares, for the Senior Citizens' Club reports, “The sum of £105 was raised for the Amenity Fund. Club members would like to thank everyone who gave and made items for the raffles and for sale, those who sold and bought raffle tickets and who supported the event in any way”.

From Mrs. Sophie Taylor: “The Friends of The New Close wish to thank everyone who worked and contributed in enabling us to reach the total of £255·59 at the Coffee Morning held on the 8th December”.

* * *

Youngsters of nine years and upwards are invited to join a new singing group which the vicar is starting on 18th January. We shall meet in Bridge Church at 6.30pm, then depending on numbers arrange where and when we meet after that. I'm not sure at this stage exactly what we shall be doing but my idea is to try and form a choir just for the fun of singing together. Hopefully some elementary musical tuition will be included and although not intended to be a purely 'religious' choir I rather hope some of the group will ultimately wish to augment the church choir and give it a much-needed injection of youthful voices. I know Mr. Miles will be watching us intently. Anyway, if you are in J3, J4 or at secondary school do come along and let's see what develops!

'Fish' News

Many elderly people have problems with carrying out everyday tasks because of failing eyesight. Methods have been evolved and aids invented to overcome some of these difficulties. Mr. Eldridge, the social worker for the visually handicapped, is at the Canterbury Health Centre in the Old Dover Road every Friday morning from 10.00 till 12.00 to give help and advice and demonstrate some of the aids available. No appointment is necessary and we can provide transport and an escort for anyone who would like to make use of this service.

The next Coffee Pop-in will be on Wednesday, 9th January in the Village Hall from 10.15 till 11.45am

Joan Warren, 830233



Acting the part

I have always enjoyed acting, whether it be in short sketches, or pantomimes, or proper plays, but I have never had much opportunity until now. By the time you read this I will have performed in two short plays, and as I write this, the rehearsals are nearing their end. Some people think that it must be very difficult to learn all those lines, and of course it can be, depending upon how many you have. It is another side to learning the part that I find interesting, and that is trying to enter into the character, so that after a slight change in voice and face I become an old man who shuffles around the place muttering to himself. With another change, I transform into a dashing hero out to win his true love and find his fortune. It is quite amazing how much difference a few small changes can make. After a few attempts at being the old man, you begin to notice that to some extent you are no longer 'acting', but somehow you become the old man. That is a most odd experience when you think about it — I am not an old man, yet I become one!

Something else interests me about acting, and that is when the part you are acting creeps into normal non-acting life. I am forever quoting lines out of context to people unaware of their origin. This is harmless enough, but there is the danger that those characters start to emerge inadvertently and I find myself muttering away just like the old man. Again this may be quite harmless, but what if I was playing the part of an evil man, or one like Macbeth who plots and murders? Will the courts be sympathetic when I explain it was not me, but a part in a play which had somehow taken me over that committed the crime?

I suggest that actors and actresses need support so that they do not fall into this trap. They may not be able to help themselves, the power to break these self-made chains may only lie beyond themselves, in God himself. So spare a prayer for those involved in acting — and that includes me.

M.P. Taylor

Bekesbourne's visitor from Down Under

We shall welcome to St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne on Sunday, 20th January at 11am Matins the Revd. John Coventry, who is Vicar of Holy Trinity, Otahuhu, in the diocese of Auckland, New Zealand and is in England for a short time on affairs of the Anglican Church.

We trust that many of you will be able to attend and hear John's message from the other side of the world. He was born in England and is the nephew of Ruth and Stanley Grey, who are eagerly looking forward to see him after thirty years.

Confirmed in the Faith

A very full St. Nicholas' Church, Ash witnessed the Confirmation on 6th December of some forty candidates by the Bishop of Dover. Among them were three members of Bekesbourne Choir and three young people from Bridge. They were: Fay Gillanders, Michala Harlow, Eleanor Pearson, Alexa Clark, Wendy Lewis and Louise Potter.

No sooner is one confirmation over than we start to think about another. There are quite a number of youngsters who ought to consider confirmation for themselves and what follows is directed at them and any adults who may be contemplating it also. A service of Confirmation has been booked for St. Peter's, Bridge on Friday, 29th November 1985 and to allow the maximum time for preparation I intend to make a start in the fairly near future. Watch this space!

On The Nail

I am delighted to tell you that despite an increase in production costs our very special parish magazine will continue to reach you at the same price this year. This does not mean that it is financially sound, however, and we face a considerable deficit in 1985 unless we can greatly increase sales.

Can you please help us to break even by encouraging any household you know that does not currently take it to do so? We try to make it interesting and varied and of general villages appeal, *i.e.* not purely church matters. All things considered it is very good value for money, and it really is not expensive. I am sure you would hate to see it go to the wall or suffer a drop in quality because of too few readers. Please place an order with your neighbourhood distributor, who in any case will always call on new residents.

Not in the minutes . . .

After a recent meeting a Bridge Parish Councillor told of a vicar of another parish who said to one of his flock, "Your mother brought you to church when you were christened. Your fiancé brought you to church to get married and some day your relations will bring you to be buried. How about coming on your own some time?"

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 13th December under the Chairmanship, for the second month in succession, of Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young, in the absence of the Chairman, Cllr. John Hill.

Budget 1985/6

In common with every other local authority, regardless of size, the Council is expected to continue to restrain its expenditure, a not particularly easy task, as costs generally continue to rise. The Council's problem was the more difficult this year, because in order to curtail expenditure in last year's budget, no provision had been made in the current year for any repayment of the £5,000 loan raised to purchase the Village Hall, and it was therefore essential that the new budget should include a sum on this account, if only to reduce the interest burden on the rates. Despite these difficulties, however, the Council was able to budget for total expenditure of only a little above that of last year, and this excess should be absorbed without requiring any increase in the parish rate. Existing grants, including those to the Village Hall and the 'Fish' Scheme, were all maintained, and the contribution to *On The Nail* increased from £30 to £50.

Bridge Hill/Bridge Down Stairway

Following the discussion at last month's meeting regarding the reconstruction of the Stairway, a number of residents had written to the Chairman in support of the proposal, and as had been agreed, the matter had again been raised with the Area Manager of the Kent County Council Highways Department, County Cllr. Laurence Shirley giving his prompt support to the Council's representation. As a result, the County Council had agreed to meet half the cost of the scheme on the basis of the lowest of the tenders which the Council had already received, and it was decided to accept this offer.

Village Hall

Members discussed the booking of the Hall

by pop groups and for discos following many complaints which had been received from neighbours regarding a recent Sunday letting; and it was decided to alter the conditions to exclude amplified music. It was also agreed to proceed with the installation of heaters in the toilets and in the kitchen as soon as practicable.

Recreation Ground

Cllr. Peter Lawrence reported that he had dismantled the swings, all the seats of which had been damaged by vandals beyond repair, and he agreed to submit proposals and estimates for their replacement, at the January meeting. Damage had also been done to the turf by youths using the ground for the riding of motor cycles. Members appealed to the parents of those responsible to do their best to prevent their offspring behaving in this way, and said that it would be helpful if the occupants of houses adjoining the recreation ground would inform the police if they saw the ground used for motor-cycling. The Council also agreed to accept an estimate for the cutting of the boundaries of the ground, and the clearing of weeds and of the river bank.

Generally

A letter had been received from a local resident regarding noise and trouble caused by youths and girls who gathered at the bus shelter during the evening. The writer had also written to the police superintendent, and invited the Council's support. Members recalled that this matter had been raised previously, and that the Chairman had then seen the superintendent; but they agreed to write in support, although they did not agree with the writer's suggestion that the officers based in the village had taken no action.

The next meeting of the Council would be held in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall on Thursday 10th January, and members hope that the recent attendance of local residents will be maintained.

F.L. Edwards, Clerk

Some Saints of January

Hilary 13th

Brought up a well-to-do pagan, St. Hilary (c315-367) was converted some years after his marriage to a Christian. Having become a leading layman in his native town of Poitiers, he was chosen bishop by popular acclaim and threw himself into controversies of the time about the true nature of Christ. Maintaining the Catholic position against the Arian heresies, he was exiled for four years, during which he wrote his great work 'On the Trinity'.

Anthony 17th

Although not the first Christian to seek spiritual perfection by separation from the world, St. Anthony (c251-356) was the first to gather such seekers into communities for mutual support. By no means shut off from life, his advice was constantly sought by people from all walks of life, attracted by his holiness and simple, practical teaching.

Agnes 21st

Agnes (died ?304) was put to death towards the end of the persecution by the emperor Diocletian, in the early years of the fourth century. A young girl of only twelve or thirteen, her martyrdom made such an impression that she became one of the most famous of the Roman martyrs.

Francis de Sales 24th

St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) was Bishop of Geneva at the time of Calvin, and worked for the renewal of the Church under difficult circumstances. His work may be summed up in his own saying, 'Unless we preach with love, we cannot be effective'. His book "Introduction to the Devout Life" is still a widely-read spiritual classic.

John Chrysostom 27th

St. John Chrysostom (347-407) is honoured as one of the four great Greek doctors of the Church, and above all as a preacher with 'golden speech'. His sermons are direct and straightforward, and full of practical application and teaching. Because of his attacks on the rich and powerful, he was banished and eventually died in exile.

Thomas Aquinas 28th

Born in Italy and later studying in Naples, Paris and Cologne, the Dominican Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) was probably the greatest Medieval doctor of the Church. His outstanding writings were founded on a life of prayer and faith. His greatest work, "Summa Theologica", he left unfinished, saying, 'All I have written seems like so much straw compared with what I have seen and what has been revealed to me'.

Cleaning

ST. PETER'S, BEKESBOURNE

Flowers

Mrs. Hogben	.. .. .	5th January	.. .. .	Mrs. Ash
Mrs. Watson	.. .. .	15th January	.. .. .	Mrs. Millyard
Mrs. Russell	22nd January	Mrs. Ash
Mrs. Grey	29th January	Mrs. Grey
Mrs. Beckett	February 3rd		

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Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

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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.

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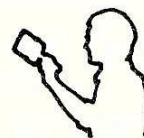
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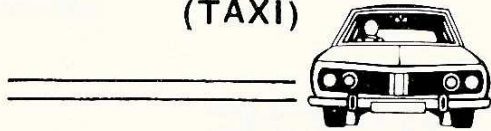
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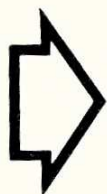
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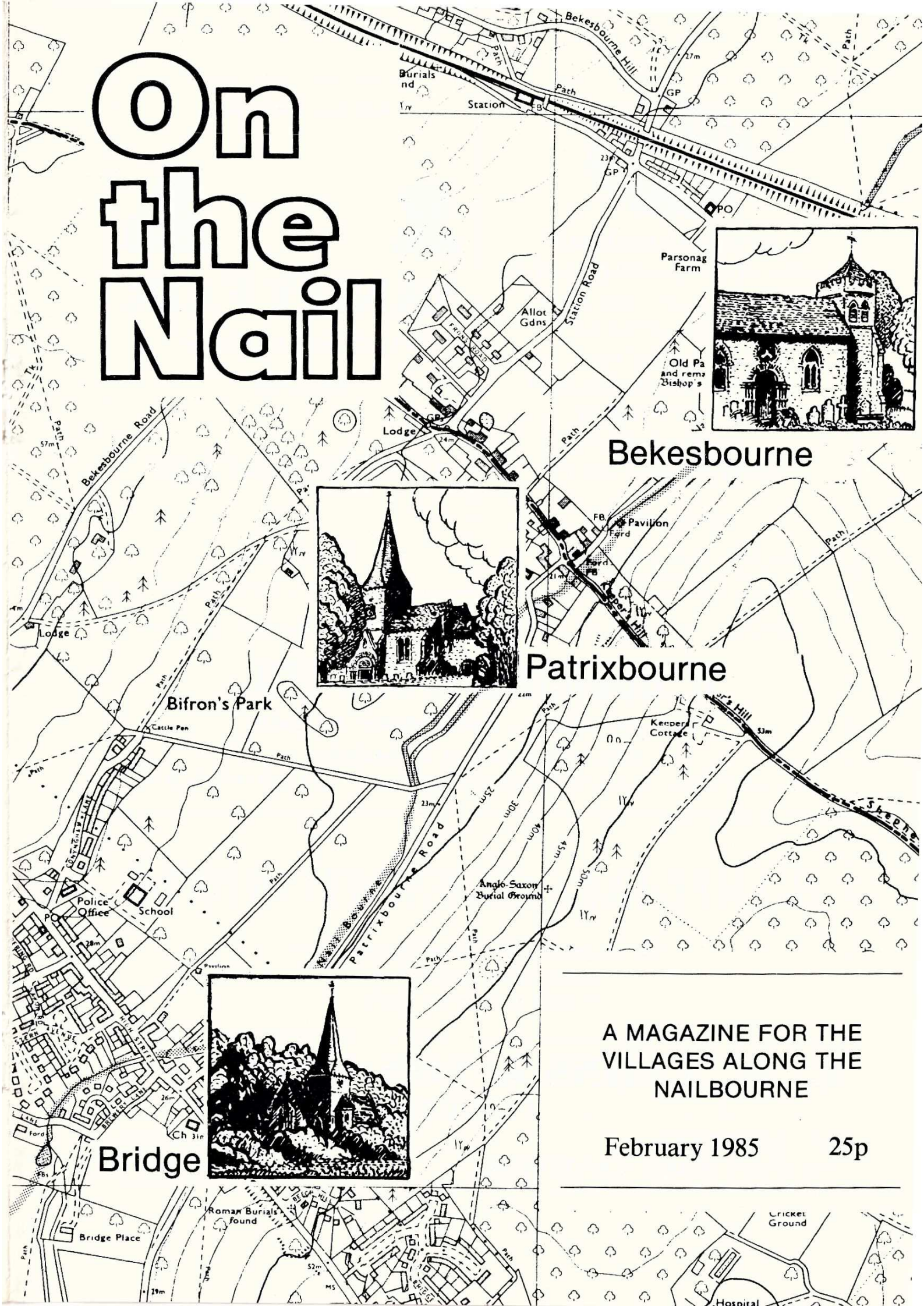
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patrixbourne



Bridge

A MAGAZINE FOR THE VILLAGES ALONG THE NAILBOURNE

February 1985

25p



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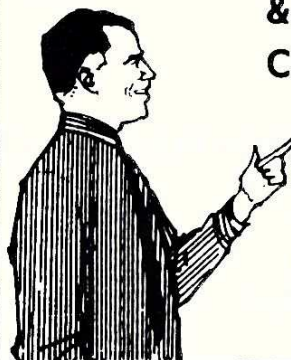
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Sunday Worship in February

Bridge	Patricxbourne	Bekesbourne
3rd: 11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
10th: 9.30 Family Communion (<i>Series 3</i>) 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
17th: 9.30 Parish Communion (<i>Series 3</i>) 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
24th: 8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Matins
3rd March: 11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

Junior Church meets each Sunday morning except the first at 9.30am in the Methodist Church, Patricxbourne Road.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *3rd*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *10th*, The Revd. John Turner. *17th*, Mr. J. Dickenson. *24th*, Mr. S. Kentish.

Weekdays: Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday at 9.30am and Friday (Rite A) at 7.30am and at Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am. Residents of Churchill Close are warmly welcomed to this latter service, which takes place in the Common Room, the first door on your right inside the main entrance. The weekly informal service at The New Close is on Wednesdays at 2.30pm.

For your diary and prayer list

- 2nd **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**
- 3rd **Septuagesima Sunday** 9 before Easter
- 5th Pray for the Deanery Clergy and their meeting this morning.
- 6th *Queen's Accession, 1952*
- 9th Bridge Village Playgroup Open Morning, Village Hall from 10.30am
- 10th **Sexagesima Sunday** 8 before Easter
- 13th 'Fish' Scheme Coffee Pop-in, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15.
- 14th Bridge Parish Council, Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 16th Pray for David Hallwood and Vanessa Litton to be married today.
- 17th **Quinquagesima Sunday** 7 before Easter
- 20th **Ash Wednesday** *First Day of Lent*
Discussion Group, 20 Conyngham Lane, 7.45pm
- 23rd *Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c.155*
- 24th **First Sunday in Lent**

26th *Radio Kent* Lent Course: The Revd. Ken Gardner "Praising"
27th *George Herbert, Priest, Pastor, Poet, 1633*

Prayer matters

It really does! It's as vital to the life of the soul as breathing is to the body and no one can be a Christian in the true sense of the word who does not pray.

Prayer is the means by which we have contact with the living God. We make our requests to him via prayer and he communicates his desires to us through the same medium. It is our life-line to God and also what cements us in the fellowship of the Church.

Easy to say, but less simple to put into practice! Most of us, I fancy, can cope with the prayer that asks God for things, even though we feel a little peeved if we don't get what we ask for. Actually, we ought to be glad about that because it means God is alive and concerned for us and doesn't treat us like spoilt children. He knows what is best in the long run, so says 'no' when that seems the right answer to our request.

We are generally less at home with the prayer that allows God to speak to us, for the very simple reason that from God to us there is a communication problem. He has no vocal cords or our ears are not tuned to his wavelength. Yet God does speak to individuals: we just have to understand how, and that takes time!

So many questions about prayer and praying aren't there?! We appreciate that prayer has a value but pray only with difficulty. Somehow our weak utterances do not seem matters of life or death and we cannot see what there is to get excited about. If you see yourself here, then *BBC Radio Kent's* Lent Course for 1985 is tailor-made for you!

For the five Tuesday evenings of Lent, from 8 till 10pm, our local radio station will be devoting its time to an in-depth exploration of the world of prayer and there will be a 'phone-in each evening for you to question the distinguished speaker or put your point of view. As previously Kath Pierce is setting up groups for us to meet in people's houses and share the course with others, and with a VHF transmitter right on our doorstep (102.8MHz), we shall experience no difficulty in hearing. Please don't wait to be asked! Just give her a call (830844) or speak to her at church and she will fill you in with all the details.

The purpose of the course, remember, is to help Christians to grow in the life of prayer, and the five sessions, with speakers are as follows:—

26th February	PRAISING	<i>The Reverend Ken Gardner</i>
5th March	CONFESSING	<i>Father Michael Hollings</i>
12th March	LISTENING	<i>Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh</i>
19th March	ASKING	<i>The Reverend Colin Urquhart</i>
26th March	THANKING	<i>The Reverend Myra Blyth</i>

Women's World Day of Prayer—1st March

We very much hope to hold a service at Bridge on the Women's World Day of Prayer as we have done for the past few years. However, I am having some difficulty finding a speaker at present. Hopefully the service will take place on Friday, 1st March at 2.30pm, but you will be kept posted.

“Dying we live”

Two respected members of our community have recently passed away after prolonged ill health.

At the turn of the year **Ernest Griggs**, 2 Churchill Close died after a brief sojourn in the Kent & Canterbury Hospital, but he had been far from well for many years following the stroke that brought to an end his working life. A Bekesbourne man through and through he spent most of his married life at Downside Cottages where with his wife he had lived the active life of a farm worker. He could never accept the enforced inactivity that became his lot. Her very many friends in all three villages express their deepest sympathy with Mrs. Griggs. A keen member of Bekesbourne Church she cared for her husband with a great love and sensitivity, particularly during his latter years.

* * *

Sheila Lewis, 37 High Street, Bridge, who died on Sunday, 13th January, had a wide circle of friends, all of whom though saddened to lose her yet share the relief of her devoted family that her years of suffering are at last done. Sheila was a great person who bore her troubles with remarkable resilience and with her Christian faith quite undimmed. When others would have buckled under the strain Sheila retained her hope and to the end witnessed to the oft-quoted dictum: “Life is to be enjoyed!” Friends marvelled that she could be so cheerful and confident, but all along she had possessed real spiritual depths and remained a regular communicant: herein surely lay her strength. Bridge church that she loved and had served so faithfully, particularly in the choir, formed the proper setting for her funeral service on Saturday, 19th January. After cremation at Barham her ashes will be laid to rest in Bridge churchyard. “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: even so, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours.”

A longstanding friend writes of her:

“Sheila will be remembered by many people in Bridge for she led a very active life and became involved in so many village activities. She was once a staunch member of the badminton club and a member of the Barham tennis club. Others will remember her from the days when she was secretary of the Bridge School Parent-Teachers Association; others will recall her as a keen member of the Church Choir. Colleagues will remember her when she worked at Highland Court, The Close and Corral’s Oil Terminal.

“People have seen less of Sheila out and about in the village since her illness took its gradual toll. However, she remained always interested in every aspect of village affairs and was always keen for news of her friends.

“Sheila leaves her husband, Selwyn, and children Andrew, Erica and Wendy. Our thoughts are with them at this time. It must be said that the family endured a difficult time sharing Sheila’s suffering and the children have revealed remarkable qualities.

“My own memories of Sheila would be of her amazing unselfishness and courage; she never complained and never gave up the fight. I have lost a true friend who has been an example to us all.

“We will miss her greatly.”

Exchequer exchange!

Those who read *On The Nail* from cover to cover will have spotted a change in the post of Honorary Treasurer of Patricxbourne with Bridge Parochial Church Council.

Charles Potter has held the church's purse strings longer than I have been ordained, for twenty-four years to be precise, and he has done so with great zest and a meticulous attention to detail. Now he has decided enough is enough and, despite appeals for him to stay his hand for a further twelve months to clock up a silver jubilee, he is adamant that 1984's accounts shall be the last he draws up. The PCC has paid its tribute to Mr. Potter and *On The Nail* wishes to do likewise.

We can be truly grateful that we have had Mr. Potter's services. As everyone knows, the post of treasurer in any organisation is a pretty thankless job, and in this case it is also a complicated one. But he has tackled it with an expertise rarely to be found outside the accountancy profession. Successions of church councils owe a great deal to his fine example of stewardship, and indeed we can all acknowledge a task well done. Hopefully withdrawal symptoms will not be too severe as Mr. Potter will continue to oversee covenants for a while and will also remain Deanery Synod Treasurer, a quite onerous job in itself. Charles, from us all, thank you very much indeed!

In welcoming his successor we are truly fortunate, for not only has Douglas Hill been an accountant by profession, he has also assumed the 'mantle of Elijah' willingly. So often a person will only agree to be treasurer after he has been worked on for some time with a rich mixture of bribery, cajolery and assurances that it is quite simple, child's play in fact.

We can be thoroughly confident that the church's finances are in good and very capable hands and thankful for Doug's very deep commitment to his church, born out of a strong faith in his Lord. So, onward, ever onward!

Bridge discussion group for young people

It is exactly a year since we began to hold this group for young people in Bridge, so we thought it would be interesting for the village to hear about its progress. We meet one evening a week during the holidays and we have also met at half-term. There are about fifteen members and the age range is from fourteen to nineteen years with members coming into Bridge from some of the surrounding villages as well. During the year we have had talks from people in various walks of life including the following:—

1. Dennis Eldridge who is blind and brought his dog Helen.
2. Bill Rose who told us of his experiences as a prisoner of war—he showed us his bed-roll which had been untouched for forty years since his release from Japan.
3. Vernon David who is a member of the Civil Defence Group explained about nuclear defence. Later he told us about the energy crisis and the environment. We discussed with him acid rain and lead in petrol.
4. Bruce Hawkins, the Diocesan Youth Chaplain, discussed religion with us and also told us about his cycle trip to Rome taking a message from the Archbishop to the Pope.
5. A young girl called Debbie, who is the daughter of an alcoholic, gave us an insight into the problems in her family life.

During the Easter Holiday we had a successful all night cook-in and made cakes for charity which were on sale the next morning in the Village Hall.

We also spent an evening with a group of young people from the Methodist Church. A visit to the Invicta Sound radio station was well attended at half-term and we were interviewed 'on air'. One of our members introduced a record for the radio presenter.

We are looking forward to the return of one member of the group who has gone to India for the year between school and University. He has promised to show us slides and tell us about his travels on his return.

We are always pleased to welcome new members to the group and would also like to hear from anyone who feels they could give us a talk on an interesting subject. Please contact Mrs. Alicia Pentin, 14 Brewery Lane, Bridge. Tel: 830278.

A.P.



The price of Christianity

by the Revd. M. Peter Taylor

In the last few days we seem to have been inundated with snow and January sales. The latter reminds me of the cardinal rule for ordinary shopkeepers—do not set prices too high, nor too low. If they are high, people will not buy because the price is too high for what the goods seem to be; if they are too low they will think there is something wrong with the goods and thus not spend.

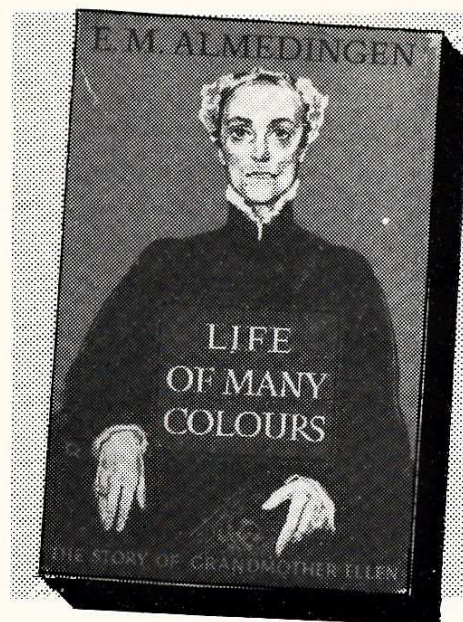
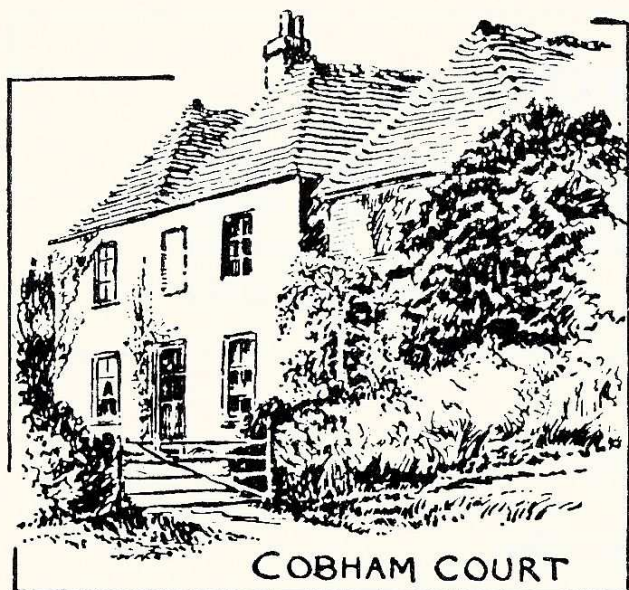
In the recent TV series *The Sea of Faith* there was a time given over to a Danish thinker called Kierkegaard who attacked the Church of his day. I remember him saying that the Church he knew had set the price for being a Christian too low. Could this be true for the Church today? Or is the price asked too high.

It is obvious that if the price is too low, then many good thinking people will not consider it worth their while being involved—there must be something wrong with the article . . . If the price is too high many will be put off or feel inadequate, the price is too high for that which is on offer.

The price for being a Christian might seem low if we believe it to be a sort of weekend hobby, and the sacrifice is limited to loose change for the collection plate, and being kind to the family and neighbours. I hope I am wrong, but I suspect that there are people who see Christianity as this, outside if not also inside the Church.

But the price could also be seen as too high. A Christian is committed to worship in Church, to giving up to and beyond their means, to study the Bible and prayer, to work within the local church and area. This will involve self-sacrifice and many would shy from such commitment.

The danger is that the Church wanting to see more people exercising faith publicly will devalue that faith and cheapen it. So we must be careful, for God is not offering cheap jumble, but a pearl of great price, but a price within the means of each person.



Life of many colours . . .

. . . is the title of a biography by the novelist, E. M. Almedingen. Its subject is her grandmother, Ellen Southee, who was born at Cobham Court, Bekesbourne in 1819. Miss Almedingen drew the material for her book from the journals and commonplace books that Ellen kept and also from the lavish marginalia in her Bible.

Life of many colours—The story of Grandmother Ellen was published in 1958, when Canon Leonard Appleton was Vicar of Bekesbourne, and he has recently given me a copy of it which will remain the property of Bekesbourne Church. We thank him most sincerely for it.

Miss Almedingen has written a very readable book and the story it relates though commencing at Bekesbourne ranges very far indeed, for Ellen Southee in due course married a Russian scholar, Serge de Poltoratzky, and managed his vast estates for twenty-five years.

If you have never read this fascinating book and would like to do so I should be most happy to lend it but for obvious reasons I feel it right to give priority to Bekesbourne people.

“She was indeed fortunate in her first harbour. Bekesbourne is pleasant enough today. At the beginning of the last century it must have been still more lovely. Cobham Court, begun in the early Tudor days and more or less finished under the Georges, showed a pale face to the west and rosy cheeks to the east. It had an orchard at the back sloping down to the lane companioned by a brook. The little kingdom was girdled by tall quickset hedges, and beyond lay the fields farmed by Ellen’s father. From the first, the house meant much more to her than just a dwelling. People she knew lived in houses at Patrixbourne, Bridge, Wingham, Sturry and Canterbury. Cobham Court stood apart. Her father held it on a lease, but Ellen felt that it belonged to them wholly. In the orchard several trees had been planted by her grandfather and by his father because there had been people of her name at Bekesbourne more than a century before she was born.”

PRAYER

“Prayer does not bind us to the world, but it transforms our vision of the world, and makes us see it, all men, and all the history of mankind, in the light of God.”
(Thomas Merton, O.S.B.)

The Saints of February

Polycarp 23rd

St. Polycarp (died c155) was a link between the apostles and the succeeding generations, for he himself heard St. John preach. In old age, when asked to forswear his religion and curse Christ, he answered: “Eighty and six years have I served him and he has done me no wrong; how can I blaspheme my King and my Saviour”. He was burned alive.

George Herbert 27th

Going from Westminster School to Trinity College, Cambridge, George Herbert (1593-1633) came to know John Donne, with whom he maintained a life-long friendship. Largely through Donne, he turned his mind to religion and was eventually ordained, spending his last years as an incumbent of a country parish. He is best known for his poems, of which four have become well-known hymns: “The God of love my Shepherd is”, “King of glory, King of Peace”, “Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see” and “Let all the world in every corner sing”.

<i>Cleaning</i>	ST. PETER'S, BEKESBOURNE	<i>Flowers</i>
Mrs. Beckett	3rd February	Mrs. Beckett
Mrs. Smith	10th February	
Mrs. Stickells	17th February	Mrs. Wraight
Mrs. Hogben	24th February	<i>Lent</i>
Mrs. Watson	3rd March	<i>Lent</i>

Confirmation Group 1985

A course of preparation for confirmation in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on Friday, 29th November next will be starting on Thursday, 28th February at 6pm (till 6.30pm) in the Vicarage. Intending candidates should either let me know in advance or turn up at this meeting. They should be at least 13 at the time of the Confirmation Service. Potential adults please contact me separately.

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 10th January, and despite the temperature, which appeared little higher in the Hunter Room than in the High Street, dealt with an agenda which occupied them until after 10pm.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin gave the welcome news that work on the installation of heating in the toilets and kitchen was now in hand, and that redecoration of the main hall would commence on 20th January, and would proceed on the following Sundays. Further discussion took place on the question of letting to pop groups and for discos, and it was decided that the ban previously agreed should be restricted to live music, and that the conditions of letting should be relied upon to exclude excessively loud disco music.

Recreation Ground

Cllr. Peter Lawrence told members that replacements for the damaged swing seats of the type he proposed would cost about £40, and the chains, which now required replacement on safety grounds, a further £200. The Council agreed to the expenditure, and asked Cllr. Lawrence to order the necessary items.

Bridge Hill/Bridge Down Stairway

Cllr. Gulvin was able to tell the Council that the contractors hoped to commence work on the improvements to the stairway on 21st January—weather permitting, of course—and that they expected the job to take some two or three weeks. The stairs would, of necessity, be out of use for part of this time, but every effort would be made to minimise the inconvenience to users.

Recreational facilities for young people

Following discussion at last month's meeting on a resident's complaint of the activities of teenagers in the High Street, a letter from the parents of one of the young people involved, who felt that the Council's strictures were not sufficiently discriminatory, was dealt with in conjunction with the parents concerned; and this was followed by the introduction by Cllr. Gulvin of a discussion on the Sports Council's new two-year campaign for more sporting facilities for the 13-14 age group. He provided councillors with an outline of the existing facilities in the village, and said that he thought that the Council might consider what gaps ought to be filled, and how best it could act to bring young people and the sports provision together. Members decided to give further consideration to the matter at the next meeting. They also dealt with a request for a grant for camping equipment from the Lottery Fund by the Bridge Scout Troop. A grant was agreed to, although the funds available were unfortunately insufficient to help the Troop as much as they would have liked.

Annual Parish Meeting

Preliminary arrangements for the annual meeting were discussed. It would be held on 28th March, and the business would include the attitude of the village to the Best Kept Village competition, and the Sports Council campaign mentioned above. It was also hoped to show another short film by Mr. Hammond.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday, 14th February, and will be open as usual to any interested resident.

F.L. Edwards, Clerk

Family Service

The winter snows had already set in with a vengeance by the time of the January Family Service, which meant we had a considerably reduced congregation. It was a pity that this should be the annual Christingle Service because that is invariably an occasion few would want to miss. As it was, the customary service went ahead and proved to be a most enjoyable and perhaps more intimate affair. We still missed too many of our regulars!

February's Family Service promises to be of a similar nature as it will centre around Candlemas or The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, which is celebrated the day before. We shall make considerable use of candlelight so those who had to miss the last occasion may be able to catch up at this one. Surely the weather will have improved by then! If not, we shall be so used to it that it won't put us off any longer. See you then!

'Fish' News

The Luncheon Club celebrated with a traditional Christmas dinner on 17th December. We were delighted to welcome back several former club members among our guests. Our members would like me to convey their thanks to the catering staff for the delicious meal they prepared, to those who made generous donations to cover expenses and to our volunteers for their hard work. In addition we would like to thank the residents and all the staff of The New Close for allowing us to share their home during the year.

The snow forced us to cancel two meetings of the Luncheon Club and the January Coffee Pop-in, but we were able to take meals out to some of our members and have been in constant touch with them all during the bad weather.

We hope to hold the February Coffee Pop-in on Wednesday, 13th in the Village Hall from 10.15 to 11.45am.

Joan Warren (830233)

From The New Close

We at The New Close wish to thank all the children and their families who gave Christmas gifts for our old people at the December Family Service in Bridge Church. Our residents have never had so many lovely presents before, and to add to the enjoyment Father Christmas himself delivered them!

Muriel Lawler, Assistant Matron

Discussion Group

Former participants and possible future ones will be delighted to know that Barry Whiting has resurrected the monthly Discussion Groups that proved so popular when they were originally held. They meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 7.45pm in 20 Conyngham Lane, which is Barry and Hilary's home. The next one is on 20th. They advise us that all are welcome 'until accommodation runs out'.

A notice announced a forthcoming lecture on schizophrenia. Somebody added: 'I've half a mind to come'.

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

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

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. M. Miles, 7 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EE (462947)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriory, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD (462695)

Time & Talents: Mr. A. Jackson, Cosby, Higham Lane, Bridge CT4 5AY (830489)

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

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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.

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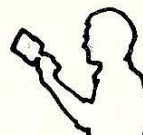
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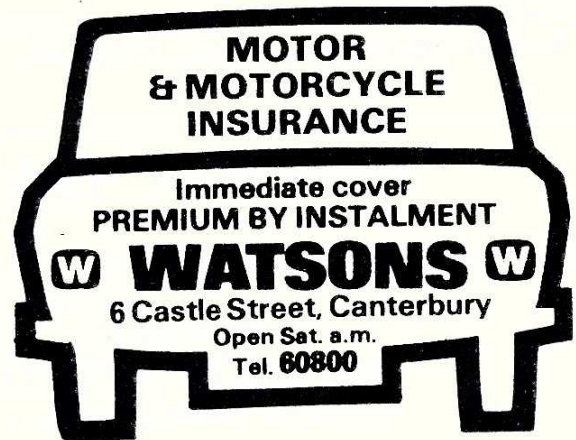
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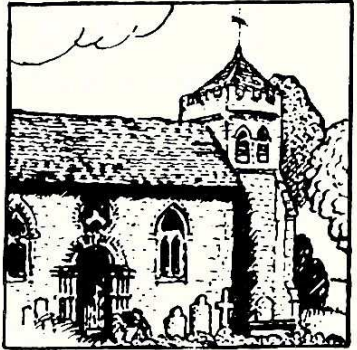
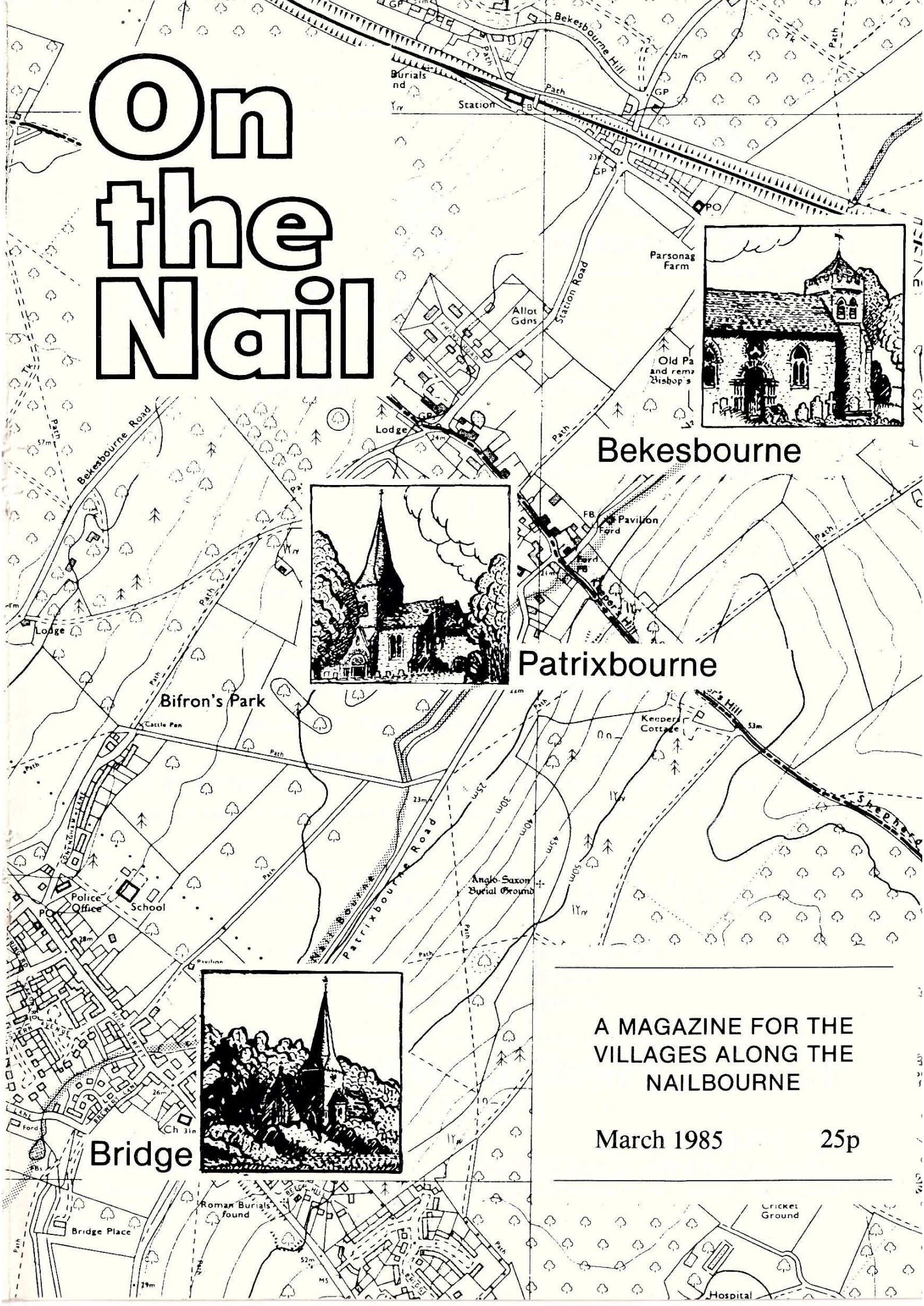
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patrixbourne



Bridge

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March 1985

25p



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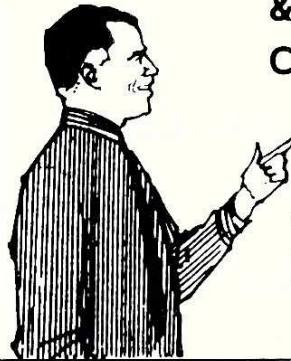
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Sunday Worship in March

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

3rd:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

10th:

9.30 Family Communion
(Series 3)
6.30pm Evensong

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

17th:

9.30 Parish Communion
(Series 3)
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

11am *Mothering Sunday Service*

24th:

8am Holy Communion
6.30pm *Stainer's*
'The Crucifixion'

9am Holy Communion

11am Matins

31st:

9.30 Family Communion
(Series 3)
6.30pm Evensong

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

7th April: *See display for Easter Day services*

N.B. This month's Family Service at Bridge has been specially prepared by the Guides and Brownies and is most imaginatively put together. It promises to be an occasion not to be missed.

There will be no Matins at Bekesbourne Church on 17th. Instead we shall follow our usual practice and hold a special service for Mothering Sunday with posies of flowers for all mothers who attend.

There will be no Evensong at Bridge Church on 24th. Instead the choir will present the meditation on the passion of our Lord by Sir John Stainer, 'The Crucifixion'.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *3rd*, Miss J.M. Anderson. *10th*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *17th*, Dr. S.J. Rogers. *24th*, Miss Joan Charlesworth. *31st*, Mrs. H. Fairhurst.

Weekdays: Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday at 9.30am and Friday (rite A) at 7.30am and at Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am. Residents of Churchill Close are most welcome to attend this latter service. A short informal act of worship is held every Wednesday for the residents of The New Close. Non-residents are very welcome to join in this pleasant half hour, which commences at 2.30pm.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st *St. David, Bishop, Patron Saint of Wales, c.601*
Women's World Day of Prayer Service in Bridge Church at 2.30pm
- 2nd *St. Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672*
Guides & Brownies Jumble Sale, Bridge Village Hall, 2pm
Pray for Jeremy Davis and Pauline Lamkin to be married today at Bekesbourne.
- 3rd **Second Sunday in Lent**
- 5th *Radio Kent* Lent Course: Fr. Michael Hollings, "Confessing"
- 6th First meeting of the new School Governing Body
- 7th *St. Perpetua and her Companions, Martyrs of Carthage, 203*
- 8th *Edward King, Bishop, Teacher, Pastor, 1910*
Coffee Morning at 'Orana', Brewery Lane, 10.30am
- 10th **Third Sunday in Lent**
- 12th *Radio Kent* Lent Course: Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh, "Listening"
- 13th Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15
- 14th Bridge Parish Council meets, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 16th NSPCC Jumble Sale, Bridge Village Hall, 2pm
Pray for James Mann and Gwyneth Stanton to be married today at Bridge
- 17th **Fourth Sunday in Lent** *Mothering Sunday*
Special service at Bekesbourne, 11am
- 19th **St. Joseph, Husband of the BV Mary**
Radio Kent Lent Course: The Revd. Colin Urquhart, "Asking"
- 20th *St. Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 687 & Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1711*
- 21st *Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1556*
- 24th **Fifth Sunday in Lent** *Passion Sunday*
Bridge Choir sings Stainer's 'Crucifixion' in place of Evensong
- 25th **Annunciation of our Lord to the BV Mary**
- 26th Pray for the clergy of East Bridge Deanery who meet this morning.
Radio Kent Lent Course: The Revd. Myra Blyth, "Thanking"
- 28th Bridge Parish Council AGM, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 29th *John Keble, Priest, Pastor, Poet, 1866*
- 30th Bridge Churchyard Clean-up, 10am
- 31st **Palm Sunday**
Beginning of British Summer Time. Clocks go *forward* one hour.

Holy Week & Easter 1985

Monday, 1st April:

9.30am Holy Communion (*St. Mary's, Patrixbourne*)

Tuesday, 2nd April:

9.30am Holy Communion (*Rite A*) (*St. Peter's Church, Bridge*)

Wednesday, 3rd April

- 9.30am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)
- 10.15am Holy Communion (*Churchill House*)
- 11.00am School Service (*Bridge*)
- 2.30pm The New Close Service

Maundy Thursday, 4th April:

- 7.30pm Holy Eucharist (*Rite A*) in commemoration of the Last Supper (*Bridge*)

Good Friday, 5th April:

- 11.00am *God so loved the world*, a choral meditation on the Cross (*St. Peter's, Bekesbourne*)
- 2.00pm *The Last Hour* — A Meditation conducted by the Revd. Peter Brownbridge, Non-stipendiary Minister in the Deanery

EASTER DAY, 7th April:

- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)
- 8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 11.00am Family Eucharist (*Series 3*) (*Bridge*)
- 11.00am Matins & Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
- 6.30pm Festal Evensong (*Bridge*)

“Christ has died! Christ is risen!”

This year in Jerusalem?

It is frequently called the Journey of a Life-time, and those who have done it vouch for the fact that a pilgrimage to the Holy Land fits that description perfectly!

If you have never been you probably are doubtful if the trip really *is* that marvellous, after all even the experts can't agree that all the sights are authentic and what about all that commercialism?

Actually, I have it on good authority that the Holy Land pilgrimage is every bit as wonderful as the brochures would have us believe. Though certainly there, the commercial element is not that intrusive and even if there is a question mark over some of the sights the dubious ones are very much in the minority. Most places are not in dispute!

* * *

For most Christians the pull of the Holy Land is understandably to do what the famous traveller of the past, H.V. Morton described as walking *In the steps of the Master*. Having been nurtured on the Bible stories of Jesus it is natural for Christians to want to tread where he trod, to visit that part of the

world which for some thirty years was home to the incarnate Son of God. Again, those who have been report how re-reading the scriptures takes on a whole new meaning once you have actually seen where it all took place and visited such evocative locations as the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, Bethany, Tiberias.

* * *

Have you ever thought of making this unique pilgrimage to the origins of your faith? How about doing so in the company of your vicar? It is my intention to visit the Holy Land this spring, joining the party of pilgrims that goes most years under the leadership of Canterbury's own fully-authorized Holy Land guide, Norman Wareham.

Norman first came to know and love the Holy Land while serving in the RAF during the war and in recent years he has had the privilege of leading a number of pilgrimages, including the visit that arose out of the *Radio Medway* Lent Course in 1983. In his hands pilgrims really do share a religious experience of lasting worth and I mean to enjoy it with this year's pilgrimage.

We leave Heathrow on Ascension Day, 16th May, spend eight nights in the Holy City and four at Galilee before returning home on 28th. Also in the party will be our Rural Dean, Desmond Sampson and it would be simply delightful if you felt able to join us for what would be a guaranteed journey of a life-time.

For further details contact either me or Norman Wareham direct (Tel: 462895).

Bridge Junior Church

On Sunday 10th February, Elizabeth Street and Simon Flisher presented a cheque on behalf of Bridge Junior Church to Mr. Rowland, who is the Head-teacher of St. Nicholas Special School, Canterbury.

The cheque for £100 was raised by the children from Carol Singing, a Nativity Play in the Church and their weekly collections. Mr. Rowland gave an interesting talk to the children and showed us slides, concerning his school.

In march of this year Bridge Junior Church will be one year old. A big thank you to everyone involved for all your help and kindness during the last year. We are pleased to say we have forty-one regular members at Junior Church.

The gang of three; Hilary, Penny and Sylvia

Our joys and sorrows

Many neighbours and friends share the joy of **David Hallwood**, 15 Green Court on the occasion of his marriage to Mrs. **Vanessa Litton** of Westgate-on-Sea. The service took place on 16th February in St. Peter's Church, Bridge.

The very sad and untimely death of **Dorothy Talbot**, 68 High Street has left her husband Peter and sons Graham and Geoffrey completely bereft. Dot was a quiet and exceedingly lovely person whose passing has meant a big loss for her many friends and acquaintances. The vicar officiated at her cremation at Barham on 30th January.

Time and Talents Bridge Churchyard

The aim of our last clean-up (to tackle the last wild corner of the old churchyard) was thwarted by the weather. We now hope to accomplish it with the next working party, planned for Saturday, 30th March at 10 o'clock.

Please turn up on this occasion if you possibly can, bringing whatever implements you have — a goodly crowd will ensure that our efforts in 1985 get off to a flying start.

A.J.

Bridge Church organ

We have been fortunate in recent years that Bridge Church organ has not had to have any major work done on it. Unfortunately the pedal section is deteriorating and will probably require fairly extensive repair work in the not too distant future.

An organ fund is in existence but it could do with supplementing so that the expected maintenance does not completely wipe it out. To help matters along a Coffee Morning is to be held at Mrs. Wintle's bungalow, 'Orana', Brewery Lane on the morning of Friday, 8th March from 10.30 onwards and we very much hope you will be able and willing to support it.

Theft from St. Peter's, Bridge

Sadly I have to report the theft of the mahogany table that stood near to the inner porch door of Bridge Church. This took place on Sunday afternoon, 3rd February. All necessary measures that could lead either to its eventual restitution or receipt of compensation have, of course, been taken.

We do hope to find a suitable replacement as soon as possible, as it was an article of church furniture that was much used. It could be, however, that you may have a suitable table that you would be willing to give to meet this requirement. The ideal size we are looking for would be approximately 2 feet in breadth, 3½ feet in width and 2½ feet high.

It would be greatly appreciated should you find you have such a table to offer, if you could kindly contact either the vicar or me.

D.R. Hill

The Archbishop's C.E. Secondary School, Canterbury—Admission at 11 +, September 1985

The Archbishop's School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Secondary School which offers a traditional education to G.C.E. 'O' Level and C.S.E. standard to pupils aged 11 - 17. The main criterion for entry is a commitment to Christian worship and education on the part of the parents and children. Application forms may be obtained from the Vicar, who will be pleased to supply an assessment form relating to your commitment to Christian worship required in connection with the application. Completed applications should be received at The Archbishop's School by Friday 23rd April.

Contributed.

March 25th

annunciations do provide
an opportunity to show
the God who glimmers deep inside

our true self always tends to hide
until the inner path it knows
through annunciation's guide

when the angel told that bride
her love and homage overflowed
to the God forming deep inside

may our souls not swell with pride
at the thought that they may flow
upon annunciation's tide

at that abhorrent homicide
it seemed his final overthrow
that God who glimmered deep inside

but at the coming Eastertide
his resurrection will bestow
annunciation deep and wide
to God who comes from deep inside

Roger Hunter

Advance bookings

In order to prevent conflicting dates society Hon. Secretaries and others might be interested to hear that the **Village Fête**, comprising the joint school and Church Fête, is fixed for Saturday, 15th June and will again be at the school. A recent edition of the *Kentish Gazette* carried an incorrect date for what it called the Church Fête.

It may seem a long way off but readers are advised that the annual **Bridge & Patixbourne Church Christmas Market** will be on Saturday, 7th December in the village Hall.

Much nearer at hand, those whose names appear on the Church Electoral Rolls are advised that the **Annual Church Meetings** will be held on the dates given:

Bekesbourne Church — Thursday, 25th April in
Parsonage Farm at 8pm

Patixbourne with
Bridge —

Friday, 26th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
(This is an amended date.)

Please note the Electoral Roll is not the same as the Electoral Register.

Attendance at either meeting is restricted to those on the former roll and such church members should make every effort to attend this very important annual church gathering.

Easter Lilies

If anyone would like to give a lily for Easter, they will be £1.35 each. Would you give the money either to me, Mrs. Hunter, 24 High Street or to Mrs. Elsie Apps at number 34.

J.M.

Carlile Lodge, Folkestone Church Army



Carlile Lodge, which is owned by the Church Army and run by members of its Mission Department, is a holiday and conference centre situated at the West end of Folkestone near The Lees. The house is comfortable and well appointed, centrally heated throughout and with hot and cold water in all rooms.

The House is used throughout the year, by individuals and groups from churches, youth clubs and other Christian organisations. Some people come for a holiday, some for a restful break from daily routine and others for such activities as house-parties, training courses, retreats or conferences. From Easter to the end of September the bookings are usually weekly or fortnightly, from Saturday to Saturday with a few exceptions. From October to Easter this varies more, as often weekends are booked by various Christian groups leaving the midweek free for individuals or block bookings.

Carlile Lodge is an ecumenical centre and many groups from various denominations have come for day or half-day conferences or meetings. Some groups have come for a service in the chapel followed by afternoon tea.

We have facilities which are available for those groups using the house; these include a well-stocked bookstall, an overhead projector, VHS video machine, slide/filmstrip projector and screen as well as a photocopier which may be used for a small charge per copy.

Most people who come to Carlile Lodge experience the warmth of the love of God and to many is known affectionately as home from home! A listening ear and prayer can be available for those in need of that help.

If you feel that you or your group would like to spend a few days with us do not hesitate to enquire either by phone or letter to Sister Jenny Gowen, Carlile Lodge, 17 Grimston Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QE — Folkestone 52118.

Contributed

Some March Saints

David *1st*

St. David (died c601) is the chief of the many Welsh saints and evangelists, and his relics still remain in the cathedral of St. David's, which is called after him. His last exhortation to his people before his death was, 'Brethren, persevere in the things you have heard from me'.

Chad *2nd*

St. Chad (died 672) was trained in the Celtic tradition at Lindisfarne. When

appointed by his brethren to the see of York, with great modesty he gave way to the Roman choice, St. Wilfrid. He was eventually made Bishop of Mercia, where, according to Bede, 'he administered the diocese in great holiness of life, after the example of the ancient fathers'.

Perpetua and her Companions 7th

Perpetua (died 203) was a young married woman. Her companions were Felicity, a slave girl, and four Christian men. All were thrown to the wild beasts in the arena after imprisonment and trial. Their story, partly written by Perpetua and another of the martyrs and completed by an eye-witness, is one of the most moving and impressive documents of early Christianity.

Patrick 17th

Patrick (?385-c460) was born in Britain but carried off to Ireland in his youth as a slave. During his years of captivity he became a man of intense prayer, and when he eventually made his escape it was only to return as a Christian missionary. With a deep sense of vocation he travelled widely and brought an organised church into existence.

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

The February meeting of the Parish Council was held in a temperature even more arctic than that of the previous month, but members, who had a somewhat larger public gallery than usual, dealt with a fairly long agenda with admirable stoicism. It would, however, seem likely that they will again wish to discuss Village Hall heating in the near future.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin reported in writing that the Community Services had completed most of the preparation work and given an undercoat to the two long walls; and that they would welcome a visit from any interested councillor while the work was being carried out. The Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, said that the work appeared to be satisfactory. Members agreed that, as requested by Cllr. Ken Greenaway, the electrical wiring and fire equipment should be checked for the renewal of the entertainments licence; and with a request by the Playgroup for additional cupboard space.

Recreation Ground

Cllr. Peter Lawrence said that the new equipment for the swings had been ordered; and the Council had a written report by Cllr. Gulvin on a request by Broomfield Football Club to transfer to Bridge and use the football ground on Saturdays from next season. The proposal was supported by John Knight & Sons, and Mr. J.H.M. Knight with the chairman and a committee member of the club attended, and explained that they hoped ultimately to provide facilities on the ground for all the sports clubs using it. Members questioned the representatives on the matter, but arranged to defer a decision until the March meeting.

Streets and Footways

A written report by Cllr. Gulvin said that although the weather had halted work on the Bridge Hill/Bridge Down stairway, both flights had been assembled. The work could be completed within a week given higher temperatures. The Council also heard with regret that the City Council had endorsed a committee

recommendation to rescind its previous decision to name the old people's housing 'Hawkins Court'.

Planning

The Council discussed a number of planning matters, and dealt at some length with the proposed development of two sites in Riverside Close by the erection of twenty-six flats in a private sheltered housing scheme. Two residents attended to give their views, and felt that the density was high, and would generate too much traffic. The Council felt, however, that the proposal should, on balance, be accepted.

Generally

The Chairman and Cllr. John Anderson

Credit where it is due

During the recent bitter weather, we have had cause to be grateful to those who braved the elements on our behalf: the postman, milkman, newspaper deliverers etc. Some people went to extraordinary lengths to get to work and so keep our shops open. Compared with many other villages, we are extremely lucky — let us give local traders our support.

M.E.J

'Fish' News

Canterbury Community Care Scheme

Next month the Social Services are launching a scheme in Canterbury to enable elderly people to stay in their own homes where otherwise they might have to move to residential care. Paid helpers will provide assistance and support not covered by the present nursing and home help services. Similar schemes were started in Kent in 1977 and it is hoped that in time the service will be extended to the whole county. Initially the Canterbury scheme will only cover the old city area, but it is hoped to include the villages later in the year when additional staff have been appointed. Mrs. Jean Newell, the area community care organiser, has agreed to come and tell us more about the scheme at a later date.

Dates for your diary

Coffee Pop-In, Wednesday, 13th March

'Fish' Scheme AGM, Friday, 19th April.

Blossom Tour, Wednesday, 15th May.

Annual Coffee Morning, Saturday, 1st June.

Joan Warren, 830233

St. Peter's, Bekesbourne Cleaning Rota for March

3rd, Mrs. Watson. 10th, Mrs. Russell. 17th Mrs. Grey. 24th, Mrs. Beckett. 31st, Mrs. Smith. 7th April, Mrs. Stickells.

There being no flowers during Lent the flower rota will recommence next month. All hands welcome to decorate for Easter (7th April). Please be at church on Saturday, 6th at 10.30am.

C.J.A.

explained the background to an application by the Country Club for a full licence; it was agreed to make a small donation to the Kent Association of Youth Clubs; and further arrangements were agreed for the Annual Parish Meeting on 28th March, at which a short film by Mr. Hammond will be shown, and reports given by local organisations. It is hoped that as many residents as possible will attend this annual discussion of parish affairs.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday, 14th March. It will be open to the public as usual.

F.L. Edwards, Clerk

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

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Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

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

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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.

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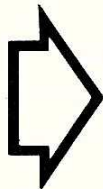
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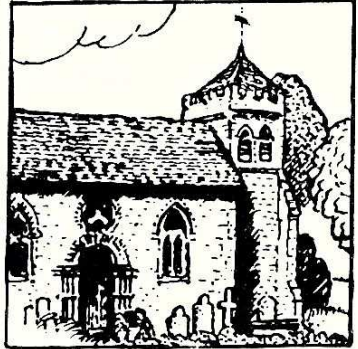
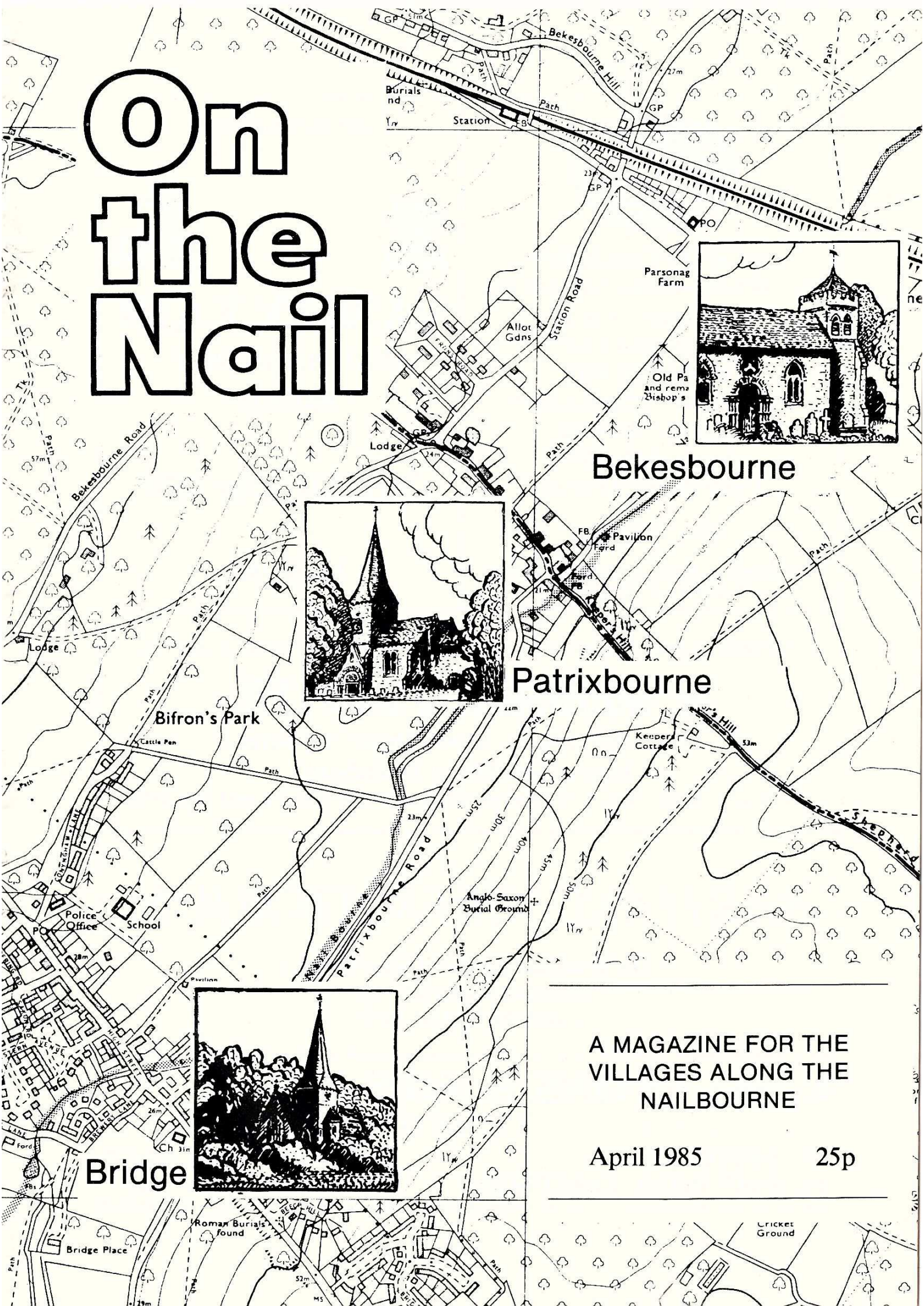
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April 1985

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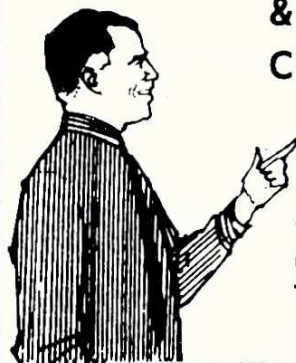
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Sunday Worship in April

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

7th: *See Holy Week and Easter Day services below.*

14th:

9.30 Family Communion 11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

(Series 3)

6.30 Evensong

21st:

9.30 Parish Communion 8am Holy Communion 11am Matins

(Series 3)

6.30 Evensong

28th:

8am Holy Communion 9am Holy Communion 11am Matins

6.30 Evensong

5th May:

11am Family Service

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

6.30 Evensong

Junior Church, for 4 to 11 year olds, meets every Sunday but the first at 9.30am in the Methodist Church, Patricxbourne Road.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *7th, Easter Day Communion*, The Revd. Wilfrid Hill, M.C., B.Sc. *14th*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *21st*, The Revd. Peter Boyden, M.A., M.Litt. *28th*, Dr. Doreen Rosman.

N.B. The services during Holy Week are as listed below. For the remainder of the month the usual weekday pattern of services applies, with the exception that there will be no services on Wednesday and Friday of Easter Week, 10th and 12th.

Holy Week & Easter 1985

Monday, 1st April:

9.30am Holy Communion (*St. Mary's, Patricxbourne*)

Tuesday, 2nd April:

9.30am Holy Communion (*Rite A*) (*St. Peter's Church, Bridge*)

Wednesday, 3rd April

9.30am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)

10.15am Holy Communion (*Churchill House*)

11.00am School Service (*Bridge*)

2.30pm The New Close Service

Maundy Thursday, 4th April:

7.30pm Holy Eucharist (*Rite A*) in commemoration of the Last Supper (*Bridge*)

Good Friday, 5th April:

11.00am *God so loved the world*, a choral meditation on the Cross
(*St. Peter's, Bekesbourne*)

2.00pm *The Last Hour* — A Meditation conducted by the Revd.
Peter Brownbridge, Non-stipendiary
Minister in the Deanery
(*St. Peter's, Bridge*)

EASTER DAY, 7th April:

8.00am Holy Communion (*Patricbourne*)

8.00am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)

11.00am Family Eucharist (*Series 3*) (*Bridge*)

11.00am Matins & Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)

6.30pm Festal Evensong (*Bridge*)

“Christ has died! Christ is risen!”

For your diary and prayer list

- 6th Pray for Christopher Sladden and Sarah Stamp to be married today in St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne.
- 7th **EASTER DAY**, the most important day in the Church's Year.
- 11th Patricbourne Parish Meeting, The Old Vicarage, 8pm
- 14th **First Sunday after Easter**
- 16th Children's Singing Group meets in Bridge Church at 6pm. The previous attempt to begin this new, experimental venture was thwarted by the weather. All children from nine and upwards (including secondary school children) are invited to join the vicar for what we hope will be the first of many sessions of music-making.
- 17th Healing Prayer Group, Bridge Church at 7.30pm. This also is something new and designed to take the Church's healing ministry a step further in our parishes. Your support is canvassed, whether you are into this aspect of the Church's work yet or not.
- 19th 'Fish' Scheme AGM, Bridge Village Hall, 7.45pm
- 20th Pray for Paul Diton and Frances Bates to be married today in St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne.
- 21st **Second Sunday after Easter**
- 23rd *St. George, Patron Saint of England, Martyr, 4 cent.*
- 25th **Saint Mark the Evangelist**
Bekesbourne Annual Church Meeting in Parsonage Farm, 8pm
- 26th Patricbourne with Bridge Annual Church Meeting, The Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 27th Ethiopian Relief Coffee Morning and Austerity Lunch, Bridge Village Hall. *See details on page 9.*
- 28th **Third Sunday after Easter**
- 29th *St. Catherine of Siena, Mystic, 1380*

God so loved the world

The augmented choir of Bekesbourne Church will be leading our commemoration of Good Friday with a Passiontide devotion for Congregation and Choir compiled by the Royal School of Church Music and entitled *God so loved the world*. It consists of suitable anthems, hymns and lessons and is ideal for observing the day 'on which the Prince of Glory died'. Join us in Bekesbourne Church at 11 o'clock!

A new Heaven and a new Earth

The simultaneous celebrations of the resurrection of Christ and the return of spring were deliberately engineered by our ancestors in the faith because they have so much in common.

The supreme point of contact between Easter and spring is discovered in the small but strangely emotive word 'new'. Take spring, to begin with! It is marked by the departure of the rigours of winter (or ideally it is) and the appearance of new grass, spring lambs and flowers, and trees bursting into leaf. In one sense there is nothing new in this, for it occurs every year without fail and round about the same time, too. We have all seen a daffodil, snowdrops, catkins and baby lambs and felt a certain rise in the temperature that suggests that the worst of the weather is finally over. Yet we have never seen *this* spring before, not *these* crocuses, *these* green shoots, for they are new ones! Until this year they never existed and despite their almost identical resemblance to those of past years they are not the same. They are *new*!

So with Easter, the Lord experienced by the disciples that first Easter week was readily acknowledged as the same Master in whose company they had walked so recently, and yet the form in which they now discerned him was totally new to their experience because the risen Jesus, in that sense, was new.

But it was not merely this new look to Jesus that so enthralled them, filling them with inexpressible joy. What really gripped them was the realisation that this new awareness of the Lord was permanent, that he would never more leave them, that even though he was hidden from their eyes he was still with them. The newness of Jesus transcended time and space to such an extent that they knew his presence deep inside them wherever they happened to be; that he was in them, not just alongside them, be they in the security of the upper room or several miles away on the road to Emmaus.

The risen Lord, experienced that first Easter, is *our* experience, if we have the faith, twenty centuries later, for he lives in our hearts and lives today. For us he is always new whether we have discovered him for the first time or respond, as on so many occasions, to the fact of his presence at the deepest levels of our life. Jesus lives! May this Easter alert you to this fact in a way and at a depth that for you will be new!

Patricbourne Parish Meeting

The annual assembly of the Patricbourne Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday, 11th April, 1985 at 8pm in the Old Vicarage, Patricbourne (by kind permission of Dr. and Mrs. Pratt). The agenda consists of 1. the election of a chairman for the ensuing year, 2. approval of the Parish Meeting Accounts, 3. any other business.

J. Martin, Acting Clerk

Memorials in our churchyards

Visitors to any of our three churchyards admire the way in which they are currently being cared for by the community, and we gratefully pay our respects to those who actually do the work on our behalf.

Churchyards are often treasure-houses of local history, due to the memorials that have been lovingly erected over the years, but not many realise that the erection of new memorials is governed from outside by the Commissary General of the Canterbury diocese. He has laid down clear and specific directives to which the parish clergy must pay heed.

The aim is not red tape for the sake of it but the establishment of a certain standard of appearance designed to keep churchyards worthy appendages to the church. There is also the added intention of making them easier to maintain with particular emphasis on grass-cutting. So, no monument can be put up or flower vase be introduced without the vicar's permission, acting for the Commissary General. Such permission can only be given if the proposed memorial agrees with the prescribed conditions governing size, shape, material and inscription. Most funeral directors and monumental masons have a copy of the directives, so guidance is to hand from the outset. A copy is also displayed in Bridge and Bekesbourne Churches.

Two of the regulations call for more immediate mention due to isolated cases of their infringement, howbeit unwittingly. The first, though last of the list states: "Artificial flowers are not permitted in Churchyards under any circumstances" and that speaks for itself. The reason for it is quite clear, for artificial flowers look very out of place in country churchyards. The other regulation concerns marking the boundaries of any one grave and indicates that kerbs are not allowed. Do remember this refers to new grave spaces and does not mean existing kerbs, which often bear the only inscription, must be removed. However, for purposes of the regulation I feel we must assume the prohibition refers to imported pieces of flint which some relatives are using to mark graves. In many ways this practice is worse than kerbs for they look unsightly and do potentially more damage to grass-cutting implements. The co-operation of relatives over this matter would be much appreciated.

* * *

Here is a different slant on the subject of burial grounds from a Chicago Roman Catholic newsletter, for which I am indebted to a parishioner recently back from the States.

Must cemetery decisions always be grim?

Deciding upon a final resting place is often a sobering business, but it's possible to go about the task with reverence and a certain lightheartness.

Take Professor Kenneth Kuiper of Calvin College in Grand Rapids. As everyone must, he asked himself: did he want to be buried in one of those "neat, dull, mute" cemeteries, all markers flush to the ground and somehow hiding the hurtful reality of death; or did he want a cemetery with upright tombstones?

He decided on tombstones because he thought they keep the truth of death and resurrection "up front". Certainly they did for our ancestors, who used them to have the last word—like the persistent woman whose epitaph reads,

“I told you I was sick”.

Kuiper hunted around for messages that tickled his soul and published them in *The Banner*. Like:

John Merton: 1801-1856

My surgeon
was Henry Peartree

Then there's the epitaph John Dryden placed on his wife's tombstone:

Here lies my wife:

Here let her lie!

Now she's at rest—and so am I

And who do you suppose the wag was who ordered this epitaph for John Brown, a dentist?

Stranger, approach this spot with gravity.

John Brown is filling his last cavity.

One more for those who are careless about the Sabbath:

Here lies the body of Ethan Bevan

Killed by lightning sent from heaven

For trading horses on Sunday, June eleven

In the year eighteen hundred twenty-seven

Now I'm not trying to return anyone to a quaint custom of yesterday, but I am interested in sharing with you Kuiper's closing point:

“The tombstone we choose is not the important one. The important one rather is the round one, the great one that was rolled away by the angel of the Lord from Jesus' tomb: ‘When they looked (Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome), they found that the stone had been rolled back. It was a huge one’ (Mark 16:4). No mention there of words carved into the stone. Instead, chiselled into our resistant hearts and doubting minds are the words of the young man dressed in a white robe and sitting at the right, who said: ‘He has been raised up. He is risen’.”

And so shall we be.

Joys and Sorrows

St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne was the setting for the wedding of **Pauline Lamkin**, 2 Bifrons Road to **Jeremy Davis** of Littlebourne on Saturday, 2nd March. A fortnight later, in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on 16th March Mrs. **Gwyneth Stanton** 1 Windmill Close was married to **James Mann** of Polegate, East Sussex. We wish both couples much happiness in their life together!

The death of **Sidney Walter Lockwood** on 10th March has robbed Bridge of one of its longstanding residents. Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood had lived at 49 Union Road for fifty years, so it was right and proper that after a service in church on Friday, 15th, his body should be laid to rest in the churchyard. Our sincere sympathy and prayers are offered for Mrs. Lockwood and the family in their sad loss.

Long overdue

by the Revd. M. Peter Taylor

All sorts of people around the country have been quite surprised recently because the postman has brought them a letter from me. I am no letter-writer and often have a pile of unanswered letters several inches deep. Lately, however, this has changed and I am left now with only eleven, three of which are replies to my almost feverish activity, and one of which has no address for a reply. Frankly I have found the whole experience uplifting and even cleansing. It is as if a burden has been removed (though I suppose it has been transferred to the others instead).

There are a lot of things like that. They become a sort of weight upon us which can only be lifted when we do something about it. Decorating a room that badly needed it is one example. Clearing a garden of its overgrowth or weeds would be another. It is not that these things are in themselves unpleasant, and in fact we may quite enjoy doing them when we get round to it. The problem is that we never seem to get round to it, and so the job nags at us in the background, making it all a chore till it is done.

What can we do about this? Perhaps we should plan ahead a bit more, and do those things well in advance. But that is more easily said than done. It does help to do such things regularly, instead of letting the burden build up. My letter pile would have been much smaller if I had slowly and regularly worked at it. That garden would not be in such a mess if time had been spent upon it throughout the year.

It has occurred to me that many people wish they could get to Church more often, but instead make brief appearances at special times like Easter. It may be their way of clearing the back-log. What a shame the back-log ever started! Perhaps we would all enjoy the services more if we came more regularly. Maybe it is all a matter of priorities, for while some stay at home and keep a beautiful garden, I find myself at Church, but the less said about my garden the better . . .

Ethiopian Famine

The people of Ethiopia still need food and help.

We are holding our second appeal to raise money for them on Saturday, 27th April in Bridge Village Hall from 9am to 2pm.

Coffee and biscuits will be served throughout the morning and Ploughman's Lunches from 12 noon till 2pm.

Cakes, pies, etc. will be on sale from our Super Cookery Stall.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SUPPORT!

Gill Harvey

BRIDGE CHURCH ORGAN — Coffee Morning result

The coffee morning held last month to supplement the Organ Fund at Bridge was well supported, as are coffee mornings generally in the village, and we are delighted to announce proceeds of £80 at the time of going to press. Grateful thanks to everybody who lent a hand or sent donations in cash or kind.

As a result of this success important work to the pedal department of the organ has been put in hand and we hope Martin Renshaw will be able to start in the near future.

Annual Church Meetings

Our parishes' Annual Church Meetings this year occur on successive evenings. That at Bekesbourne is on Thursday, 25th at 8pm, for which occasion Mr. and Mrs. Ash have again kindly invited us to meet at Parsonage Farm. Patricxbourne with Bridge's meeting on Friday, 26th is in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

It cannot be over-stressed that any church's annual meeting is a highlight of its year and those whose names appear on the electoral roll (not the civil register of electors, incidentally) should make every effort to attend.

Now is the time for habitual church attenders who have not already done so to apply for their names to be added to the roll, indicating their support for the church in question. Forms for the purpose are available in the churches.

Easter Monday Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage

This annual event gains momentum each year and all our young people are urged to give it a try this Easter Monday. The Archbishop, in inviting them, says, "We have never been short of numbers or enthusiasm, but a lot of parishes are missing something special. (Let's fill the Croydon gap!) Here is a chance to experience the Easter Faith of a Church renewed in confidence and eager to draw others into our company".

Pilgrims leave various rallying points at 10am, one of which is to be Bridge recreation ground, and walk to the cathedral for a splendid Eucharist presided over by the Archbishop. Let's see that local youth are there when youngsters from other parishes meet on the rec. on 8th April — and don't forget to bring a packed lunch! It's a great occasion, believe you me!

The Future of Work

A conference/workshop entitled 'The Future of Work' is to take place on Saturday, 27th April at Oakwood Park Grammar School, Maidstone from 10am till 4pm (optional 5pm). The conference is sponsored by the joint Council for Social Responsibility of the dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester.

What about the future of work as we know it? Can the shape of our society, people's attitudes and expectations, alter to take account of the rapid technological change that is already with us and affecting the way we live? Can we take the initiative and put a human face on the 'sci-fi' picture of a push-button 'leisure-filled' future looking as near as only ten years away? Questions which are as much religious as political and social have to be asked.

Four speakers from different areas of life have been invited to the conference. Each will bring distinctive qualifications: Jim Thompson, Bishop of Stepney — Andrew Rowe, MP for Mid-Kent — Ted Knight, Leader of Lambeth Council — Dr. Sam Aaronvitch, Economist from the South Bank Polytechnic. The Chairman will be Bob Hardy, Bishop of Maidstone. The day will include ample time for discussion of views with the speakers. Follow-up plans will be announced.

If this interests you — and it is certainly a question for our time — contact either Mr. Jeremy Lamb, Canterbury Advisor to the Council on Maidstone 55014, or Canon David Clift, Chaplain for Industry on Maidstone 52062. The vicar would be interested to hear from anyone who thinks they will be going.

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council at its meeting on 14th March made final arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting on 28th March, and considered their approach to the 'Best Kept Village' competition and the Sports Council's Campaign for extended sports facilities, both of which will come before the Meeting for discussion.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin reported that the work of decoration was proceeding, and members who had seen the work were satisfied with it. They were awaiting a start to the floor. Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young gave an account of the difficulties of preparing for a golden wedding celebration with the hall cluttered with decorators' materials, and said that she herself had had to scrub the floor. Cllr. Ken Greenaway had dealt with the renewal of the entertainments licence, and said that a check of the fire extinguishers showed that two required renewal. The clock, a feature of the High Street, which has distinguished itself of recent months by its inaccuracy, has now finally defeated the frequent efforts of Mr. Morgan to repair it, and may require replacement. The Council will call in a specialist firm of tower clockmakers.

Recreation Ground

Cllr. Peter Lawrence said that he had installed the new swing seats and chains, though only after a very considerable amount of work; and the Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, commented in this connection on the debt the village owed to the unpaid work of councillors. The proposal made last month that the football pitch should be made available to Broomfield F.C. from next season was approved in principle, and Cllr. Gulvin was asked to negotiate terms with the Club for the Council's approval at the next meeting.

Streets and Footways

Cllr. Gulvin said that the new stairway to Bridge Down was now open, and the Highways Department were satisfied with the work, although some minor jobs remained to be done. The footpath was in poor condition, and it was agreed that the County Council should be asked to surface it. The footway on Town Hill remained overgrown, although the hedge had been cut back, and it was decided to take this matter up, and the question of street lamps out of phase, with the appropriate authority. The Council agreed to support a proposed County Council restriction on the use of Bekesbourne Lane by vehicles over 7.5 tons weight.

Generally

The Chairman said that he would be attending a site meeting to discuss the twenty-six flats in a sheltered housing scheme proposed for Riverside Close to which we referred last month; a forthcoming increase in electricity lighting charges was noted; Cllr. Mrs. Young reported on her attendance at a British Telecom conference on payphones; and the decision of the Boundary Commission to retain two areas to the west of the by-pass in Patribourne against the proposals of both the Council and the City Council—and, it would seem, against commonsense—was noted with some surprise.

These notes will be the last which I shall contribute, after a most interesting six years as Clerk. My successor, Mrs. Kathy Walder, will provide future commentaries, the next following the April meeting on the 11th of that month, at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall, as usual. Members of the public are, of course, always welcome.

F.L. Edwards, Clerk

Yoga

Several local people have recently shown an interest in the possibility of holding Yoga classes in the area. I know of a fully-qualified lady Yoga teacher who will be available after Easter to conduct a class in Bridge Village Hall either one afternoon or evening depending on availability. This would be a class for all ages from beginners upwards and although mainly for ladies, gentlemen would be very welcome. Fees would be payable in advance as for Evening Classes and could be discussed when we see what response there is. If you are interested please contact Mrs. E.M. Cartwright, 78b Riverside Close (Tel: 831095) for further details.

E.M.C.

* * *

On Saturday, 16th March the Bridge Group of the NSPCC held a most successful Jumble Sale and raised £125. The committee wish to thank all concerned for their generous support.

Evelyn Andrews, Sec.

* * *

BEKESBOURNE VILLAGE HALL Annual General Meeting, open to all Bekesbourne residents, is on Monday 1st April at 8pm in the hall.

'Fish News'

The 'Fish' Scheme AGM will be held in Bridge Village Hall at 7.45pm on Friday, 19th April. All residents of our four villages are invited to come to discuss the working of the scheme and suggest improvements. Please come and help us!

The **Blossom Tour** will be on Wednesday, 15th May. The coach will leave Western Avenue at 2.15pm for a country tour with a stop for cream tea at Chilham Fruit farm. Priority will be given to those who are living alone or have difficulty getting about. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to join us. The inclusive charge will be £2.25.

The next **Coffee Pop-In** will be on Wednesday, 10th April from 10.15 to 11.45am in Bridge Village Hall.

Joan Warren, 830233

Calling Bekesbourne

I have been asked to remind readers that Bingo and Whist Drives are held on alternate Thursdays in Bekesbourne Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. The next Whist Drive is on 4th April and Bingo on 11th April. All are welcome! Do come along and join us!

K.J.F.

Cleaners	St. Peters Church, Bekesbourne	Flowers
Mrs. Stickells	6th April	<i>All hands please</i>
Mrs. Hogben	13th April	Mrs. Farbrace
Mrs. Watson	20th April	Mrs. Gillanders
Mrs. Russell	27th April	Mrs. Russell
Mrs. Grey	4th May	Mrs. Grey

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

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

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. M. Miles, 7 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EE (462947)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD (462695)

Time & Talents: Mr. A. Jackson, Cosby, Higham Lane, Bridge CT4 5AY (830489)

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Magazine Advertising: Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830472)

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.

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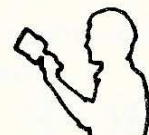
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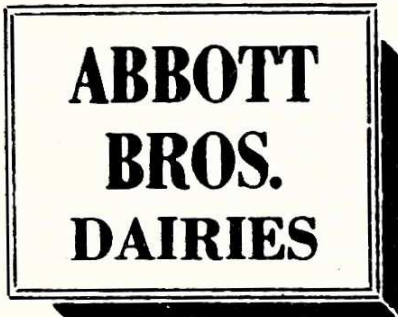
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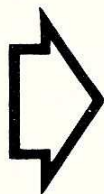
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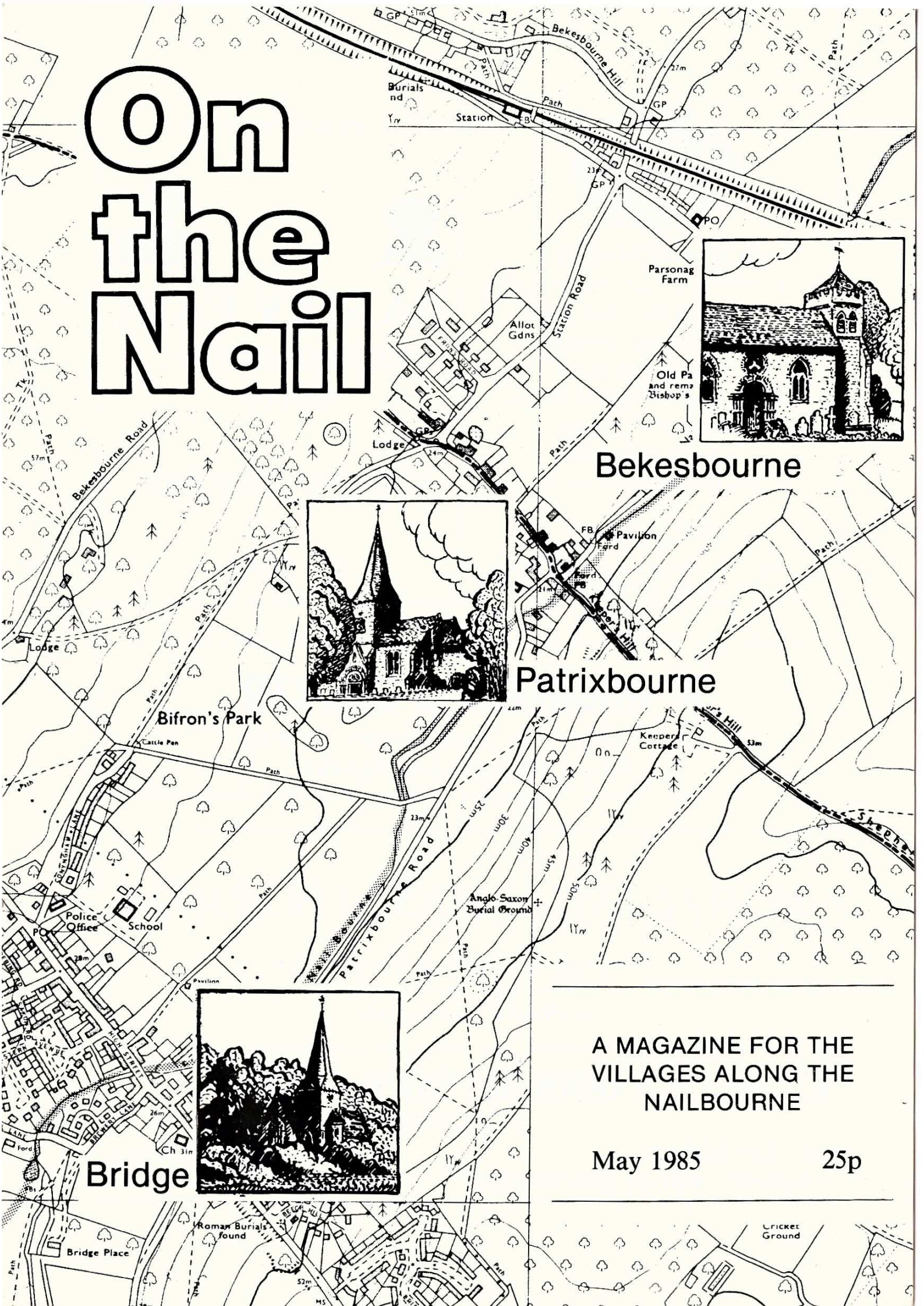
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Sunday Worship in May

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

5th:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

12th:

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

8am Holy Communion

19th:

9.30 Parish Communion 8am Holy Communion 11am Matins
(Series 3. Preacher:
Revd. David Ratcliff)
6.30pm Evensong

26th:

8am Holy Communion
6.30pm Sung Eucharist
(Series 3)

9am Holy Communion 11am Matins & Holy
Communion

2nd June:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

The Family Service this month will be in the capable hands of Miss Mary Ambrose of Kingston, whom we welcome for the third time. She always has something interesting and unusual to offer us and we hope recent very good attendance at Family Services will be maintained, so that we can accord Miss Ambrose a traditionally warm Bridge welcome.

We welcome also the Revd. David Ratcliff, Assistant Diocesan Director (Parish Education) who returns to Bridge to preach at the Parish Communion on 19th. His last visit was in the very different rôle of one-off organist at the United Service in January.

As 26th is Whitsunday and thus a major festival of the Church, Evensong will be replaced by a Sung Eucharist at 6.30pm, so that we can celebrate the Church's birthday with the Church's own special service. There will also be a celebration of the Holy Communion after Matins at Bekesbourne.

Junior Church meets as usual this month. The children's contributions to our Easter festivities were much appreciated, the gifts of home-made flowers and butterflies being a particularly delightful touch. Thank you all for such a charming and loving thought!

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 5th, Miss K.J. Knight. 12th, Mr. C.G. Robertson. 19th, 91st Church Anniversary, The Revd. T. Mervyn Willshaw, M.A., B.D. 26th, Holy Communion, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met. B.D.

Bridge Methodists continue the celebration of their 91st anniversary on Tuesday 21st at 7.30pm under the Chairmanship of Mr. D. Blackford. The preacher is the Revd. Geoffrey Scarlett, who participated in the Ecumenical Scheme at Sturry, Hersden, Westbere and Fordwich in its early days. A warm welcome awaits you at either or both anniversary services.

P.A. Grant, Church Steward

Weekdays Holy Communion is celebrated every Wednesday in the month at 9.30am in St. Peter's Church, Bridge and on Fridays (Rite A) at 7.30am. The monthly celebration at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 1st at 10.15am. A brief informal service is held each Wednesday in the hall of The New Close at 2.30pm. Non-residents are always most welcome.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st **St. Philip and St. James, Apostles**
 2nd *St. Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, 373*
 Healing Prayer Group, to which all are invited, is in Bridge Church at 7pm.
 5th **Fourth Sunday after Easter**
 8th *Julian of Norwich, Mystic, c.1417*
 9th Bridge Parish Council meets, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
 11th Bridge Churchyard Working-Party from 10am.
 12th **Fifth Sunday after Easter**
 13th Rogation Day
Start of Christian Aid Week
 14th **St. Matthias the Apostle** Rogation Day
 East Bridge Deanery Synod, 7.30pm at Chillenden
 15th Rogation Day
 16th **ASCENSION DAY**
 Holy Eucharist (*Rite A*), St. Peter's, Bridge, 7.30pm, including prayers for healing.
 19th **Sunday after Ascension Day**
 9.30 Parish Communion, preacher, The Revd. David Ratcliff
 24th *John and Charles Wesley, Priests, Poets, Teachers, 1791, 1788*
 25th *Venerable Bede, Priest, Monk of Jarrow, 735*
 Pray for David Hadlow and Susan Linkins to be married today at Bridge.
 26th **PENTECOST Whitsunday**
 31st *Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth (See Luke 1. 29 - 56)*

A faith for all seasons

Despite the furore that has surrounded the Bishop of Durham ever since his appointment, such a national outcry at the pronouncements of a bishop of the Church of England is nothing new. Admittedly it is a rare occurrence, but those with long memories might recall the uproar caused by William Barnes, erstwhile Bishop of Birmingham, earlier this century. Then there was the commotion in the sixties at the publication of *Honest to God*, which the late John Robinson wrote when he was Bishop of Woolwich and which the *Observer* newspaper sensationalised. The Church managed to ride out both storms and nowadays we wonder what all the fuss was about. I envisage a similar outcome to the present controversy!

In passing it goes to show what a hornet's nest the Press has it in its power to stir up and how careful those in positions of leadership must be if they are to avoid misinterpretation.

* * *

Whether the Bishop went about it in the right way remains open to question, but what he was clearly trying to do where the resurrection of Christ is concerned (and he *does* believe in it) was to convey the essential truth that its effect is very much with us today. The resurrection stories in the New Testament describe the effect of the Easter incident on the disciples at the time. The bishop is concerned that we do not fall into the trap of consigning it purely and simply to history, but that we accept that we ourselves live in the power of Christ's resurrection all day and every day. His message, which is the message of the gospel, is that Christ lives in 1985 because once upon a time he was raised from the dead, and that fact ought to affect our lives now.

The hostile reaction that greeted Bishop Jenkins suggests there are a large number of Christians whose understanding of the resurrection is limited to the gospel stories and their interpretation in terms of today. It may be we are too concerned to explain those stories in the belief that the key to the living Christ is contained therein. But this is not how the rest of the New Testament sees it. For St. Paul in particular the whole point of Christ's resurrection is that its effect touches every age and clime. The Lord himself promised, 'Lo, I am with you always, to the end of time' (Matt 28.20) and this has surely been borne out by Christians down the centuries, whose experience has been of the power of the risen Lord at work in their lives, both as individuals and communities. The truth of Easter is that he who was dead is alive for evermore, so it is always Easter!

* * *

It is to St. Paul that we owe the title 'The Body of Christ' for the Church, and he coined it from the early Church's direct awareness of the risen Lord's active involvement in their life. They really felt themselves engaged in a work of co-operation with the Lord, that he was operative in and through them. This was the result of his resurrection, a single event in history but with repercussions for all time. It is the Bishop of Durham's dearest wish that today's Church should respond to that challenge by witnessing to the risen Christ here and now, and it is that amongst other things, that has produced the current witch-hunt.

* * *

This month we celebrate the feast of Pentecost or Whitsuntide, when the Holy Spirit of God came mightily upon the early Christians and transformed them from timorous cowards into dynamic servants of the living Lord. It is rightly regarded as the birthday of the Church: it is also a divine pointer to the salient truth upon which the whole structure stands, that Christ's resurrection in its effects knows no bounds, for it shows the risen, glorified Lord is still with his people, empowering them in his service, enabling them truly to be his risen body in the world. In the final analysis I believe the Bishop of Durham will be proved to be right and what he really said (not what the Press *said* he said) will be universally acclaimed as the gospel of Christ. Praise to Christ our Lord!

Joys and Sorrows

Bekesbourne Church, made even more beautiful by the freshly-erected Easter decorations, was the ideal scene of the wedding of former chorister **Sarah Jane Stamp**, 2 Hillside Cottages to **Christopher Edward Sladden** of Sturry on

6th April. St. Peter's Church was again the setting for a wedding, when, on 20th April **Frances Elisabeth Bates**, Westbury, Bekesbourne Hill married **Paul Andrew Diton** of Ramsey Close, Canterbury. Music was provided by members of Blean Choral Society, of which the bride's father is a founder member.

* * *

After a long illness **Bill Mockett** passed away peacefully on Sunday, 24th March, aged 89 years.

Villagers will no doubt remember Bill, late of 'Pallum', Union Road, Bridge. Following the death of his wife Nora, Bill kept going with the assistance of the 'Fish' Scheme, neighbours and Age Concern, despite his own serious illness.

After hospitalization he eventually departed from the village in 1983 and moved to a nursing home in Lancing. These last eighteen months of his life were happily spent near his daughter and grand-children.

Bill frequently wrote cheerful letters to me and was always eager to hear up-to-date village news. I shall miss Bill's letters and his marvellous sense of humour, which he retained until the end.

The above was contributed by one of Bill's most helpful neighbours.

* * *

The tragic death of **Philip Kent**, Hode Farm, at the tender age of 22 left not only his devoted family but a very wide circle of friends and work colleagues completely numbed. Philip was a trainee psychiatric nurse at Eastry and progressing well in his chosen field. He died as a result of a road accident on the Deal-Sandwich road. St. Mary's Church, Patricbourne was filled to capacity for the funeral on 2nd April, which the vicar conducted and which was followed by cremation at Barham. Philip's ashes were subsequently laid to rest in the grave of his father, Adrian in Patricbourne churchyard.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 12-18 1985

During the last six months Bridge, Patricbourne and Bekesbourne have responded to the T.V. reports of the famine in Ethiopia with two major events—a magnificent donation to the Red Cross collected in the Village Hall in October and a further appeal at the end of April.

Perhaps you feel that it is too early to make yet another appeal. Yet the need for help is urgent—not only in Ethiopia but in many countries all over the world. Christian Aid makes a nation-wide appeal once a year in May. This year the theme is *Charity begins with the Homeless*. Thanks to the dedicated work of some T.V. reporters and cameramen we have had the terrible plight of many homeless people brought right into our own homes. We cannot fail to have been struck by the contrast between their conditions and our own.

Christian Aid was started in an attempt to help post-war refugees in Europe. It is still committed to rehousing the homeless, providing food and clothes for the hungry and a new start for those whose pattern of life has been destroyed by natural or man-made disasters. Above all, Christian Aid is committed to the policy of helping people to help themselves.

There are three ways in which we can support this work amongst those who are suffering so terribly from lack of even the most basic human needs.

1. We can give thoughtfully and prayerfully from our own comparative wealth.
2. We can offer to help as a distributor and collector of Christian Aid envelopes so that every home in our parishes has the opportunity to give.
3. We can recognise that this problem is a long-term one and make a commitment to regular giving so that Christian Aid can maintain its continuing support for those whose need will last long after the end of Christian Aid Week.

If you can act as a collector or would feel able to make a regular contribution and perhaps increase the value of that contribution by covenanting, please let me know as soon as possible. Those in need will be *very* grateful.

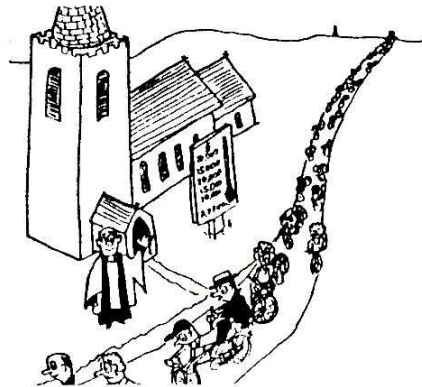
Muriel Packer, 830364

* * *

A thought to inspire you:

Abai Teklehet, a poor peasant farmer in Tigray, has given hospitality to 12 refugees. He says, "Any migrant who comes should not sleep outside our house and no-one should ever starve. WE don't have much food to give, but we share what we have."

Will you share what you have?



On your bike

In 1982 the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust held a sponsored bicycle ride. Since then Norfolk, Lincoln, Essex and Cambridge have joined them. In 1985 the Friends of Kent Churches is planning to do the same. Cyclists of all ages and denominations are invited to seek sponsors who undertake to pay an agreed sum of money for each church or chapel visited by the cyclist on the specified day, Saturday, 7th September.

The money raised will be divided equally between the FKC and the church or chapel nominated by the cyclist.

The FKC bears the cost of all printing and other expenses for this event but its success will depend upon the enthusiasm and help in the parishes. It has the full support of the Archbishop and the Bishop of Rochester.

A considerable amount of money can be raised for your parish by this ride. In 1983 Suffolk Historic Church Trust raised £72,000 gross.

It has been found that a wonderful spirit of goodwill and fellowship has been generated by this ride and above all most people taking part have enjoyed it enormously. We hope that you will help to make 7th September 1985 a happy and successful day.

Extract from a circular letter sent to all incumbents in the county by Michael Howe, Event Chairman for the Friends of Kent Churches. Always assuming we can bear yet another sponsored happening this sounds well worth supporting, something we could all benefit from. Please jot down the date, give your bike a good overhaul and watch this space for further information in the months ahead.

Folk Dancing for all

Bridge Folk Dancers are not a club, just a friendly get-together on the first and third Thursdays of the month. We meet in the Village Hall at 8 o'clock under the patient tuition of Alf Matthews. Do join us! More information can be got by ringing 830285 or 830652. Due to county council elections we will not meet on 2nd May.

J.H.

Dr. Barnado's

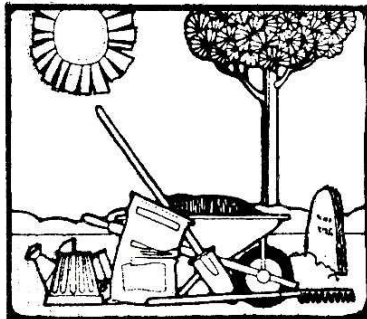
A lunch held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Baker on 1st April raised £63 for Dr. Barnado's. Many thanks to all who came and supported. Special thanks to Elizabeth Stewart for running the Raffle and Diane Moore for the Bring & Buy stall. Also my thanks to local traders for their raffle prizes.

M.J.B.

Bridge Methodists' Coffee Morning

Bridge Methodists will be holding their annual Coffee Morning and Sale on Thursday, 9th May from 10am. The proceeds, as is our custom, will be shared with the Pilgrims Hospice. Please support this worthy cause!

P.A.G.



Bridge Churchyard — 11th May

Our churchyard spring-clean planned for 30th March had to be cancelled due to the very inclement weather. The work is now planned for Saturday, 11th May commencing at 10am. Please make a note of this date and come along to help, bringing whatever implements you can!

There is not a great deal to do to tidy up the last overgrown corners, but an additional, much needed task is repairs to the main flint wall on the northern boundary, which is crumbling badly in parts. If anyone is willing to help with this on 11th May (or any other time, for that matter) it would be greatly appreciated.

A.J.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

The Nailbourne Horticultural Society held its annual Spring Show in the Conrad Hall, Bishopsbourne on 2nd April, and despite the cold weather the judge was pleasantly surprised to see a good number of entries. Bridge was well represented and Mrs. Greenaway gained second place overall, behind Mrs. P. Davidson of Bishopsbourne, with Dr. Warren in third place. Dr. Warren also won a small cup with his African Violet for best exhibit in the show.

K.A. Walder

YOUNG PEOPLE OFFERING TO MEND ARTICLES

Mr. Hudson at the College of Technology, Canterbury (Telephone: 66081-ext. 263) has eight Y.T.S. students who wish to use the facilities of the Engineering Department at the College to mend broken articles for needy individuals, voluntary organisations, OAPs, Play Groups etc. This may be anything from kettles to toys, and the young people may be able to collect from homes.

When ringing the College of Technology please leave a 'phone number where Mr. Hudson may contact you if he is not available himself to take the call.



★ *Election of Councillors to the Kent County Council takes place on THURSDAY MAY 2nd.*

Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 11th April when, following the decision taken at the Parish Meeting not to take part in the 'Best Kept Village' Competition this year, Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young reported on her attendance at a recent meeting held by Canterbury City Council to discuss their Anti-Litter Campaign for this year, and she agreed to take the initiative and set up a meeting after the Easter holidays of interested groups, organisations and individuals in the village to commence operations to tidy up the village prior to entering the competition next year. Cllr. John Anderson said that he had submitted the Parish entry for the 'Trees in Your Village' Competition and added that he and Cllr. Peter Lawrence intended to plant the trees promised by Mrs. A. Shirley in the Recreation Ground the following day, weather permitting.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin reported that the decoration was completed apart from a few touching-up paint jobs and that work on the floor was scheduled for the weekend 20th/21st April. The Council agreed to write to Mr. Fox, the Community Service Officer expressing their gratitude for the excellent work done by his group of workers. Moving on to the electrical work, the frost stat heaters had been installed and Mr. Morgan was hopeful of obtaining the timed heater for the kitchen before long, while Cllr.

Gulvin was pursuing the matter of hand-rails for the disabled persons' toilet. The Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, reported that notices had been fixed to the emergency doors to comply with the Entertainments Licence, and Cllr. Mrs. Young said that she had ordered a further nine folding tables like the one on display at the Parish Meeting. The Council decided to apply to the Canterbury City Council Lottery Fund for a sum of £287.85 to cover the cost of the tables. Cllr. Gulvin was to make enquiries of Mr. Fox about the possibility of repairing the stacking chairs in the main hall. Regarding the memorial clock outside the Village Hall, the Council decided to get an estimate for its repair from a local specialist firm of clock repairers.

Recreation Ground

Cllr. Gulvin reported on his preliminary discussions with clubs using the Recreation Ground to find out their interest in sharing the cost of building a pavilion with good quality changing facilities. As there was still some groundwork to be covered, Cllr. Gulvin was to report further at the next meeting of the Council. The Council agreed to allow the P.T.A. and the Church to use the Recreation Ground for parking and the possible landing of microlite aircraft on the occasion of the joint village fête to be held on Saturday 15th June, provided, of course, that the ground was suffic-

iently firm at the time and provided that no liability of any kind would fall upon the Council.

Streets and Footways

Cllr. Tim Hoare said that the County Council had agreed to clear the sides of the footways and roads, as was necessary, from Bridge Hill right through Town Hill and as far as the Gate Inn. The Council then discussed the footway at the top of the new stairway leading into Bridge Down and agreed to accept the County Council's offer to surface it. Cllr. Gulvin advised that work on the stairway was now completed, including some additional improvements and alterations he had requested, which had increased the total cost by some £327.30. The County Council were to be approached to see if they would meet half of these additional costs as they had done for the main work. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Mrs. R. Green of Meadow Close, with a further sixteen signatories, expressing great concern about the footways in the village which were badly fouled by dogs. The Council were in full sympathy and felt that publicity was the best action in this instance.

Planning

The Council had made no observations on an application for the renewal of outline permission for the erection of one dwelling on land adjoining 23 Union Road, and noted that permission had been granted for the erection of a two-storey dwelling house on land at and adjoining The Coach House, Filmer Road. However, on consideration of an outline application for the erection of thirteen dwellings with access road on land to the rear of The Close, Union Road, the City Council were to be informed that the Parish Council considered that the density was too high and felt that a site meeting should be held in connection with the application.

The next meeting of the Parish Council, which is in fact the Annual Meeting when the Officers are elected for the ensuing year and Committees are appointed, will be held on Thursday 9th May at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall and as always parishioners are welcome to attend.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

Bekesbourne Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday May 14th, at 7.30pm. There will be items of local interest, and refreshments.

Do support this meeting and take the chance to express your views. Last year's meeting was very disappointing.

Heavy Traffic

At the last council meeting members were pleased to hear that the County authorities are proposing to put a 7.5 tonnes weight-restriction on the Littlebourne to Bridge road. This will exclude lorries using the road for access to the zoo, aerodrome etc.

Boundary Commission

The report of the findings of the Boundary Commission were received. Most of the City and Parish Councils' proposals have been taken up, although Littlebourne Parish Council have, since the meeting, written requesting that Lackenden Cottages stay in their parish.

Bekesbourne Councillors look forward to the day when their parish will be joined with Patricxbourne Parish.

Bus Shelters

A local resident's request that the much-vandalised shelter near Downside Villas be demolished has been received. Local views are being sought.

'Wappings' Footpath

A request has gone to British Rail asking that the slippery coating of leaves on the path be cleared away.

School Governors

The Council agreed that Mrs. McKeever continue as the minor authorities representative on the governing body of Bridge School. It was also noted that two other Bekesbourne residents, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Millyard are also governors, under other auspices.

Parish Clerk

A new Parish Clerk, Mr. Andrews, has been appointed to take over the post from Mr. Croucher who has retired due to ill-health. The Council proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Croucher who has given many years of service to Bekesbourne Parish Council. Mr. Andrews is also Clerk to Wickhambreaux Parish Council.

M.A. Gabbé

Pets and pavements

Feelings are justly getting high in Bridge over the state of the village's footways, a situation that prompted the letter referred to in the Parish Council News above. So that all are conversant with the legal position regarding the fouling of footways the Parish Clerk advises *On The Nail* of the existence of a Canterbury City Council byelaw with respect to 'The Fouling of Footways and Grass Verges by Dogs', which states that any person convicted of offending the byelaw is liable to a fine not exceeding £50.

Abbeyfield Society

The Abbeyfield Society was founded in 1959 as an expression of Christian concern for the elderly. Local societies are formed to establish houses where seven to eight people can live together. Residents each have a bed-sitting room which they furnish and look after themselves. A resident housekeeper shops, cooks the main meals and generally concerns herself with the residents' well-being. Independence is preserved but loneliness and insecurity are removed. Each house has to be self-supporting but costs are kept low by help from volunteers.

The Canterbury Abbeyfield Society purchased its first house last year. After months of waiting for grants, conversion work is now under way. It is hoped that the house will be ready to take its first residents by the end of June.

Residents are mainly drawn from the district, so that they can continue to live in their own neighbourhood. Others can be considered if they wish to move to be near their families. If you know of an elderly friend or relative who would like to be considered for a place please let me know.

The Canterbury Society would be very grateful for donations to help cover the cost of equipping the house. If you have any surplus furniture, household equipment or garden tools, good use can be made of them. A *Friends of Abbeyfield* group has been formed to help establish the house and to give support once it opens. Please help if you can.

Joan Warren

'Fish' News

Our annual **Coffee Morning** will be held in Bridge Village Hall on Saturday 1st June from 10am to 12 noon. There will be bring & buy stalls for cakes, provisions, gifts, plants, white elephant and a raffle. This is our only fund-raising event, which finances the work of the 'Fish' Scheme. Please help us in our work for the community!

The next Coffee Pop-in will be on Wednesday, 8th May from 10.15am to 11.45am in Bridge Village Hall.

Joan Warren, 830233

ST. PETER'S, BEKESBOURNE: On Good Friday *God so loved the World* was presented by the Choirs of Bekesbourne and Bridge.

We wish to extend our thanks to the Choir of St. Peter's, Bridge for their help and co-operation.

S.G.

Cleaning **ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BEKESBOURNE** *Flowers*

Mrs. Grey	4th May	Mrs. Grey
Mrs. Beckett	11th May	Mrs. Clifford
Mrs. Smith	18th May	Mrs. Clifford
Mrs. Stickells	25th May	Mrs. Mount
Mrs. Hogben	1st June	Mrs. Smith

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Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

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

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. M. Miles, 7 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EE (462947)

Organist (Patricbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriory, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD (462695)

Time & Talents: Mr. A. Jackson, Cosby, Higham Lane, Bridge CT4 5AY (830489)

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Magazine Advertising: Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830472)

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.

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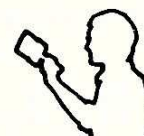
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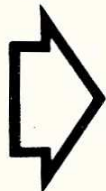
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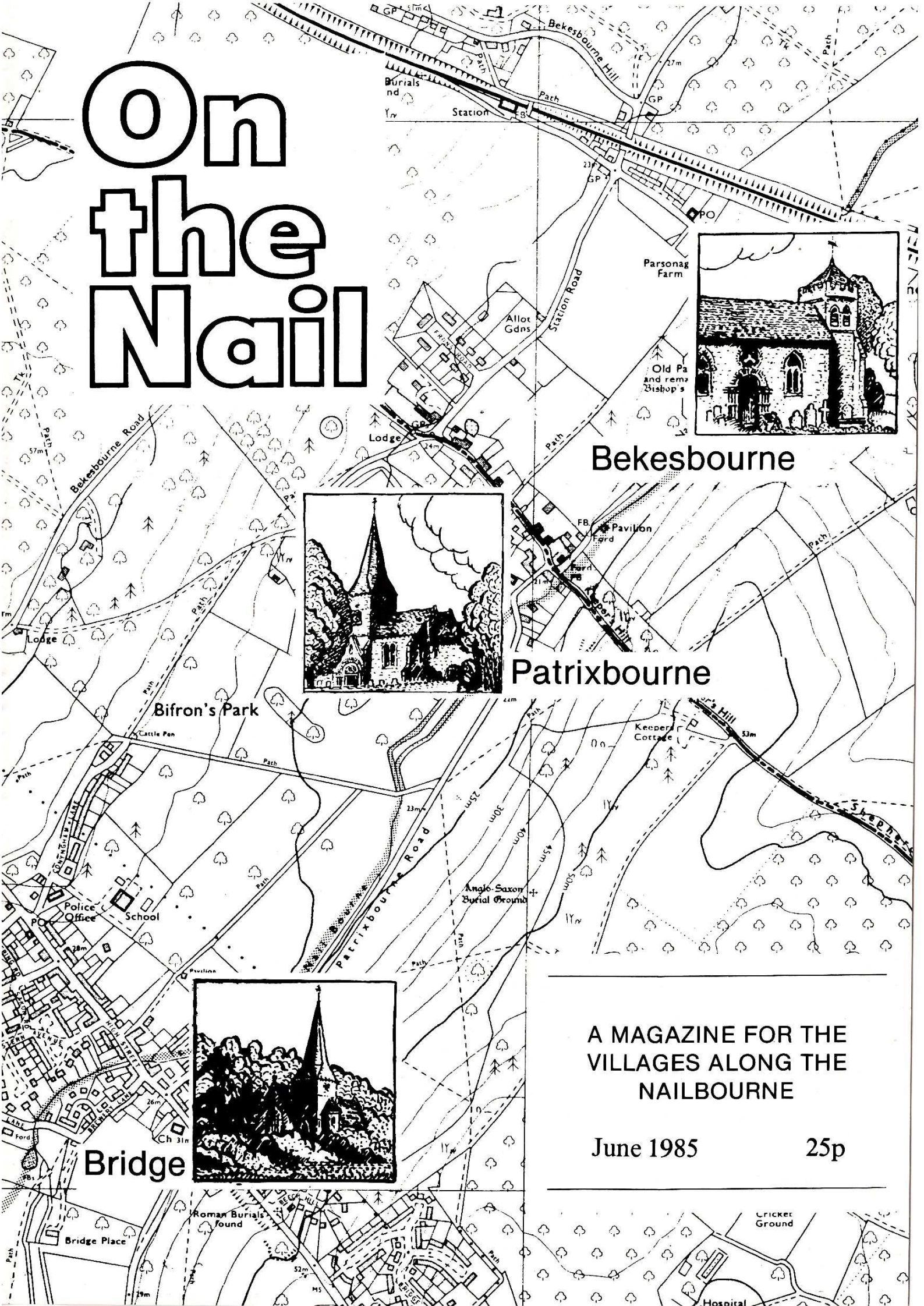
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Patricbourne



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June 1985

25p



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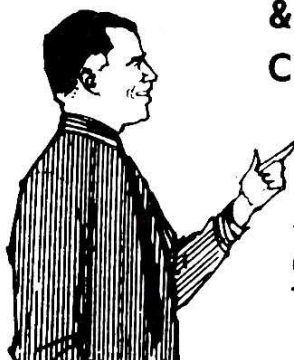
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Sunday Worship in June

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

2nd:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

9th:

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

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

16th:

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

8am Holy Communion 11am Matins

23rd:

8am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong
(*Preacher: Fr.
Jeremiah Cronin*)

9am Holy Communion 11am Matins

30th:

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

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

7th July:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

Junior Church meets every Sunday but the first in the Methodist Church, Patricxbourne Road at 9.30am.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *2nd*, Mr. S.C. Day, I.P.F.A. *9th*, Holy Communion, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *16th*, Mr. L. Dron. *23rd*, The Revd. R. Pritchard, B.A. *30th*, Mr. E.R. O'Mahony.

Weekday Services Holy Communion every Wednesday at 9.30am in St. Peter's, Bridge and Friday (ASB Rite A) at 7.30am, also on the first Wednesday at Churchill House, 10.15am. A short informal service takes place at The New Close every Wednesday at 2.30pm. Principally this is for the residents but other parishioners are always given a warm welcome at this half-hour service.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st *St. Justin, Martyr at Rome, c.165*
'FISH' Scheme Annual Coffee Morning, Bridge Village Hall, 10am
- 2nd **Trinity Sunday**
- 5th *St. Boniface, Bishop, Missionary, Martyr, 754*
Bekesbourne PCC meeting, School House, 8pm
- 6th *Corpus Christi* Thanksgiving for the Holy Communion
An evening Eucharist (ASB Rite A) will be celebrated at Bridge at 7.30pm and will be attended by clergy and readers from this deanery.

Come and keep the feast, at the same time giving our guests a traditional Bridge welcome!

9th **First Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 2*

13th Bridge Parish Council meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm

15th Bridge Summer Fête from 2pm.

16th **Second Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 3*

22nd *St. Alban, First Martyr of Britain, c.209*

23rd **Third Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 4*

We welcome to Evensong the Revd. Jeremiah Cronin, RC Priest of Canterbury, to preach on the theme of tomorrow's feast.

24th **Birth of St. John the Baptist**

26th School Governors meet.

28th *St. Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, Martyr, c.200*

Bridge Brownies' Celebration Evening (Details elsewhere in this issue)

29th **St. Peter the Apostle and Patron of Bridge and Bekesbourne**

Pray for Carol-Ann Payne and Alan Cassidy to be married today at Bekesbourne.

Roman Catholic Mass will be celebrated at Bridge on this their feast of Saints Peter and Paul, 8pm.

30th **Fourth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 5*

Bridge and Bekesbourne services will be in celebration of their Patronal Festival yesterday.

KOINONIA

The Greeks had a word for it—'koinonia'! We usually translate it 'fellowship' although that word hardly does it justice. Another synonym is the ungainly 'togetherness', and wherever either word crops up in conversation it is generally with religious overtones. In common parlance we opt for less emotive words like 'team spirit' or 'group activity', which simply mean doing things with others, the point of contact being restricted to the activity. 'Fellowship' is rather stronger and implies that there is more to it than merely sharing a common interest. It speaks rather of a relationship that the participants have over and above the mutual concern that brings them into each other's company.

'Fellowship' is particularly appropriate in its religious context for indeed there is more to church membership than spending an hour per week with like-minded people. Christians, through the operation of the Holy Spirit upon them and within them, are drawn into relationship one with another at a deeper level than that of casual acquaintanceship. They are servants of the one God, children of the same heavenly Father, and this perforce colours their dealings with each other and with the world at large. The relationship of love Christians share with their Lord spills over into their doings with other people, particularly other Christians, and rather like kith and kin their mutual feelings continue after they have gone their separate ways. Christians remain in love always, it is not just something they share when they are together. It is one with Christ's love, and that never dies.

Does this sound cliquish to you, as if fellowship is the prerogative of a select body of people with a heightened sense of their superiority? It is not meant to, because the love that unites Christian with Christian and gives zest to his life is by no means his exclusive property. The love of God (which is

what we are talking about) has been shed abroad upon the world and is accessible to everyone who seeks it. It is God's free gift to mankind, available to Christian and non-Christian alike. Christians have the edge over others in that the realisation of God's love has dawned upon them, they have been made aware of it, but the natural reaction to that discovery is not to try and keep that love to themselves or use it to score points, but to bring it to the consciousness of all and sundry. "If God thus loves us, dear friends," says St. John, "we in turn are bound to love one another." and he is not issuing a command but stating what automatically follows when a person becomes open to the love of God.

The fellowship that results from responsiveness to God's love is very much more than like-mindedness and the urge to do things together, it is a state of being that unites people of often widely different backgrounds and from vastly different corners of the globe, that brings into relationship people who do not even know of the other's existence, that causes man to look out on his fellow human beings with compassion and love. Fellowship at this level is quite unique. This is *koinonia* and proof positive that Christ the King lives and reigns in our hearts and lives!

Frank Otho Cooke

The sudden death of **Frank Cooke**, 36 Conyngham Lane on 21st April has taken a village character who was well known and liked by Bridge people in general. Frank had lived a lonely existence since his invalid wife died yet he liked to get out and about whenever possible. He almost had his label on the seat outside Liptons. Though a worshipper at Patrixbourne he asked to be cremated after a service at Bridge Church, and his wishes were carried out at a service on 2nd May, which was attended by a goodly company of his friends and neighbours.

Deanery Family Festival 14th July

This year the Family Festival for the East Bridge Deanery (that's us) is to take place at Nonington on Sunday, 14th July starting in the church at 3.30pm. Afternoon activities include an adult choir, children's activities (with children's music under Mr. Mike Windess's charge), study and discussion groups. Children, bring your musical instruments—brass, recorder, whatever! Tea is at 5pm, and whereas Nonington will provide the drinks, participants are again asked to bring food-stuffs to share. The closing act of worship is at the slightly earlier time of 6.15pm and a short address will be included, which will be given by Canon Peter Brett of the Cathedral.

There is something for everyone! Do come along and make it a really Deanery-wide Festival!

Folk Dancing

A reminder of our meetings on 6th and 20th June. The 6th is Party Night so bring a sandwich or two to add to the spread and we will supply the tea or coffee. See you at 8 o'clock in the Village Hall, Bridge.

J.H.

'Fish' News

At the **AGM** on 19th April our Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. M.A. Young thanked everyone concerned for their help and support. Mrs. Warren thanked the committee and volunteers for their help in assuring the success of the scheme and reported on the various activities.

The **Luncheon Club** is now run in turn by two pairs of volunteers — Mrs. Monk and Miss Frame, Miss Ford and Mrs. Allman. There are twenty-eight members to date of whom twenty are over 80. Two happy celebrations during the year included the Club's fourth birthday party and Christmas Dinner. Again the gratitude of the club was extended to the residents and staff of The New Close for their hospitality and particularly to the catering staff.

The **Chiropody Clinic** treated eighty-six patients of which fifty-nine were from Bridge. Two more drivers were urgently needed to bring in housebound patients, which involved being on call for one afternoon about every six weeks.

The **Coffee Pop-In** continued to be popular. An effort to involve younger helpers with this was proving most successful.

All **transport** demands had been met but more drivers were needed. Apart from Luncheon Club and day centre transport, calls were mainly for medical appointments and hospital visiting.

The **Welfare Scheme** had been well used and help had been given to obtain voluntary and statutory services, supplementary benefits, attendance allowances, admission to homes, etc. Many hospital visits had been made and liaison with Nunnery Fields enabled help to be given to elderly patients returning home after hospitalisation.

A **Blossom Tour** had been arranged for a party of fifty-two and a similar trip was planned for 1985.

The **Coffee Morning** in 1984 had raised £150 and it was decided to make this a fixed annual event on the first Saturday of every June.

The **Housebound Library** service, in co-operation with the county library service, had maintained a fortnightly delivery of books to five people.

The **Treasurer**, Mr. W. Johnson, in his financial report said the Luncheon Club was self-supporting and now kept its own separate accounts. Help for capital expenditure could be made from the 'Fish' Fund if it was needed. The 'Fish' Scheme had cost £410.11 over the last year. Mileage allowances from Social Services (for day-care transport) and Age Concern (for Lunch Club transport) had reduced this figure to £219.23. Funds from donations and the coffee morning had amounted to £269.93 leaving a balance of £50.70 for transfer to the reserve account.

Cllr Shirley proposed that the present officers and committee members be re-elected and this was agreed unanimously.

Joan Warren, 830233

The entire community will have noticed a glaring omission from the above, which modesty no doubt forbade to be included. Let me voice, therefore, our universal thanks and admiration for the great service Joan Warren has rendered us. Hers is a contribution that cannot pass unsung, as it far exceeds any other. Editor.

Electoral Reflections

by *The Revd. M. Peter Taylor*

Recently there have been the County Council elections around the country. Like me you probably received all sorts of pieces of paper urging you to vote for this party or that, maybe a poster for the window, information about what the party stands for, and so on. As I write this it is over a week since I voted and I have yet to find out who got in at Canterbury Central, though rumour has it that the Liberal did.

As most know, one outcome of the whole exercise is a large number of 'hung' councils, with no party having a majority. There are many who consider this to be a disaster; since the parties' policies differ so much no one policy will be carried out. The result will be an appalling hotch-potch of decisions, or an almost complete paralysis in the councils.

Others however see it as an opportunity for real government, in which the councillors will have to reach decisions broader than their own pet theories and party dogmas. Also if one party has a majority it can effectively ignore the others and carry on as it pleases; but with no party in such a position each has to become more aware of the others, and will need to begin to understand their political 'enemies'. I wonder what will happen?

One thing that worries me in any election is the over-emphasis on political parties. We seem to be more concerned about the name tag of the party than the policies for which it stands. After all, policies change. The Conservative party is not what it was under Edward Heath. We also seem to be more bothered about the party of a candidate than his or her character. Is not the integrity and care shown more important than the colour of the rosette?

Our task, if it can be called one, is to elect men and women worthy to represent us, and to urge parties, whether in power or not, to develop policies of benefit to the whole of humanity and not just ourselves, and let us not worry about the name tags too much.

Ethiopian Appeal Day—27th April

Our final total was £584. Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way. It was a splendid effort and the friendly community atmosphere throughout the day will be remembered I am sure by us all.

On a more personal note, thank-you to everyone who showed concern and sympathy for me on the loss of my handbag. It was found near Rainham minus money and personal items.

Gill Harvey

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

At the Annual General Meeting of the Nailbourne Horticultural Society held in the Village Hall in Bridge on Thursday 25th April, the following officers were re-elected:—

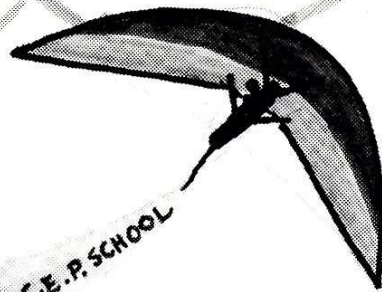
Mrs. P. Davidson—Chairman; Mr. F. Atkins—Vice-Chairman; Mrs. K. Walder—Hon. Secretary; Mr. J. Barley—Hon. Treasurer; and Mrs. L. Sinnock—Show Secretary.

After the business of the meeting was concluded, members had the opportunity to make purchases from the cake and plant stalls.

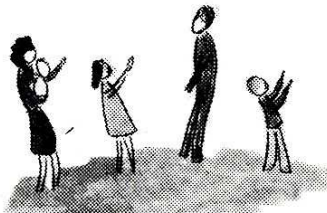
Kathy Walder

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Bridge Guides at Crystal Palace

On Saturday 27th April five Guides, one Brownie and four Guiders from Bridge caught a special Guide Train at 7.30am in Canterbury to travel to a Girl Guide 75th Anniversary Celebration at Crystal Palace. The train picked up Guides around the county and we finally arrived at Crystal Palace at 10 o'clock.

We had the chance to do many activities from skiing and canoeing to self-defence classes and we planned what to do before lunch. We also swapped county badges, tried side-shows, walked a track blindfolded to experience what it was like to be blind and had a race to see who could get into an R.N.L.I. outfit the quickest!

It snowed during the afternoon and was very cold, but we sang and enjoyed ourselves. We had to be back in our seats at 4 o'clock for the Pageant. There were 1,500 girls in this and it was fantastic. The Pageant started with a scene from the first Scout Rally in 1909 where a small group of girls asked Baden-Powell for 'Something for the girls'. There was a parade of Guides dressed in old Scout uniforms, scenes depicting the Edwardian era, the war years, Guides overseas and so on through to a parade of colours of every Guide Company in London and the South East. I have never seen so many flags before—it was a mass of blue and gold. For one moment in the day there was complete silence—then it was all over. It was a day I shall never forget.

Emma Field

P.L. Robin Patrol



Bridge Guides ready for the off.

Bridge Guides Celebration Evening

Have you ever been enrolled as a Brownie, Guide, Ranger or Guider? If the answer is yes, come to our celebration evening at Bridge Primary School on Friday 28th June from 6.30—9pm. There will be a display of old uniforms, a play by today's Guides showing the beginning of Guiding up to the present day, camp fire singing, displays of today's activities and strawberry teas. Any enrolled member is welcome to come and help us celebrate 75 years of

Guiding.

Can you help us by lending us your old uniforms and old Guiding photographs for the evening? If so, please contact me on Canterbury 454329, evenings or weekends.

Help us to make the evening really special by coming along and joining in the fun. See you there.

*Teresa Philpott
Guide Guider*



Bridge Parish Council

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 9th May, Councillor John Hill was unanimously re-elected Chairman and Councillor Mrs. Anne Young Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

Arising from the last meeting, Cllr. Peter Lawrence was able to report that the two trees promised by Mrs. A. Shirley had now been planted on the Recreation Ground and were in bud. The Clerk was to write on behalf of the Council to thank Mrs. Shirley.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin reported in writing on a proposed future course of action to be taken in the case of the floor, following the resealing recently carried out under the Community Service Programme. The floor, he suggested, should be used as it is for about two years, then lightly sanded with the grain and revarnished, and the process repeated some five years later. The Clerk stated that an estimate of £140 had been received for carrying out repairs to the memorial clock but she was asked to make further enquiries including the possibility of battery operated movements before any decision was taken. Cllr. Mrs. Young reported that delivery of the additional nine tables for the hall was still awaited.

Recreation Ground

Following a report from the Clerk on the expenses incurred by the Council in operating the Ground, the Council decided, in view of the substantial increase in the rent of the ground last year and increased charges for mowing, to raise the fees payable by the Cricket and Football Clubs from £125 to £150 per

annum as from 1st September, and from £25 to £30 from 1st January 1986 for the Tennis Club.

Streets and Footways

Cllr. Gulvin in his report to the meeting was pleased to inform the Council that the Bridge Hill/Bridge Down Stairway project had now been concluded satisfactorily and that, furthermore, the Kent County Council had agreed to meet half the cost of the additional works. Regarding bus shelters, the Clerk was asked to get a quotation for repainting the bus shelter outside the Post Office.; and also to contact Bishopsbourne Parish Council about the bus shelter on Bridge Hill opposite Higham Lane, which had recently been vandalised. Cllrs. Lawrence and Mrs. Jones were to carry out a general inspection of the streets and footways in the Parish and report their findings to the next meeting of the Council.

Planning

The Council had no objections to make on an application for change of use of part of the building at 88 High Street, from domestic use to business use as a beauty salon and gents salon, but did however recommend additional consultation and information regarding the proposed projecting sign at the same address. The Council noted that the City Council had granted a renewal of permission for the erection of one dwelling on land adjoining 23 Union Road.

Generally, Cllr. Lawrence was to represent the Council at a Conference organised by the Kent Association of Parish Councils on 'The Fixed Channel Link and its Effect upon Kent' on 17th June at County Hall, Maidstone. The

Council then discussed the 'Charities Bill' currently proceeding through the House of Commons and agreed to write, as suggested by the Kent Association of Parish Councils, to Mr. David Crouch M.P. objecting to proposals in the Bill which could affect the liaison between, in Bridge's case, the Mary Gregory Trust,

the Parish Council and the local community.

The Parish Council will hold their next meeting at which, of course, parishioners are most welcome, on Thursday 13th June at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

Reports on Coffee Mornings

● A Coffee Morning was held at Jean Johnson's house on Beech Hill, on 30th April, which raised £55 towards a Baby Monitor for the Special Care Unit at the Kent & Canterbury Hospital, on behalf of The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths. I would like to thank everyone who helped to make it a success.

Elizabeth Stewart

● The result of Bridge Methodist Church Coffee Morning and Sale was a magnificent £174.37. We would like to say a very sincere and heartfelt *thank-you* to all who came to support us both in buying and giving. We are glad and sorry for the crush—glad that so many came, but sorry for lack of room.

Tribute must be paid to the hard work and loving effort put into this venture by our ladies. They knit and sew, cook and bake, make and create all the goods for the Sale, and go to great lengths to make this an excellent occasion.

We have established a tradition of giving away half of what we receive, accordingly a cheque for £100 has been forwarded to the Pilgrims Hospice.

P.A. Grant

Bridge musical successes

In the recent Kent Competitive Festival for Music, Drama and Dance held in Canterbury, top awards were won by Bridge, namely *The Nash Award* for Solo Singing age 17 to 18 years of age, by Bettina Walker, who is a member of Bridge Church Choir, and *The Corse Cup* by the Bridge Brass Ensemble who are a group of young people aged under 14 years.

We must congratulate these in their success, and wish them even more successes in future competitions. Surely we have other people (age immaterial) in Bridge who can either play, sing, dance or recite? Why not start rehearsing now for the 1986 Kent Competitive Festival and perhaps next year we can sweep the board, not only in music but in drama and dance as well? The Festival has been established for a large number of years, and would welcome more entries and voluntary helpers as well.

Ethel Cartwright

<i>Cleaning</i>	ST. PETER'S, BEKESBOURNE	<i>Flowers</i>
Mrs. Hogben	1st June	Mrs. Smith
Mrs. Watson	8th June	Mrs. Watson
Mrs. Russell	15th June	Mrs. Millyard
Mrs. Grey	22nd June	Mrs. Purchase
Mrs. Beckett	29th June	Mrs. Clifford
Mrs. Smith	6th July	Mrs. Whigham

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Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

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

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. M. Miles, 7 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EE (462947)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriory, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD (462695)

Time & Talents: Mr. A. Jackson, Cosby, Higham Lane, Bridge CT4 5AY (830489)

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

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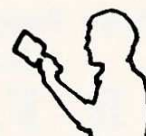
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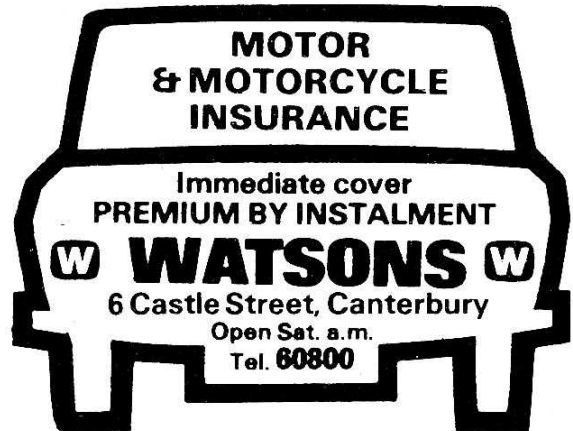
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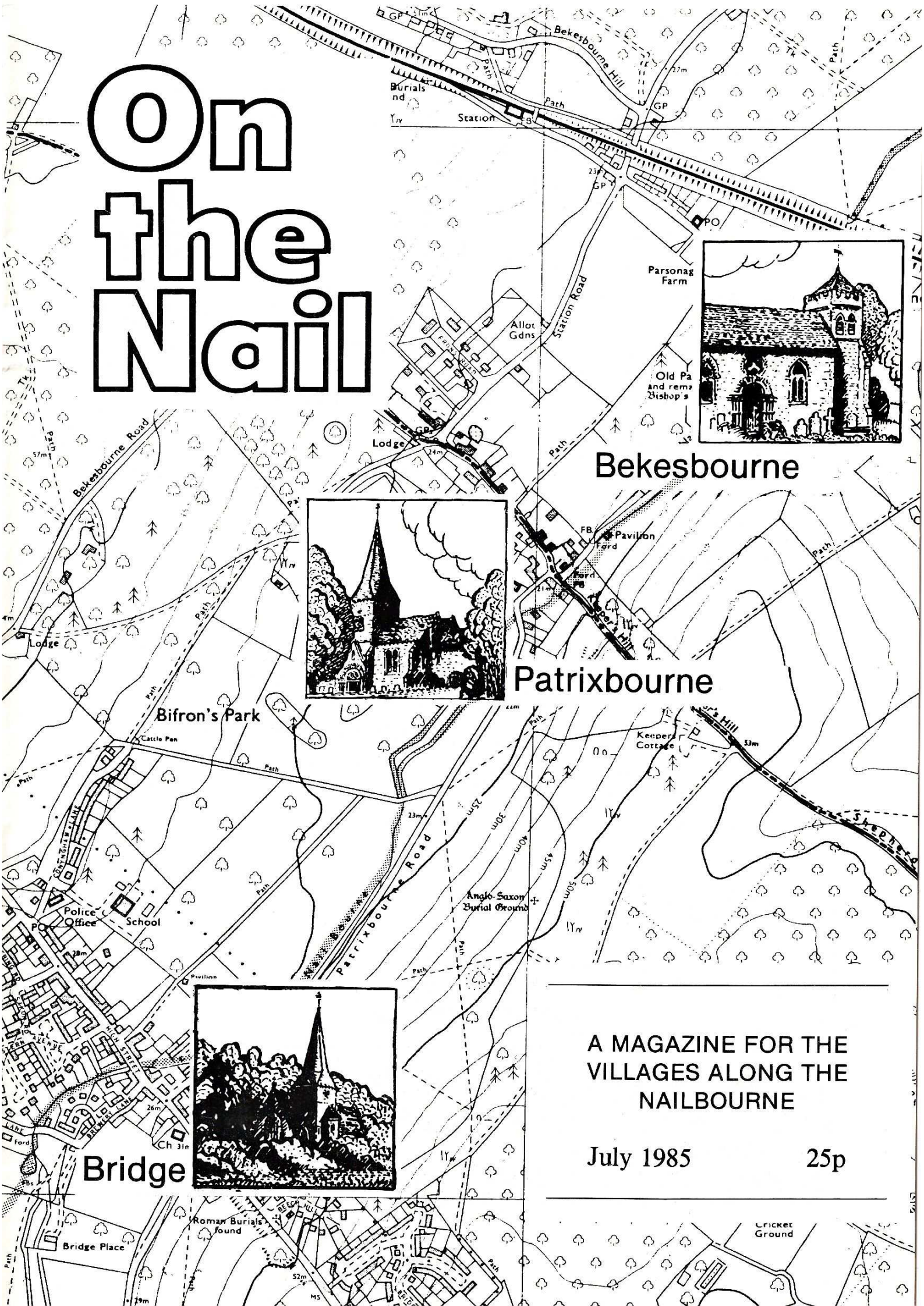
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Sunday Worship in July

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

7th:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

14th:

9.30 Family Communion 11am Matins
(Series 3)

8am Holy Communion

No Evensong to-day

21st:

9.30 Parish Communion 8am Holy Communion **6.30pm Evensong**
(Series 3)

28th:

8am Holy Communion 9am Holy Communion 11am Matins
6.30pm Evensong

4th August:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

Please note: There will be no Evensong in the village churches on 14th as we shall be going to Nonington for the Deanery Family Festival, details of which are posted on the notice-boards.

Evensong the Sunday following, i.e. 21st, will be held at Bekesbourne and not Bridge. This is in lieu of the customary Evensong on the Sunday Cobham Court Gardens are open, which this year coincides with the Deanery Festival.

Junior Church is giving a presentation on the theme 'Friendship and Love' in Bridge Church on 21st at 3pm, to which all are warmly invited.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 7th, The Revd. I. Laird. 14th, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. 21st, The Revd. J. Turner, B.A. 28th, Mr. W.E. Ingall.

Weekdays Holy Communion at St. Peter's, Bridge every Wednesday at 9.30am and Friday (ASB Rite A) at 7.30am. Holy Communion is celebrated at Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am. A short informal service is held at The New Close each Wednesday at 2.30pm.

For your diary and prayer list

3rd. **St. Thomas the Apostle**

6th *St. Thomas More, Martyr, 1535*

7th **Fifth Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 6**

11th *St. Benedict, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c.550*

Coffee Morning, The Old Vicarage, Patricxbourne, 10.30am

Prayers for Health and Healing, St. Peter's, Bridge, 7pm

Bridge Parish Council meets, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm

14th **Sixth Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 7**

East Bridge Deanery Family Festival at Nonington commences in the church at 3.30pm and concludes with an act of worship at 6.15pm

- (Preacher: Canon Peter Brett).
- 20th Pray for the Revd. Peter Taylor, Methodist Minister in the villages who is to be married to-day in St. Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury.
- 21st **Seventh Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 8**
Please come to (a) the Junior Church presentation in Bridge Church at 3pm, and (b) Evensong at Bekesbourne instead of Bridge.
- 22nd **St. Mary Magdalen**
- 23rd Pray for the Deanery Clergy who meet in Chapter at Barham this morning.
- 24th Bridge School-leavers Service, School Hall, 3pm. Pray for all children leaving school at the end of the term, especially those looking for work.
- 25th **St. James the Apostle**
Canon Packer celebrates a special Eucharist in Bridge Church at 9.30am to mark the anniversary of his ordination. All are invited.
Prayers for Health and Healing, St. Peter's, Bridge, 7pm
- 26th *St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- 27th Pray for Maria Goodwin and William Good who are to marry to-day at Bridge.
- 28th **Eighth Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 9**
- 29th Coffee Morning, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne, 10am till noon.

As Our Saviour taught us, so we pray . . .

'Familiarity breeds contempt' as the saying goes, though whether it is justified as applied to the way we use the Lord's Prayer is debatable and probably a shade blasphemous into the bargain.

A prayer to be said

Either way there is no doubt we make abundant use of the prayer Jesus taught his disciples and there is a school of thought that would say in times past we have *over-used* it to the extent of diminishing its impact. After all in the Book of Common Prayer it is included twice in Morning and Evening Prayer and also in Holy Communion, and it is perfectly possible to use the Lord's Prayer three times if the Second Lesson should come from Matthew 6. 7ff or Luke 11. Of course it *is* a splendid prayer and it *was* given by the Lord himself, but one can still repeat it so often that it becomes hackneyed and automatic. And we *do* recite it at a pace and with such disregard that its meaning quite escapes our attention, and the prayer is thus reduced to an item in the service that runs off the tongue without a second's thought. Maybe we do not exactly treat it with contempt but neither do we stop to think what we are saying, and in that sense we rarely actually *pray* the Lord's Prayer.

The Prayer for the few

How differently from the situation in Christian worship at the very beginning. Those earliest Christians were surrounded by powerful and persuasive pagan influences and therefore they felt it necessary to protect themselves and their worship from such dangers. To do this they kept the Eucharist and its contents a closely-guarded secret, even to the extent of creating a special order of door-keeper whose job it was to vet everyone who came to the meetings, and ensure that only Church members and prospective members got in.

Even within the worship there was a further demarcation between fully baptized members (baptized *and* confirmed—the two being part of one ceremony) and those who were in training for baptism. The catechumens, as the trainees were called, only stayed for part of the service, roughly corresponding to our Ministry of the Word, and they were then put out before the actual communion, which was essentially for the committed only. Thus the catechumens had gone before the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, a form of words which was kept secret even from them. Not until shortly before they were to be initiated into full membership were they let into the secret and taught this special Prayer of the Faithful. As the Church argued it, only properly enrolled Christians were in a position to address God as 'Our Father'.

Everybody's Prayer

Contrast the caution and protection of the early Church with the present practice of openness and indeed encouragement with regard both to worship in general and the Lord's Prayer in particular. Not only does the Church repeat it with apparent nonchalance but we teach it to the very young and encourage its use on every occasion of a vaguely religious nature, using it to open meetings, for instance. In some schools it is no doubt the only prayer said at assembly, where it may be used to provide the necessary religious note in an otherwise secular gathering. At one time, only baptized Christians knew the Lord's Prayer, now it is the one prayer that everyone knows, including the atheist who doubtless learned it in infancy before he began to formulate his own ideas and go his own way.

A prayer to be prayed

As a valuable exercise I recommend a return to *praying* the Lord's Prayer, rather than merely saying it. Although you know it off by heart just occasionally *read* it as you pray it. Stop after each phrase and let its meaning really sink in. Consider what Jesus is asking you to pray at each moment and work out your own appendages to it so that the Lord's Prayer becomes *your* prayer, as he intended it should. Some scholars think the Lord did not so much provide a completed prayer as give his disciples a skeleton structure around which they were to build their prayers. We can use it in either form. In any case, let us see that we never fall into the trap of letting familiarity lead us, however slightly, into contempt for the prayer that Jesus taught us, and which, in its latest form reads:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us to-day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Bridge Summer Fête, 1985

The weather was kind if a shade on the cool side, the crowds came in spite of rival functions in the vicinity, a first class village 'do' was enjoyed by all and the churches and school benefited financially on Saturday afternoon, 15th June. Grateful thanks are extended to all who involved themselves in whatever way. The figures following speak for themselves:

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AS REDUCED BY RELATED EXPENSES FOR EACH STALL AND OTHER FÊTE COSTS

1984 comparatives		1985
£	NET RECEIPTS AFTER EXPENSES	£
66	Teas	75
109	Cakes	98
71	{ Hot Dogs	33
	{ Soft Drinks and Ices	40
103	Groceries	98
47	Produce	119
60	Patricxbourne	80
24	Children's Books and Games	11
63	Gifts and Toiletries	45
38	Handicrafts	69
33	Best Offers	73
105	White Elephant	86
198	Bottles	191
342	Raffle	371
25	Guides	9
47	Others	—
116	Side Shows and Programme Sales	162
<u>1447</u>	Total net surpluses from stalls	<u>1560</u>
32	Less Displays and Operating Expenses	87
<u>1415</u>	Net Surplus	<u>1473</u>

*D.R. Hill, Hon. Treasurer
17th June, 1985*

Joys and Sorrows

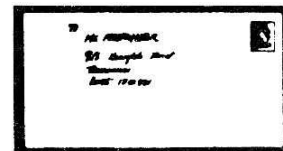
The sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered on 26th May to **Ben Gary Arnison**, 3 Western Avenue, on 2nd June to **Richard James Carlton**, 25 The Close, Union Road, both at Bridge, and to **Joanne Lindsay Smith**, 2 Renville Cottages on 9th June at Patricxbourne.

St. Peter's, Bridge was the setting for the marriage on 25th May of **Susan Wendy Linkins**, 76 High Street to **David Michael Hadlow** of 2 Howletts Oast, Bekesbourne. The Vicar officiated, assisted by the Revd. David Steven of Littlebourne.

Bridge friends and acquaintances were saddened by the rapid illness and death of a comparative newcomer to the village, **Malcolm Davies**, 10 High Street. Malcolm was music master of the Rickmansworth Masonic School and was hoping to retire to Bridge, when his illness brought him and his wife

among us sooner than was anticipated. Malcolm was a most accomplished musician and a fine organist and he had already made an impression on our church's musical scene, having played the organ on several occasions when he was down for the holidays. He last helped out at Christmas 1984.

St. Peter's Church was very full for his funeral service on 7th June and the augmented church choir provided the music, with former organist Peter Giles in charge. The tone of the service had been set by Malcolm, who had discussed it openly with me the day before he died, and in accordance with his express wish we kept it cheerful. Cremation followed at Barham, conducted by Malcolm's cousin, the Revd. Lawrence Davies.



On The Nail Postbag

Dear Sir,

I have recently been appointed as the Voluntary Service Organiser at Highland Court Hospital where it is part of my duties to recruit voluntary helpers to assist the residents.

As you are probably aware the hospital is for mentally handicapped men and women who would greatly benefit from the help of volunteers. At present Highland Court has very few volunteers, this being due to the fact that the residents up until now have been of a fairly high intelligence level and the staff/resident ratio has allowed for leisure activities. However the policy of integrating the mentally handicapped into the community means that our newer residents are of a lower level of intelligence and more of the staff's time is taken up with just caring for them.

For this reason I am taking the liberty of asking for volunteers from your parishioners to help at the hospital.

It is a very rewarding pastime visiting our residents, as I am sure you already know, so if any of your parishioners are interested in helping or would just like to look round the hospital, they may either contact me at Highland Court (830498) on a Wednesday morning between 11.15am and 12.15pm, leave a message with Mrs. Taylor at any other time or contact me through Eastry Hospital, Mill Lane, Eastry.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs. M.A. Hougham,
Voluntary Service Organiser

To the young people of Bridge

We have planned the summer holidays so that there will be a meeting every Wednesday at 7.30pm at 14 Brewery Lane. The first meeting will be on 31st July and we plan to have a barbecue in the garden—weather permitting.

The group is for teenagers aged fifteen and over and at present there are about a dozen members. We are always keen to have new members, if there are any young people who would like to join. During the summer there will be a talk on banking, a demonstration of first aid by a hospital consultant and a talk given by a teacher of children who are considered incapable of being educated.

Alicia Pentin

After Junior Church — An exciting new venture

The last meeting of Bridge & Patricbourne PCC voiced its concern for the spiritual education of children when they become too old for Junior Church. In answer to our prayers we are happy to announce that Caroline Pentin has agreed to help with catering for this need. Plans are afoot to make a start with children of ten till thirteen or Confirmation age on Sunday 8th September, and they hope to meet at 14 Brewery Lane once a fortnight to begin with. *On The Nail* will keep you posted as more information becomes available! Keep this in your prayers, please!

Good News

The Christian Aid Week collection in Bridge, Patricbourne and Bekesbourne raised £410.77, over £50 more than last year. This is good news for all who helped by collecting and giving. It is good news for the Christian Aid workers, faced with the constant problem of responding to the need for help in so many parts of the world. It is good news for the local organisations through which Christian Aid works and for the people who struggle to survive in conditions which might well appear hopeless.

In many parts of Africa the longed-for rains have come. This poses problems for transport but is good news for people who may now harvest their own crops in a matter of weeks—millet seeds can produce a crop within six weeks of sowing.

In Bangladesh Christian Aid was able to respond immediately because it had built up its contacts there over the years. This is good news for those whose need is both immediate and long-term.

This is the way Christian Aid turns bad news into good. Very sincere thanks therefore to everyone from our villages who have helped Christian Aid to achieve just that.

Muriel Packer

SOME JULY SAINTS

Thomas More 6th

A lawyer, literary man and person of sweetness and nobility in family life, Thomas More (1478-1535) was appointed by Henry VIII to succeed the disgraced Cardinal Wolsey as Lord Chancellor. He opposed the king in the matter of the annulment of his marriage to Katherine of Aragon and was imprisoned. He was found guilty of denying the supreme headship of the king over the Church and was executed on Tower Hill on 6th July 1535. His story is covered in the film 'A Man for All Seasons' and his head lies in the Church of St. Dunstan, Canterbury.

Benedict 11th

After studying at Rome, St. Benedict (c480-c550) sought out a retreat in solitude. However, disciples gathered round him, and instead of a solitary life, he became the father and founder of the great monastic order named after him. His rule set a standard of spirituality and community life which has led multitudes on the path of holiness and is still in use to-day.

Anne 26th

Whoever she was, the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary certainly existed, just as our own mothers. She is traditionally given the name Anne, which in Hebrew means 'grace', and thus stands for loving and cherishing motherhood at its best.

Health and Healing Group

Bridge's involvement in the Church's healing ministry has taken a step forward with the establishment of a fortnightly prayer group for health and healing that is held in the church on a Thursday evening, usually at 7pm. This venture is intended as a work of the church as a whole and is not a society within it. Membership is co-terminous with membership of the church and the idea is that anyone who falls into that category in any of our three villages should feel free to come as often as they wish. On each occasion informal prayer is offered for specific people and situations where Christ's power to heal is needed or requested, and opportunity is always made for individual names to be mentioned. It may be appropriate on occasions to receive the laying-on-of-hands for healing and blessing. I sincerely hope this will grow and very many will see the importance of such a praying group in the life of our parishes. July's meetings are on 11th and 25th. Please feel at liberty to attend; we are usually in church for half an hour at the most.

THE GARDEN AT COBHAM COURT will be open on Sunday, 14th July and Wednesday, 17th July from 2pm to 6pm. Teas will be available. All the proceeds will be divided between the Queens Nursing Institute, the National Trust Gardens Fund, and the National Society for cancer Relief (funds given for training their Macmillan Nurses). 25% will be given to the Pilgrims Hospice. There will also be a cake and garden provision stall. Admission will be 65p, accompanied child free.

L.M.W.

★ *The church will also be open to Cobham Court visitors on both days, with our own experienced guides in attendance, who will provide a friendly welcome to St. Peter's.*

THE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION — COBBES MEADOW GROUP

Did you know that the aim of the Association is to provide riding and driving tuition to all handicapped people who wish to learn? This we strive to do in our area at St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham.

Since Princess Anne opened our new indoor school one year ago, we have increased our numbers of riders and drivers to over one hundred. BUT, at least that many people are on our waiting list.

We have the facilities to teach them, what we need is:—

1. YOUR time—have *you* two hours a week to spare to help with the riders? Experience with horses is *not* necessary.

2. YOUR Ponies—have *you* suitable sensible ponies 13hh - 15hh approx. to lend?

3. YOUR transport—have *you* a car with a towing hitch or a trailer or both, or better still a lorry that would transport even more ponies for us? All petrol expenses are paid.

If *you* can help with this wonderfully rewarding work *DO* contact us:

Jenny Alliot—Stelling Minnis 226

Caroline Loder-Symonds—Canterbury 831203

Catherine McCully—Petham 514

Or ring Christine Ash (830214) if you want more details of RDA's requirements.



Bridge Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting on the 13th June, the first main items discussed dealt with village hall matters. The Council agreed to investigate the possibility of the Social Services meeting the cost of the grab bars in the lavatory for disabled persons. Mention was made that one of the vertical slats on the steps leading to the Hunter Room was loose and this was to be brought to the attention of Cllr. Ken Greenaway. It was noted, too, that the new tables for the hall had been delivered since the last meeting. Following the Clerk's report on further advice from Mr. Vesey of Dymchurch concerning repairs to the memorial clock, and on quotations from Smiths of Derby for a new one, the lower of which exceeded £3,000, the Council decided to accept Mr. Vesey's estimate of £140 for repairing the clock and to put in hand the repair and repainting of the casing.

Recreation Ground

The Council heard from Cllr. Peter Lawrence that he had agreed with Mr. Dwyer the work to be done to tidy those parts of the Recreation Ground that the gang mower could not reach. Mr. Dwyer was going to charge for the work at an hourly rate and was also going to submit an estimate for carrying out the work on a regular basis, which he felt might work out more cheaply and more satisfactorily in the long term. The Clerk was to ask the Cricket Club to keep the area round the pavilion clean and tidy once Mr. Dwyer had finished. The Council then went on to discuss the unauthorised use which had occurred on Sunday afternoons by a Canterbury youth football side and agreed on action to put a stop to it. They also expressed concern at the riding of motorbikes across the Recreation Ground and hoped to re-erect the prohibition signs banning motorbikes.

Streets and Footways

Cllr. Mrs. Margaret Jones gave her report on an inspection of the streets and footways which she and Cllr. Lawrence

had recently carried out and which would be submitted to Kent County Council for their attention. The Chairman, Cllr. John Hill reported that Mr. Ross of KCC would be prepared to tarmac the pathway from the top of the Bridge Hill/Bridge Down Stairway right up to the road with a five feet wide path between the houses, and the Council agreed to accept this offer. The work was to be done some time during the summer. It was noted that although the City Council's road-sweeper had been cleaning in the village recently, it had only been effective in lifting loose litter and not in removing gravel from the gutters and the Clerk was to inform the City Council accordingly.

Planning

The Planning Committee had considered several planning applications received since the last meeting. They had no objections to make on the following: proposed internal modifications and a change of use from three residential flats to a guest house at Eastbridge House, Bridge Hill; on the amended plans for the Sheltered Housing Scheme at Riverside Close, other than that they regretted the non-provision of a lift. Regarding the proposed development on land at the rear of The Close, they had had no further comments to make on amended plans received, the original objections they had made still standing, and Cllr. Hill said that he had been invited by the City Council to attend a recent site meeting there. The Council had no observations to make on a listed building application for a projecting hanging sign at 88 High Street and noted that the illuminated A.A. sign outside Anne's House had been removed.

Generally, the Council agreed to proceed with their request for the Community Programme Scheme to undertake the redecoration of the bus shelter, but to withdraw their request for them to repair and repaint the casing of the memorial clock which they would arrange for themselves.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 11th July at 7.30pm, as usual in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

On your bike — For Young and Old alike

Are you fit and ready for the Sponsored Cycle Ride on Saturday, 7th September between 10am and 6pm?

The sponsor forms can be collected now from your Village Organisers: Mrs. Gill Harvey, 6 Bridgeford Way (830494) — Mrs. Ann King, 8 Riverside Close (830028) — Mrs. Sue Pratt, The Old Vicarage, Patrixbourne (830258) — Mrs. Christine Ash, Parsonage Farm, Bekesbourne (830214).

You may cycle or walk (no cars, please) where you like, visiting as many or as few churches as you like. A full list of churches open during the day is available from your Village Organiser or the church noticeboard. The money you collect will be divided equally between the *Friends of Kent Churches* and the church of your choice.

Plan your route in advance so as to include as many churches as possible and have an enjoyable day. Contact your organiser for further information.

G.S.H.

'Fish' News

The **Blossom Tour** on 15th May was greatly enjoyed by those members of the Luncheon Club and other residents who made it. The weather was just right; fine but not too hot. After a delicious cream tea at the Chilham Restaurant, many visited the Farm Shop and came home laden with plants.

The **Annual Coffee Morning** on 1st June proved to be a great success and made a profit of £178 towards our next year's running costs. May I send my thanks to all the community for their generous support and to our volunteers for their hard work?

This month's **Coffee Pop-In** will be in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 10th July from 10.15am till 11.45am.

Joan Warren (830233)

A **Coffee Morning** for Patrixbourne Church Choir Funds is to be held on Thursday 11th July from 10.30am till 12 noon at The Old Vicarage, Patrixbourne. There will also be a Bring-and-Buy!

And another **Coffee Morning** from 10am to 12 noon will be held at Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne, on Monday, 29th July. This for Bekesbourne church funds. Bring-and-Buy as well, please!

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BEKESBOURNE

Cleaning

Mrs. Smith	6th July	.....	Mrs. Whigham
Mrs. Stickells	13th July	.....	Mrs. Ash
Mrs. Hogben	20th July	.....	Mrs. Farbrace
Mrs. Watson	27th July	.....	Mrs. Purchase
Mrs. Russell	3rd August	.....	Mrs. Russell

Flowers

IDON'T KNOW IF I HEARD THAT!

Old lady to sidesman: 'Could you please find me a place near the pulpit?'
'Certainly, madam. Do you find it difficult to hear unless you sit in the front of the Church?'

'Yes, it's because of the agnostics. They're terrible in this Church!'

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

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

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. M. Miles, 7 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EE (462947)

Organist (Patrixbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD (462695)

Time & Talents: Mr. A. Jackson, Cosby, Higham Lane, Bridge CT4 5AY (830489)

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Magazine Advertising: Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830472)

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.

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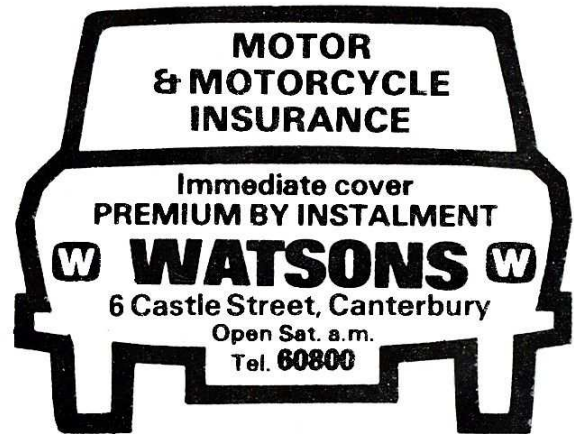
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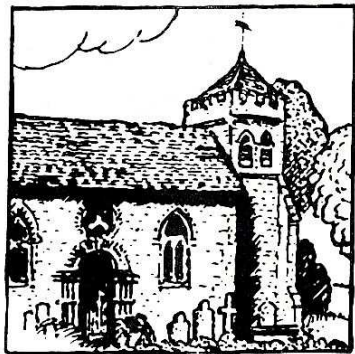
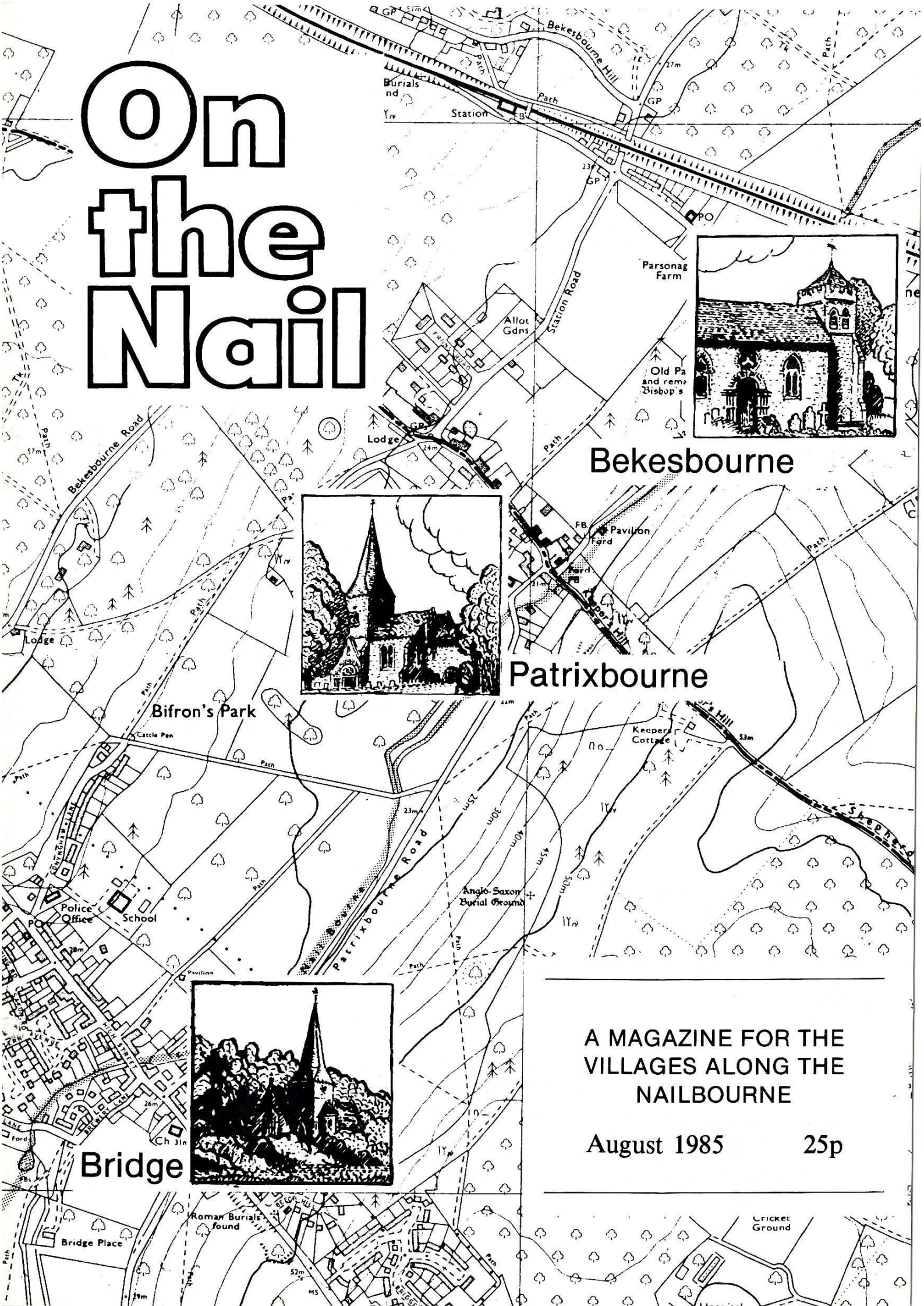
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On the Nail



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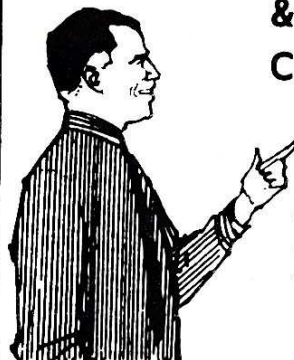
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Sunday Worship in August

BRIDGE

4th:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

11th:

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

18th:

9.30 Parish Communion 8am Holy Communion 11am *Songs of Praise*
(*Series 3*)
6.30pm Evensong

25th:

8am Holy Communion 9am Holy Communion 11am Matins
6.30pm Evensong

1st September:

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

Junior Church does not meet this month. The next session starts on 15th September.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *4th*, Miss J. Charlesworth, M.A. *11th*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd. Wilfred J. Hill, M.C., B.Sc. *18th*, Miss K. J. Knight. *25th*, Miss J.E. Anderson.

Weekday Services this month are limited to the following:

Friday, 2nd at 7.30am (Rite A) — St. Peter's, Bridge

Wednesday, 7th, Holy Communion at 10.15am — Churchill House

Every Wednesday at The New Close, 2.30pm

No other weekday celebrations will be held until September.

For your diary and prayer list

4th **Ninth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 10*

5th *St. Oswald, King of Northumbria, 642*

6th **Transfiguration of our Lord**

10th *St. Laurence, Deacon, Martyr, 258*

Pray for Helen Foster and Russell Green, to be married to-day at St. Peter's, Bridge

11th **Tenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 11*

13th *Jeremy Taylor, Bishop, Pastor, Teacher, 1667*

14th Coffee Pop-in, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am

18th **Eleventh Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 12*

20th *St. Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153*

24th **St. Bartholomew the Apostle**

25th **Twelfth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 13*

28th *St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher, 430*

31st *St. Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651: John Bunyan, Author, 1688*

Wise words of holy men

Two of the saints whom the Church celebrates in August are designated Teachers because their saintliness showed itself by the words they uttered. We still have those writings to inspire and guide us on our pilgrimage to-day. Examples are quoted from the Confessions of St. Augustine (of Hippo, not Canterbury) and Jeremy Taylor's spiritual classic 'Holy Living'.

God

'The Confessions of St. Augustine' are in the form of a meditation in which the author speaks to God about himself, his doubts and sins, and how he was drawn to God.

But what do I love when I love Thee? Not grace of bodies, nor the beauty of the seasons, nor the brightness of the light . . . nor inexhaustible melodies of sweet song, nor the fragrant smell of flowers, or ointments and spices. . . None of these love I when I love my God: and yet I love a kind of light, and of melody and of fragrance . . . when I love my God. . .

And what is this? I asked the earth and it said, 'I am not He.' and whatsoever is in it confessed the same. I asked the sea and the deeps, and all that swimming or creeping live therein, and they answered, 'We are not thy God, seek above us'. I asked the wandering winds; and the whole air with its inhabitants spoke . . . 'I am not God'. I asked the heavens, sun, moon and stars, 'Nor' (say they) 'are we the God whom thou seekest'. And I replied unto all those things which encompass the door of my flesh, 'Ye have told me of my God, that ye are not He: tell me something of Him'. And they cried all with a great voice, 'He made us'. My questioning them was my wind's desire, and their Beauty was their answer.

Worship in Work

This passage from Jeremy Taylor is an answer to those who say they have no time for religion.

He that is choice of his time will also be choice of his company and choice of his actions. . . God hath given to man a short time here upon earth, and yet upon this short time eternity depends. . . We must remember that the life of every man may be co-ordered, and indeed must, that it may be a perpetual serving of God. . . For God provides the good things of the world to serve the needs of nature by the labours of the ploughman, the skill and pains of the artisan, and the dangers and the traffic of the merchant; these men are in their calling the ministers of the divine providence and the stewards of the creation and servants of a great family of God, the world. . . In their proportions also a king and a priest and a prophet, a judge and an advocate are doing the work of God. So that no man can complain that his calling takes him off from religion: his calling itself . . . is a serving of God.

Jeremy Taylor's words point to the false distinction between the practice of religion and the rest of life that we so often make. We divorce what goes on in church from the workaday world outside and divide up our lives into sacred and secular compartments. But God is in all life, as both these holy men aver.

The following prayer stands firmly in this tradition:

Go thou with us, O Lord, as we enter into thy holy house; and go thou with us, as we return to take up the common duties of life. In worship and in work alike let us know thy presence near us; till work itself be worship, and our every thought be to thy praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Archbishop to Synod

The third General Synod of the Church of England has come to an end. We print extracts from the presidential address given by the Archbishop at its dissolution, and which challenge us with his views on Anglicanism to-day and our rôle in it.



. . . Anglicans do not have a narrow confessional basis nor do we have the kind of magisterium which solves problems by pronouncement. Since the sixteenth century we have been an ecumenical movement in our own right.

Anglicanism is based on a commitment by Christians of different traditions and outlooks to be together and stay together and in the process discover a common faith. This has within it the seeds of destructive conflict but it also has the promise of a truly Christian dialectic: a process of interaction, discovery and reconciliation.

But if this is to happen, we need to meet and talk with each other rather than huddle together in like-minded groups. Finding truth in others and bringing it to a common faith is not easy. It requires restraint, mutual respect and a commitment to each other. It is not a way which commends itself to the inflexible, the impatient or the person whose horizons have narrowed to a single issue. But I would suggest that this is the way by which all the great questions of the past have been dealt with: not by pre-emptive pronouncements but by patient engagement, even argument, leading on to understanding, concensus and decision, where once this seemed inconceivable. Assuredly we need to listen more attentively to each other. The Church of England is historically committed to that difficult ideal of being both Catholic and Reformed. Nor can we pretend that we do not live in the contemporary world where we must speak and act in such a way as to engage our secular neighbour.

Into this interplay of Catholic, Evangelical and Radical four great questions of passionate importance have been injected. They are unlikely to go away:

1. How ought the Church of England to deal both in charity and in faithfulness to Scripture and Tradition with Christians who wish to re-marry when a former spouse is still living?
2. Can women be admitted to the presbyterate of the Church of England without our claiming an authority within the Catholic Church which we do not possess?
3. Are there limits to interpretations of the Creed?
4. Granted that life is sacred and that no Christian is at liberty to dispense with respect for humanity actual and potential, are we morally free, even with the highest of motives, to carry out even very limited exper-

iments on embryonic human beings?

These are not only great issues in the Church of England. But they are the divisive ones, and in the heat of the argument questions are raised about the Anglican coherence.

The sources of our coherence are primarily spiritual but have an external form. The inward transmission of the Gospel is safe-guarded from individualistic eccentricity by the care with which Anglicans have kept the form of sacramental succession. The apostolic succession has both content and form; *content* in doctrine and due reverence for both word and sacraments, and *form* in our ordered structures. Equally, with our ordered liturgy (whether ancient or modern) Anglicans are given the spiritual riches of the Scriptures and the Creeds in the context of a praying Church. For us, as with the Orthodox, the law of praying is the law of believing. . .

The Synod is a body which has the possibility of doing great good: it can provide resources and effect reforms; it can be a forum for Christian concern and debate. But there are limits to what we can do. The Synod as such cannot have that personal ministry by which individuals are led to faith and commitment; it cannot build up a local community in prayer and mission; it cannot take Christian love and service into places of unbelief and alienation. These are the roots of the Church and our task is to help them grow and to make sure that nothing we do actually retards or stunts that growth. Yet it cannot be denied that sometimes we are better at raising controversies than in solving them, and that there are many issues which need more thought and patient work than we give them before embarking on the business of legislation. We are primarily a pastoral body and we must carry our people with us. We must build up and not torment the Church of the God. . .

There is a story that William Temple, before conducting a university mission, counselled his fellow missionaries to say or do nothing which made God appear unattractive. That is good advice for those about to compose election addresses and for all who will form the next General Synod of the Church of England. Whatever the strength of feeling, whatever our convictions, whatever our commitment to change or to tradition, may everything we do *attractively* commend Christ, the Gospel, the Church and the Kingdom.

Joys and Sorrows

The sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered by the Vicar to **Robert James Pearce** on 7th July at Bridge. Robert is the grandson of Sgt and Mrs. Studham.

Bekesbourne Church was the venue for the wedding of two local people on 29th June, when **Carole-Ann Payne**, Cobham Court Cottages married **Alan Cassidy**, 2 Pippin Avenue. The Vicar officiated.

Residents of Bekesbourne will be sorry to hear of the death on 16th July of **Frederick George Hatcher**, who used to live in the bungalow that has recently been demolished in School Lane. Mr. Hatcher's body was laid to rest with that of his late wife in Bekesbourne Churchyard after a service in Church conducted by the Vicar on 23rd July.

Discussion group for teenagers

There will be a meeting every week during the summer holidays and we hope as many teenagers as possible will attend. The programme for the holidays is as follows:

Wednesday, 31st July, 7.30pm — Barbecue at 14 Brewery Lane, Bridge

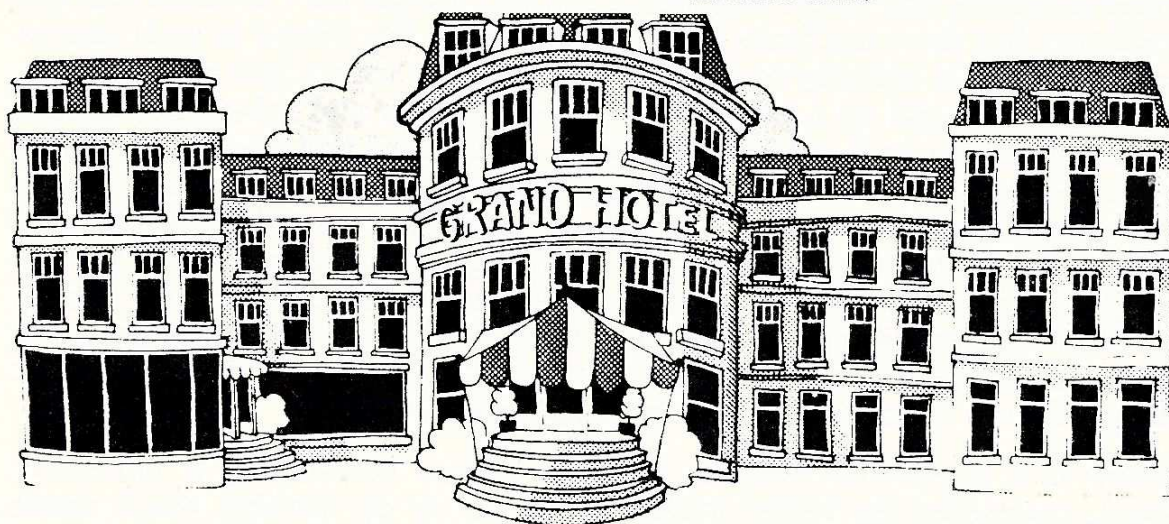
Wednesday 7th August, 7.30pm — Talk on teaching disturbed children,
14 Brewery Lane

Thursday, 15th August, 3pm — Talk and demonstration on resuscitation,
14 Brewery Lane

Wednesday, 21st August, 7.30pm — Talk on banking, 14 Brewery Lane

Wednesday 28th August, 7.30pm — Discussion at 14 Brewery Lane

Wednesday, 4th September, 7.30pm — Meeting at The Old Vicarage,
Patricbourne



Summer Holidays— A change or a rest?

What do you look for in your annual holiday? Do you return needing a week to get over it? Is it a chance to see something of the world or your own country? Are you content merely to flake out for a couple of weeks or do you feel cheated unless you have been out and about all the time?

The 'perms and coms' for a summer break are infinite and the typical English holiday no longer exists, if it ever did. Yet the sort of holiday you choose is certain to say much about your ideas of what a holiday is for. People who spend their working life travelling may well prefer a more static holiday, maybe booking in at an hotel miles from anywhere and lounging around all day reading books and going for leisurely walks. Others will want a change from their workaday life stuck behind a shop counter or glued to a desk and it will be the wide open spaces for them, with sights to see and places to visit.

How ever you spend your holiday, it will have failed if you do not return refreshed and re-created, and here's wishing you a very successful time wherever you end up. But let me put in a plea that you visit the local church on Sundays and join in the worship there, for a holiday from the daily round ought not to include a rest from God. And please give our greetings from home to the Christians you meet.

Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride

As part of your 'keep fit' programme, why not join the Sponsored Cycle Ride on Saturday, 7th September. One of the organisers wrote about it in July's *On The Nail* and here is a further reminder of what could be an important event for our three churches.

Many churches and chapels in East Kent (and all in East Bridge Deanery) will be open from 10am to 6pm on 7th September and there will be members of each church in attendance to provide confirmation that riders in fact visited those churches. The aim is to obtain as many people as possible, who will sponsor you to visit each place of worship in your own and other parishes. A list of those churches and chapels open will be available nearer the day, but sponsor forms are already printed and can be picked up from one of our local organisers or from the churches. Before potential sponsors disappear to the south of France, or wherever they intend to spend their holiday, why not make a start collecting names. It will be so much per church or chapel visited and at the end of the day whatever money you have made will be split fifty-fifty with the Friends of Kent Churches and whichever particular church you nominate.

It is in the interest of all concerned to encourage the maximum turnout of riders, and for each participant to get as many sponsors as possible. It is sufficient just to present yourself at the check-in point of each place of worship, which may be in the church or outside. Bridge Church, for instance, has a wedding that afternoon so cyclists will be checked in in the churchyard. No one expects you to do a tour of the churches you call at, although hopefully the little you see of them will whet your appetite for a future more leisurely visit.

Our own organisers, who will gladly furnish any additional details and receive your application to take part, are:

Bridge Mrs. G. Harvey, 6 Bridgeford Way (830494) or
Mrs. A. King, 8 Riverside Close (830028)

Patricxbourne Mrs. S. Pratt, The Old Vicarage (830258)

Bekesbourne Mrs. C. Ash, Parsonage Farm (830214)

Do come even if you prefer to walk. Horse-riders also welcome, but for safety's sake no motorcars!

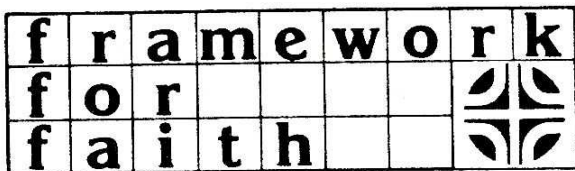
On the other hand . . .

A gentleman who had spent two months at a mountain hotel had put on a good deal of weight. 'Do you know,' he said to the manager, 'I'm glad I came here. The place seems to agree with me'.

'Yes, indeed, sir,' replied the manager. 'Why, you're twice the gentleman you were when you first came here.'

* * *

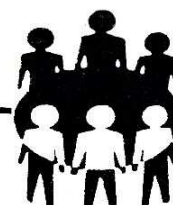
Guide, to a coach full of North country tourists: 'We shall soon be passing one of the best known and most picturesque pubs in Kent'. Voice from the back of the coach — 'Why?'



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Methodism and Freemasonry

The recent meeting of the Methodist Conference in Birmingham adopted a much-publicised report on Freemasonry, which contained a request that Methodist rules be changed so that no Masonic meeting, or service exclusively for Freemasons, should be allowed on Methodist premises. It also advised Methodists who were not Freemasons to decline membership.

Why has the Methodist Church taken this step? The report is uneasy over certain matters which I shall try to explain.

(1) Secrecy. It is felt that “secrecy of any kind is destructive of fellowship. The Christian community is an open membership”. Some secrecy, as in confidential disclosures to a minister, is entirely proper, but any unnecessary secrecy, especially with respect to membership, seems unreasonable and may lead to suspicion.

(2) Oaths. Some Masonic oaths contain horrifying penalties for disclosure of Masonic secrets to non-Masons. Usually these penalties are taken lightly, but this is then thought to devalue the use of oaths on other occasions.

(3) The Supreme Being. Though not a religion, Freemasonry contains religious elements. The name of the Supreme Being used in Masonry has to be such that it will not offend Jewish or Moslem Masons. But the use of what is seen as a watered-down name in an attempt to unite believers of different Faiths is unacceptable to Christians.

Clearly I have skated over much, and omitted much, but it is interesting to see that the charge of Masons unfairly helping fellow-Masons is rightly seen as an abuse by some and not inherent in Masonry. For myself, I agree with the report on the whole, but I realise that some Masons reading this might be offended. I apologise if that is the case, but Methodism is asking its Masonic members not to give up Freemasonry, so much as to think carefully about the matter. I would never want to criticise any Mason — I hope no-one criticises me for being open about my views.

Revd. M. P. Taylor



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council held their last meeting before the summer recess on Thursday 11th July.

Two representatives from Brymore Football Club attended to explain the situation with regard to their use of the Recreation Ground on Sundays and the use of the Ground by a junior side, Canterbury Eagles on occasional Sunday afternoons. The Council subsequently discussed fully the letting of the Ground to the football clubs concerned on Saturdays and Sundays, expressing concern that the ground should not be subjected to too much wear and tear. Finally they agreed that the use of the pitch should be restricted to one game only on a Saturday and one on a Sunday and that the clubs should be informed clearly of the terms for their use of the Ground.

Village Hall

The Chairman, Councillor John Hill, reported that Cllr Ken Greenaway had taken down the memorial clock and was going to attend to the casing, including some rewiring and the making of an inspection door. The workings of the clock were now with Mr. Vesey for repair.

Recreation Ground

Cllr Peter Lawrence reported that the tidying of the boundaries of the Recreation Ground had been carried out satisfactorily by Mr. Dwyer and that he considered cutting on a regular basis as suggested by Mr. Dwyer a practical idea. However, the Council deferred any decision until their next meeting in September. The Chairman agreed to follow up with the Tennis Club complaints about the enormous growth between the netting of the courts and the conifers. Regarding signs prohibiting motorcycles, it was agreed to re-erect an existing sign currently lying at an angle near the cricket pavilion and to make enquiries of Kent County Council for another sign for the Patricbourne Road entrance. Cllr

John Anderson reported that the trees in the Recreation Ground were in a healthy condition.

Streets and Footways

The Clerk was to get in touch with Kent County Council regarding the crumbled handrails on the bridge in Lower Meadow. Cllr Mervyn Gulvin noted comments made about the unfinished and untidy appearance around the base of the Bridge Hill/Bridge Down Stairway as well as concern for the stability of the bank beneath the stairs and agreed to take the matter up with the contractors.

Planning

Cllr Gulvin was concerned about the development at The Close in Union Road because the drawings for which planning permission had been granted had not been carried out in their entirety and he agreed to investigate further and report to the next meeting.

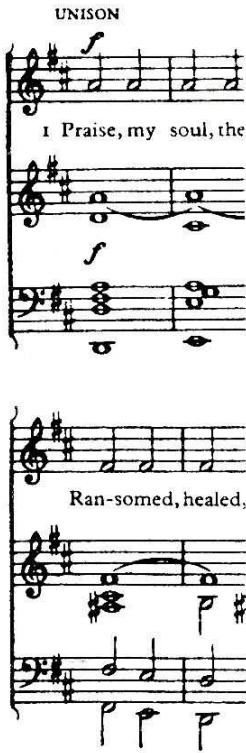
Generally, Cllr Lawrence reported on his attendance at an informative conference on the 'Channel Fixed Link' about which, it is hoped, there will be a full report in the next edition of *On The Nail*.

The Clerk was pleased to report that the Parish Council's application for assistance from the City Council's Lottery Fund for the purchase of the new tables for the Village Hall had been approved.

Finally—a few words about that 'bus shelter opposite Higham Lane. It does not belong to Bridge Parish Council, but is in fact the property of Bishopsbourne Parish Council who, this Council understands, are taking steps to have it repaired.

The next meeting of the Council will be on the 12th September at 7.30 pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall.

K.A. Walder, Clerk



Songs of Praise at Bekesbourne

Hymn-singing is a favourite occupation for many church people and there is certainly a rich variety of hymns to choose from. In the two hymnbooks currently in use at St. Peter's, Bekesbourne there are 736 all told, although not all of them are by any means familiar and some are not worth singing. But there are still enough good hymns to go round and everyone has a favourite somewhere among them.

Once again the third Sunday of August is being given over to what can best be described as a hymn jamboree when, at 11am, we shall have another of our *Songs of Praise* sing-alongs. The hymns are traditionally chosen by members of the congregation and the organist, Stanley Grey, would love to hear from you with your choice. Do give him a ring (830522) or call in at 63 High Street post haste. Please make early contact, since every choice is researched and the background to the hymn writer, the composer and sometimes the hymn itself is given out before the hymn is sung.

Then come and join the fray on Sunday, 18th at 11am in Bekesbourne Church!

'Fish' News

Mobility Aids

Many people have difficulty fitting the rigid 'Zimmer' walking frame into their car boot. To solve this problem, we have purchased a folding walking frame for the scheme. This frame can be borrowed by local residents if it is not in use for the Luncheon Club or Clinic. Please let me know if you would like to borrow it.

We are also exploring the possibility of buying a comfortable wheel chair, which is light, easy to push and folds into a car boot. This would enable our house-bound and convalescent residents to be taken out shopping or for walks.

Holiday Arrangements

The Luncheon Club will not be meeting during August. The Chiropody Clinic will be closed on 1st and 8th August. All other services will carry on as normal.

The next Coffee Pop-in will be in the Village Hall, Bridge on Wednesday, 14th August from 10.15am to 11.45am.

Joan Warren, 830233

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Mrs. Russell	3rd August	Mrs. Russell
Mrs. Grey	10th August	
Mrs. Beckett	17th August	Mrs. Ash
Mrs. Smith	24th August	.....	Mrs. Broadwater
Mrs. Stickells	31st August	Mrs. Ashdown
Mrs. Hogben	7th September	Mrs Hogben

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Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

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

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. M. Miles, 7 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EE (462947)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD (462695)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Magazine Advertising: Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830472)

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.

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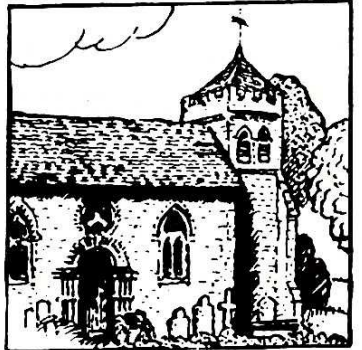
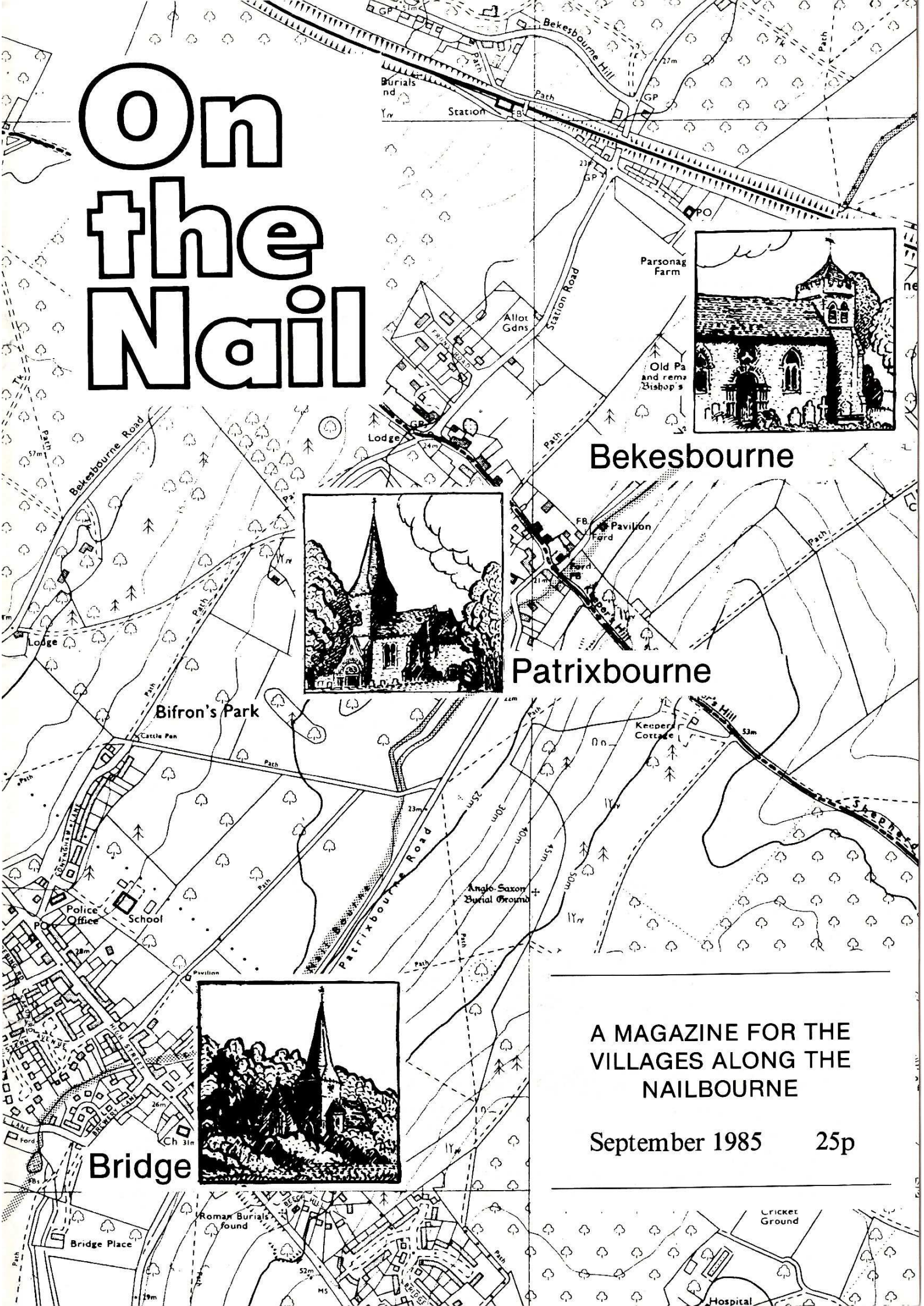
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patrixbourne



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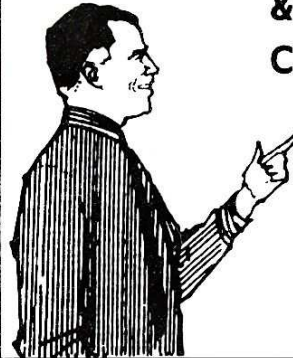
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Sunday Worship in September

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

1st:

11am Family Service
Eucharist

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

6.30pm Evensong

8th:

9.30 Family Communion 11am Matins
(Series 3)

8am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

15th:

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

6.30pm Evensong

22nd:

8am Holy Communion 11am *Harvest*
6.30pm Evensong *Thanksgiving*

8am Holy Communion

29th:

9.30 Family Communion 8am Holy Communion 11am *Harvest*
(Series 3) *Thanksgiving*
6.30pm Evensong (The Revd. W. Owen)

6th October:

11am *Harvest Family* 8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion
Service

6.30pm Evensong

Junior Church re-opens on 15th at 9.30am in Bridge Methodist Church. Children from all three villages between the ages of 4 and 8 years are welcome to attend. Those of 10 to 14 meet at 14 Brewery Lane at 9.30am on 8th and will be told about future gatherings.

Weekday services resume this month, with Holy Communion in St. Peter's, Bridge on Wednesdays (BCP) at 9.30am and Fridays (Rite A) at 7.30am. The monthly celebration at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 4th at 10.15am and the weekly act of worship for the residents of The New Close is every Wednesday at 2.30pm.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *1st*, Miss E.A.H. Tressider, Ph.D. *8th*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *15th*, The Revd. John Turner, B.A. *22nd*, Mr. C.G. Robertson. *29th*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor.

For your diary and prayer list

1st **Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 14*

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

5th Prayer For Health and Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm

7th Pray for Ray Bourne and Shirley Cork to be married today at Bridge.
Sponsored Cycle Ride takes place.

8th **The Blessed Virgin Mary** *Trinity 14, Pentecost 15*

Pray for Caroline Pentin who begins her work with 10 to 14 year olds this morning.

- 12th Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
 13th *St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258*
 Patricbourne with Bridge PCC, The Methodist Church, 7.30pm
 14th *Holy Cross Day*
 15th **Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 16*
 Junior Church re-commences
 19th Confirmation Group re-assembles in the Vicarage at 6 o'clock.
 Prayer For Health and Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm
 21st **St. Matthew the Apostle**
 22nd **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 17*
 Patricbourne Church Harvest Thanksgiving, 11am
 24th Bekesbourne PCC, School House, 8pm.
 25th *Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, 1626*
 27th *Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Vincentian Order, 1626*
 29th **St. Michael and All Angels** *Trinity 17, Pentecost 18*
 Bekesbourne Harvest Thanksgiving, 11am, conducted by the Revd. W. Owen.

Blessed among Women

Throughout Christian history the mother of Jesus has occupied a unique position; for centuries being regarded as pre-eminent among the Saints, yet finding herself the centre of often quite bitter controversy.

Hail Mary, full of grace!

It is understandable that Mary should stand alone in the company of the holy people of God, for not only is her existence firmly attested by scripture but the rôle she assumed at God's request is without parallel. As the one who gave birth to the Christ she is without peer, so it is right and proper that the Archangel Gabriel's words should be fulfilled throughout Christendom, "Blessed art thou among women". (*St. Luke 1.28*) Of herself Mary forecast "behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed" (*v.48*) and indeed she has been at the centre of Christian devotion of one sort or another all along.

How much of a good thing?

Yet this is what all the trouble is about, for no two Christian Churches seem able to agree as to the form devotion to the Virgin Mary should take. There are those for whom it would appear no holds are barred and their devotions are of such an intensity as to give the impression she is on a par with Christ himself. One has only to visit some of the more extreme continental shrines of Our Lady to wonder if they have not gone over the top somewhat, creating elaborate statues to her, bedecking them with rich jewels and fabrics and parading them around the streets to receive popular adulation.

At the other end of the spectrum are the ultra-protestant churches who shy away at anything that could remotely be associated with the Roman Catholic Church (against which they are *protestant* — hence the title). In their eyes Mary is just the one whom God happened to choose and use for the birth of Jesus, an agent whose sole claim to fame was her motherhood. Beyond that no further attention is due to her. One wonders sometimes if Mary's appearance in the New Testament is not a shade embarrassing, in that Bible Christians (so called) cannot ignore her but rather wish they could. The difficulty for any body of Christians that adopt the name Protestant is that

you must keep up your protestations and rather as happened in England at the Reformation render anathema anything vaguely Roman.

Whence the middle way?

Between these two extremes there exist a wide variety of customs revolving around the person of Mary, some giving greater deference to her than others. Within the Anglican Church, as might be expected, attitudes differ considerably, from the very low church tradition that gives little more than a nodding recognition of Saints in general, to the Anglo-Catholics who make an annual pilgrimage to the Church of England's thriving shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk.

As it was in the beginning.

Whatever your current views on the matter might be the history of the Church, especially in the early centuries, shows a very strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin, embracing also a firm belief in the efficacy of her intercession. Pictures of her in the catacombs indicate just how far back such devotion really goes. Obviously she figures prominently in the Church Calendar of Saints, the *Book of Common Prayer* (hardly a pro-Roman document) listing five feasts and providing a Collect, Epistle and Gospel for two of them. The *Alternative Service Book* has but one festival of the Blessed Virgin Mary and that on 8th September.

Patron Saint of Patrixbourne

Happily this year 8th September is a Sunday and, what is more, being the second Sunday of the month also Matins at Patrixbourne. This is a splendid opportunity for a church dedicated to St. Mary to keep its patronal festival in style, and this we shall endeavour to do. Due to the multiplicity of Marian feasts in the old calendar it was never easy to decide whether to celebrate on the occasion of the Conception (8th December), Nativity (8th September), Annunciation (25th March), Purification (2nd February) or Visitation (2nd July), but with one all-embracing feast day, and a convenient one at that, the problem is solved. Come along to St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne at 11am on 8th September and share in the celebration of our Patron Saint!



Let the children come!

Of the very many ways in which God has blessed us few invoke quite the expressions of gratitude and praise to him that the creation of Junior Church does. Those who created and run it have been congratulated to such an extent that they are starting to find it embarrassing, so I won't add to their discomfort any further. They know how much their work for the Lord is appreciated and extolled and will be quite satisfied if no more is said now other than that Junior Church will be getting under way again on 15th. Parents of potential Junior Churchgoes are reminded that the children meet each Sunday morning except the first in the month at 9.30 in the Methodist Church, Patrixbourne Road, and that Junior Church is open to children of all three villages who are aged 4 to 8 years.

Something new!

Caroline Pentin writes:—

As was reported in the magazine last month, I am starting a brand new club for children aged 10 to 14. We will be meeting every fortnight during the term time at 14 Brewery Lane, Bridge, starting on Sunday 8th September at 9.30am.

During the autumn term I have planned, among other ideas, for us to visit the stained glass studios at the Cathedral to see how the glass is being restored; to bake a loaf of bread together for Holy Communion; to make some brass-rubbings and to walk with a blind man and his guide dog to see how the dog looks after his owner.

I hope that parents reading this will encourage their children and their friends to come along.

Joys and Sorrows

One one of this summer's better days **Maria Goodwin**, 1 Police House, Conyngham Lane married **William Good** of Canterbury in St. Peter's, Bridge, the Vicar officiating. Bridge Church was again the setting for the wedding on 10th August of **Helen Foster**, 48 Western Avenue (also a policeman's daughter, co-incidentally) to **Russell Green** of Whitstable. The Vicar being on holiday the ceremony was performed by the Revd. Peter Brown-bridge of Ickham. Every blessing to both couples!

Mary Ellen Wraight, 1884-1985

The death after a very brief illness of Bridge's oldest resident, Miss Wraight came as a shock to her very many friends. She died in the early hours of Sunday morning, 28th July, having been apparently right as rain until two days previously.

Miss Wraight was very definitely a local character, a private lady in many respects, yet one who made a large contribution to the community. The celebration of her hundredth birthday was a great day in the life of the village, yet Miss Wraight demanded the minimum of fuss and was determined to spend it quietly with her family away from the glare of publicity.

Right up until the last people marvelled that a maiden lady of 100 could be so active and mentally alert, yet I seriously believe she never thought of herself as old — not *that* old, anyway. Rumour has it she had already assembled the materials for another batch of her famous homemade marmalade, a delicacy you had to be first at a bazaar or coffee morning to stand a chance of acquiring.

Few realised that Miss Wraight's working life was spent in the very distinguished environment of St. Paul's Deanery in London, where she was housekeeper (and thus called *Mrs. Wraight*) to the famous Dean Inge, known as the 'gloomy' dean. That must have been an interesting household to manage and an absorbing position to hold. Sadly, she was loath to talk about her past for she would assuredly have had a tale to tell about life in one of the foremost families in the land at that time.

Relations and friends gathered for a service in Bridge Church, where Miss Wraight was a regular Evensong attender, on Monday, 5th August and cremation followed at Barham. She will be much missed!

The family of the late Miss Mary Wraight would like to thank those who have shown kindness to their Aunt, also everyone who took part in her funeral service at Bridge Church on Monday, 5th August.

Archbishop to Synod — II

Last month's 'On The Nail' carried extracts from the Archbishop's address to the General Synod. This month we reprint the complete address he gave to the final meeting of the Diocesan Synod on 13th July. These are words aimed very much at our situation and well worth weighing for anyone who has any interest at all in the Church's ministry to-day.

Anyone with a sense of history takes a long view — 150 years ago Thomas Arnold said "The Church of England as it now stands no power on earth can save". And a radical MP Joseph Hume in 1833 seriously proposed to Parliament that ordinations should stop, because the country would not be able to afford the compensation and pensions necessary for the clergy when the whole show was dismantled. Of course the Church of England was in fact on the eve of the great Victorian religious revival.

My recent speech at the close of the General Synod has been widely reported so that I need not repeat what I said there about synods in general and their place at this present stage in Anglican development. I would like to repeat just one section of my General Synod Address:

In old age the Duke of Wellington became increasingly irritated by people who asked him about the Battle of Waterloo. He is said to have replied tersely "forget the drama, what matters is quiet, hard slog". I am grateful for the evidence represented in the reports of our boards and committees and the accounts which will be before us later, that there has been a good deal of constructive hard slog in the management of our Diocese for the mission of our Church. To all those who have given so generously of their time and abilities, we are grateful.

Later in our agenda we shall be considering the way ahead for the ministry as envisaged in the *Tiller Report* and this is one of the many issues which are potentially the opportunity for drama. Now, no sensible person thinks that the Church should be changed in every respect, and that change in any direction is better than no change at all. But sometimes, I'm afraid, our public discussions give the impression that we *do* believe it. For change must be discussed before it is implemented: it must appear on the agenda of Synods and PCCs. Those matters on the other hand which are right and good as they are, require no discussion and receive no place on the agenda. The impression is given, at least in the eyes of those who actually write the agenda, that they are of little interest and no importance.

Since I have some part in writing the agenda of the Church's public discussion, I want to say very clearly that this is a false impression: that, so far as I'm concerned, the matters which appear for discussion and decision are by no means the only matters which are of interest or importance to me.

The Symbolic Rôle of Parish Clergy

I want to say this today with particular emphasis over the matter of the parochial ministry of the clergy. It is my experience and my belief that what may be called our traditional system and manner of parochial ministry is the source of great good and great strength to the Church as a whole, and that over a wide area of the Church it works effectively and very well. I am much impressed by William Blake's words that "he who would do good must do it by minute particulars": and it is precisely this way of doing good that one observes among many of our parochial clergy. Living among

the people for whose spiritual well-being they are responsible they become aware that, beneath the surface of the seemingly placid and uneventful life of the parish, things are in constant ferment: individuals and families are constantly being threatened or uplifted, challenged, disappointed or delighted at points of great sensitivity and over matters which are of great importance to them — from the birth of a child to the death of a parent, from a quarrel with a neighbour to a promotion at work, from the onset or cure of illness to the loss or finding of a job.

Such personal matters are the very stuff and substance of the most human concern, and in the response of people to them there is always (implicitly or explicitly) a slight shift in their religious attitude — a slight movement either towards or away from God. The parochial clergyman who is close enough to many of his parishioners to become aware of these points and times of sensitivity, and who is available and attentive when and where they occur, does a work of extreme importance — both for God and man. For it is widely believed (rightly or wrongly) that the attitude of a parochial clergyman is a living symbol — faint and imperfect but the only living symbol they have — of the attitude of God himself. Therefore his presence and attentiveness, or his absence and seeming indifference, is likely to affect a person at a deep level at such moments of acute sensitivity and concern. The movement of a human soul, or a whole human family, towards or away from God may well be determined by the “minute particular” of whether the Vicar calls or does not call on a parishioner or whether he is accessible or inaccessible to an unhappy youngster or a proud parent.

Much of the typical work of the parochial clergy is too particular to be the subject matter of general discussion, and too intimate and confidential to be made known in books or journals or investigated by research students. So, the names of outstanding Vicars and Rectors tend to be less well-known than those of colleagues who work in the academic field or in some kind of “specialist” ministry. But the effect and influence of their work is, I believe, much deeper. For the attitude of the majority of people to God (which affects all other attitudes) is determined, for good or ill, not by general ideas or intellectual formulations, but by concrete signs and evidences of the nearness and care of God in those commonplace yet sensitive situations to which I have referred. And of such evidences the parish priest can be an available and effective “steward” or “symbol”.

The Sharing of Ministry

I know how demanding — as well as how rewarding — the parochial ministry can be. But there are some situations in which it becomes impossibly demanding. There are certain situations in which no priest can be expected to carry out anything like the traditional parochial ministry with any degree of effectiveness. I recognise that in some parishes the ministry of the Church has evolved gradually and quite naturally from the strictly traditional form into a manner more fitting to the present. Many parochial clergy would say that for years they have been taking part in a “shared ministry”. What functions are shared with lay people, and the limits of sharing, differ from parish to parish. But there are many parishes in which for a long time the full-time professional clergyman has been by no means the Church’s only pastor or teacher or counsellor or preacher in the parish — still less the only guider of the young or visitor of the sick or writer in the parish magazine. So, while the phrase “shared ministry” is relatively new in the public discussion of the Church, the fact of shared ministry has for long been a reality in some parts of its life. What is happening now, in particular as a consequence of the *Tiller Report*, is discussion and action over the possibility of extending the range of sharing beyond the parishes in which it already exists, and perhaps beyond the limits which are usually observed at present.

I am sure that this discussion and action and consequent change are a right and necessary part of the “way ahead”. The alternative is the virtual disappearance of the Church’s ministry, certainly from some problem-ridden areas. This is unacceptable. We *must* “move ahead”. But we must do so carefully, and with certain points clear in our minds.

Three Cautionary Points

First, the advocacy of shared ministry must not be taken as a criticism of more traditional forms of parochial ministry, where these forms are working with reasonable effectiveness. The parish priest who finds his parish manageable and his present method of working effective, must not be pressurized into change for the sake of change. He must not feel obliged to spend time and effort making gestures of sharing. The sharing of ministry as we understand it today is more than a way of "getting lay people involved". It presupposes that lay people who are already involved may be willing and able to extend the Church's ministry beyond the range which is possible for one parish priest or even a team. *Shared ministry is right only if it creates extended ministry.*

Second, the advocacy of shared ministry must not be allowed to obscure the need and call to full-time, life-long commitment in the ordained ministry. The possibility of some kind of sharing in the Church's ministry must not become an excuse or justification for ducking the call heard in earlier days. I can see no future for a Church in which this call becomes muffled by an apparent invitation to give *some* of one's time, and a *little* of one's life to the Church's ministry. What our Church would be like without any clergy with a full-time life-long commitment I leave to your imagination.

Third — and this point connects with my second — the sharing of ministry by lay people must not be, or be seen as, a cheap and easy option for those who undertake it. *The sharing of ministry must not become a dissipation of ministry*, by which I mean the loss or erosion of its meaning. As I said earlier, a clergyman has an important symbolic power. He is widely seen as "a man of God" — not because of his virtues or expertise, but because of the authorisation of office which he holds, and his association with the Church building and all that goes on inside it. And because he is "a man of God" his presence and care can be at least suggestive of the presence and care of God.

It is very important that this symbolic power is not lost where ministry is shared. If it is lost, ministry may be socially useful but it will not be the ministry of the Church — it will not be a ministry which helps people at critical times to move a little closer to God. So it must become evident, at a level deeper than words, that all who share the ministry do so in "God's name". The matter of authorisation by the Church is important: so also is the matter of close association with the Church's building, its prayer and worship.

I think it is even more important that the exercise of ministry should be seen to involve a certain cost to those engaged in it. Serious training must be required — training, not as the acquisition of technique, but as the acceptance of discipline. Notice how easily a lay brother or a lay sister in a monastic order is accepted as a "man of God" or a "sister of the Faith": the discipline under which they live puts that "stamp" upon them. Of course, I'm not suggesting for a moment that all who share the Church's ministry should become members of religious orders. What I am suggesting is that shared ministry must be, in the preparation for it and in the exercise of it, disciplined ministry.

These affirmations of the parochial ministry, and cautionary words about shared ministry should be taken as an encouragement to those in this diocese who are already making great efforts to develop our strengths, which are many, along the lines that I have indicated.

The Ways Forward — Four Pointers

What then are the ways forward for us in this ministry? I would like to emphasise personally, four points:

1. We must not fail to recognise the symbolic rôle of church buildings and the faith they represent. "The power of sacred association" writes Owen Chadwick, "penetrates deeply into human hearts, kindling a sense of mystery, fortifying decisions of the conscience and kindling aspirations after eternity".

I recently went to the centre of Salford — an inner city desert if ever there was one — to a charming, beautifully-decorated church which has been lovingly cherished by

the people who refused to let it be closed. All around were seedy shops, graffiti on the walls, derelict sites and some soul-less high-rise flats. But the building took your breath away. Outside a group of unemployed lads, actually under the direction of the vicar, were creating a rose garden. It is the only thing of beauty in the area, always open, the only building never vandalised because it is felt to belong to the community, and it is recognised as the church of God and not a coffee-bar or a social centre.

Now this is a kind of folk religion that needs the service of the parochial ministry. Only long, patient work can offer hope of baptising such folk religion into the faith of the Church.

2. We need to work harder at developing the rôle of groups and teams in our missionary and pastoral strategies. This is for me the important dimension of shared ministry. We need to raise the public profile of team ministry from regrettable necessity to a sign of hope and great possibility.
3. We must refashion a proper system of support for those incumbents who feel beleaguered and isolated. Groups and teams can help, so can the Deaneries. I see the Deanery as a crucial source of support and identity, a reference group sited between Bishop and parishioners. We need to develop it still further. And it is for me a barometer of well being in a Diocese.
4. As Dr Leslie Francis in a controversial book has shown, we also need to develop specific pastoral strategies aimed at the rural young. If the Victorian country clergy rightly feared the alienation of the poor from their church, their successors must recognise the alienation of today's young from theirs. (This isn't only a Church of England matter. It's a target that he has hit in a book where he has made a number of other contentious and unreliable statements.) Christian education and Church-based youth work are vital here as well as more direct concern with unemployment among rural school-leavers. Their's is the future and in the end it's on these young people that the way ahead depends.

These affirmations which I have made about the parochial ministry and cautionary words about shared ministry, (but supportive words I hope), are meant to be taken as encouragement for the future. We are a smaller Diocese now, but I think in a rather special way capable of looking at problems which face the whole Church — in both urban and rural areas — in a manageable way.

We certainly have need to be grateful that in this corner of England we have both Christian traditions and an increasing number of those who are concerned through parishes and synods to shape those traditions to meet the challenges which elsewhere sometimes seem overwhelming.

Channel Fixed Link

Councillor Peter Lawrence has prepared a report of a Conference to inform interested groups and organisations on the fixed Channel link proposals; that is, whether the Government are going to accept the building of a Channel Tunnel, Bridge or a mixture of the two. This Report has had to be held over, but the Fixed Link will become a topic of discussion shortly; with all the possible consequences for Kent and in particular the area served by *On The Nail*.

Sponsored cycle ride — Saturday 7th September

Weeks of preparation and limbering-up reach their climax on Saturday 7th September when the great countrywide Sponsored Cycle Ride pedals off.

As already announced out three villages are taking part in this fund-raising event inspired by the *Friends of Kent Churches*, and at the end of the day, with your support, our own churches at Bridge, Patribourne and Bekes-

bourne should also be financially better off. The proceeds of each cyclist's 'church crawl' will be divided equally between the FKC and the church the rider nominates.

Gill Harvey and Ann King are organising things from the Bridge end, with Sue Pratt and Christine Ash watching over operations at Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne respectively.

If you have not already done so pick up an application form from any of the churches and join in the jamboree on foot or horseback if you aren't a cyclist. We hope also that those not able to partake will nevertheless give those who do a fat sponsorship and pop along to your local church at some time during the day to witness the operation and cheer the participants on.

On your bikes! Ready — steady — GO!!

Harvest Services . . .

. . . take place this month at Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne, but please note that Patrixbourne's is on the fourth Sunday and Bekesbourne's on the fifth, i.e. 22nd and 29th respectively.

Harvest observances have never found a place in the Church's Calendar, due as much as anything to each parish church's preference for different dates. Also they are a comparatively recent innovation and that may account for the Church's reluctance to include Harvest Thanksgiving in the Christian year. The Prayer Book of 1662 makes no provision for it, because it was still a thing of the future. The proposed book of 1928 did cater for the Harvest by the inclusion of a special Collect, Epistle and Gospel, though not restricting it to any particular date, and the Alternative Service Book makes similar provision, giving a rich variety of readings from which to choose.

However, no matter what its parentage, the annual Harvest Festival is now a firmly-established element in the Church's year, especially in our more lovely country churches. Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne are two such places, admirably lending themselves to this annual festival, and I hope you will come along and share in the acts of worship. "Come, ye thankful people, come!"

'Fish' News

We were all saddened by the death of Miss Wraight. She was a keen supporter of the Fish Scheme, and a regular attender at our Coffee Pop-Ins and guest at Luncheon Club celebrations. Her determination, energy and productivity throughout her long life will stand as an inspiration to us all. We shall all miss her.

The Luncheon Club starts again on September 2nd. Two of our members have left us — Mrs. Eldridge has moved to be near her daughter at Woking, and Mrs. Baston has gone to live at a retirement home in Sturry.

This month's Coffee Pop-In will be in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 11th September from 10.15 to 11.45am.

Joan Warren, 830233

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Mrs. Hogben	7th September	Mrs. Hogben
Mrs. Watson	14th September	Mrs. Watson
Mrs. Russell	21st September	Mrs. Broadwater
Mrs. Grey	28th September	<i>Harvest Festival</i>

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Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

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

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

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

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

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

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Magazine Advertising: Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830472)

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.

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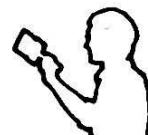
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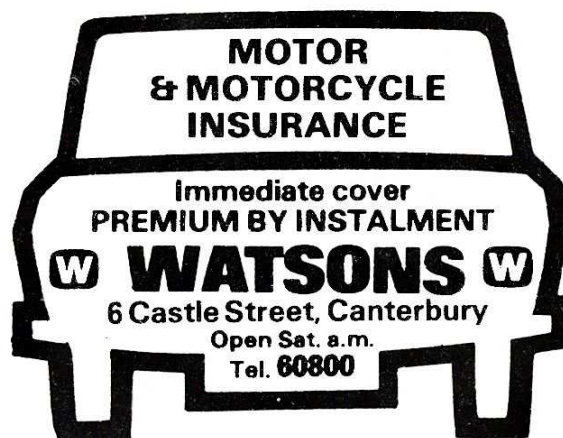
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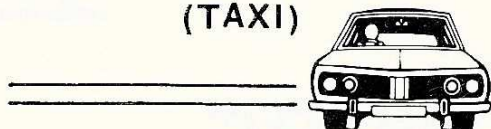
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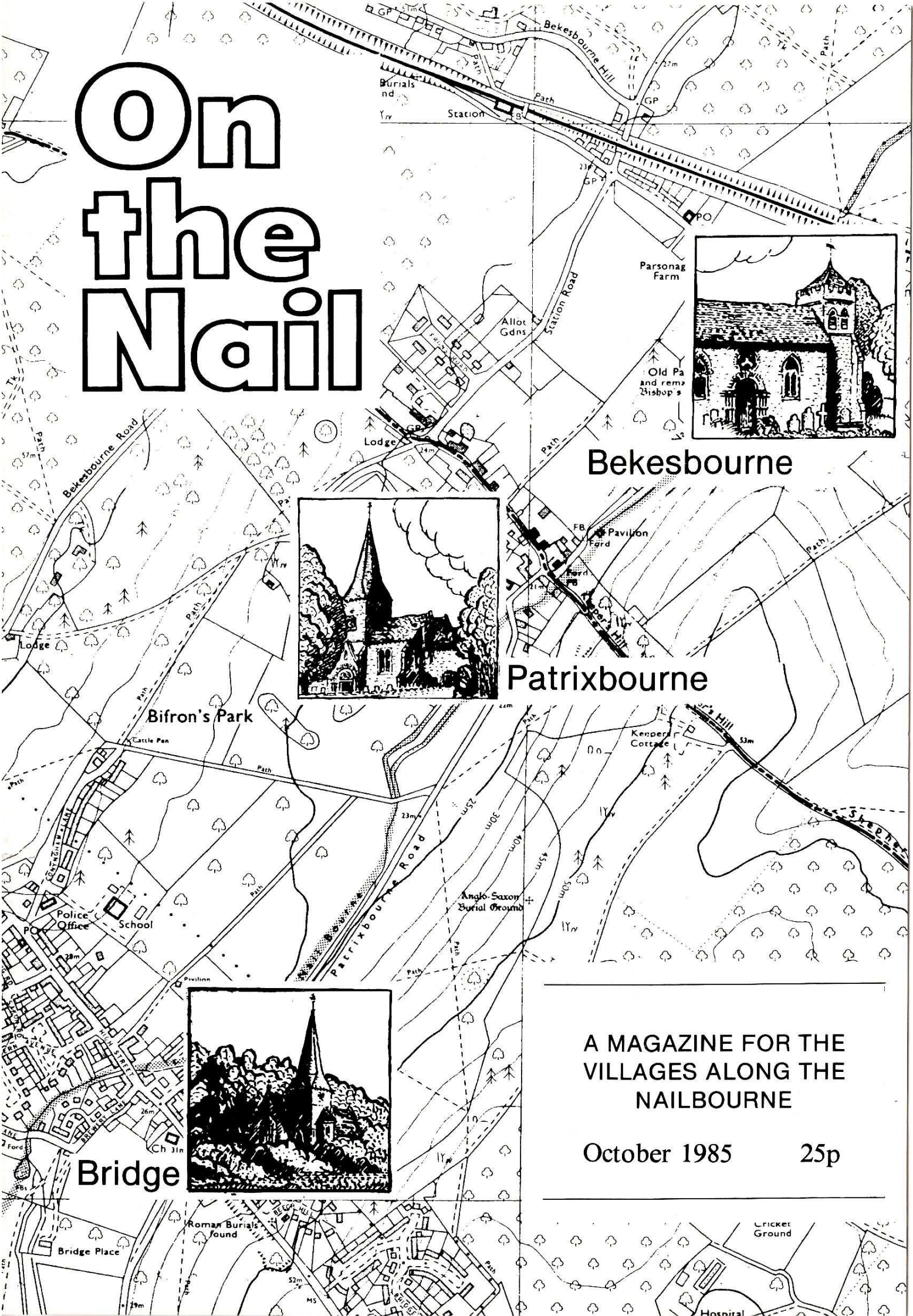
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patricbourne



Bridge

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VILLAGES ALONG THE
NAILBOURNE

October 1985

25p

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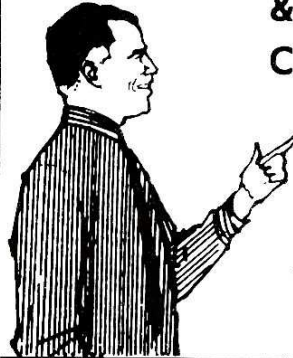
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Sunday Worship in October

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

6th:

11am *Harvest Family Service* 8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

6.30pm *Harvest Evensong*
(Preacher: Revd.
C.B. Verity)

13th:

9.30 Family Communion 11am Matins (Revd. 8am Holy Communion
(Series 3: Canon C.F. W. Owen) (Revd. C. Harrington)
Pollard)

6.30 pm Evensong
(Revd. W. Owen)

20th:

9.30 Parish Communion 8am Holy Communion 11am *Songs of Praise*
(Series 3)

6.30pm Evensong

27th:

8am Holy Communion 9am Holy Communion 11am Matins
6.30pm Evensong

3rd November:

11am Family Service 8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion
(Miss P. Pollard)
6.30pm Evensong

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *6th*, Mr. W.E. Ingall. *13th*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *20th*, Mr. L. Dron. *27th*, The Revd. Wilfrid J. Hill, M.C., B.Sc.

Ed. We regret certain inaccuracies in last month's Methodist service rota and extend our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

The usual weekday services will take place this month, namely Holy Communion in St. Peter's, Bridge on Wednesdays (BCP) at 9.30am and Fridays (ASB Rite A) at 7.30am, and at Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am. The New Close service is on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30, and we are always grateful for any help non-residents are able to give with this half-hour act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

- 3rd Tearcraft Coffee Afternoon, Bridge School, 2pm
 Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm
 Joint PCC meeting to discuss the Tiller Report, Bridge Methodist Church, 8pm
- 4th *St. Francis of Assisi, Friar, 1226*
- 5th Pray for Jenny Rampe and Steve Brightman to be married today at Bridge.

- 6th **Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 19*
 Bridge Harvest Festival. There will be a special Family Service at 11am and the Revd. Cecil Verity will preach at Evensong.
- 8th Pray for the Deanery Clergy who meet in Chapter at Ash this morning.
- 9th 'Fish' Scheme Coffee Pop-in, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am.
- 10th *St. Paulinus, Bishop, Missionary, 644*
 Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
 Pray for Raymond Gilbert who is one of a group representing the diocese on an inter-church visit to Basel and Geneva from 10th to 17th.
- 12th Working Party on Bridge Churchyard, 10am.
- 13th **Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 20*
- 15th *St. Teresa of Avila, Mystic, 1582*
- 17th *St. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c.107*
 Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm
- 18th **St. Luke the Evangelist**
- 20th **Twentieth Sunday after Trinity** *Last after Pentecost*
 Instead of Matins at Bekesbourne there will be another Songs of Praise, a chance to sing the hymns of your choice. Suggestions please to Stan Grey (830522) as soon as possible!
- 22nd Pray for the East Bridge Deanery Synod this evening at Aylesham.
- 26th Pray for the Diocesan Synod today, also for the Canterbury Council of Health and Healing AGM at the Archbishop's School.
 Autumn Supper, Bridge School, 7.30pm (*Details page 11*)
- 27th **Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity** *9 before Christmas*
- 28th **St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles**
- 29th *James Hannington, Bishop, Missionary, Martyr, 1885*

Martyrs are plentiful

The last name in the above diary may be unknown to the vast majority of *On The Nail* readers, for James Hannington has only recently been included in the Church's Calendar as one of the martyr throng. His is an interesting story, worth noting as an example of the courageous witness of a nineteenth century bishop to the truth of the Christian gospel.

James Hannington, an Anglican missionary bishop was murdered by order of King Mwanga of Uganda on 29th October, 1885. One of the king's advisors who dared to rebuke him for this and for his immoral life was beheaded. Thus began a great persecution of Christians with many Catholic and Protestant men and boys being burned alive. All persevered to the end, even the youngest catechumens (Confirmation candidates).

* * *

At the canonization of the Uganda martyrs Pope Paul VI said, 'These African martyrs add a new page to that list of victorious men and women that we call the martyrology, in which we find the most magnificent as well as the most tragic of stories. The page that is added is worthy to take its place alongside those wonderful stories of ancient Africa, which we who live today, being men of little faith, thought we should never see repeated.'

'We are familiar with the lives of the great saints, martyrs and confessors, of Africa, such as Cyprian, Felicity and Perpetua, and the great Augustine. Who would have imagined that one day we should be adding to that list those

names that are so dear to us, the names of Charles Lwanga, and his companions? Nor should we forget those others, of the Anglican communion, who died for the sake of Christ.

‘These martyrs of Africa have indeed laid the foundation of a new age. We should not dwell on the religious persecutions and conflicts, but rather on the rebirth of Christian and civil life that has begun.

‘For from the Africa that was sprinkled with the blood of these martyrs, the first of this new age (and, God willing, the last, so sublime, so precious was their sacrifice), there is emerging a free and independent Africa.’

Pope Paul was, of course, speaking before the reign of terror perpetrated by the infamous Idi Amin, that was to cause the blood of yet more martyrs to flow in the beautiful continent of Africa. Not that Africa is at peace even today. Bishop Trevor Huddleston’s prayer is still pertinent: “God bless Africa, guard her people and give her peace”.

Churches appeal

St. Mary’s Church, Patrixbourne and St. Peter’s Church, Bridge are as different as chalk and cheese, yet have this in common, that they belong to the same ecclesiastical parish of Patrixbourne with Bridge. From the point of view of the Church’s mission it is necessary to consider both areas together, for they are a unit. But where the church buildings are concerned it is generally more appropriate to think of them separately, not just because they are architecturally and chronologically poles apart, but because they are in different villages, each with its own allegiances.

It so happens that both churches need essential work doing to them, for which, as the figures show, our church coffers are insufficient. We are therefore launching appeals, and they will be quite distinct for each church.

St. Mary’s Patrixbourne

The situation that calls for extra resources at Patrixbourne is mainly to do with stonework, where in several places replacing and re-pointing are called for. It doesn’t sound very much until you realise that the cost of this important work is estimated to be at least £6,000, out of which, when various grants plus what is available from our own funds have been deducted, we are left with a sum of some £3,000 to find. Since this is all concerned with St. Mary’s Church it is to the residents of Patrixbourne alone that we make this appeal, remembering that this includes the houses on the right of Town Hill, Bridge and Renville. We shall also appeal to those outside the village who look to Patrixbourne as their church.

St. Peter’s, Bridge

At St. Peter’s Church the problem for which the appeal is launched also includes stonework but in addition centres on the roof timbers, which need treatment against infestation. We are bound to say this last has not reached the danger stage but will soon do so if precautionary measures are not taken early on. We owe it to our descendants to leave the church in as good a state of preservation as possible, hence the wisdom of tackling this potentially serious problem before it gets a hold.

All these works are very costly and we estimate eventually having to face bills in the region of £4,200, of which we are only able to find £2,200. We are therefore looking to the residents of Bridge, all of whom, with few

exceptions, make use of the building at some time or other, and also friends and supporters from outside to contribute the missing £2,000. St. Peter's is not renowned for its beauty, but with growth in so many aspects of the church's life in Bridge it is being increasingly used and many more are turning to it as their spiritual home.

House-to-house call

The two appeals are being conducted independently on a house-to-house basis with no single household being asked to donate to more than one church. The contributions made will be earmarked for the stated church and will not be pooled, as happens with other parochial monies. Residents can thus make their donation knowing the money will go to their church.

Residents and friends of Patricxbourne and Bridge, please give as generously as you can and help to preserve these valuable buildings which are after all village property and part of your local inheritance.

Joys and Sorrows

As the September issue of *On The Nail* had to go to press during the vicar's holiday it was not possible to register the sad deaths of **Ernest Moon**, 1 Firdown Cottages, Hode Farm and **Arthur Boyle**, 66 Riverside Close, Bridge, both of which occurred in August. In recording them now we offer sincerest sympathy both to Mrs. Moon and Mrs. Boyle.

On a much happier note, **Ray Bourne** and **Shirley Cork** were married in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on Saturday, 7th September and we offer them our best wishes and blessings for a long and happy life together.

Bridge churchyard

With the past improvements our churchyard is approaching the stage where a 'clean-up' is becoming a 'tidy-up'. Nevertheless work is still needed and we plan to hold our next working party on Saturday, 12th October commencing at 10am.

Please make a note of the date and join us with whatever garden tools, saws etc. you can muster.

A.J.

Retirement of Mrs. Diana Holway

A large gathering of friends met at the farewell party given for Mrs. Diana Holway on Friday, 6th September. Mrs. Holway, who has been matron of first The Close and subsequently The New Close for a total of twelve years has had to take early retirement due to continuing ill health.

Warm appreciation of her valuable work was voiced by representatives from the KCC, Bridge Parish Council, and from Mrs. Joan Warren on behalf of the 'Fish' Scheme in general and Luncheon Club in particular. Her success in bringing the home and village community into a close relationship was especially emphasized.

A cheque from the village, Friends of the Close and members of the Luncheon Club was presented and other gifts included those from the staff of The New Close and the Warden of Churchill House, a large bouquet from the Luncheon Club and flowers from our local doctor.

In expressing her thanks for the gifts and good wishes, Mrs. Holway spoke of her happy years at The Close and the warm friendship and co-operation

she had met. The evening ended with excellent refreshments and conviviality.

O. Knight

57 Pilgrims Way
Canterbury

To all my friends and villagers of Bridge, thank you so much for giving so generously to my gift of a cheque at my leaving The New Close. I was overwhelmed by that and all the lovely gifts I received.

I hope to keep contact with Bridge and have joined the Friends.

In gratitude,

Diana Holway

Please note . . .

Bridge Yoga classes to commence in October. Please contact Patricia John, Stelling Minnis 237 after 7pm.

E.C.

* * *

Bridge Folk Dance Group is back after the holidays, meeting twice a month. Join us on 3rd and 17th October at 8 o'clock in the Village Hall. For further information ring 830652 or 830285.

J.H.

Alcoholism

by the Revd. Peter Taylor

A few days ago I went on a course in Canterbury about Alcohol Abuse. Apart from meeting some old friends, it was an interesting experience. Several myths about alcohol were exploded — evidently vodka can be smelt and tasted; it is illegal to give alcohol to children under five; you can become an alcoholic only drinking beer; Prohibition in the USA had long-term effects (many families today still do not drink); addicts of alcohol can come off their addiction.

We often consider alcoholics to be 'them', a separate group of people who have an in-built weakness for the addiction. Clearly the rest of us who are normal will never become like them, we know when to stop. It was sobering (if you pardon the pun) to realise that there is no wide chasm between 'us' and 'them'. Imagine a line with abstainers at one end and alcoholics at the other. We *all* lie somewhere along the line, and it is easy to move along it, to one end or the other. Each of us could end up like those poor souls we sometimes see in our streets.

Events in our lives may drive us to drink more, and this may lead to loss of control of our drinking — bereavement, birth, marriage, unemployment, loneliness, large surplus salary, time — all of these, and others. Of course this does not mean to say that if these things happen to you, you will automatically turn to the bottle, but it could happen, and does happen to ordinary people, especially if alcohol is around the home. There will almost certainly be several reading this who have difficulty controlling their alcohol intake, but it is not their problem alone, for the family may have led them to it, friends and neighbours may have noticed and said nothing. To some extent we are all to blame for letting God's creation be so marred, for instead of controlling we become the controlled.



SPAN—The Deanery of East Bridge

Many of us have taken part in Framework for Faith courses over the last couple of years and we have come to value not only the content of those courses but also the companionship and co-operation of fellow group-members. With representatives from different parishes and different backgrounds each group took on a

vigorous life of its own and it seemed a pity that this should just stop at the end of each course.

In the early days of the Church St. Paul wrote, 'Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer'. It is for this same purpose that SPAN is being formed. ('SPAN' because it spans the parishes and relates to East Bridge. 'S' = Study; 'P' = prayer; 'A' = action; 'N' = 'ncouragement!)

It is intended that each group will be formed from 'across Parish boundaries'. It is hoped that meetings will be held on a monthly basis commencing in November with a combined inaugural Eucharist for all in the Deanery.

Monthly venues would be shared by alternating between the homes of members volunteering to act as hosts.

Groups will be free to develop as they feel appropriate, extending membership and offering help and support wherever they feel it is necessary.

SPAN is for you, for me, for everyone. We aim to meet in groups of up to about ten people for a simple meal, fellowship and prayer.

The success of SPAN depends on *you*, so if you would like to join in this renewed concept of Christian Fellowship please complete the form available in Church or from your Vicar.

Peter Brownbridge

Channel Fixed Link

Extracts from Councillor Peter Lawrence's report to Bridge Parish Council of a Conference to inform interested groups and organisations on the fixed Channel Link proposals, held at County Hall on 17th June last.

The choice of scheme, if any, will be a Government decision but because the schemes will be privately funded there is no requirement for proprietors to submit tenders to Government agencies. H.M. Government will not be involved with finance or the proposed tolls.

Proposed Timetable

By October 1985 observations on the individual schemes must be submitted to the respective proprietors. Views on the concept as a whole must be submitted to the Department of the Environment. A second Conference is planned for October, on similar lines to the June one. All submissions to the DoE must be in by 31st October, which is the deadline for submission of schemes by proprietors.

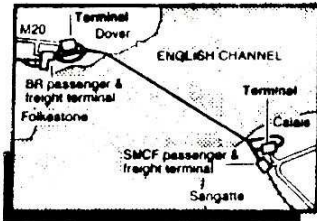
Before the end of January 1986 the Anglo-French Governments will announce which project, if any, gets their approval.

A treaty will be signed between France and the UK in the spring of '86 which is effectively a declaration of mutual intent. This must be ratified by an Act of Parliament, royal assent taking probably about a year to come through. Only then can work begin.

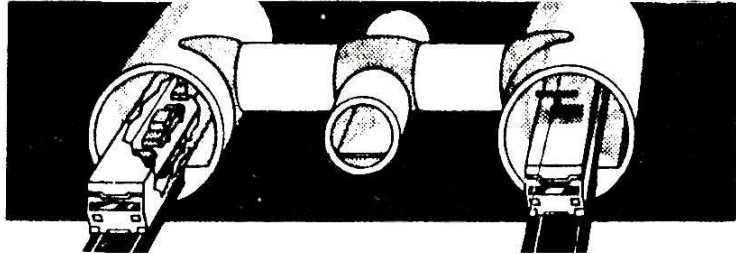
Employment

Dover would seem to be particularly vulnerable for increased unemployment if the Fixed Link goes ahead, ferry crews and those employed in the port being obvious sufferers.

During construction work more employment would be generated but France would want its share of the extra work. Much of the materials would have to be made overseas as the UK does not have the capacity. All in all it does not seem that there will be an employment bonanza in Kent during the four and a half years it is estimated building would take.



THE
CHANNEL
TUNNEL
GROUP
CONCEPT



The Scheme

Channel Tunnel Group suggests two railway tunnels with a pilot/service tunnel running parallel between them, and with terminals at Cheriton and Sandgate and near Calais. Road vehicles would be put on trains at the terminals, loading time being eight minutes per train, and the journey would take thirty minutes. Initially there would be one train every fifteen minutes, but the design frequency is every two and a half minutes. Through passenger trains from London to Paris are planned in due course, and freight marshalling yards and holding compounds for Ashford. Tunnel spoil to be dumped below Shakespeare Cliff, at Dungeness or wherever they can dispose of it.

Linkintoeurope propose a bridge across the Channel, probably carrying a six-lane highway for road traffic, with wind deflectors to protect vehicles. No site has so far been suggested, but wherever it went easy access could be made to existing roadworks. However, the carrying capacity of existing roads to Dover/Folkestone may need to be increased to cope with anticipated increase in traffic generated by a bridge.

Euroroute would construct two artificial islands in the Dover Strait linked by tunnels and with bridges linking to the mainland. Tunnels would be pre-fabricated sections sunk into a trench dug between the islands, and would be for road traffic only.

Flexilink is a company set up to represent the Port, Shipping and Ferry interests along the UK south and east coasts. The company does not agree with the Fixed Link proprietors that the longer ferry routes will prosper when the fixed link is operational. In the event of a fixed link becoming reality then it is inevitable that some Ferry routes will go, therefore less employment; meanwhile, what happens to the ferry services in the interim? The Ferry operators will have little inclination to provide new tonnage up to the opening of the fixed link. Accordingly the frequency and standards of to-day's service will fall from the moment that a fixed link scheme becomes a reality.

Conclusions

The Government seems set on establishing a fixed Channel link. The KCC seems to be sitting on the fence and leaving the decision to Local Councils in the areas directly concerned.

Should the majority of people in Kent, whether as private citizens, business organisations or the many respected groups in the county be against the fixed link project, they will most certainly have to mobilise, prepare their case and have it ready for the October Conference at the latest. They will also need to lobby MPs, MEPs, County, City, District and even Parish Councillors. Rest assured that with the possible exception of Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Sussex and the city of Southampton, the rest of the country might well be in favour of a Channel Fixed Link — after all, it's not going to be in their back yard.

CHURCH AUTUMN SUPPER, Saturday, 26th October, 7.30pm, Bridge School. Tickets in advance, £2, from Church Cottage or Red Deer, Bridge Down. Good food! Homespun entertainment! Pleasant company!

**PARISH
PUMP**
Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council held its first meeting after the summer recess on Thursday 12th September.

Village Hall

The Memorial Clock had been replaced outside the Village Hall by Councillor Ken Greenaway on the afternoon of the meeting following its repair. The Council gave a vote of thanks to Cllr. Greenaway who had undertaken a considerable amount of work in removing the clock from the wall and attending to the casing and the electrics whilst the mechanism had been away for repair. The Council decided to order, as had been advised by the occupational therapist, two grab rails for the disabled persons' lavatory which Cllr. Greenaway agreed to fix in position.

Recreational Ground

The Council were concerned at the cost of the upkeep of the recreation ground and decided to investigate the possibility of the whole area being offered as a contract instead of as at present the main area being cut by the Kent County Council gang mower and the perimeter being offered to a private contractor. It was agreed to accept the kind offer of an oak tree for the recreation ground from Mrs. Burr and Cllr. John Anderson agreed to see to its planting. The Clerk stated that there was the possibility of Kent County Council being able to provide a 'No Motorcycles' sign for the Patribourne Road entrance to the Ground.

Streets and Footways

Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin was to chase up the contractors responsible for building the Bridge Hill/Bridge Down Stairway regarding the tidying up of the area beneath the stairs. The Council noted that Kent County Council hoped to surface the footway from the top of the stairway into Bridge Down during the

month of September. The Clerk was to contact the County Council regarding the school sign on Town Hill which was now obscured by trees. The Council agreed to take over responsibility for the bus shelter on Bridge Hill opposite Higham Lane as from February 1986.

Planning

The Council had no observations to make on an application for the erection of a porch, utility room and double garage at 'The Dell', Bridge Hill, other than that they would prefer the roof shown as a gable on the plans to be hipped. The Council noted that the City Council had approved the details of a two-storey dwelling house on land at and adjacent to the Coach House, Filmer Road, and had made a Tree Preservation Order relating to a group of one lime and four sycamores at the Recreation Ground. Cllr. Gulvin stated that the City Council had not so far been able to make available to him the approved plans for the development at The Close, Union Road, but that he and Cllr. Tim Hoare would investigate further. The Council also heard from residents at The Close about problems with the collection of refuse and Cllr. Gulvin said he would include that in his investigation into the planning consents once the City Council had located the plans.

Generally, the Council decided to object to an application for an off-licence at Whiclar Wines, Mill Lane and to write a letter of thanks to Mr. T. Heap of Granville Lodge, Higham Lane who had given Cllr. Greenaway invaluable assistance with the village clock.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10th October at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall and, as always, parishioners are most welcome to attend.

K. Walder
Clerk

School News by Brian Farley

We have started this term with eight new children in the reception class, which brings the total number of children in the school to 153. There have also been some small changes in that some teachers have changed the year which they have been teaching.

During last term there were a number of educational visits, including Chilham Castle, Golden Stable Wood, the Thames Flood Barrier, Joss Bay and a three-day visit to France by older juniors.

On 3rd October at 2pm we are having a 'Tearcraft Coffee Afternoon'. This is open to all. 'Tearcraft' is a branch of 'Tearfund' and exists to market goods made in third world countries and thereby helps to support the under-privileged.

We look forward to what is usually a busy but interesting and varied term, with the usual Harvest and Christmas activities plus visits this year by a travelling puppet theatre and also a professional theatre group.

'Fish' News

Sadly Di Holway, the Matron of The New Close, has had to retire through illness. Few people realise the considerable contribution she has made to the care of the elderly in the community and many people have cause to be grateful for her great gift of providing instant help to anyone in need.

When discussions were under way to start our neighbourhood care scheme she immediately offered the use of the old Close as a base for our activities. Within a month of my first visit to make plans for starting a Luncheon Club we were welcoming our first members: red tape had been cut, equipment seemed to appear from nowhere and the catering staff were fired with enthusiasm to take on an increased work-load. The Luncheon Club, five years old on 6th October, has given many elderly people the opportunity of a weekly outing and a delicious meal in good company.

It often takes a considerable time to mobilize statutory services in cases of sudden illness or return from hospital. On many occasions we have been able to collect meals or borrow equipment to bridge this gap with the help of the Close. This response to the needs of the community has been of double benefit in that the Close residents can always rely on visits and help from the community.

On behalf of the elderly residents of our villages may I send our grateful thanks to Di and our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

* * *

See the Diary for the next Coffee Pop-in.

Joan Warren, 830233

<i>Cleaning</i>	ST. PETER'S, BEKESBOURNE	<i>Flowers</i>
Mrs. Beckett	5th October	..... Mrs. Beckett
Mrs. Smith	12th October	..... Mrs. Smith
Mrs. Stickells	19th October	..... Mrs. Millyard
Mrs. Hogben	26th October	..... Mrs. Farbrace
Mrs. Watson	2nd November	.....

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

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

Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

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

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. M. Miles, 7 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EE (462947)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD (462695)

Time & Talents: Mr. A. Jackson, Cosby, Higham Lane, Bridge CT4 5AY (830489)

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Magazine Advertising: Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830472)

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.

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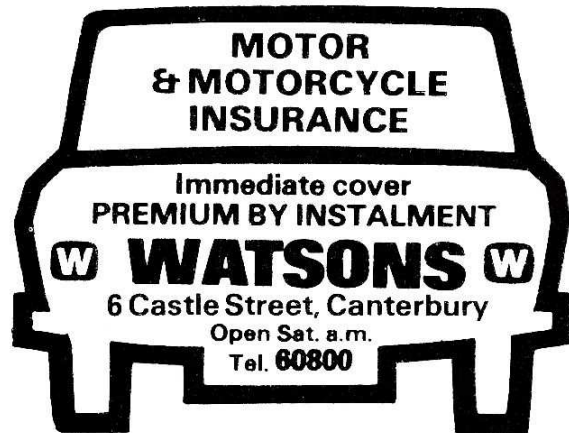
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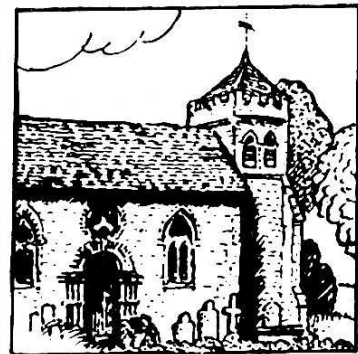
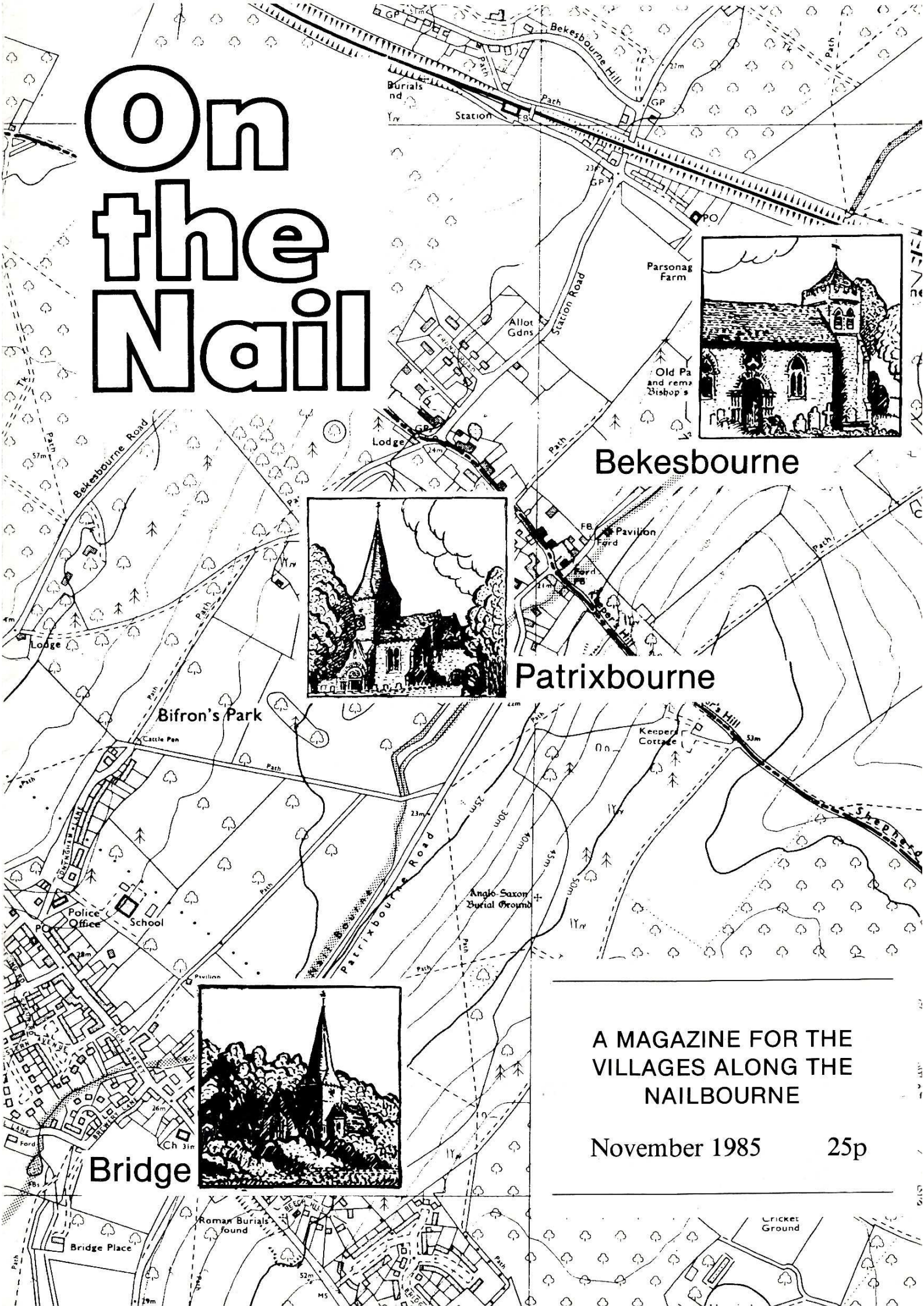
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patricbourne



Bridge

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November 1985

25p

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Sunday Worship in November

Bridge Patrixbourne Bekesbourne

3rd:

11am Family Service 8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion
(Mrs. P.J. Pollard)
6.30pm Evensong

10th:

9.30 Family Communion 11.15 *Service of* 8am Holy Communion
(Series 3) *Remembrance*
6.30pm Evensong *(Revd. C.B. Verity)*

17th:

9.30 Parish Communion 8am Holy Communion 11am Matins
(Series 3)
6.30pm Evensong

24th:

8am Holy Communion 9am Holy Communion 11am Matins
6.30pm Evensong

1st December:

11am Family Gift Service 8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong *(sung*
by The Occasional
Singers)

Sunday, 10th being Remembrance Day the Bridge & District Branch of The Royal British Legion will observe the two minutes' silence and lay a poppy wreath on the village war memorial in the churchyard at 11am. A Service of Remembrance will take place at Patrixbourne at 11.15am, replacing Matins.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 3rd, Dr. S. J. Rogers, M.A.,D.Phil. 10th, Holy Communion, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met.,B.D. 17th, The Revd. Ralph Pritchard, B.A. 24th, Miss J.M. Anderson, D. Phil.

During the week Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on Wednesdays (BCP) at 9.30am and Fridays (ASB Rite A) at 7.30am. Holy Communion is celebrated at Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am. A short and informal act of worship is held each Wednesday at 2.30pm in The New Close. Visitors from the village are always most welcome at this service, which generally lasts no longer than half an hour.

For your diary and prayer list

1st **All Saints' Day**

2nd *Commemoration of All Souls*

Pray for Katrina Booth and Andrew Cox, to be married today at Bridge.

3rd **Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity** 8 before Christmas

The Family Service will be conducted by Mrs. Pat Pollard of the Church of England Children's Society. The theme is "And all your children".

8th *Saints and Martyrs of England*

- 10th **Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity** 7 before Christmas
 11am — Act of Remembrance at Bridge War Memorial
 11.15am — Service of Remembrance at Patricxbourne, with a sermon from the Revd. C.B. Verity, who was an RAF chaplain for 20 years including the Second World War.
- 11th *St. Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397*
- 12th Interchurch Group, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- 13th *Charles Simeon, Pastor, Preacher, 1836*
- 14th Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 16th *Margaret of Scotland, Queen, Wife, Mother, 1093*
- 17th **Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity** 6 before Christmas
- 20th *St. Edmund of East Anglia, King, Martyr, 870*
- 23rd Bekesbourne Christmas Market, Bekesbourne Village Hall, 2.15pm
- 24th **Sunday next before Advent** 5 before Christmas
- 27th Bridge School Governors meet.
- 29th Confirmation Service, St. Peter's, Bridge, 7.30pm
- 30th *St. Andrew the Apostle*
 The New Close Christmas Fayre at the home, 10am - 12 noon

The First of December . . .

. . . though rightly the concern of next month's *On The Nail* is included in this issue for the very good reason that it will be rather a special day at St. Peter's Church, Bridge.

* * *

In the morning the Family Service at 11am is the annual occasion when we ask families to bring a Christmas present for a resident of The New Close. As usual we shall invite someone from the home to come and receive your gifts and after the service they will be kept at the home for distribution on Christmas Day. This means presents should be brought gift-wrapped and with some indication as to whether they are for a lady or gentleman. It might be rather nice if you put a 'to' - 'from' label on it, leaving the 'to' section to be filled in by the staff.

Suggestions for your gift: sweets (preferably soft), chocolate, pop-socks, stretch stockings (not tights, please), hankies or tissues, talc, toiletries, small ornaments.

* * *

In the evening we shall welcome back to Bridge Church The Occasional Singers with their conductor, David Flood. The singers are coming to sing Evensong on cathedral lines, and since I am in the choir I have invited the Cathedral Precentor, Howard Such to officiate.

Living as close to a cathedral as we do, the difference in Evensong as sung there may be apparent. It means little opportunity for the congregation to join in vocally and is a situation unfamiliar to a parish church, in which the choir *does* the worship rather than leads it.

This is a one-off experience which I hope worshippers may find interesting. It may well be The Occasional Singers' last visit, since David Flood has recently been appointed Organist and Master of the Choisters at Lincoln Cathedral and will take up this new work next summer. He follows in the footsteps of an illustrious church musician of the past, William Byrd, some of whose music the singers will render when they come to Bridge.

'Dick' Turpin

It was a real joy in the spring of 1981 for *On The Nail* to congratulate Nell and 'Dick' Turpin on their diamond wedding anniversary. Now sadly we have to report the death of 'Dick' at the ripe old age of 88.

Dick died quite suddenly at his home in Dering Close. Happily he was spared any suffering, for which we can be justly thankful. In recent years he had been plagued by loss of sight, which was a great frustration to one who liked to keep abreast of the current situation. Apart from that, however, he was blessed with good health for one of his age, and he died as he would have wanted to, quickly and with his beloved Nell nearby.

The Turpins have been so long a part of the Bridge scene that it is hard to imagine that they only came here when 'Dick' retired from what was then called the London County Council — although that was over twenty years ago. Prior to then he not only earned his living as a local government officer in County Hall but served his own town of Berkhamsted as a councillor, including a term as mayor of the borough.

During his time here 'Dick' never lost his interest in the village and its people. He had been on the Parish Council and, together with Nell, involved himself in many aspects of the village's life. The two of them accumulated a wide circle of friends, most of whom paid frequent visits to them once increased immobility kept 'Dick' indoors.

Nell and 'Dick' were church folk all their lives, so it was appropriate that they should choose to commence their diamond wedding celebrations with a special Holy Communion service in their parish church. Thus began a regular monthly house communion that continued right up until 'Dick's' death.

Relations and friends gathered in Bridge Church on Tuesday, 8th October to bid farewell to a good and upright gentleman. He will be much missed. May he rest in God's peace!

* * *

Nell would like to thank all who sent messages of condolence or in other ways supported her in her bereavement.

Joys in plenty

The lovely autumn weather smiled on **Jennie Rampe** and **Steve Brightman**, who were married in Bridge Church on Saturday, 5th October, and we wish them both every happiness and blessing in their future together.

Four of our children received Holy Baptism in October. On the 6th at the Family Harvest Service we welcomed into the family of the Church **Thomas Patrick Andrews**, The Purlins, Meadow Close and **Joanna Linda Brasier**, 11 High Street. Then on 20th at Bekesbourne the christening took place of **David John Hey**, 'High Ground', Adisham Road and **Lisa Dawn Fagg**, 'Wayside', Aerodrome Road.

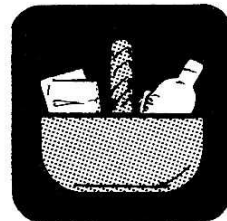


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The PTA's Bonfire & Firework Party is on Saturday, 2nd in Church Meadow, Brewery Lane, starting at 6.30pm. Tickets will be on sale at school, from several of the village shops and at the gate on the night. *K. W.*

* * *

The annual Christmas Gifts Sale Days on behalf of Kent Trust for Nature Conservation are Saturday and Sunday, 2nd and 3rd, from 10am to 5pm, and 23rd and 24th from 10am till 6pm, also from 7th to 15th December, 2 - 6pm inclusive, all at 9 High Street (Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker's). Your purchases will help to preserve the wild life in Kent.

* * *

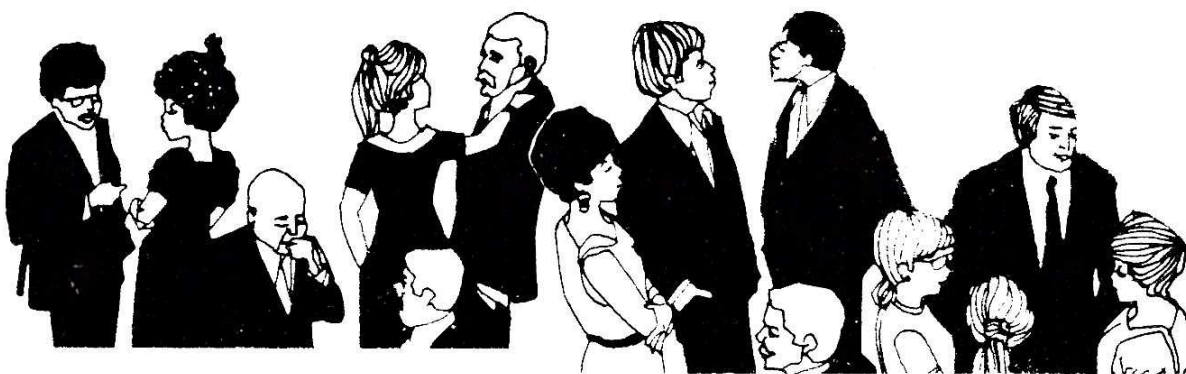
The Autumn Bazaar in aid of the Senior Citizens' Club is in Bridge Village Hall on 23rd November at 2pm. Admission is free!

* * *

The Friends of The New Close will hold their annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 30th November, 10am - 12 noon at The New Close. Stalls will sell 'crackers', wrapping paper, cakes, produce, gifts and books. Tea and coffee will be served. Proceeds are for Christmas presents and festivities for the residents. *O. Knight*

Bridge Village Hall kitchen

Is there anyone with a redundant cooker, preferably electric, who would be kind enough to donate it to the village hall? The need is for keeping food hot and warming plates at larger functions. Please contact Mrs. Young, Beech Cottage, Beech Hill (830457) if you can help! *M.A. Y.*



Interchurch Group

It has been far too long since the Roman Catholic, Methodist and Anglican communities here got together! So, a date has been fixed - Tuesday, 12th November - and a time - 7.30pm - and a venue - The Methodist Church in Patricbourne Road. Do join us in the highly important business of meeting Christians of other persuasions. The topic for this meeting will be a report from the vicar on his recent trip to the Reformed Church in Basel and the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

Food for thought! by a parishioner

THEY **THEY** **THEY** **THEY** **THEY** **THEY**

Just who are those people? Why don't **THEY** do something about this or that? . . . Why the hold-ups? Why the delays? Something ought to be done about **IT!** How often **THEY** are maligned for inactivity or thoughtlessness and lack of initiative. Now what about this or that project? — If only **THEY** were to set things in motion!

Oh yes! The pointing finger, whilst in the direction of the mythical **THEY** must also have the other fingers pointing in the opposite direction — **ME!** Try it!

Canterbury Umbrella — A new local initiative

Many people will be aware that St. Augustine's Hospital is undergoing a gradual closure in line with the Government's Care in the Community Policy. Whilst many of us support such a policy, believing that integration and acceptance is preferable to institutionalisation, there is concern that there may be inadequate provision and funding for former patients. This would place most of the burden of 'caring' on families and on the voluntary sector who do not at present have the resources for such a task.

With this concern in mind, the Voluntary Services Department at St. Augustine's have held two day seminars over the past year entitled "Who Cares". Representatives of voluntary and statutory organisations were invited to this. From this a working party has emerged, composed of representatives from voluntary organisations in the area.

We are calling ourselves "Canterbury Umbrella" and our first priority is to press for the establishment of a Community Centre in Canterbury that would offer a drop-in coffee bar, art and craft activities and advice and support. This would not just be for those who have left institutions, but for the whole community; for all those who have need for such a place. There is no such central provision in Canterbury at present. Obviously we are looking for support, both practical and moral. If you feel that your organisation could offer either, please contact Mrs. Rita Jones, Voluntary Services Department, St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham or Linda Bawden, Canterbury Volunteer Bureau, 56 London Road, Canterbury.

Linda Bawden

Christmas Shopping Evening

Canterbury Volunteer Bureau will be holding its annual Christmas Shopping Evening for the elderly and handicapped this year on Wednesday, 27th November. We are hoping to make this year's event our largest ever, with more stores joining in and plenty of entertainment to make the evening a truly festive one. The Retired Senior Volunteer Project (R.S.V.P.) will be on hand to help with the organisation and assist shoppers, along with others from voluntary organisations, schools and colleges. To round-off the evening, British Home Stores are proposing a tea in their restaurant for shoppers and helpers.

For further information or offers of help, please contact Linda Bawden at the Volunteer Bureau, 56 London Road, Canterbury.

Linda Bawden

Confirmation Service 29th November

Once again St. Peter's Bridge will be the setting for a service of Holy Communion with Confirmation, administered by the Bishop of Dover. The service is on the eve of St. Andrew's Day, 29th November at 7.30pm, and no doubt we shall welcome a number of candidates from other parishes. From our own churches of Patricbourne with Bridge the following will be confirmed: Charlotte Pay, Lucinda Spencer, Simon Reeves and Christopher Legge. As on previous occasions it is important that as many members of the two churches as possible attend this service, to give a warm welcome to these new communicants.

A problem of our time

From time to time in church prayers are offered for the natural world. We thank God for all he has given us so richly to enjoy and then append a request that he will inspire mankind to be careful how we use the world. Such a prayer is in line with the anxiety so many feel just now about the way we exploit and violate the earth and its resources.

One of the evils of the present age was brought to the attention of the diocesan party that recently visited the Reformed Church in Germany and Switzerland. We were taken on a walk in the Black Forest with one of the foresters as our guide. What could be more pleasant, you may think, until you realise that the object of the exercise was not our physical wellbeing. We were, instead, brought face to face with one of the most pressing problems of our time by being shown the tragic effects of air pollution on the trees. Acres of giant conifers are being destroyed slowly and surely by acid rain and similar chemical action, and there is nothing the foresters can do to stop it. This is far more serious than our own Dutch Elm disease for *all* trees are vulnerable to attack. The only solution is a rapid and quite drastic change in our use of machines like the internal combustion engine.

Our attention was drawn to the sanatoria in the vicinity, where people go to breathe the fresh, clean air: except that the air they inhale is polluted.

We came away convinced of the urgent need to rethink our strategy where the earth's resources are concerned and to do whatever we can to publicise the situation. Today the Black Forest: tomorrow Lyminge Forest?

The Swiss have made an initial gesture to clean up the air. A movement has been launched encouraging motorists to switch off their engine while standing at traffic lights, and one motor manufacturer has introduced a modification that enables drivers to re-start their engines simply by depressing the accelerator. This simple habit is easy to acquire and serves the dual purpose of saving energy, for my host assured me his petrol consumption has gone down quite dramatically since the scheme came into operation.

I commend this to everyone in this country, for if you had seen the dying trees of the Black Forest and realised the same could happen here I am sure you would see the point of stopping your engine at the red lights. Next time you are held up in a line of vehicles put your nose out of the window and witness the nonchalant way we pump exhaust fumes into the atmosphere. We might, indeed, try to introduce the Swiss idea into this country, taking as our motto the slogan: "Kill engines, not trees!"

Thanks . . .

. . . from the Pilgrims Hospice and all at The New Close for your generosity at Harvest Thanksgiving.

. . . also from Maggie Field for all who supported her Coffee Morning, which raised £102 for equipment for the 1st Bridge Guide Company.



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Thursday 10th October. Arising from the last meeting, the Council were informed that the Hearing of the application for an Off-Licence for Whiclar Wines at Mill Lane had been adjourned. As they were concerned, not only on traffic grounds and the lack of information about opening hours as stated last meeting, but also about the effect on the existing off-licence trade enjoyed by the supermarket in the village, should such a licence be granted to Whiclar Wines, they decided to authorise any one of the Councillors to speak at the Hearing on the Council's behalf.

Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that she had obtained one verbal quotation for gang mowing and tidying the perimeter and was also awaiting an estimate from Kent County Council following a site meeting there. She also reported that the County Council were going to obtain 'No Motorcycles' signs and would erect them once received. Cllrs John Anderson and Mrs. Anne Young were to attend to the siting and planting some time in November of the oak tree offered by Mrs. Burr.

Streets and Footways

The Council noted that work had commenced on the surfacing of the footpath from the top of the Bridge Hill/Bridge Down Stairway. The Clerk said she would contact the police again regarding the removal of the crashed car parked in the High Street.

Village Hall

Cllr Ken Greenaway was able to report considerable progress here. The timed heater for the kitchen had now been

installed and the hooded light at the rear of the steps repaired by Messrs. Morgan-Ride. Cllr Greenaway himself had put in the grab rails in the disabled persons' lavatory and had painted white the edges of the steps outside. The Council were in favour of his suggestion to fit a time switch to control the outside lights. Cllr Greenaway also offered to take responsibility for attending to the smooth running of the memorial clock, an offer which the Council were most pleased to accept and for which they agreed he should be reimbursed.

Cllr Mrs. Young reported that she had accompanied the judge from the Men of the Trees 'Trees in Your Village' competition on his tour of inspection. The Council then considered complaints received from a number of residents in Bridge Down concerning a poplar tree in Beech Hill, but felt that, whilst sympathising, there was little assistance they could give. It was agreed to send a letter to the Department of Trade objecting to a Channel Fixed Link of any kind, and to pass on to the Head Teacher and PTA of Bridge School for their observations a report on School Transport prepared by a working party set up by the Kent Association of Parish Councils. The Council also agreed to support an application from Bridge Village Playgroup to the Canterbury City Council Lottery Fund for £75 towards the purchase of a portable book display/storage unit, and from Bridge Lawn Tennis Club for £100 towards the cost of their club-house.

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

*K.A. Walder
Clerk*



Sponsored cycle ride — 7th September

One hundred and fifteen people visited Patrixbourne Church on their bicycles riding on the Sponsored Cycle Ride for Friends of Kent Churches. We were fortunate in having a beautiful day for the ride.

Thank you very much to all the villagers of Patrixbourne who volunteered their time in manning the church, sponsoring the cyclists or taking part themselves — or, in the case of Joan Carpenter, doing all three! In Patrixbourne we collected a grand total of £195·10.

Fourteen people cycled round many churches for Patrixbourne—Edward Clarke and Michael Knight visited thirty churches each! It took them all day. Six girls from Clarendon Girls School, Ramsgate volunteered to cycle for Patrixbourne. Many thanks for a wonderful effort everyone!

Sue Pratt

As Bekesbourne's Parish Organiser I would like to thank all those who kindly sponsored, rode or gave their time otherwise in support of the Sponsored Ride organised by The Friends of Kent Churches. A total of £115·05 was raised in Bekesbourne.

I'm sure all those who participated would agree that the enthusiasm abounding on the day did much to speed the saddle sore on their way, matched only by the glorious weather which increased everyone's enjoyment. Many thanks to one and all.

Christine Ash

At time of going to press the figure for Bridge is still not available. Ed.

'Fish' News

The Luncheon Club celebrated its fifth anniversary with a special luncheon on 7th October. Cllr John Hill congratulated the members and thanked the volunteers and catering staff for their help throughout the year. He paid tribute to 'Dick' Turpin, who had been a regular and appreciative member of the club, until increasing disability kept him at home. We all send our sympathy to Nell and hope that she will join us again before too long.

The Fish Committee will be meeting in November. Please let me know if you have any matters you would like discussed.

Mrs. Elsie Anderson of Bridge was selected as one of the first residents for the new Abbeyfield House in Canterbury. We were delighted to have her with us at the last Coffee Pop-in, when we heard enthusiastic reports of her new life. The next Pop-in will be on Wednesday, 13th November in the Village Hall from 10.15 - 11.45am.

Joan Warren, 830233

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Flowers

Mrs. Watson	2nd November	
Mrs. Russell	9th November	Mrs. Whigham
Mrs. Grey	16th November	Mrs. Wraight
Mrs. Beckett	23rd November	Mrs. Ashdown
Mrs. Smith	30th November	<i>No flowers</i>

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

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

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. M. Miles, 7 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EE (462947)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD (462695)

Time & Talents: Mr. A. Jackson, Cosby, Higham Lane, Bridge CT4 5AY (830489)

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Magazine Advertising: Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830472)

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.

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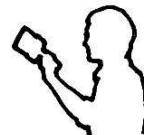
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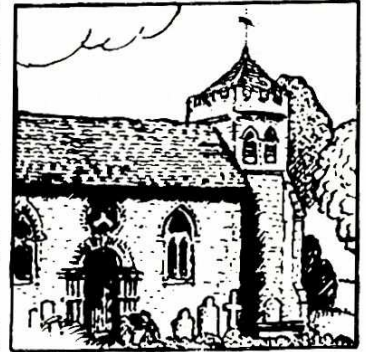
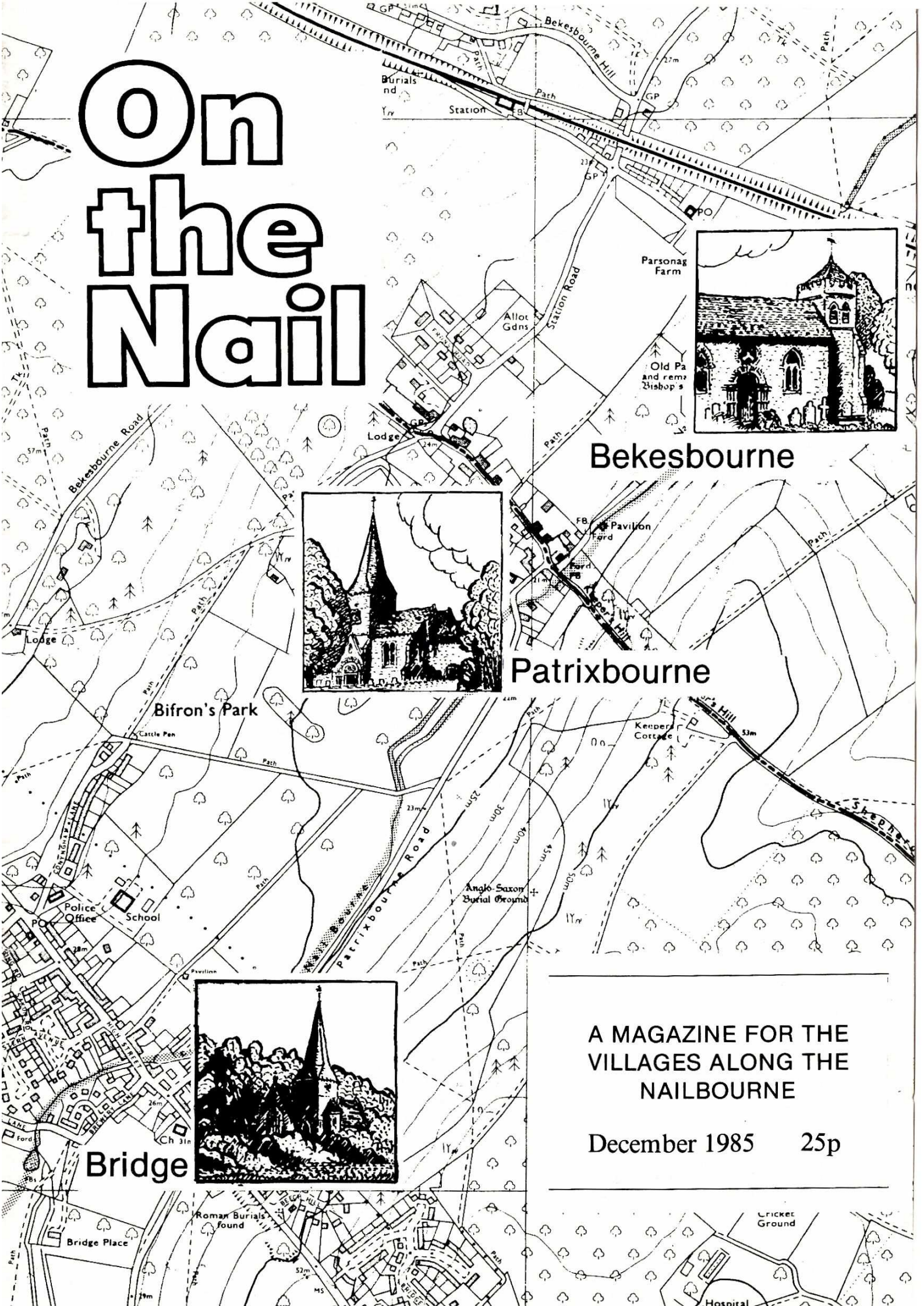
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Sunday Worship in December

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

1st:

11am Family Gift Service

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

6.30pm Evensong (*sung by The Occasional Singers*)

8th:

9.30 Family Communion 11am Matins (*Series 3*)

8am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

15th:

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

4pm Nativity Play and Christingle Service

No Evensong today

22nd

8am Holy Communion 9am Holy Communion 11am Matins

6.30pm Carol Service

29th:

9.30 Family Communion 11am Matins (*Series 3*)

8am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

5th January:

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

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *1st*, Mr. D. Morton. *8th*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *15th*, Mrs. M.C. Fairhurst, B.Ed. *22nd*, *Carol Service*, Miss K.J. Knight. *29th*, The Revd. John Turner, B.A.

Weekdays: Holy Communion in St. Peter's, Bridge every Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and Friday (ASB Rite A) at 7.30am, except Christmas Day and Friday, 27th. Holy Communion at Churchill House on Wednesday, 4th at 10.15am. A short informal act of worship is held every Wednesday (2.30pm) at The New Close, except 18th, when there will be a Carol Service at 7pm instead, and Christmas Day.

For your diary and prayer list

1st Advent Sunday

Christmas presents for the residents of The New Close will be received at the Family Service. Evensong will be sung by The Occasional Singers, directed by David Flood. The Cathedral Precentor will conduct the service and the music (for choir only) will be: Introit: Ecce virgo concipiet by Henrich Isaac. Responses—Thomas Morley. Magnificat &

- Nunc Dimittis—Orlando Gibbons' Short Service. Anthem: Laetentur coeli by William Byrd. With such a musical feast on top of the usual Evensong psalm, prayers and readings there will not be a sermon.
- 2nd *Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637*
- 3rd *Francis Xavier, Missionary, 1552*
Pray for the Deanery Clergy who meet at Aylesham this morning.
- 5th Playgroup Christmas Bazaar, Bridge Village Hall, 10.30 - noon.
- 6th *St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.326*
- 7th *St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher, 397*
Bridge & Patrixbourne Christmas Market, Village Hall, 2pm.
- 8th **Second Sunday in Advent**
- 11th SPAN Inaugural Eucharist (The Bishop of Dover) at St. Peter's, Aylesham, 7.30pm
- 12th Magazine Distributors' Meeting, The Methodist Church, 2.30pm
Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7pm
- 13th Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC, The Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- 14th *St. John of the Cross, Mystic, Teacher, 1591*
- 15th **Third Sunday in Advent**
Junior Church present a Nativity Play with Christingle Procession at 4pm in St. Peter's, Bridge. There will be no Evensong at 6.30pm.
- 18th Carols at The New Close, 7pm. All welcome, especially singers. The Christmas Raffle for the Amenities Fund will be drawn—tickets on sale at the home and Post Office.
- 19th Junior Church will be carolling in the village.
- 20th Patrixbourne Church Carol Service, 7.30pm
- 22nd **Fourth Sunday in Advent**
Bridge Church Carol Service, by candlelight, 6.30pm
- 24th **Christmas Eve**
- 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY** } *Details are displayed on page 7.*
- 26th **St. Stephen the First Martyr**
- 27th **St. John the Evangelist**
- 28th **Holy Innocents**
- 29th **Sunday after Christmas Day**
- 30th *Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906*
- 31st *John Wyclif, Theologian, Reformer, 1384*

Bethlehem—a pilgrim's impression

by Kath Pierce

“And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night.” So we read in St. Luke's gospel, recorded nearly 2000 years ago.

To-day, there are still shepherds keeping watch over their flocks on the hillsides around Bethlehem. There, as far as the eye could see, were cave dwellings between the limestone strata of the hillside—there, a shepherd leading his sheep along a narrow, steep track—disappearing from view, only to appear again higher up the hillside. It was so real and so natural and absolutely breath-taking!

One could imagine the scene at night—the shepherds by their camp-fires outside the caves—some talking, while others were sleeping—when the angel

of the Lord appeared to them and told them the GOOD NEWS that 'Christ was born this day in Bethlehem'.

The shepherds came with haste and on foot to Bethlehem. *We* came by coach. *They saw* the babe lying in a manger in a stable, and worshipped him, and went away glorifying and praising God. *We saw* the silver star which marks the spot of the divine birth on the floor of the Grotto of the Nativity. The walls of the grotto were lined with marble, as well as the floor. There were tapestries and mosaics and all lit by thirty-two lamps.

Such a material contrast between the two scenes, but in reality there was no difference. We too were there to worship the *Word made flesh* in the babe of Bethlehem, and as we sang, 'O come, let us adore him' we were transported back in time to nearly 2000 years ago.

It was indeed GOOD NEWS on the hillside, that night when Christ was born in Bethlehem. It is still GOOD NEWS to-day, if we listen to the gospel story with love in our hearts.



'What can I give him
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man
I would do my part.
Yet, what can I give him —
Give my heart.'

Welcoming

by The Revd. M.P. Taylor

We are fast approaching Christmas, and already as I write this in early November there are festive decorations appearing in our shops and Christmas bazaars here and there. Often at this time of the year some parson tells off non-churchgoers for forgetting the real meaning of Christmas while concentrating upon the more 'incidental' sides. Well, I for one welcome it all gladly, for Christmas is a time of welcoming. We welcome our relatives and friends in generous fashion with meals and drinks and presents; we welcome all the colours and sounds of the occasion; we welcome all the trimmings in the house, on the table and in the street; we welcome the services and carols and the Queen's speech on Christmas Day in the afternoon. Where we find it difficult to welcome these things we feel deep down that something is not as it should be, and that we have lost something valuable of the spirit of Christmas.

For Christians the most important welcome is reserved for Jesus, even though welcoming him often leads to disruption of all we hold most precious, just as it did 2000 years ago. Jesus was not made welcome then because his disruption was too much to bear. Too easily in the Church we fail to welcome others, not because we do not like them, but because doing so will disrupt our comfortable ways. Take children who sit in your seat at church, or who fidget during the service, who only go because they are told to by parents or their Guide leader—they disrupt, and we find it hard to welcome the changes they bring, but welcome them we must, because if we reject them we will also reject Jesus who himself welcomes and loves them. When I hear of church people grumbling because children have upset their services I wonder whether it is they, not those outside the church, who have forgotten the real meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Services

St. Peter's Bridge

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist and
Blessing the Crib
(The Vicar)

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion
(The Revd. W. Owen)

10.30am Choral Eucharist
with Carols
(The Revd. D.W. Ratcliff)

St. Mary's, Patrixbourne

Christmas Day

9.30am Holy Communion
with Carols
(The Vicar)

*Collections at Bridge and Patrixbourne
will be given to The Church of England
Children's Society and Save the Children Fund*

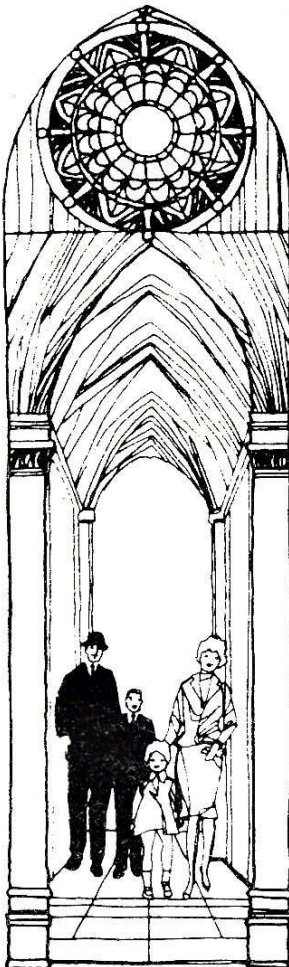
St. Peter's, Bekesbourne

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist
(The Revd. Canon J. Bond)

Christmas Day

11.00am Family Carol Service
(The Vicar)



“Glory to God in the highest!”

Magazine Distributors

In expressing the churches' thanks to those who regularly take out *On The Nail* I would like to invite them to the annual meeting, which this year is on Thursday, 12th December at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church. The invitation is to all three village distributors, not just Bridge, and I hope that you will be able to attend, even if you only take out a handful of copies. As always it would be helpful if I could have a list of your round well in advance of the meeting.

Bridge Church was recently the setting for two happy family occasions. The first was the wedding on 2nd November of **Katrina Booth**, 1 Union Road and **Andrew Cox** from Seasalter. The second was the christening of **Keely Rachel**

Fisher on 10th November. Keely's parents are Tracey Fisher (née Vaughan) and Christopher, who is in the army and stationed in Gibraltar.

* * *

St. Peter's was also the victim of a piece of burglarious vandalism, as Churchwarden Douglas Hill explains:

It is with regret that I have to report that the 'offerings' wall safe near the main door of the church was broken into on 24th October and badly damaged. The money stolen is considered to have amounted to a few pounds only. The police and our insurance company were informed immediately. It is hoped that the restored wall safe will be back in position by the time you read this.

* * *

Bridge and Patricbourne Christmas Market is on 7th and to ensure its success we need to top up our stock of saleable items, particularly bottles for the Bottle Stall, Groceries for the Grocery Stall and quality articles, i.e. old or new 'treasures' for the Best Offers Stall. Any contributions will be most welcome at either Church Cottage or Red Deer, Bridge Down. A 'phone call to 830560 or 830426 could arrange for their collection.

Acknowledgments

Many thanks to everyone who rode, sponsored or manned the church in Bridge for September's Sponsored Cycle Ride. The weather was glorious, the fellowship great and the result £263·20. We welcomed 146 people to St. Peter's during the day. Special thanks to Ann King who helped with the organisation and to our riders Kath Pierce, Joyce Hopkins, Emma Field, Samantha King and Elliot Hodges.

Gill Harvey

* * *

I would like to convey my thanks to Bridge Church for the gift voucher and good wishes received via the Vicar on my retirement from the choir after twenty most enjoyable years. I was very sorry to have to come to this decision. However, I hope to be back in the choir from time to time.

Trixie Cremer

* * *

Bridge & District Branch of the Royal British Legion paraded at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday for the two minutes' silence. The branch president, Major-General Woodrow, MBE, laid a wreath and the standard was borne by Tom Heap. £390 was raised for the Poppy Appeal Fund. The volunteers, together with the shops and pubs, who raised this record sum are thanked most sincerely.

R.F. Hearn

* * *

I have just received the final figures for the Cancer Research collection. Bridge raised the marvellous sum of £138·06 and I have been asked to pass on the thanks of the campaign organisers to those who so willingly gave of their time collecting, and to all the residents of Bridge who gave so generously.

Hilary Pike

Bridge Village Playgroup would like to thank everyone who contributed to our very successful jumble sale and those who supported our sponsored Bike Ride and Thrift Sale. This term we have had visits from the Canterbury children's librarian, a vet, a nurse (Vivienne Brasier) and Rossie Carlton, who now plays the piano and sings with the children. We would like to thank them all for giving their time and adding so much to playgroup. *Sharon Sperling*

* * *

Residents and friends of Patricbourne and Bridge Churches are thanked most warmly for such generous responses to our church appeals. The totals at the time of going to press are Patricbourne £1186 and Bridge 2566.

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SATURDAY, 7th DECEMBER

FROM 2 O'CLOCK



On The Nail Noticeboard

Bridge Folk Dance Group's December meetings are on Thursday, 5th and 19th, the latter being a special Christmas gathering. Please join on both dates in the Village Hall at 8pm. Our caller is Alf Matthews. *J.H.*

* * *

The East Bridge Community of Inter-parish House Groups (SPAN) meets for the first time on 11th December when the Bishop of Dover will celebrate an inaugural Eucharist in St. Peter's Church, Aylesham at 7.30pm. Existing and potential members are welcome.

Bob and Joyce Hopkins are pleased to announce that their daughter and son-in-law are taking over the private car hire from 1st December. We would like to thank everyone for their support over the last nine years. Dave and Linda Newport will be operating from their home at Adisham and look forward to meeting all our old customers. Please ring them on Nonington (0304) 840180.

B. & J.H.

Scouting along the Nailbourne

Some fifteen months ago, following many months of talking, a Scout Troop was formed to serve the string of villages along our valley and provide a follow-on from the existing Cub Pack which had been operating at Bridge for some time. Both these Sections were part of the Canterbury (Worthgate) Group. It was quickly realised that for geographical and other reasons, it would be more satisfactory if they could be formed into an independent Group. About a year ago moves were started to get this new Group approved and after several setbacks we are pleased to announce the formation, as of the 8th November of THE NAILBOURNE SCOUT GROUP, open to boys from any of the villages along the Nailbourne Valley. Stan Larkins has been appointed Group Scout Leader and the Section leaders, their associates, the meeting place and meeting times will remain as before.

We would like to thank all those many people who have given their support to the formation of the new Group and those who have helped with the various fund-raising events which have enabled us to keep the Group running. The most recent of these, the bonfire and fireworks at Kingston on 2nd November, raised a splendid £150 towards the establishment of the new Group. Our thanks to you all.

C.W. Fagg

1985 RAVEN RUN

On the 13th October, Bridge Guides entered three teams for the 1985 Raven Run. This is an annual event in which Guides and Scouts take part. Each team is made up of four people, equipped with a map and compass to help them. Map references are given, each team plots the points and works out a route. On the route there are incident points where teams have to do tasks. Points are awarded for these tasks and the team with the most points wins the shield.

The tasks ranged from getting a 'nuclear reactor' out of a zone and making a rope bridge, then transferring 'explosives' from one side of the river to the other, to making a cup of tea! Our teams came 13th, 9th and 4th out of about 22 teams. The group who came fourth received certificates. It was hard work but we all enjoyed ourselves.

Samantha King

P.L. Kingfisher Patrol

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

With the arrival of Advent and the beginning of another year in the Christian calendar, I have received the BRF publications *Daylight* and *Guidelines* for the first third of 1986. During 1985 the Fellowship saw a marked increase in its membership. Sadly however, this increase was not reflected in our parishes in spite of changes in presentation and style which have widespread approval. Examples of the new style are available to be examined, in Bridge church.

The BRF through its various publications seeks to bring before us the ancient truths of the Bible in a thoughtful and challenging way relevant to the world of today. The authority upon which our faith rests is drawn from the Bible and its teachings serve as a

guide through life rather like a map to guide us on our earthly pilgrimage. Imagine trying to reach a destination without the guidance of map, signpost or compass in an unfamiliar area—it would be impossible. So likewise it is impossible to reach the destination of life's journey, a road that is always unfamiliar since we pass along it but once, without the guidance of God's direction as revealed through the Scriptures. Often maps can be difficult to read and interpret; so too God's 'map' for us. But with the excellent course of daily or weekly readings lucidly explained, offering much food for thought, the BRF renders the Bible a clear light to lead us through the uncharted and often difficult terrain of daily life. It only requires the regular discipline of a few minutes and is well worth the effort—in fact I have on a number of occasions been impressed to see London commuters on the crowded morning tubes read their BRF notes.

This year *Daylight* and *Guidelines* each cost £3 a year. An excellent new publication, *Compass* designed for younger readers, is also available at £3. If you would like further information about these or any of the other publications produced by BRF please let me or the Vicar know. I should also be very pleased to hear of anyone who would like to join our world wide fellowship of BRF readers. It is time we saw an increase in our area.

Nigel Allan (462695)



Bridge Parish Council

The November meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 14th in the Village Hall.

Once again the Council discussed the proposed Channel Tunnel Fixed Link, concerning which they had already sent a letter objecting to the proposals for a fixed link of any kind, with copies to the local M.P., County Councillor and the Department of Transport. Cllr. Peter Lawrence agreed to represent the Council at a further conference organised by the Kent Voluntary Service Council at Wye College on 29th November, and it was felt that the Council had done all they could at this stage to make their views known.

Recreation Ground: The Clerk reported on quotations for cutting the verges of the ground, but the Council decided to defer a decision until the Clerk had obtained further details about the spraying suggested by the KCC in their quotation. Cllr. Lawrence reported that he had found the playground equipment in a satisfactory condition on his recent inspection and he confirmed that he would take the swings down for an overhaul in the Spring. He also mentioned that one of the trees planted by the river was looking none too healthy and it

was stated that the previous two planted in that location had died. Cllrs. John Anderson and Mrs. Anne Young were to plant the oak tree this month and would also look at the suckers growing on one of the trees covered by the recently made Tree Preservation Order. Members questioned the need for a new underground cable proposed by Seeboard to run along the eastern boundary of the ground, to supply electricity to the Sheltered Housing developments at Riverside Close and Cllr. Mrs. Margaret Jones and at least one other member agreed to attend a site meeting with Seeboard to discuss the proposed cable route.

Streets and Footways: The Chairman, Cllr. John Hill referred to the fine surface which the County Council had put on the footpath at the top of the Bridge Hill/Bridge Down Stairway and the Clerk was to write a letter of thanks to the County Council. The Council discussed ways of dealing with the problem of lorries entering Bridge Down, presumably having lost their way to Highland Court Farm, a situation brought to their attention by Mr. Johnson of Bridge Down. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr. Johnston of Highland Court Farm requesting him to consider erecting

positive direction signs to the farm from the corner of the entrance to Highland Court Hospital and also asking him to provide lorry drivers with a fuller more explanatory address for the farm.

Planning: The Council had no observations to make on an application for a change of use from retail shop to Architects' and Estate Agents' Offices, 90/92 High Street, or on an application for a first floor extension at 'Owletts', Beech Hill. They noted that permission had been granted for the felling of one beech tree and lifting the crown of three other trees at 24 Bridge Down, and that permission had been refused for the proposed erection of a four-bedroom house on land adjacent to Waterloo Cottages, Brewery Lane.

Regarding the Appeal by Wiltshiers against the City Council's refusal of planning permission for the erection of thirteen dwellings on land to the rear of The Close, Union Road, the Clerk stated she had made representations to the Department of the Environment on the basis of the Parish Council's original objections. She was asked to write again to the Department of the Environment enquiring when the Inspector was to visit

the site and asking that a representative from the Parish Council be invited to attend. Cllr. Mrs. Jones said that she had been approached by several elderly residents in the area who were concerned about the proposed development, and especially about any resulting increase in traffic in Union Road, where there were generally no pavements for them to use.

The Council gave their support to a group of youngsters who proposed to start up a Youth Club for 12 to 16 year olds under adult supervision in the Village Hall.

Cllr. Mrs. Young reported briefly on village hall matters. She said that the finances of the hall were satisfactory and that, moreover, she had been able to repay a substantial sum from the Village Hall Accounts into the Parish Council's Loan Account for the Village Hall. The Council gave Cllr. Mrs. Young a vote of thanks for all her work in connection with the Hall.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday the 12th December in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall at the slightly earlier time of 7.00pm.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

'Fish' News

Age Concern Canterbury have kindly given us one of their surplus wheelchairs for the use of local residents. When it has been cleaned and refurbished we hope to be able to keep it in the Village Hall, where it will be easily available. Please let me know if you want to borrow it.

Christmas arrangements for the Luncheon Club:

16th December	Christmas Dinner
23rd December	No meeting
30th December	Luncheon Club as usual

The Chiropody Clinic will be closed on 26th December and 2nd January.

Coffe and mince pies will be served at the Pop-In on Wednesday, 11th December in the Village Hall from 10.15 to 11.45am.

Joan Warren (830233)

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BEKESBOURNE

The cleaning rota for December is as follows: 7th Mrs. Stickells, 14th Mrs. Hogben, 21st Mrs. Watson, 28th Mrs. Russell, 4th January Mrs. Grey (also doing the flowers).

The Church will be decorated for Christmas on Saturday, 21st at 10.30am and all hands are welcome.

Once again we hope to fill the church on Christmas morning for our customary Family Carol Service, which is always so popular. Christmas Communion is celebrated at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve and we shall again welcome as celebrant Canon John Bond from Canterbury.

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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

Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

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

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)

Organist (Bridge): Mr. M. Miles, 7 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EE (462947)

Organist (Patricxbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, Ardpriority, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD (462695)

Time & Talents: Mr. A. Jackson, Cosby, Higham Lane, Bridge CT4 5AY (830489)

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Magazine Advertising: Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830472)

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.

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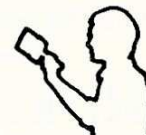
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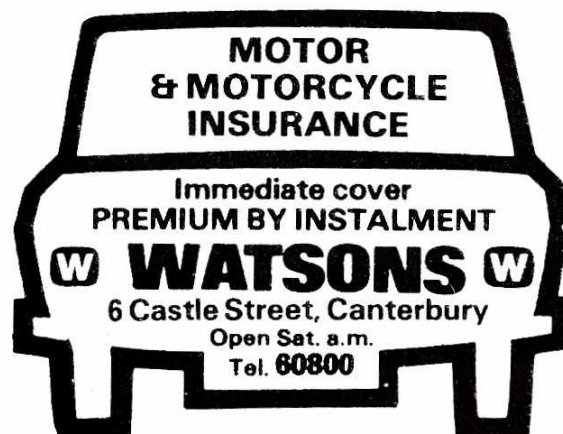
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