On the Nail

Bekesbourne

Patrixbourne

Bridge

A MAGAZINE FOR THE VILLAGES ALONG THE NAILBOURNE

January 1987 25p

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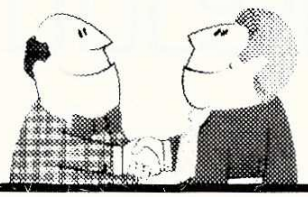

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Sunday Worship in January

Bridge	Patrixbourne	Bekesbourne
4th:		
11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
11th:		
9.30 Family Communion *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
18th:		
9.30 Parish Communion *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
25th:		
8am Holy Communion 6.30pmChoral Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Matins
1st February:		
11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *4th*, Miss K. Knight. *11th, Covenant Service*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met.,B.D. *18th*, Mr. D. Morton. *25th*, Mr. W.E. Ingall.

Weekday Services are back to normal. Communion on Wednesdays at 9.30am (BCP) and Fridays at 7.30am (Rite A) in St. Peter's, Bridge, and at Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am. The weekly short, informal service at The New Close is on Wednesdays at 2.30pm. Prayers for Health and Healing are offered in Bridge Church on first and third Thursdays at 7pm: this will be in the vicarage when the weather deteriorates.

For your diary and prayer list

1st **Naming of Jesus** or Circumcision of Christ
4th **Second Sunday after Christmas**
The Family Service is about the Epiphany.
6th **Epiphany of Our Lord**
8th Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
11th **First Sunday after Epiphany**
13th *St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher, 367*
15th Prayers for Health and Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm
18th **Second Sunday after Epiphany**
Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
20th Bekesbourne PCC meeting, School House, 8pm. Canon Alan Dawkins, the Tait Missioner will lead a discussion on *Evangelism*, and since this is such an important subject and involves all members of Bekesbourne Church the meeting will be open to everyone, church councillor or not. Please make a note of this function and try to attend.
21st *St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr, 304*

22nd United Service for the Christians of Bridge in St. Peter's Church at 7.30pm. Preacher: The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, Methodist Minister.
24th *St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Teacher, 1622*
25th **Conversion of St. Paul** *Epiphany 3*
26th *Timothy and Titus, Companions of St. Paul*
Hospital League of Friends (Bridge Branch) AGM, Hunter Room, 7.30
27th *St. John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, Teacher, 407*
Interchurch Meeting, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
28th *St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Teacher, 1274*

. . . . . .

Rosemary and Raymond Gilbert would like to thank you for your Christmas greetings and support on so many occasions. We wish everyone a Happy and Blessed 1987.

. . . . . .

New Year Greetings from our Rural Dean

May I first of all wish all members of the churches in Bekesbourne, Patrixbourne and Bridge a Happy New Year and express the hope that 1987 will see the continuing growth of the Church in membership and commitment to the service of God and the gospel. I greatly enjoy reading your parish magazine each month and sense just how much ministry is shared in our deanery between clergy and laity.

Secondly, may I take this opportunity to say on behalf of the deanery how much the ministry of our non-stipendiary priest Peter Brownbridge and the ministry of the retired and other assistant clergy has been appreciated during 1986 through the interregna affecting three of our seven groups of parishes. The various Churchwardens have and are discharging their duties in an exemplary fashion and I'm sure that you share my gratitude.

In some parish magazines it is customary to quote a text for the year ahead and one that readily springs to my mind is from Revelation 21 v5, "Behold, I make all things new". As we enter 1987 we shall see some new faces at clergy chapter meetings; there are always newcomers in our parishes to be welcomed into involvement in the life of the church, and within a few months perhaps some new faces will appear at PCC meetings and at the deanery synod. If so our corporate life will change.

"Behold, I make all things new" is a good thought for the New Year. But notice that the writer does not say, "Behold, I make all new things"! As individual Christians being aware of our failings, sins and shortcomings, we really couldn't blame God if that was his intention. But it isn't. He loves us as we are, but loves us too much to leave us where we are. He takes what there is, and if we will let him, fashions out of it something new.

Here is the miracle of life under God and the central message of the Christian faith — that under God we can make new beginnings. It is possible to leave the past behind with all its failings and disappointments and to move forward to something new and creative. God can take hold of our lives and fashion out of them something fresh and beautiful. This enables us to come to terms with ourselves; to discover through love and forgiveness that we are still worth something and fit to serve God and our neighbours in Christ.

In our parishes and in the deanery 1987 could be an exciting and adventurous year as we seek the way forward in education and worship; in matters relating to mission and Christian unity; and tease out issues relating to social responsibility and pastoral care. Please pray for your clergy and for other members of the church in our parishes so that God may renew our life together in the Body of Christ within this East Bridge Deanery.

With 'God-wishes' for a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Clive Barlow

★ *Deanery Synod members will be interested to learn that the next meeting, on Tuesday 13th January at Wingham is in the Red Lion Public House! Yes, we are meeting in an upstairs room which doubles as Choir Practice Room once a week.* *John Purchese, East Bridge Deanery Hon. Secretary*

Epiphany

In a far land upon a day,
Where never snow did fall,
Three kings went riding on the way
Bearing presents all.

And one wore red and one wore gold,
And one was clad in green
And one was young and one was old
And one was in between.

The middle one had human sense,
The young had loving eyes
The old had much experience
And all of them were wise.

Choosing no guide by eve and morn
But heaven's starry drifts
They rode to find the Newly Born
For whom they carried gifts.

Oh far away in time they rode
Upon their wanderings
And still in story goes abroad
The riding of the kings.

So wise that in their chosen hour
As through the world they filed,
They sought not wealth or place or power
But rode to find a child.

Eleanor Farjeon

Eve Harrington

The sudden death of Mrs. Eve Harrington on the morning of 11th December came as a tremendous shock to everyone who knew her, not least, of course, to her husband Charles.

Mrs. Harrington was a regular worshipper at both Bekesbourne and Bridge — indeed she was at Bekesbourne Church the Sunday before she died. Along with her priest husband she was also associated with the Cathedral, and it was there in the crypt that her funeral service took place on the 18th in the afternoon. Canon Derek Ingram Hill conducted the service and I, as her vicar, was privileged to give a short address and perform the committal at Barham crematorium immediately afterwards.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Charles and to Eve's family in their sad and wholly unexpected bereavement.

I asked God for strength

I asked God for Strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey . . .
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things . . .
I asked for riches, that I might be happy.
I was given poverty that I might be wise . . .
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God . . .
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things . . .
I got nothing that I asked for — but everything I had hoped for,
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered,
I am among all men, most richly blessed.

Words from 'The Star in the East', Bible Lands Society Magazine

Christmas Market successes

Bekesbourne Church and Brownies Christmas Market, held in the Village Hall on Saturday, 29th November, raised £270 for both organizations. Thanks are given to all who had any hand in this event — a great success — especially the following stallholders: Tombola, Mrs. P. Farbrace; Bottle Stall, Mrs. J. Skinner; Gifts, Mrs. J. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Z. Clifford; Cakes, Mrs. J. Smith and Mrs. Watson; Teas, Sweets and Teddy's pain, Brownies with Mrs. P. Denne and Mrs. J. Gillanders; Books and Stationery, Mr. J. Purchese; Produce, Miss S. Clifford and Mrs. G. Murdock; Raffle, the Millyard family; Nearly New, Mrs. A. Purchese and Mrs. H. Page; Father Christmas, Mr. N. Cruse.

* * *

The next Saturday, 6th December, Patrixbourne with Bridge held its Christmas Market, and here again we say a big thank you to everyone who contributed to its record receipts (see statement below), whichever side of the counter they happened to be.

Bridge and Patrixbourne Churches

CHRISTMAS MARKET - 6th December, 1986

1985 £			£
	Receipts		
74	Teas and Cakes		75.66
50	Patrixbourne Pantry		62.55
50	Groceries		59.17
20	Produce Stall		23.65
36	White Elephant Stall		33.00
16	Toys and Children's Books		12.44
110	Raffle		183.36
159	Bottle Stall		193.00
52	Best Offers		22.65
11	Brownies — Sweet Stall		18.52
19	Guides — Wishing Well (incl. Glass Stall in 1985)		20.96
44	Fancy Gifts Stall		31.25
7	Treasure Island		6.30
5	Sundries		—
653			742.51
	Less Expenses		
15	Hire of Village Hall	18.00	
18	Printing Raffle Tickets	18.00	36.00
620			706.51

D.R. Hill, Hon. Treasurer, 7.12.1986

Bridge Family Service

On Sunday, 7th December *The Ants*, our young people's group, took part in the Family Service. After singing The Lord's Prayer accompanied by the guitar, the children took turns to read prayers and readings depicting the Seven Ages of Man. Julian read the Bible passage where Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me". Katherine, Imogen, Samantha, Caroline, Paula and Beverley acted a mime. Imogen sang a song she had composed herself, and Matthew and Edward portrayed a realistic mugging scene. A poem describing an old lady and her cat was read by Caroline and they finished by singing "The Streets of London", with the congregation joining in the chorus.

The theme of the service was appropriate as it was the occasion when the families in the village bring Christmas presents for the residents of The New Close. Many gifts were presented and Mr. W. Pearson, the Officer in Charge, thanked everyone most sincerely on behalf of the residents.

* * *

We would like to thank the parents and children who have supported the Family Service throughout the past year. Their enthusiasm has encouraged us and we look forward to seeing you all on 4th January at 11am.

Enid Wintle

The Friends of The New Close would like to thank all who supported the Christmas Coffee Morning on 22nd November. The net sum raised for the Amenity Fund was £276.20. *O.I.K.*

Hospital League of Friends (Bridge Branch)

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall on Monday, 26th January at 7.30pm.

Lieut-Col J.N. Shephard, Chairman of the Central Committee will give a short talk on the work of the League. Everyone is most welcome. *R.F.H.*

Royal British Legion (Bridge & District Branch)

Major General Woodrow, MBE presided at the Annual General Meeting of the Bridge & District Branch, Royal British Legion, held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 26th November, 1986. The Chairman, Col R.F. Hearn, in his address, thanked all the voluntary helpers, who had worked so hard on behalf of the Poppy Day Appeal Fund, which raised a record amount, £388. It was encouraging to note that the branch had been very active during the past year. Membership had increased and the branch was in a sound financial position.

The question of holding the Remembrance Day Service in St. Peter's Church was raised again. There was a strong feeling that it was time it was held in Bridge. It was agreed that the Church Council should be approached in this matter.

The following were re-elected to serve on the Committee for the year 1987: Chairman, Col R.F. Hearn; Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. Simmons; Secretary, Mr. T. Heape; Treasurer, Mr. B. Vaughan; Services Committee, Mr. K. Greenaway, Mrs. Vaughan.

Branch meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at the Plough and Harrow at 8pm. All ex-servicemen and women are always most welcome. *R.F.H.*

Fancy meeting you

I dreamt death came the other night
and heaven's gate swung wide.
With kindly grace an angel came
and ushered me inside.
And there to my astonishment
stood folk I'd known on earth.
Some I had judged as quite unfit
or of but little worth;
Indignant words rose to my lips
but never were set free,
For every face showed stunned surprise
— NO ONE EXPECTED ME.

Len Dean

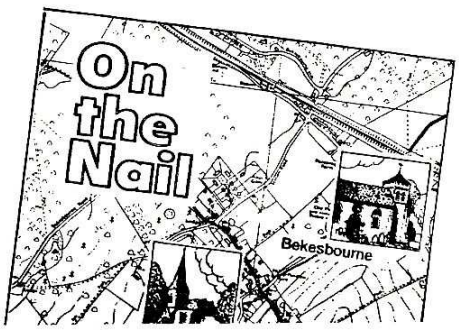
St. Peter's Bridge A new acquisition

On the north wall of the sanctuary in St. Peter's Church, Bridge hangs a small brocade curtain. Behind it is the door of a wall-safe that houses not the kind of valuable you might expect but a small receptacle containing communion wafers. In the centre of each a drop of wine has been placed, both wine and wafers having been consecrated at a eucharist.

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved constantly in this aumbry (to give the safe its proper name) so that at any time, day or night, those who are sick or at the point of death can receive the Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ to their soul's health. Many have done so over the years, though seldom as part of the last rites, and indeed the housebound and sick greatly value this comfort. Since the bread and wine were reserved after a eucharist those who make their communion from it are able to keep a contact with the rest of the church community, who themselves communicated in church at the particular service.

By rights a white light should burn perpetually near the aumbry to indicate that the eucharistic presence of Christ is reserved there, and up to the present Bridge has been remiss in not having the light. Now I am happy to report that this omission has been rectified and a low-powered electric light shines gently above the aumbry, never going out.

The origins of this particular aumbry light are interesting. It was specially made to our chosen design by the Bishopsbourne Forge, approved by the PCC and the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, erected by Morgan-Ridge (see their advert on the back cover of *On The Nail*) and the whole paid for out of the donations made by a large company in memory of Mr. Walter Scarborough. Walter was a very committed churchman and I know would be delighted to be commemorated in his church this way. His regular communion meant a lot to him. We have waited a long time for this aumbry light, considering many possibilities, anxious to get the right one and are convinced what you now see in church is the best that could be produced.



Magazine distributors

At the start of a new year I would like to thank all those who see that *On The Nail* drops through your letterbox regularly each month and hopefully on time. Theirs is an indispensable task for which they deserve this brief appreciation. A special word of gratitude to Mrs. Apps and Mrs. Millyard who feed the copies to the distributors of Bridge and Bekesbourne respectively, and also to Mr. Beckett who takes them round Patrixbourne. And let us not forget John Purchese who sees to the type-setting himself as part of his Christian Stewardship of Time and Talents. In my editorial 'hat' I will hope to give value for money — mention of which prompts me to point out there has been a price peg for three years, thanks to you the subscribers.

United Service

A warm invitation to all Christians at the annual United Service in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on Thursday, 22nd January at 7.30pm.

This get-together does much to foster Christian unity at the local level and we provide ample opportunity for the all-important business of meeting together, with coffee in the Methodist Church afterwards. This year's preacher is the Revd. M. Peter Taylor, Methodist Minister and a regular contributor to *On The Nail*. Due to Methodism's practice of moving its ministers around fairly frequently I understand this is likely to be Peter's last sermon for us, so I hope everyone will make a special effort to be there.

* * *

To cement existing interchurch friendship why not join us the following Tuesday (27th) in the Methodist Church for the regular Interchurch Meeting, at which there is good friendship and stimulating though not high-brow conversation.

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council News

Bridge Parish Council

It was a fairly short agenda before the Parish Council when they met on the 11th December, the main item being consideration of the Parish Council's budget for the next financial year. The grants to the Parochial Church Council in respect of the churchyard and *On The Nail* were maintained at £100 and £30 respectively, the grant to the Village Hall also remained at £300, while the grant to the 'Fish' Scheme was increased to £50. The remaining sum outstanding on the purchase of the village hall was to be paid forthwith.

Recreation Ground: Cllr. John Anderson reported that the Council were to receive a silver hornbeam from the 'Men of the Trees' in recognition of the village's fine efforts in the 'Trees in Your Village' competition this year. The Clerk reported that approval had now been received from the Manpower Services Commission for the painting of the playground and bridge to be included in the Community Programme Scheme next year.

Streets and Footways: The Council welcomed the offer made by the new dental practice to repair the railings between their premises and the bus shelter.

Village Hall: Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young outlined certain areas of the hall which required attention. She stated that following a recent accident, remedial action had been taken straightaway in the case of the storing and stacking of the long red-topped tables in the passageway. Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin was to investigate heating for the Hunter Room, as the wall-mounted gas heater was inadequate; and also the provision of a fixed bench to be placed inside the rear door for the use of the playgroup children. The Parish Council agreed to pay for the bench and a new table to replace the one which was missing.

Planning: The following applications had been granted planning permission by the City Council: CA/86/1264/BRI—erection of garage, 2 Mill Terrace; CA/86/1030/BRI—rebuilding and extending motorcycle repair workshops, Brewery

Lane; CA/86/1017/BRI details of external appearance, landscaping and design, proposed detached house on land adjacent to Waterloo Cottages, Brewery Lane; CA/T/86/0007/BRI—to fell one sycamore and reduce heavy side of second tree, Meadow Cottage, Meadow Close; while refusal of application CA/86/1083/BRI for the erection of a detached house and garage on land adjoining Filmer Cottage, Filmer Road had been confirmed by them.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 8th January at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

'Fish' News

The Luncheon Club celebrated with a Christmas Dinner on 15th December. The members asked me to thank Jean Foster, who worked so hard single-handed to provide such an excellent meal, and the volunteers for their help. We owe an extra debt of gratitude to Jean, who has continued to provide us with delicious lunches over the past few months, in spite of being without her colleague, and also to Gladys Lemar for helping her every Monday. We were delighted to welcome back as our guests Mrs. Quinnell, who now lives at a residential home in Sturry, and Mrs. Cawood, who is a resident at 'The Holt'.

The December Coffee Pop-In was a well-attended, happy occasion, with mince pies to get us all in the Christmas spirit. The next Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 14th January in Bridge Village Hall at the usual time. We can provide transport if you need it.

Several people responded to my appeal for wool and knitters for our local 'Children in Need'. A steady supply of beautifully knitted small garments is making its way to the WRVS clothes store. Please help us to keep up the supply. Wool can be left at Bridge Post Office. If you would like to knit, please let me know. We can supply wool.

Joan Warren, 830233

Have bells! Want them rung!

A glance at the list of officers on page 17 will reveal a new Captain of Ringers at Bekesbourne. David Farbrace has taken over from Harry Collard, who has retired from the post after long and sterling service. We would like to place on record the church's thanks to Harry for leading the ringers so competently during his captaincy.

Unfortunately, the team generally is in a state of disarray due to moves or fresh commitments, and this has meant the church bells of St. Peter's have hung in silence when they should have summoned the faithful to worship.

It is such a shame that Bekesbourne's splendid six bells are stilled through lack of ringers, so we are putting out an appeal for interested campanologists (bell-ringers, in other words) to come forward and offer their services. Don't be worried that you may be a little rusty: bell-ringing is one of those skills, I am told, you never lose. Either let me or David Farbrace have your name and address and leave the rest to us. Don't delay and don't be shy!

We are also calling anyone who has never rung a bell in their life but would like to do so. This is the opportunity you've been waiting for. Be you old, young, male or female get in touch with either of us and we will arrange for some instruction sessions at a mutually acceptable time. I'm sure there are a good few young people who would like to master the art, and it is you particularly that we have in mind.

Cleaning ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BEKESBOURNE		Flowers
.....	4th January	..... Mrs. Farbrace
Mrs. Hogben	11th January	.....
Mrs. Watson	18th January	..... Mrs. Ash
Mrs. Russell	25th January	.....
Mrs. Grey	31st January	..... Mrs. Grey

Nailbourne Horticultural Society . . .

meets in Bishopsbourne Village Hall on Tuesday, 20th January at 8pm, for a slide evening to include *Gardens and Sights of California.* If any other members have been to exciting or interesting places and have slides they would like to share, do please bring them along. *K.A.W.*

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens: Mr. J.J. Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge CT4 5JX (830399)
Mr. S.R. Pike, 12 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JY (830708)
Hon. Secretary: Mr. L.W. Sanford, 11 Windmill Close, Bridge CT4 5LY (830411)
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Organist (Patrixbourne): 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

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Mr. N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)
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Captain of the Bells: Mr. David Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne CT4 5HA (830659)

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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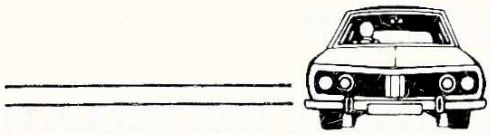

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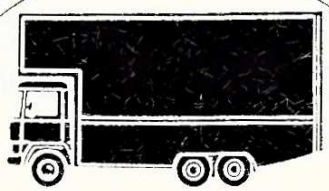

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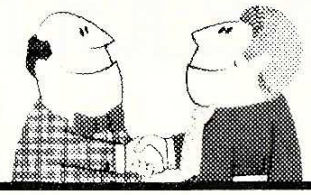

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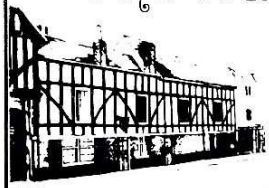

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Sunday Worship in February

Bridge	Patrixbourne	Bekesbourne
1st:		
11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
8th:		
9.30 The Eucharist *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
15th:		
9.30 Parish Communion *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong *(Canon F. Bull)*	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
22nd:		
8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Matins
1st March:		
11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

This month and next the experiment at Bridge continues, whereby there will be a choir on the second and third Sunday mornings and the fourth evening only. Last month's second Sunday Communion was a happy occasion, with the choir in attendance, four hymns and the usual coffee-time afterwards. You will observe that this month it has been given a new title, the choice being the alternative name in the ASB Rite A of "The Eucharist". The previous title was possibly misleading and could have led to confusion with the Family Service on the first Sunday.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *1st*, Mr. J. Whalan. *8th, Holy Communion*, The Revd. Wilfrid J. Hill, M.C, B.Sc. *15th*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *22nd*, Dr. C. Pilkington.

Weekday Services centre on St. Peter's, Bridge and consist of Holy Communion each Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and Friday (Rite A) at 7.30am. There is also a meeting to pray for health and healing on the first and third Thursdays in the Lady Chapel at 7pm. For residents of Churchill House and Churchill Close there is a monthly celebration of the Holy Communion in the Common Room at 10.15am on the first Wednesday. A short and informal service for the residents of The New Close is held every Wednesday at 2.30pm and is open to non-residents, always most welcome.

For your diary and prayer list

1st **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

2nd **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**, also called *The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary* and celebrating the event recorded in St. Luke 2 vv. 22 - 35.

3rd Please pray for the clergy of East Bridge Deanery. They meet in chapter at Bridge this morning.

4th Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC meets this evening. Please include our Church Councillors in your prayers on a regular basis but especially this evening.

5th Prayers for Health and Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm
6th *Queen's Accession* 'God save our gracious queen!''
8th **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**
12th Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
14th *St. Valentine's Day*
15th **Septuagesima** *9 before Easter*
17th Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute, Bridge Village Hall, 7.30pm. The programme is a talk on badgers by Mr. M.J. Newcombe and the competition is for a painted pebble showing a wild animal.
19th Prayers for Health and Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm
Nailbourne Horticultural Society, Bridge Village Hall, 8pm. Mrs. G.L. Davies will give a talk on Alpines. There will be an opportunity to purchase a variety of plants, some not readily obtainable, after the talk.
22nd **Sexagesima** *8 before Easter*
23rd *St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, c.155*
27th *George Herbert, Priest, Pastor, Poet, 1633*

What's all this then?

I do not generally enter into areas of controversy: the media are quite able to get on without my involvement! However, the recent furore surrounding the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester prompts one or two thoughts that I hope will not land me in deep water.

Like most of the country my acquaintance with James Anderton is limited to what has appeared about him in the press and on the box. On the strength of that alone he strikes me as a peculiar character to occupy such an important post. But I happened to hear the interview on Radio 4's *Sunday* programme (on my way home from Patrixbourne, as a matter of fact) and changed my estimate of him.

Do note, I *heard* the interview, from start to finish — I am not going on what others *say* he said — and the impression I got was of a perfectly level-headed man, sincere in the extreme and not at all demented.

* * *

Mind you, I can understand why so many are up in arms about this latest bit of Andertonese. The things he was saying, with the odd reservation, are acceptable from the lips of the clergy but sound distinctly strange coming from a tough policeman with one of the most difficult 'beats' in the country. The interview was a statement of James Anderton's Christian faith and his understanding of the rôle he believes God is calling him to perform as a committed Christian Chief Constable, and it was the combination of the two that I found refreshing. It was good to hear a public figure witness to the faith and to do so in a balanced, unhysterical fashion. One hears it so seldom.

* * *

That, of course, was Mr. Anderton's undoing. He was using the language of the religious enthusiast from a position of boss of a very earthly organisation. To my ears he was expressing what I firmly believe, that one's Christian faith and one's daily life are interconnected, but the vast majority of his associates are of the opinion that never the twain should meet. For instance, they are the

people who think politically active bishops ought to stick to religion and leave politics to the professionals. The world over which James Anderton holds sway regards religion as a hobby and a one-day-a-week pastime at that. So it is not surprising that they failed to understand what he was saying and concluded he ought to be sacked and referred to the psychiatrist.

* * *

Perhaps Mr. Anderton would have got away with it had he chosen his words more carefully. His critics pounced on his choice of the word 'prophet' as applied to himself, and had he thought before speaking might have seen the unwisdom of picking that particular noun, with its suggestion of a crazed fanatic. It is no use now anyone trying to explain that a prophet is an eminently sane individual whose understanding of the world about him is considerably clearer than most. Nor will it ease the situation to quote the great respect and awe in which the Old Testament prophets were held. A spoken word is one of the things that can never be recalled and once he uttered the fateful comparison the damage was done. In any case, does a real prophet ever see himself as such, or is it up to others so to identify him?

What the Chief needs to realize is that before taking a stand for Christ it is necessary to be educated to some extent in the business of Christian witness. For most people it presents no problems, but for those in high places additional considerations arise. Put simply Mr. Anderton's associates did not understand what he was trying to say and thereby misconstrued it. The net result is that his job is in question and the witness for Christ is not made. Purely on the strength of that interview I would not have thought there was any cause to query James Anderton's competence at his job, though he may be well advised to accept some spiritual direction before touching on the subject of his faith again in quite such a public forum. His admission to the Roman Catholic Church will, hopefully, assure that.

News from Junior Church *by Hilary Pike*

1986 was a very busy year for Junior Church. Our numbers are continuing to increase and we now have fifty regular members.

Over the Christmas period we had a particularly hectic time. The children worked very hard and gave up a lot of their precious free time in order to produce the Nativity Play, which we hope you all enjoyed. The collection at it amounted to £62·04, which eleven of the older children presented to the Church of England's Society at a memorable Christingle Service in the cathedral. Along with hundreds of children from various parishes they handed in their purses of money to the Archbishop. We also went carol singing, nobly supported by several parents, and raised a further £28 for the Children's Society. Our thanks to the members of the Methodist Church who allowed us to use their church afterwards in order to warm ourselves with soup and jacket potatoes.

It wasn't all work, however, for we had a happy Christmas party, complete with Father Christmas and films. The vicar cut the Christmas cake, helped by our youngest member, Louise Andrews, and we all had great fun.

We would like to thank, once again, the members of the Methodist Church, who so kindly let us use their church every week. Without them it would be impossible to have a Junior Church. We are very grateful, as we are to all the parents who have given us so much help and support this year.

* * *

Few readers will appreciate what a tremendous amount of hard work is put into Junior Church by those who run it. Nativity plays, parties and the weekly meetings don't just happen but depend on dedicated and enthusiastic leadership for their success. Thanks to all concerned! It is most encouraging to hear of the large number attending Junior Church: if it increases much more we shall have to give serious thought to the situation, Bridge Methodist Church not being a large building.

R.G.

Nell Turpin

Her many friends in Bridge were saddened by the news that after only two weeks at her new home in Paddock Wood Mrs. Nell Turpin had died suddenly soon after Christmas. She left the bungalow in Dering Close on 12th December, that she had occupied with her late husband 'Dick' to take up residence in a specially built annex to her daughter and son-in-law's home. Sorry though she was to leave the village Nell had settled in well at Mollie's but the long period there did not materialize.

Nell and 'Dick' were a great couple who had given a lot to Bridge before they became too old and infirm. They celebrated their diamond wedding with a special Communion in the church and a party in the old Close in 1981, and their long partnership came to an end with 'Dick's death in 1985.

It was rather wonderful that Nell died in just the same way as 'Dick', suddenly and with great peace, and although she was not at Bridge her body was brought back for a service in her parish church, prior to cremation at Barham. May she rest in the peace of the Lord whose servant she was!

Bridge Family Service

There must be some families in Bridge, relatively new to the locality, who have not heard of the monthly Family Service in St. Peter's Church, Bridge. What follows is both an introduction to the service and a warm welcome to attend on the first Sunday at 11am.

We like to think this very popular service has consistently stayed true to its original intention, of being an act of worship for the whole family rather than any one part of it. Each service is carefully planned by a small working-group, which usually has at least two parents in it, and we try to involve as many people in the service as is practicable. I am especially indebted to Mrs. Enid Wintle for spearheading the whole enterprise from start to finish.

The service never follows the same pattern twice and each one has its own theme. If the Church's calendar presents us with a special observance on or around the Sunday we tend to take that as our theme and once or twice a year the Family Service follows the order of the Church's own family worship, the Communion.

At least once a year our local guides and brownies take responsibility for a Family Service and invariably present something to stimulate and provide food for thought. On these occasions it is our Guide captain, Mrs Teresa Philpott who puts the service together and leads it with great accomplishment.

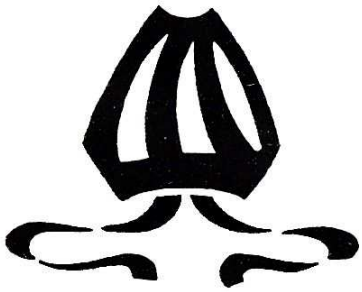
I hope all this has whetted your appetite and that you will accept our sincere invitation to the very next Family Service. I am certain you won't be disappointed, and guarantee a warm welcome!

* * *

December's Family Service, ever since they began, takes the form of a Christmas Gift Service, when families come to church armed with a Christmas present, suitably wrapped, for a resident of The New Close. Following on from last December's I received this letter of thanks from the Officer in Charge, Mr. W. Pearson:

"I would like to thank your congregation for the presents that they collected for our residents. They cannot know what joy they brought to some of our charges here. On Christmas Day when we were distributing them, some of the residents who do not get many visitors were in tears as they received their gifts. Many of my guests here are unable to understand many things, but Christmas is something that everyone is brought up with from being a child, and this is one event that practically all my residents were aware of. For the joy that you brought them, my grateful thanks. For the support you give us, my prayers are with you, and for the love that you show us I thank God.

"Therefore on behalf of my residents and staff I send you our sincere thanks and the hope that you all have a happy and prosperous new year."



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Snow *by the Reverend M.P. Taylor*

As I write this piece the snow which has fallen has put a temporary halt to much of my ordinary activities. Looking out of my window I see the snow lying gently on the garden and smile as it makes our garden look as good as the best in the world. Yes, snow is a great leveller.

It seems that snow also forces people off that cosy position sitting on the fence, and we become divided between the selfish and the selfless. Did you hear on the news about frustrated drivers who drove on the wrong side of a motorway, risking their lives and those of the oncoming traffic, just to get to their destinations, no doubt in order to do the return journey later on? I also heard of panic-buying of food — I suppose madam you need all those loaves to keep you and your husband going for the next few days!

However not all are like this. The Army has been working hard to open up a way into the Isle of Sheppey, the emergency services are stretched to keep us going, neighbours are checking on neighbours to see they are warm and fed. And when the snow stops there will be those who will clear the paths of others incapable of doing it for themselves.

Why does snow bring out the best or the worst out of people? Is this because it exposes weaknesses of the way we live, the fragility of our complex society?

I sometimes think that Jesus Christ is a bit like snow — both beautiful and dangerous, a great leveller (for who can have airs and graces before him?), as he exposes our weaknesses in the light of his love. Like snow also he brings out the best in some people and the worst in others. And I suspect that those who respond well in the present weather conditions also respond well to the love of our Lord.

Burning issues

Although it's not till March, now is the time to start making plans for Lent and especially for involvement in the annual BBC*Radio Kent* Lent Course.

There is a new look to the old favourite this year. To start with it is on Thursdays in Lent from 8pm to 9.30pm, and runs from 12th March to 9th April. Each ninety-minute programme can be used either by individual listeners or groups, who can use the parts of the programme they find most helpful. Flexibility is the keynote.

Each evening is in three parts. Part One begins with a short introduction, which is followed by a Prayer and Bible Reading, after which there will be a presentation of the evening's theme, chaired by Harold Rogers, former *Radio Kent* Station Manager.

Part Two begins at 8.30 and is the time for individual group discussion. Each week the radio programme will drop in on one of the discussion groups. In Part Three (9pm) the speaker will respond to questions raised by the radio discussion group and other groups throughout the country.

* * *

This year's theme is "Burning Issues" and the series will be concerned with inter-group conflict and the response of the Christian Gospel. So many of the issues of our time have their origins in wealth, race, sex, class and violence. This is not a fringe affair or something that can be dealt with in terms of social ethics. It takes us to the heartland of the Christian Faith. Are we truly committed to the message and programme of Jesus?

The purpose of this series is not to look at the negative side of life but to grasp a vision of the Kingdom; the world as God wants it to be.

* * *

Individual evenings, their theme and speakers are as follows: **12th March**, WEALTH, Charles Elliott, a foremost authority on the issues of poverty and wealth — **19th March**, RACE, Claire Holder, Barrister-at-Law, Chairman of the Race and Community Relations Committee of the Methodist Church — **26th March**, SEX, Elaine Storkey, author of *What's right with Feminism?* — **2nd April**, CLASS, Colin Marchant, author of *Signs in the City* — **9th April**, VIOLENCE, Oliver McTernan, Roman Catholic Parish Priest in Notting Hill.

* * *

Once again we hope to have some groups in this locality, hopefully on an ecumenical basis, and I am asking anyone who would like to take part as a member of a group to let me know. When I have some indication of likely response I will arrange groups and places for them

to meet. Previous participants have found this a useful way to keep Lent and I hope we can continue to make use of this scheme, which comes to us courtesy of *Radio Kent*.

When upstairs creeps downstairs . . .

'How is it, Bridget, that every time I come into the kitchen I find you reading instead of getting on with your work?'

'I think it must be those rubber soled shoes you've taken to wearing, Mum.'

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council News

Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council's first meeting of the New Year was held on Thursday 8th January.

Recreation Ground: Members were told that now that the chain-link fencing had been erected, it remained for the goalpost to be made smaller and moved to a position in front of it, a task which Mr. John Knight, present at the meeting, had already kindly agreed to do. The Council also heard from Mr. Knight and other representatives of Broomfield United F.C. present that they were eager to press ahead with plans for the erection of a new pavilion on the site of the existing one. The Council suggested that Broomfield should be responsible for co-ordinating the project and should formally invite representatives from the other sports clubs to form a Committee on which Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin would represent the Council. The Council agreed in principal to give the project their support and help in obtaining grants for it. On the advice of Cllr. Peter Lawrence, who sees to the maintenance and repair of the playground equipment, a replacement rubber belt seat was to be ordered for the swings.

Dog fouling: Great concern was again expressed at the continuing nuisance of dogs fouling not only the Recreation Ground, but also the footpaths of the village. It was decided that the best course of action at this stage was to step up the publicity campaign and accordingly notices in red were to be printed and posted in as many places as possible in the village.

Streets and footways: Cllr. John Anderson drew attention to the need for an additional street lamp midway along the alleyway leading from the High Street, by Welch the butcher's, to Riverside Close, particularly in view of the increased elderly population residing there who used the local bus service. The Clerk was to make initial approaches to the City Council for financial assistance.

Planning: Cllr. Lawrence reported that the Planning Committee had had no objections to make on outline application CA/86/1473/BRI for the erection of a house with paddock and garage, plus 7 garages for the use of the residents of The Close, on the site to the north and west of The Close, Union Road, subject to approval of final details and measures being taken to ensure no further development of the paddock, or on application CA/86/1474/BRI for the repositioning of the 4 houses and garages, already approved, further away from The Close, as well as the relocation of the garages to houses 1 and 2 and minor external changes. They had no observations to make on outline application CA/86/1483/BRI for one dwelling adjacent to 'Cedars', Higham Lane, other than to recommend it should be a single storey dwelling. The Council were however opposed to application CA/86/1447/BRI for a change of use to retirement home and outline plan to erect a two-storey building to house residents at Field House, Station Road, as they considered the property unsuitable for such a use for a variety of reasons.

Proposed Closure of Highland Court Hospital: The Chairman reported that he

and Cllr. Mrs. Margaret Jones had attended the public meeting held recently at Highland Court Hospital by the Canterbury and Thanet Community Health Council to hear any pertinent objections to the closure of the hospital. He assured members that provision was to be made for the 16 patients elsewhere, that there were to be no redundancies and that the Blue Peter Bungalow was to be relocated in Canterbury City, while the property itself was to be sold on the open market.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 12th February at the usual time of 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall. *K.A. Walder, Clerk*

Hymns of Praise

The Victorian era is not noted for Women's Lib, which is not surprising when even the Queen bitterly attacked what she called the "mad, wicked folly of 'women's rights' and their attendant horrors."

But the campaign to end male domination was gathering momentum—not least in the sphere of hymn writing where we have to thank women for many of the beautiful hymns which enrich our worship to-day.

The most famous, perhaps, was Fanny Humphreys, who wrote immortal hymns like "Once in royal David's city", "There is a green hill far away" and the exuberant "All things bright and beautiful."

Fanny developed a passion for words as a child, "fondling them as other girls fondled dolls and kittens and amassing them like treasure", according to Kent author Tyler Whittle in a new book *Solid Joys and Lasting Treasure* (Ross Anderson Publications—£9·95).

She married a young Irish clergyman, William Alexander, who eventually became Primate and Archbishop of Armagh. In addition to words she adored dogs and their palace was filled with them. She continued to write hymns until her death in 1895.

A commemorative tablet to her bears the words: "Ecclesiastics, statesmen, historians, poets have their day . . . then pass, forgotten in great part, but the hymn writer, if taken to the heart of the race, lives through the centuries."

By contrast, American Fanny Crosby did not write her first hymn until she was middle-aged, encouraged no doubt by her husband who was a church organist. Once started, there was no stopping her, and she is credited with having written eight thousand hymns before her death at the age of 94.

Blinded when she was six weeks old, she thought nothing of writing seven or eight hymns a day, some sixty of which have survived and are still sung on both sides of the Atlantic. The best known are "To God be the glory" and "Safe in the arms of Jesus", which she is said to have written in fifteen minutes while waiting for the kettle to boil. *K.B.*

'Fish' News

Heavy snowfalls forced us to cancel the Luncheon Club on 12th January, last month's Coffee Pop-In and a session of the Chiropody Clinic. We have tried to keep in touch with as many elderly people as possible and have given help where necessary. Many people have contacted me and offered assistance.

If we have more bad weather please ring me if you need help or if a neighbour needs more help than you can give — we will put you in touch with our nearest volunteer.

I have had a letter from the WRVS thanking those who gave wool and our

knitters who have been making clothes for local children. All the garments have been distributed and we are hoping to make another delivery shortly.

All being well the next Coffee Pop-In is on Wednesday, 11th February from 10.15 to 11.45am in Bridge Village Hall.

The summer seems far off but we have booked the date of our annual fund-raising Coffee Morning. Book it now — Saturday, 6th June!

Joan Warren, 830233

St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

The monthly cleaning rota, dated by the appropriate Sunday, is: 1st, Mrs. Grey. 8th, Mrs. Beckett. 15th, Mrs. Smith. 22nd, any willing volunteer. Flowers on 1st, Mrs. Grey and 15th, Mrs. Millyard. Our grateful thanks to those who serve the church in this valuable capacity over the year.

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

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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)
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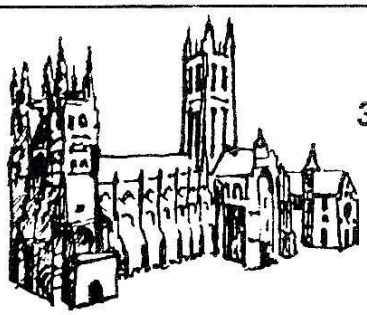
Magazine Advertising: Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830472)
Magazine Editor: The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

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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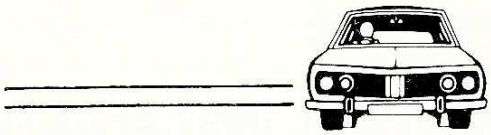

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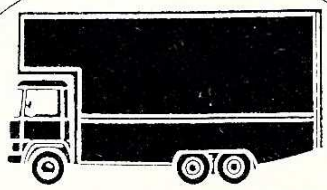

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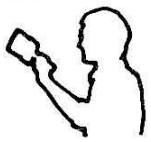

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Bekesbourne

Patrixbourne

Bridge

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March 1987 25p

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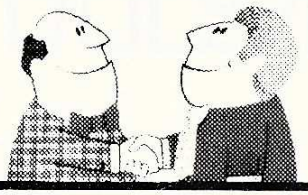

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Sunday Worship in March

Bridge	Patrixbourne	Bekesbourne
1st:		
11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
8th:		
9.30am The Eucharist *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
15th:		
9.30 Parish Communion *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
22nd:		
8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong	11am Matins	9am Holy Communion
29th:		
9.30 The Eucharist *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong 7.45pm *Concert: The Canterbury Singers*	8am Holy Communion	11am *Mothering Sunday Service*
5th April:		
11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

PLEASE NOTE

— *The Family Service on 1st March will be the Eucharist. Every so often it is right that we should use the Church's Family Service on the first Sunday, but this does not mean a longer service than we are used to.*

— *The Sunday pattern at Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne is interchanged on 22nd and 29th to accommodate Bekesbourne's customary and highly popular Mothering Sunday Service, but note that Communion at Bekesbourne on 22nd is at 9am.*

— *The Canterbury Singers are coming to Bridge on 29th to give an evening concert at 7.45. Evensong is at 6.30pm as usual but I hope we shall have a good audience for the concert, which promises to be most enjoyable. Admission is free!*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *1st*, Mr. E.R. O'Mahony. *8th*, Miss J. Charlesworth. *15th, Holy Communion,* The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *22nd*, Dr. D. Rosman. *29th*, Mr. A. Barwick.

Weekdays: Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and Friday (ASB, Rite A) at 7.30am, and in the Common Room at Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am. A short and informal service takes place in The New Close each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always welcome. A meeting to pray for health

and healing takes place in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on the first and third Thursdays at 7pm. This is not a closed group and everyone is welcome to share in this important ministry.

For your diary and prayer list

1st **Quinquagesima** *7 before Easter*
2nd *St. Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672*
4th **Ash Wednesday**, the first day of Lent
5th Prayers for Health and Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm
7th *St. Perpetua and her Companions, Martyrs of Carthage, 203*
Pray for Canterbury Diocesan Synod today.
8th **First Sunday in Lent**
12th Bridge Parish Council meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
15th **Second Sunday in Lent**
17th *St. Patrick, Bishop, Patron Saint of Ireland, c.460*
19th **St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Prayers for Health and Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm
20th *St. Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 687*
22nd **Third Sunday in Lent**
See previous page for service changes at Patrixbourne and Beksbourne.
25th **Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
26th Bridge Parish Council Annual General Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
29th **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
See previous page for service changes at Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne.
The Canterbury Singers will give a short recital at Bridge Church at 7.45pm.

Call to Motherhood

This month has two days when motherhood is the dominant theme. The first is the 25th, when the Church celebrates the occasion recorded in St. Luke chapter one, the visit of the archangel Gabriel to Mary of Nazareth.

The annunciation (announcement) of our Lord to the blessed virgin must have been exceedingly traumatic for one so young, especially when she was only betrothed, not actually married. Such news from any other source would have been the ruination of the girl, but even when it came from God it was not the kind of information to be relished. The situation would need careful handling. It was an honour for Mary, of course, but what effect would the news of her condition have on her family and particularly on her bridegroom, Joseph, not to mention *his* family?

Mary trusted in God and her trust was naturally not misplaced. He sent Gabriel to Joseph and no doubt made matters right with their respective families also. Leastways, Mary agreed to God's demands and became the mother of his only Son, and from thenceforth all generations have called her blessed. So each 25th March the Church remembers the moment of Mary's great blessing, and it does so with appropriate joy and celebration. With God all things are acceptable!

* * *

Motherhood is again to the fore on 29th, which is the date of this year's Mothering Sunday.

In this instance Mary's motherly rôle is again celebrated, though on this occasion as a reality not as something to be anticipated. It is Mary the mother whom we remember, not Mary the mother-to-be.

But there is more to Mothering Sunday than that, for on this day we feast motherhood in general. Historically this Mid-Lent Sunday was observed as a day to visit one's mother and bring her gifts in token of all she had done for her children. This is the origin of the Americanized Mothers' Day, though *that* is a purely secular celebration, whereas Mothering Sunday is a specifically religious observance arising out of a commemoration of one's mother the Church and one's Mother Church, the cathedral.

* * *

For many years Mothering Sunday has been observed at a special service in Bekesbourne Church when the various ingredients of the day have been collected into a splendid act of worship, with flowers in profusion. This year's service is at 11am on 29th and mothers and children of all ages are urged to attend. Bridge Junior Church will not meet that day in order for them to be there with mother, so we should get a very full church. make sure *you* are there!

'On The Nail' Noticeboard

The weekly meetings of **The Senior Citizens' Club** begin again on Tuesday, 3rd March at 2.30pm. New residents to Bridge will be welcomed as visitors and invited to join as members. The afternoon programme consists of tea and chat, raffles, talks, competitions and table games such as Scrabble, whist, chess and bingo. Coach trips are arranged in the summer months.

O.I. Knight

* * *

Bridge Folk Dance Group, through Mrs. Joyce Hopkins, announce the fact that "now is the time to join us for our new season of meetings. New dancers will be made very welcome on Thursdays, 5th and 19th March at 8 o'clock in the Village Hall. As usual our patient teacher is Alf Matthews. Enquiries to 830285 or 830652."

* * *

Bridge with Patrixbourne WI meets on 17th at 7.30pm for *ACWW* with Mrs. P. Tiddy and a competition for for an initialled handkerchief.

* * *

The monthly meeting of the **Nailbourne Horticultural Society** is on Thursday, 19th March at 8pm in Bishopsbourne Village Hall, when Mr. Jack Allen will give advice on *The Preparation of Flowers for Showing.*

* * *

Bridge Guides are holding a Jumble Sale in Bridge Village Hall on Saturday, 7th March at 2pm. They would be grateful if jumble could be taken to the hall on the Saturday morning of the sale.

Junior Church Knitters

From June until December of last year the children of Bridge Junior Church started to knit squares 5"x5" that were to be sewn together to make blankets to be sent abroad via "Save the Children Fund". To make this venture a little more fun, we made it into a competition and the child who produced the most squares by knitting themselves or getting aunts, grannies, brothers, sisters or neighbours to participate would receive a prize.

The response was tremendous and Mrs. Young, our local representative for "Save the Children Fund", has sewn up the squares and made twenty-two blankets.

The winner was Lisa Wraight and the very close runner-up was Sarah Mummery. Mrs. Kerr and Mrs. Garnham from the Canterbury area of "Save the Children", were here to present the prizes which were two beautiful pewter crosses, and to collect the blankets.

Mrs. Young showed some slides and refreshments were served. A thank-you to everyone who has been involved in this worthwhile cause from "Bridge Junior Church" and "Save the Children Fund".

Through your great kindness you will be keeping many children warm and cosy.

Penny Spencer

Mrs. Mollie Blunt writes from her home in Paddock Wood:

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all your kind letters and the many donations we have received in memory of my mother, Nell Turpin. I am so grateful to you for all your thoughts and prayers and for the beautiful service in the church which so many of you attended when the weather was so horrible.

I know that my mother is at last free from pain and happily reunited with my father, but I wish she could have been spared to live in her new home for a few years with us.

Thank you all for your support at this time.

* * *

February saw the deaths of Mrs. **Elsie Jarvis** and Mrs. **Ellen McLeod**, both of The New Close, and the vicar officiated at the cremations on 3rd and 13th respectively. He also conducted the funeral and burial of Mr. **Edward Richards**, 7 Downside, Bekesbourne on 19th at St. Peter's Church.

Walsingham in the Spring

In response to a suggestion I floated in a past issue of *On The Nail*, eight have so far indicated that they would be interested in joining a day pilgrimage to the Norfolk shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham some time in the spring. No date has so far been fixed and I have still to contact the authorities in Walsingham, but before so doing it would be useful to be able to quote an accurate figure. This is a final appeal, therefore! If you would like to come with us and share this new experience would you please ring the vicarage with all speed. I must know by the week ending Saturday, 14th March.

League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals

BRIDGE BRANCH

The Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Branch of the League of Friends was held on Monday, 26th January. The retiring Chairman, Col. Richard Hearn reported that the last year had not been easy with two committee members suffering ill-health and one moved from the village. In addition the Highland Court Christmas Fair, which normally raised around £700, had not taken place due to the impending closure of the hospital. He thanked his committee for their hard work and support over his five years in office and said that it was time for a completely new committee to take over.

An election was held and a new committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Mr. George Stewart of Fair Winds, Conyngham Lane, Bridge. The committee includes representatives from the three surrounding villages and comprises:—

Chairman: Mr. George Stewart
Treasurer: Mrs. Ann King
Minutes Secretary: Mrs. Maggie Field

Committee:	Mrs. Maureen Baker	(Bishopsbourne)
	Mrs. Wendy Durell	(Patrixbourne)
	Mrs. Nicky Fry	(Bekesbourne)
	Col. Richard Hearn	(Bridge)
	Mrs. Joyce Hopkins	(Bridge)
	Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart	(Bridge)

Four members of the Central Committee of the League of Friends were present, including Lt. Col. Jim Shephard, the Chairman, who told members something of the work and aims of the League.

M.S.F.

Parish Council Elections

The present Parish Council's term of office is coming to an end. Local elections for both Parish and District Councils are to be held on Thursday, 7th May.

Four years ago, at the time of the last Parish elections, there was in fact no poll here in Bridge as there were just nine candidates to fill the nine vacancies on the Council. This year, however, the present Parish Council are hoping that more people will put themselves forward as candidates, thus ensuring a genuine election. Bridge needs people who take a lively interest in their surroundings and care about what is happening to their village.

If you feel that you are able to give a little of your time to serve the community in a worthwhile manner, please contact the Clerk, Mrs. Kathy Walder (Tel: 830761) or the Chairman John Hill (Tel: 830215) for further details.

Financial Forecast for 1987

Douglas Hill, Hon. Treasurer of Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC looks into the possible future, with special attention to our giving to the Church.

It is estimated that provided Planned Giving continues at the level promised at 1st January, 1987, and that we shall also enjoy an income from both the Summer Fête and Christmas Market at least equivalent to the total of £1,587 received in 1986, then we should have just sufficient funds to meet our day to day requirements without, hopefully, running into a deficit situation. By implication, however, we would not be in a position to put anything into our General Reserve Fund, designed to meet unforeseen major repair works.

Planned Giving at 1st January 1987 comprised offerings from a hundred church members. It is estimated that the total giving for the year from both the Covenants (net before tax) and the Freewill Offering schemes should amount to approximately £6,136, as the following figures show:—

No of Persons	*Annual Amounts*		*Total*
	Covenants	*Freewill*	£
80	£5,434	—	5,434
20	—	£702	702
100	5,434	702	6,136
Average per person			
— Weekly	1·31	0·68	1·18
— Annual	67·93	35·10	61·36

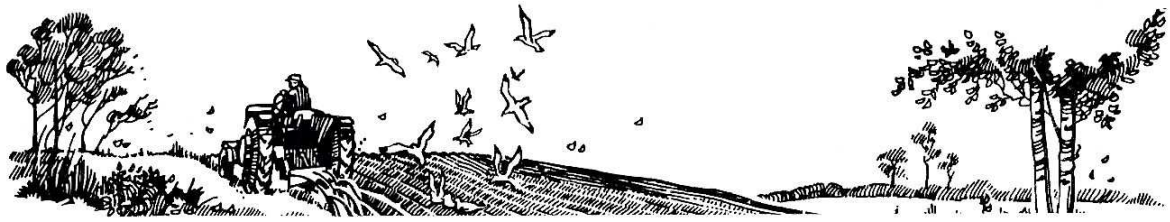
These estimated averages are derived from varying amounts in the wide spectrum of giving, which between relatively modest amounts (though nevertheless most thankfully received) and higher sums in the bracket of the lower hundreds of pounds.

With regard to our rigid dependence on large surpluses from our Summer and Christmas events, the following diagram illustrates this vital need:—

Total Income needed to break even

	Planned Giving (inc. Tax reclaimable)	*Special Events*	*Other Income*
Amount	£8,350	£1,600	£1,800
% of total	71·1	13·6	15·3

But what if it rains?



Council for the Protection of Rural England

Extracts from a letter from the President of CPRE, David Puttnam, CBE

Dear Friend,

The English countryside will face unprecedented new pressures over the next year or so. I should like to know that CPRE has *your* particular support for its attempts to ensure that the country's political parties put countryside conservation more securely at the centre of their priorities.

Two prospects are particularly troubling.

First, the future of British farming is now in the melting pot. This will have enormous implications for patterns of land use up and down the country.

There is wide official consensus that our farming industry and its EEC counterparts are now producing too much food — strange though that seems in a world in which famine is a continuing tragedy. British farmers are therefore likely to be encouraged officially, to stop increasing the production of crops and animals. But because yields per acre will inevitably continue to rise, one result will be pressure to take a lot of farmland — millions of acres, maybe — out of production. In the process, this land, perhaps up to 20% of England's surface area, could become available for new uses. This in turn would create the conditions for an inevitable swathe of new urban development across much of lowland England which we have successfully kept green until now.

Our concern is all the greater because of a *second* massive change now in prospect for the countryside. This concerns the future of strategic land use planning in England and Wales.

The Government has recently published proposals for abolishing county structure plans — the instruments used by county councils for the strategic planning of land uses in their areas. Its intention is to hand over all formal strategic planning to the 333 District Councils in England and Wales. At CPRE, we recognise that some changes to the way in which land uses are planned may well be necessary. But surely, strategic responsibilities ought to be placed at a level higher than the districts, who in many cases have fairly narrow short-term horizons? How, otherwise, are we collectively to decide where necessary new developments are to be distributed within individual counties in everyone's interest? And how are we to ensure that the interests of natural heritage are given adequate long-term priority?

Over the next few months, many conservation organisations, national and local, will be responding to the Government's consultation paper on this matter, *The Future of Development Plans*. My concern is to underline to you the close relationship that exists between *this* issue and the other, broader, question of the future of British farming.

Bluntly, the risk is that more and more of our farmland may become available for ill-considered development up and down England and Wales, at the very moment at which the country's long-established strategic planning system is being weakened. This is a recipe for chaos and controversy — and

would be bad news for eveybody. If you share these concerns please write to me — David Puttnam CBE, President, Council for the Protection of Rural England, 4 Hobart Place, London SW1W 0HY. Knowing that we have your personal backing will strengthen us enormously in our forthcoming discussions with Government Ministers and others.

The fact is, ultimately, it is *your* local countryside that is at stake. I look forward to hearing from you. Yours sincerely,

David Puttnam, President CPRE

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council News

Bridge Parish Council

At the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday, 12th February, first matters discussed included arrangements for the distribution to all households in the village of a notice to dog owners asking them not to allow their dogs to foul the footpaths and the Recreation Ground.

Recreation Ground: The Clerk gave an account of a meeting of representatives from the sports clubs in the village where it was agreed to set up a committee comprising two representatives from each of the following clubs, Broomfield United F.C., Brymore Sports F.C., Bridge Juniors F.C. and Bridge Cricket Club together with Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin representing the Council's interests, to organise the building of a pavilion on the site of the present Cricket pavilion.

Cllr. Peter Lawrence was thanked for putting a new belt seat on the swings.

Streets and Footways: The Clerk was to make enquiries of the Kent County Council, who were presently carrying out major roadworks in the area, regarding the possibility of them helping with the resurfacing of the car park adjacent to the Recreation Ground in Patrixbourne Road which was in very poor condition. She was also to remind them that the surface of the footpath in Beech Hill was bad and in urgent need of repair.

The Council were, as a first step, to approach the depôt manager of Corralls, following complaints received from residents living opposite about various operations of the depôt.

It was reported that a wooden slat of the seat on the bridge in the High Street had apparently been sawn through and Cllr. Lawrence offered to investigate its possible repair.

Cllr. Ken Greenaway pointed out that several accidents had occurred at the junction of Higham Lane and Bridge Hill between vehicles coming out from Bridge Down and through traffic on the old A2 or vehicles turning into Highland Court Hospital. It was felt that continuation of the restricted speed limit beyond the junction might help to slow down traffic and reduce the danger, and the Clerk was to ask the police to look into the matter.

Village Hall: Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young was investigating the possibility of an entire new heating system for the hall. Cllr. Greenaway was thanked for the remedial work he had done to ensure safer storage of the long tables in the passageway.

Planning: The Council made no objections to applications for an extension to 'Caldy', Patrixbourne Road (CA/87/0028/BRI) or for a new drive and garage at 'Yew Tree', Higham Lane (CA/87/0232/BRI). They did, however, oppose an application for a detached bungalow on land adjoining Filmer Cottage, Filmer Road (CA/87/0083/BRI). They noted that the City Council had granted planning permission for the alterations and repositioning of houses and garages, already granted permission for erection, on the site between The Close and Churchill House, Union Road (CA/86/1474/BRI), but had refused permission for the erection of a dwelling with garage, plus seven garages for use by the residents of The Close, on land to the

north and west of The Close, Union Road (CA/86/1473/BRI).

Councillors were pleased to see that the commercial bill board type sign had at last been removed from the Patrixbourne Road Side of the Red Lion.

The Council next meet on Thursday, 12th March at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

Bekesbourne Parish Council

Mrs. M. Gabbé reports on the February meeting.

Boundary Changes: The Council has decided to invite residents of Bekesbourne and Patrixbourne to the next AGM as the new council will then have been elected. Parish Council elections will be held on 7th May and a new joint council, with changed boundaries, will have nine members.

Planning: Two recent applications for houses in the parish have been turned down by the City Council, one on access grounds and the other on various grounds, including being against the policy of the Kent Structure Plan.

Snow and Salt: On receipt of a letter asking for local advice on snow emergencies it was decided to write and suggest the re-introduction of snow fences and their possible erection by local farmers. A salt bin is to be provided at the bottom of Bekesbourne Hill at the request of the Parish Council, but any further bins would have to be paid for by the council, as only two are now to be supplied per parish.

Lottery Fund: Money has been applied for from the City Council Lottery Fund to cover the cost of re-decorating the Village Hall.

Next Meetings: The next regular meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday, 28th April. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th May, to which all residents will be invited. The first meeting of the new Council will be held on Tuesday, 26th May. All these meetings are at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Due to lack of help with the formation of a youth club, I have been forced to abandon the idea. The £53·00 raised at a jumble last year has been deposited at the Post Office. Anyone who has an idea to what the money could be used, please contact Mrs. G. Brennan, 15 Union Road, Bridge. Also, thank-you to everyone who donated items and those who turned up to support the sale.

'Fish' News

We were all saddened to hear of the sudden death of Mrs. Ethel Sidders. She was one of the founder members of the Luncheon Club — we shall all miss her. She would have been ninety in May and in spite of many years of blindness was always cheerful, uncomplaining and independent to the end.

Thanks to the work of the *Salvation Army* we were able to obtain part of the 'butter-mountain' for our local pensioners. Happily the arrival of the first batch coincided with the Coffee Pop-In. About 150 people called at the Village Hall and many stayed for coffee. My apologies to those who went away empty-handed. Due to distribution difficulties I was only able to collect part of our allocation. The rest will be delivered by our Fish volunteers as soon as it arrives. If you did not give in your name, please let me know and I will try to arrange for you to have some if there is a surplus. My thanks to all out volunteers who helped with the distribution and manned the coffee bar.

Our next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 11th March in Bridge Village Hall from 10.15 to 11.45am.

Did you know that many magazines and newspapers are available on cassette tapes for a very small annual subscription? (these are for normal cassette players, not the Talking Book machines.) I have sent for a list of publications and will pass on the details to anyone who is interested. This would make a good present for anyone who is visually handicapped. Our own local blind association also sends out a fortnightly tape of news from the local newspaper and passes on other items of interest. *Joan Warren, 830233*

Church cleaning Rota St. Peter's, Bekesbourne

1st, Mrs. Hogben. *8th*, Mrs. Watson. *15th*, Mrs. Russell. *22nd*, Mrs. Grey. *29th*, Mrs. Beckett. *5th April*, Mrs. Smith.

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

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Mr. S.R. Pike, 12 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JY (830708)
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, Ardpriory, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT3 4AD (462695)
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Mr. N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)
Hon Secretary: Mr. J. Purchese, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (830937)
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D. Millyard, School House, School Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5ER (830256)
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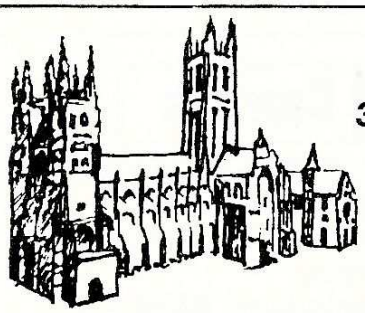
Captain of the Bells: Mr. David Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne CT4 5HA (830659)

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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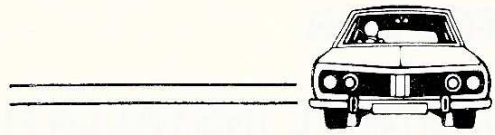

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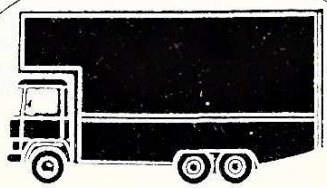

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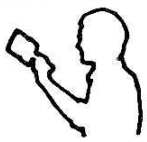

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Bridge

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April 1987 25p

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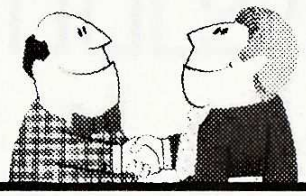

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Sunday Worship in April

Bridge	Patrixbourne	Bekesbourne
5th:		
11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
12th:		
9.30am The Eucharist *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Passion Music & Readings	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
19th: *See below for Holy Week and Easter Day services.*		
26th:		
8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Matins
3rd May:		
11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *5th*, Mr. Martin Rowe. *12th, Holy Communion*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met.,B.D. *19th*, Mr. Alistair P. Barwick, B.Sc. *26th*, The Revd. Dr. T. Mervyn Willshaw, M.A., B.D.

Weekdays Holy Communion will be celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on Wednesdays (BCP) at 9.30am and on Fridays, 3rd and 10th only (Rite A) at 7.30am. The monthly celebration of the Communion at Churchill House will, *for this month only*, be on the **second Wednesday, 8th** at 10.15am. The New Close service is on Wednesdays at 2.30pm.

For your diary and prayer list

1st Bridge School Governors meet
2nd Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm
5th **Passion Sunday**
7th Pray for the Deanery Clergy who meet this morning.
Patrixbourne with Bridge Annual Church Meeting, Methodist Church, 7.30pm
10th Bridge School Service, St Peter's Church, Bridge, 11am
12th **Palm Sunday**
Instead of Evensong at Bridge there will be a special service on the Passion of our Lord, with hymns, choir items and Bible readings appropriate to the theme.
15th Bekesbourne Annual Church Meeting, Parsonage Farm, 8pm
16th Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm
19th **EASTER DAY**
21st Bridge with Patrixbourne WI Birthday Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm.
26th **First Sunday after Easter**
27th **St. Mark the Evangelist** *(transferred from 25th)*
29th *St. Catherine of Siena, Mystic, 1380*

Holy Week & Easter 1987

Monday, 13th April:
9.30am Holy Communion *(St. Mary's, Patrixbourne)*

Tuesday, 14th April:
9.30am Holy Communion *(ASB Rite A) (St. Peter's, Bridge)*

Wednesday, 15th April:
9.30am Holy Communion *(BCP) (St. Peter's, Bridge)*

Maundy Thursday, 16th April:
7.30pm Holy Eucharist *(ASB Rite A)* in commemoration of the Last Supper *(St. Peter's, Bridge)*

Good Friday, 17th April:
11am A choral meditation on the Cross *(St. Peter's, Bekesbourne)*
2pm *The Last Hour* — A meditation conducted by the Revd. David Ratcliff, Diocesan Assistant Director of Education (Parish Education) *(St. Peter's, Bridge)*

EASTER DAY, 19th April:
8am Holy Communion *(Bekesbourne)*
9.30am Sung Communion *(Patrixbourne)*
11am Parish Eucharist *(Bridge)*
11am Matins & Holy Communion *(Bekesbourne)* *(The Revd. David Ratcliff)*
6.30pm Festal Evensong *(Bridge)*

"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"

Easter Flowers

Bridge — *Decorating for Easter starts at 9.45am on Holy Saturday and all offers of flowers and help will be much appreciated. If anyone would like to give a lily (£1·60 each) they are asked to give the money either to Mrs. Joyce Hunter, 24 High Street or Mrs. Elsie Apps, 34 High Street.*

Bekesbourne — *All who would like to help decorate the church for Easter are asked to present themselves at 10.30am on Holy Saturday. It is hoped all regular flower arrangers will turn up. Donations for Easter lilies are requested: money, please, to Mrs. Christine Ash, Parsonage Farm.*

EASTER COMMUNION can be brought to the sick and housebound in their homes. Please contact the vicar to make the necessary arrangements.

Loose cash in the collections at all three churches on Easter Day will be given to St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy, about which more anon.

Easter Triumph, Easter Joy!

No day in the entire Church Year matches Easter Day. On that glorious festive day we celebrate the most important world event of all time. WORLD event? Ra-ther! The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead did not only affect the

disciples then, it led to the creation of the Christian Church, which in itself has spread virtually all over the world. But it also affected the emperor Constantine, and whereas his edict that the whole Roman world should henceforth be Christian did not result in a global conversion, the influence of that pronouncement has had repercussions that have far outlived and outstretched the bounds of the Roman Empire.

For Christians, Easter Day is basic to the faith. On that day Jesus rose to life from death, never to die again. That means he is alive NOW as a living force in the world and not just a figment of certain imaginations. Jesus lives in his present-day followers. Jesus lives in all who will be open to him. He is actually present on any number of occasions, so-called sacred *and* secular. He is with each of us at this very moment; as I write these words and as you read them.

Only realize, the Lord is risen, alive for evermore, eager to live in us and make us fully alive too! Wow!

Son of Man—a Play by Dennis Potter

Maurice Copus of *Group 81* writes about this extraordinary play and its author

In a recent article in the 'Observer' it was said that "Potter is a product of the chapels and coal mines on the wrong side of the Severn in Gloucestershire . . . from which he has emerged as a Christian Socialist quite capable of invoking the spirit of the Lord and dishing out a little Hell fire. . ." The article goes on to say that, "plays like *Son of Man* betray a complex and no-nonsense approach to spirituality".

Dennis Potter, by his own admission, is very concerned by the internal life which we lead and our understanding of it; as he says, "What I'm trying to do is get inside people's heads and show them the way they see themselves". He goes on to say that, "the public arena used to be the street and you could shut your door on it. Now you can't. Everything comes right into your home. This makes fiction more important because the only private place left is inside your head".

Son of Man originated as a television play and was first shown on the BBC in April 1969. It received a very mixed response ranging from outraged disapproval to enthusiastic welcome.

We, in Group 81, have found our investigation of the play to be an absorbing and rewarding experience. The play does not denigrate the divinity of Jesus, as some people have imagined, but rather attempts to redress a traditional imbalance by emphasising that His humanity was an essential element of His sacrifice. In the play Jesus says, ". . . the son of man must be a man . . . he must laugh, he must cry, he cannot be other than a man or else God has cheated". Later, in the temple Jesus says, ". . . Yes, I AM HE! and this is My Father's house . . . I am the Way. I am the Light . . . You are here to praise Him, you are here to praise ME". It is evident that Dennis Potter while attempting to bring a reality to the Manhood of Jesus never intends to infer that Jesus was not the Son of God.

The other main theme which emerges in the play occurs when Jesus speaks to the 'multitude' on the meaning of Christian love — "the kind that changes the world, that blunts the sword—the hardest love of all, the love which hurts — 'LOVE YOUR ENEMY' " — love which is "the toughest, most challenging, most invincible force of all".

The two themes which seem to characterize the play are the gradual realisation by Jesus of His own Divine destiny and His inspired plea to "love your enemy" followed by the supreme example of His death upon the cross.

Some people have been concerned that the Resurrection is not explicitly included in the play. It would seem that Dennis Potter has done this not to question the reality of

the Resurrection but rather to keep the emphasis of the play centred on the two themes mentioned above. The Resurrection, we feel, is intended to be implicitly included in the final words of the play, "IT IS ACCOMPLISHED!"

The play is developed against a background of violence in the support of political power by an occupying military force and the desperate measures which are required to be taken by an oppressed people to defend the beliefs of an indigenous and ancient religion.

These sub-plots, in the creative economy of Potter's writing, postulate a possible rationalisation (without justification) of the actions of Pilate, Caiaphas and Judas Iscariot, not necessarily as evil men, but as men who are victims of their own convictions and circumstance. There are many modern parallels.

Son of Man is a play which attempts to invigorate thinking about certain traditional beliefs. At most it may help us to explore our faith with increased understanding; at least, it can be seen sometimes to present ideas which may have sometimes become diminished by familiarity.

You can see *Son of Man* in a presentation by Group 81 on Sunday, 5th April at 6.30pm in the Church of St. Clement, Sandwich. Admission is free but there will be a collection to help with expenses. See the News Service insert.

Junior Church celebrated its third birthday on Sunday 15th March, and the children sang Happy Birthday and took cake home with them after the service.

Penny Spencer

Family Matters

On Sunday, 1st March, within the Family Service at Bridge, **Laura Helen Vince**, Forge Cottage, 51 High Street, was baptized and received into the family of the Church.

* * *

The following letter says a great deal about the neighbourhood and those who live in it. It is always a pleasure to receive and pass on such sentiments.

Brickfield Cottage
Bridge

May I take this opportunity of thanking all the wonderful ladies (and gentlemen) who were so helpful and kind during my recent illness.

The Community spirit is certainly alive and well in Bridge.

Thank you all again, and
God bless.

Jim Lockley.

* * *

Residents of Patrixbourne and friends farther afield were saddened by the death of **Kenneth Johnston**, 2 St. Mary's Road after a brief illness. Our sympathy is extended to his widow, Honor and family. The Vicar conducted a service in Patrixbourne Church on 6th March, which preceded cremation at Barham.

Annual Church Meetings

Both parishes' Annual Church Meetings take place this month, as you will see from the Diary page.

Attendance at an ACM is limited to those whose names are on the particular parish's Electoral Roll, but ought to be considered a must by those people. (Please note, the Electoral Roll is a list of church members in any given parish, and must not be confused with the Electoral Register, which is the local authority and parliamentary voters' list.)

An Annual Church Meeting has a fixed agenda and included, among other things, are reports on the year's work by the Parochial Church Council, on the parish's finances and church fabrics. It is this meeting that also elects members to the PCC, in whole as at Bekesbourne, or part as at Patrixbourne with Bridge. This year also representatives are to be elected to serve on the East Bridge Deanery Synod, and for the first time for many years Bekesbourne has two to elect.

I do appeal to those on the Electoral Rolls to make a real effort to come to the ACM concerned — attendance in both parishes has been very disappointing in recent years. It is the only parochial meeting as such in the year at which an opportunity is given to ask questions on parish policy in all its aspects, and attendance ought to represent more faithfully the support both parishes deserve. Remember, the Church in any locality is the people, not the building!

If you are not currently on an Electoral Roll you can obtain the necessary document from the ER Officer concerned — John Purchese (Bekesbourne) and Richard Whatley (Patrixbourne and Bridge). Copies are also in the churches and when completed should be handed to the above.

Bridge and Patrixbourne's meeting is in Bridge Methodist Church on Tuesday, 7th April at 7.30pm — Bekesbourne's is at Parsonage Farm on the Wednesday of Holy Week, 15th April at 8pm.

Service at The New Close

I am not sure how thoroughly you read your *On The Nail*, but I suspect not often from cover to cover. Some of the more likely omissions are those sections that alter the least from month to month. Like, for example, the information about weekday services that usually follows the Methodist Church preachers list on page 4.

In this paragraph reference is made to the service at The New Close, with an occasional appeal for helpers. Response to that appeal has sadly been non-existent and the small band that has been involved since I came on the scene is unchanged and ageing, however slowly.

I find it hard to believe that only four or five parishioners have the time and interest in this work, and offer the following information in the hope that others may be stimulated to give a hand.

* * *

The service is held every Wednesday from 2.30pm until approximately 2.50 and is of a very informal nature. This is necessary where the residents are concerned. We begin with a popular hymn, there is a brief talk or story, another hymn, reading, hymn and prayers. Most of the residents are beyond reading

Continued on page 13

so the hymns are both familiar and well-loved. Few are able to sing either, so helpers tend to be the most active participants in the service. Clearly this is a situation where familiarity is the order of the day and we always say the Lord's Prayer, which sparks off the greater response.

What we ask of helpers is that they arrive about ten to fifteen minutes beforehand to assist the residents make their way to the main hall, where the service is held, give out such hymnbooks as are needed and join in, especially with the hymns. Not all residents want to come along so it is not a question of a mass movement, but help is needed for most of the attenders and support vocally at the service is a distinct advantage. You don't have to have been a crack singer, by the way, merely a willing participant. And the residents *do* love visitors, which is another important aspect of the work.

If you can be of assistance in this valuable contribution to life at The New Close, even on an occasional basis, or if you would like to give it a try or ask a few questions about it please either contact me at the vicarage or have a chat with Mrs. Muriel Packer (830364), who is one of the existing band of helpers. Any aid in this line will be eagerly received!

CONFIRMATION is the sacrament of commitment wherein Christians make a public declaration of the faith in which they were previously baptized, perhaps as infants, and receive the strengthening grace of the Holy Spirit in the Laying on of Hands by the bishop. It is a step that all of us need and should want to take when we are old enough to know our own minds on the matter.

The traditional age for confirmation is round about 13 but very many, for one reason or another, are not ready by then, wisely waiting until they can take the vows and make the promises with a clear conscience. For an increasing number this means confirmation as adults, as witness the growing numbers of adults being presented at confirmation services up and down the land. Generally speaking confirmation at a more discerning time of life is much to be preferred, for it is open to question that children in their early 'teens, even with lengthy instruction, really know what they are taking on.

Within our own communities, I believe, there are quite a few adults who are as yet not confirmed, but who are beginning to ask themselves if the time may not be right to take this important step. Let them first realize they are not alone in this, and secondly that before being confirmed instruction is given. This serves the two-fold purpose of producing better-informed church members and also allowing a time of testing to see if confirmation is really what a person want for himself or herself.

If you (perhaps with a friend) want to discuss this further please get in touch with me. I shall be only too pleased to help in any way I can, and nothing would give greater pleasure than to assemble a group of adult confirmation candidates once more. Memories of the previous two such groups are still strong, and also the glorious occasions on which they were confirmed. Please do not feel that you are commiting yourself simply by enquiring, but *you* must make the first move. Over to you, whoever you are.!

Nailbourne Horticultural Society has two events in April. There is the Spring Show in Bishopsbourne Village Hall on Tuesday, 7th and the AGM in Bridge Village Hall on Thursday, 30th at 8pm.

Bekesbourne Church — A Special Appeal

Don't panic! St. Peter's Church isn't about to collapse or anything nearly that dramatic! The problem is the carpet on the chancel and sanctuary floors that has been there longer than anyone can remember. Despite regular sweeping it is showing its age, and some of the ladies (who have a keen eye for such things) dearly wish to replace it. The present carpet certainly spoils an otherwise beautiful and cared-for church, so the PCC has taken steps to purchase a replacement. The likely cost, including an underlay, is £370, of which so far we have been given £120 in donations. We are therefore appealing for the remaining £250, in confidence that the many people who love Bekesbourne Church may care to contribute towards it.

The PCC approved a good quality carpet at its recent meeting and look forward to being able to place an order. All donations will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer, David Millyard, whose address appears on page 17.

● The PCC places on record its grateful thanks for the marvellous job of clearing the churchyard of superfluous growth. I recommend you go and see it before the Spring sets in.

Children's Society Week 1987

One day during the week beginning April 5th an envelope will be handed to you or pushed through your letterbox. Please look at this envelope carefully. You will see it is from **The Children's Society**.

Because our Society is helping children, young people and families affected by unemployment, sickness, handicap or inadequate housing, and such work costs money, **The Children's Society** asks you to place a gift in the envelope. You will then be sharing in a service to families who can feel forgotten, unwanted and overwhelmed by problems. You will be showing them that some people do care.

The week in which the envelope will be delivered and collected is **Children's Society Week**. During this special week (April 5th to 11th) Society supporters all over England and Wales will be giving time and energy to distributing and collecting envelopes. An envelope in every door is the slogan.

Here in Bridge we have a keen team of volunteers ready to deliver and collect envelopes. But that is not enough. The Society needs a gift in every envelope — coins, notes, cheques — all will be most welcome.

Please use your envelope to make a gift and help **The Children's Society** to continue and develop its work. There are now over 100 homes, centres or projects in England and Wales.

The Society is most grateful for all the help already received from Bridge. We hope that in **Children's Society Week 1987** even more people in Bridge will make a generous donation for the Society's work. Please pray for the collectors and all the people they will visit in this parish.

Ann Medhurst
Children's Society Week Organiser

League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals

Bridge Branch

Since the last report, another member has been co-opted to the committed, Mrs. Gill Harvey.

£356 has been donated by the Bridge Branch for the purchase of a child's variable height bed and mattress.

Our next fund raising event will be on Sunday, 5th July when Strawberry Teas will be served at the Old Palace, Bekesbourne. More details will be available later, but book the date.

M.S.F

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council News

Bridge Parish Council

Several Parishioners were present at the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 12th March.

Recreation Ground: The Council heard a report of a meeting of the Bridge Village Sports Trust Committee at which all the sports clubs of the village had been represented and where the first steps had been taken to set about raising funds to finance the building of a new pavilion. The Clerk reported that the County Council had not increased the basic cost of gang mowing the ground for the forthcoming season, the estimated cost of which would amount for this year to some £468. The Council had no objection to the Tennis Club continuing the line of leylandii along the north side of the courts to complete the windbreak.

Streets and Footpaths: Cllr. Peter Lawrence reported on his meeting with the Area Manager of Corralls following complaints received about certain operations at the depôt. After discussion and explanations of the points made, he had been satisfied that the incidents occurred during the 'Cold Weather Emergency' in January when certain legal restrictions had been relaxed temporarily to cope with increased demand and distribution difficulties, and that the depôt had been operating in the best interests of everyone. Cllr. Lawrence also reported that he would be able to repair the broken slat of the seat on the bridge in the High Street by fixing a piece of steel underneath it to strap it up.

Village Hall: The Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young said that she intended to report fully to the next meeting of the Council on a new heating system for the hall once all the investigations had been completed. A fixed wooden bench had been installed at the rear entrance by the Council for the use of the playgroup children and a letter of thanks had been received from the playgroup.

Planning: The Council objected to an outline application for a change of use from residential to home for the elderly and extension to provide additional bedrooms at The Plat, Beech Hill principally on the grounds that establishing a business premises in this essentially residential cul-de-sac was not compatible with the amenity enjoyed by the other dwellings in this area and that such a business of sizeable proportions would result in increased traffic. They had no objections to make to an application for a bedroom extension within the roof over the existing garage at 'The Purlins', Meadow Close. The City Council had granted planning permission for an extension to the dwelling 'Caldy', Patrixbourne Road.

Miscellany: Cllr. Ken Greenaway and Mrs. Margaret Jones were to represent the Council at a meeting organised by the City Council in connection with their Anti-Litter Campaign 1987.

The Clerk had sent letters of thanks and appreciation on behalf of the elderly residents of Bridge to the Salvation Army for arranging for supplies of EEC surplus butter and cheese for the village and to Mrs. Warren of the 'Fish Scheme' who had collected and arranged for distribution of the supplies to those eligible in the village.

The next meeting of the Parish Council, which will be the last meeting of the present Council, will be held on Thursday, 9th April.

Elections for the new Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 7th May. Several of the present Parish Councillors are not seeking re-election this time, leaving places on the Council which have to be filled. The Parish Council would like to see several candidates putting themselves forward for election so that there is a poll this time in Bridge. If you feel that you can give a little of your time to serve the community, please contact the Clerk, Mrs. Kathy Walder (Tel: 830761) or the Chairman, Cllr. John Hill (Tel: 830215) for further details. *K.A. Walder, Clerk*

Tragedy

by the Revd. M. Peter Taylor

I was talking with Alwyne Hawkins, a member at Stelling Minnis Methodist Church, as he was lying on a hospital bed. He was saying that a man had died in the bed opposite, and clearly the relatives were very upset. "There must have been some others who have died in this hospital in the last few days," he said, "but only this one has affected me".

How true this is! A tragedy only truly touches us when in some way there is a personal link forged. Our own tragedies, those of relations, friends or neighbours, or even of friends of such people — all these can influence us. But it is hard for a disaster happening thousands of miles away to do so when we know little of the situation and no-one involved, even remotely. How fortunate we are that this is so, for how would we survive if every calamity rocked us at our foundations?

For some people, not only are distant events unmoving, but also those that ought to move them. I sometimes wonder if I meet others' crises so much that I am blunted to my own. I think of the bereaved partner who could not and would not ever cry. This is self-preservation gone wrong. The risk is, that allowing things to affect us might lead to loss of control of emotions and our circumstances, something which most of us fear.

In Lent I recall how Jesus was fully open to deep tragedy in his life, even to his own death. In Gethsemane we see a man who is profoundly moved by what is about to happen to him. And, yes, in a sense it did lead to loss of control of what was happening to him, but . . .

At Easter I recall that Jesus became fully open to life and joy, and it seems to me that the two are connected. Maybe it is only when we are open to deep tragedy that we are also open to real and fulfilling life.

Fish News

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held at 7.30pm on Monday, 6th April in the Bridge Methodist Church. All residents of our four villages are invited to join us to hear about our activities over the past year and to help us with suggestions to improve our neighbourhood care scheme for the future.

This year the **Blossom Tour** will be on Friday, 8th May. The coach will leave Western Avenue at 2.15pm for a country drive, followed by cream tea at the Chilham Restaurant and a visit to the Chilham Fruit Farm garden centre. The inclusive charge will be £2·75. Please let me know by 20th April if you would like to join us. (We have to give priority booking to people who are housebound or live alone, and to pensioners.)

We are hoping to repeat last year's **Orchard Tour** when the blossom is at its peak. Arrangements for this car drive through local orchards have to be left until the last minute.

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

Because of rising motoring costs, the committee has decided that we must

ask for a contribution of 20p per mile from users of the **Transport Service**. This brings us in line with Canterbury and other Volunteer Bureaux.

If **gardeners** have any spare seedlings, cuttings or plants, we should be grateful for them for our plant stall at the Annual Coffee Morning on Saturday, 6th June.

Joan Warren

Bekesbourne Church Flowers

The only date this month not otherwise covered is Low Sunday, 26th, when Mrs. Mount has accepted responsibility for providing church flowers. Mrs. Watson is down to clean that weekend.

BEKESBOURNE CHURCH gives advance notice of a Jumble Sale to take place in **Bridge** Village Hall on 30th May. More details next month!

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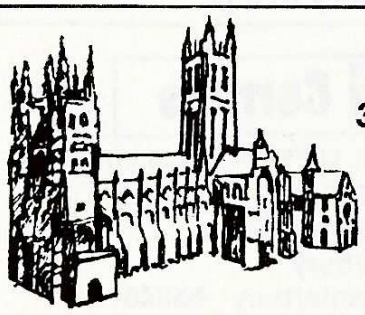
Magazine Advertising: Mr. H.P.M. Lawrence, Tullymore, 72 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830472)
Magazine Editor: The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

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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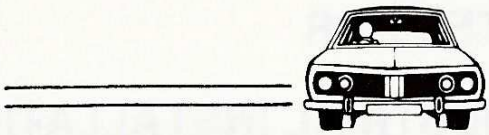

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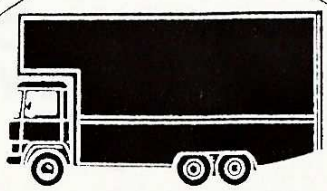

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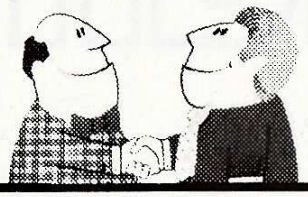

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Sunday Worship in May

Bridge	Patrixbourne	Bekesbourne
3rd:		
11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
10th:		
9.30 The Eucharist *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
17th:		
9.30 Parish Communion *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
24th:		
8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Matins
31st:		
9.30 The Eucharist *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
7th June:		
11am Family Eucharist & Baptism 6.30pm Festal Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *3rd,* Mr. D. Morton. *10th,* Mr. S. Kentish. *17th,* The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met.,B.D. *24th, Holy Communion,* The Revd. Wilfred J. Hill, M.C.,B.Sc. *31st,* Miss M. C. Fairhurst, B.Ed. *(The service on 17th is part of the church's birthday celebrations, which continue with a further service on Tuesday, 19th at 7.30pm.)*

Weekdays Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and Friday (ASB Rite A) at 7.30am, also on the first Wednesday of each month in Churchill House at 10.15am. A short, informal act of worship takes place every Wednesday at 2.30pm in The New Close, at which visitors are always most welcome. A prayer meeting for health and healing is held every first and third Thursdays in the Lady Chapel, St. Peter's, Bridge at 7pm.

For your diary and prayer list

1st **St. Philip and St. James, Apostles**
2nd *St. Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher, 373*
3rd **Second Sunday after Easter**
7th Bridge Methodist Church Coffee Morning and Sale, in the Patrixbourne Road Church at 10.30am.
Prayers for Health and Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm
8th *Julian of Norwich, Mystic, c1417*

9th Bridge Churchyard working party, 10am - please support.
Pray for Jackie Eynon and Peter Degg, to be married today at Bridge

10th **Third Sunday after Easter**

11th Christian Aid Week begins

12th Interchurch Group, The Methodist Church, 7.30pm

14th **St. Matthias the Apostle**
Bridge Parish Council meets, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm

15th Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC meets, The Methodist Church, 7.30pm

16th WI Grand May Fayre, Bridge Village Hall, 10.30am - 3pm

17th **Fourth Sunday after Easter**

19th *St. Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988*
Pray for the first meeting of the newly-elected Deanery Synod this evening at Bishopsbourne, especially for our own representatives, Sheila Fenn and Ted Weatherall *(Patrixbourne with Bridge)* and John Purchese *(Bekesbourne)*.

21st Prayers for Health and Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm
Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm

24th **Fifth Sunday after Easter** Rogation Sunday

25th *Venerable Bede, Priest, Monk of Jarrow, 735*

26th *St. Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605*

28th **ASCENSION DAY**
Eucharist, St. Peter's, Bridge, 7.30pm

30th Bekesbourne Church Jumble Sale, **Bridge** Village Hall, 10am - 12 noon
Pray for Tina Charlton and Gerald Irvine to be married today at Bridge.

31st **Sunday after Ascension Day**

Christian Aid Week, 11th - 17th May

by Muriel Packer

The theme for this year's *Christian Aid* week is *'More Power to the Poor'*. Who are 'the poor'? Poor people in Britain look rich compared with even the better-off in some countries, but wherever they live, the poor are likely to have very little control over their lives. This is why *Christian Aid* wants above all to give the poor the power to support themselves. Emergency aid will always be needed to bring prompt help to people suffering from the disasters which have become all too familiar on our TV screens.

Out of every £1 raised by *Christian Aid* 19p goes on emergency aid and 10p to help refugees, but in spite of these urgent calls, ***47p is used for self-help development projects,*** 10·8p for education and only 3·4p for administration. The remaining 9·8p is used in fund-raising to produce £1 more for further aid.

An ox-cart costs £186, a hand water pump £88, a midwifery kit £130, training of a village health worker £317. How much can we in our three villages raise to provide basic essentials such as these for self-help projects? Please be extra generous in this year's *Christian Aid* week, 11th - 17th May!

Who'll lend a hand?

Now that spring has finally arrived and the growing season is here with a vengeance, it is high time to make the first onslaught on Bridge Churchyard. The sooner we get started and the more 'workers' the easier it will be to keep the yard looking neat, as it should. Will you please lend a hand on Saturday, 9th May from 10 o'clock onwards? Any time you can spare will be marvellous and if you can remember to bring a tool or two along with you so much the better. Thank you in anticipation!

Patrixbourne with Bridge

Treasurer's Report for 1986

In my last annual report in April 1986, I indicated that income from Planned Giving had peaked in 1985, the second year of the four-yearly phase of our Christian Stewardship, and that for 1986 onwards, at current levels of giving, we should be faced with difficulty in maintaining the level of revenue reached at that stage. With the loss of several valuable covenants, the position further deteriorated in 1986 but, fortunately, it was contained by an almost compensating increase in revenue arising from new or updated existing covenants. The net effect was an overall reduction in Planned Giving of some £137 in 1986.

It is encouraging to report that in 1986, after having paid the Diocesan Quota of £7847 (1985 £7405) in full, we were left with a small surplus of £260 (1985 £462), which has been transfered to Revenue Reserve. In 1985, however, we were able to transfer £300 of the overall surplus of £462 to General Reserve, but the small surplus arising in 1986 did not allow for any similar transfer to augment our General Reserve.

I cannot emphasise strongly enough, that had it not been for the exceptionally successful results of both the Summer Fete and the Christmas Market, we simply could not have paid our Diocesan Quota from current reserve. Without this particular source of revenue of £1587 (1985 £1356) our small surplus would have been transfered into a deficit of well over £1000. Furthermore, if in these latter circumstances we had continued to honour all our commitments, e.g. paid our quota in full, it would have been necessary to draw on our Revenue Reserve, and by so doing we would have extinguished it. Happily this did not arise. There is a moral in this somewhere, and surely it is that in a Christian Stewardship parish, the dependence on income gained from 'fetes' to balance church accounts should not truly arise. We really should be in a sound financial position enabling us to pass on the majority, if not all of our surpluses from these special efforts to recognised and deserving charities and missions.

Forecast for 1987

My forecast for 1987 is based on existing levels of income and expenditure, but having due regard for a further reduction in tax reclaimable from covenants following the recent budget. Assuming that income from all sources continues at least at their known or anticipated levels, and providing that expenditure, subject to an element of inflation, is contained at current levels, then I would trust that with an easing in our Diocesan Quota commitment by approximately £400 (1987 £7461 - 1986 £7847) we may, hopefully, just be able

to meet our total revenue commitments in this year. This means that once again we shall not be in a position to put aside anything to augment our General Reserve Fund, to meet future costs or structural repairs to our churches. Donations to missions and charities would be minimal in these circumstances and limited to our annual commitment of £57 to the Delhi Brotherhood only.

In conclusion, and in the context of my report, I invite all church members to give their serious consideration to the genuine and compelling needs of the churches of our parish, and where it is possible, to respond by expressing their concern in the form of new or increased covenants or freewill offerings. I shall be very happy to assist those who indicate their wish to enter into new or amended covenants.

D. R. Hill

Hail and Farewell, Brownies

I am recalling many happy times with the Brownies, but the time has come for me to say farewell to Bridge on moving away. I was finding it too difficult to give my best to the children.

So with a great deal of thought, I decided it was time to say cheerio to Bridge Brownies after being with the unit for 17 years: not an easy decision to make! Miss Leany has been running the unit now for 2 years, so I leave the Brownies in her very capable hands. It gives me great pride that the Brownie and Guide leaders were former Brownies, who are willing to pass their experience on to today's Brownies.

I will leave a part of my heart in Bridge - most of my guiding has been with the children of the area and I will always be interested in their future. I will take this opportunity to thank parents and friends for your help and trust, we have enjoyed sharing some part of your child's life. The team have had many happy hours with them.

One member of our team had to retire in September due to health reasons and we offer a very big thank you to her. Kath Pierce was first a unit helper, then an assistant guider for a total of 10 years.

Without the help of everyone beavering away in the background we would not be able to achieve anything: we each had our part to play. With the offers of help Miss Leany has had I am sure once again there will be a very successful team and we wish them well.

Go well and safely. The Lord be ever with you.

Margaret Ashdown, Assistant Guider

'On The Nail' Noticeboard

Bridge Mother, Baby and Toddler Group meets every Tuesday morning between 10.30am and 12 noon in the Methodist Church during school term time. We re-commence our sessions after the Easter holidays on Tuesday, 5th May, so please come along and join us. Take the opportunity to have a cup of coffee and a chat whilst your little one enjoys playing with new friends. All will be most welcome. *J.B.*

* * *

Bridge with Patrixbourne WI meets on 19th for a Resolution Meeting. The competition is a table flower arrangement for a Ruby Wedding.

Nailbourne Horticultural Society meets in Bishopsbourne Village Hall on 7th at 8pm for an illustrated talk with slides and advice on the preparation of vegetables for showing from Mr. Bert Park.

* * *

Bridge Folk Dance Group will meet only once this month, due to the local council elections. Please join us at 8 o'clock on Thursday, 21st May in the Village Hall, when Alf Matthews will be the caller as usual. New dancers of all ages are made very welcome. Enquiries, please ring 830285 or 830652. *J.H.*

* * *

Mrs Carole Reece, 9 Filmer Road writes: As a committee member of the Bridge School PTA I have been allotted the Craft Stall for the Summer Fete. In this respect I would be pleased to receive any spare material anyone has, especially fur fabric in the shape of old dressing-gowns, etc. and also the tops of large (they must be large) fabric container bottles.

We should also like to hear from anyone who would be willing to make things for the Craft Stall, as we will have all the ideas and the materials to delegate to them. Also if anyone would like to make things from their own ideas, if they get in touch with me I can pick them up or if need be take the materials round to them. I can be reached at 9 Filmer Road (tel: 831187) and also Mrs. Jane Shillinglaw is helping me and she is at 26, Bridge Down (tel: 830795).

Confirmation 1988

I have received a number of enquiries from young people about confirmation, and in the hope that there may be some adult candidates before very long, I have provisionally booked a Confirmation at Bridge on St. Peter's Day, 29th June, *next* year (1988). This has still to be formally agreed by the bishop, who is currently engaged in arranging all next year's confirmations, but there is no reason to suppose we shall be refused. In past years confirmations here have tended to be on or near St. Andrew's Day, but it seemed a good way of celebrating our patronal festival to have a combined Confirmation and Eucharist, which is what I would envisage.

Once again let me encourage adults who may be contemplating this step to come and talk it over with me. I shall also be glad to hear of any young people who also wish to be prepared: will they please get in touch with me themselves, not leave it to mum to do for them.

Appeals

by Anna Newton, Headmistress of the School

Each one should give, then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly.

2 Corinthians 9 Verse 7.

It has never ceased to amaze me at the amount of appeals which come into our school each week. Many arrive by post, others make their way via the telephone and there have even been those where the organizer has arrived at school without even a prior appointment. The range of appeals is extensive,

Continued on page 13

from raising money to provide a swimming pool for a special school, to collecting ring pulls from tin cans for a dialysis machine.

We obviously cannot support them all and thus are placed in the invidious position of having to choose. Eventually a system has evolved whereby the children, for the most part, choose the charities which they wish to support.

Thus the first year Junior class who so wanted to participate in the Blue Peter appeal, set about organizing their own Bring and Buy sale of books and toys. Every detail of planning was left to them and how hard they worked collecting, sorting, costing, arranging and selling all the goods back to the children in the other classes. A good sum of money was raised and sent to Blue Peter. A class of children glowed with the success of their venture and the whole event was relived in the form of a delightful assembly a few weeks later. A case surely of satisfied customers all round.

Not a day passes without one child or another visiting our secretary, Mrs. Gulvin, with a bag of milk bottle tops or silver foil to put towards our collection for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. One of the second year Junior boys brought in a collecting box and the children made contributions every day for a week. This money also went to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Ring pulls are slowly trickling in and no doubt when the picnic season arrives this will turn to a steady flow. The girls who instigated this appeal have by their very interest managed to keep the momentum going.

Several children took part in a most successful sponsored swim at the Kingsmead Pool in aid of the British Heart Foundation. Two girls have been collecting tee shirts (in good condition) for the refugee children in Mozambique. All in all a very good term's response to so many varied appeals but sadly it was not to end there.

On Friday, March 6th the Herald of Free Enterprise capsized with the loss of many lives. Being personally involved in this tragedy, I found it very difficult on the following Monday to say much about it to the children in assembly beyond offering our prayers for all those who were suffering in this disaster. At the end of assembly two girls came to ask how they could go about raising money for the disaster fund. By the following day they had made a large hollow cardboard replica of the ferry and every day since have collected the rest of the children's offerings. From time to time in assembly we put all the money collected into the 'ferry' to see if it is nearly full.

When we had raised about £40 another girl came to me with the idea of the children paying for the privilege of wearing odd or silly socks for a day and April 1st (not unnaturally) was set aside for this. In a day the sum of money was doubled and the ship was full!

The next day, however, two lads came along to me saying wouldn't it be a good idea if we could reach £100 for the fund, and that they had an idea to help reach this target. They would make a treasure map and supply the prize. On Monday morning they proudly showed their treasure map and the three prizes of Easter eggs which they had supplied themselves. They explained to all the children how at 10p a go they could help reach the target of £100 and also have the chance to win one of the lovely prizes. The competition closes on Friday and we are assured that well over £100 will go to the Herald of Free Enterprise fund.

Friday also marks the end of my first term as Headmistress of Bridge and Patrixbourne C. E. P. School. Whilst there have obviously been problems

and difficulties of one kind or another during this term, I know without doubt there is absolutely nothing wrong with the 'hearts' and good intentions of all the children who attend this school. With children such as these, a joy to teach, we can only go from strength to strength!

Having taken the theme of appeals for this account may I also make an appeal myself. If would be of great benefit to us when we need to forecast numbers for future years, if parents of children aged 2½ and over would apply to the school for an admission form if they are intending to send their children here.

League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals: Bridge Branch

Carole Turner from Bekesbourne will be running in the London Marathon to raise funds for the Bridge Branch of the league of Friends. Committee Members are looking for sponsors for her and if you have not already been asked and would be prepared to support Carole for this very worthwhile cause, please contact the Chairman, Mr. George Stewart, tel: 830365.

M. Field

Bekesbourne Church Jumble Sale

Bekesbourne's extra fund-raising activity this year will be of the 'short, sharp shock' variety - in other words, a Jumble Sale.

It will take place in Bridge Village Hall (not Bekesbourne, note!) on Saturday morning, 30th May from 10am till 12 noon and we shall be open to receive your jumble at the hall from 8.30 that morning. Alternatively your jumble or other contributions can be left at Parsonage Farm or School House, Bekesbourne during the previous week. In addition to jumble there will be a plant stall, cakes, coffee and a raffle (prizes for this will be gratefully appreciated). Please contact Christine Ash (830214) or Jane Millyard (830256) if you have any gifts you would like collected. Make a note of the date and give us your support!

Bridge Building

Yes, it's a play on words, as the following article by Mr. Pat Grant, the Bridge Methodist Church Steward, makes clear:

Bridge Methodists are embarking on a 'Bridge Building' exercise to counteract the decline in church membership and the increasing age of the few current members. Friends from our Canterbury Church have planned a series of events to support our cause, which include sharing in our Sunday morning worship, distributing leaflets throughout the village, team preaching and joining in our Anniversary celebrations when we will have the Chairman of the London South East District as our distinguished preacher. Let me point out that 'Bridge Building' is aimed at those in the village who are Methodists: we are not out to poach from the other churches. We simply wish to alert the Methodists of Bridge to our existence and to say that the premises in Patrixbourne Road is an active Methodist Church, not an extension of the Village Hall, i.e. it is not only a place for meetings of a more general nature. So if you are a Methodist we need your support to ensure that the Methodist Church's

presence in Bridge continues and, please God, is strengthened for his future service here.

We have a busy time ahead in May. Thursday, 7th is our Coffee Morning and Sale from 10.30 to noon. Thank you for your support and help in the past: we hope it will continue. Then on Tuesday, 12th at 7.30pm there is the Interchurch Discussion Group. This becomes quite lively and is always interesting, so why not leave the TV and come along for an enjoyable evening in our church with Anglicans and Roman Catholics. Our 93rd Anniversary is celebrated on Sunday, 17th at 11am, when the Revd M. Peter Taylor will be preaching: his last Anniversary with us for some considerable time, as he moves to Wales in August. Then our weeknight meeting is on Tuesday, 19th at 7.30 pm when our chairman will be Dr. John Rogers. The speaker is the Revd Peter Sutcliffe, B.A. Extra seating is being arranged for this occasion and a warm welcome awaits you. Please remember our venture in your prayers!

Bridge with Patrixbourne WI has a GRAND MAY FAYRE in the Village Hall on Saturday, 16th from 10.30am till 3pm in aid of the Pilgrims Hospice and WI Funds. There will be lunches, coffee and stalls.

PARISH PUMP
Parish Council News

Bridge Parish Council

The present Council met for the last time on Thursday 9th April. Regarding the upkeep of the **Recreation Ground,** the Council decided to consult with Mr. M. Stewart, who had taken an interest in the area around the Nailbourne stream previously, before making any decisions as to its cutting and maintenance this year. The Kent County Council were to be asked to arrange for the perimeter and other areas where their gang mower could not reach to be sprayed for weeds and cut. Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin reported that plans for building the new pavilion were forging ahead and that fund-raising activities were to be organised. Cllr. John Anderson was to plant a hornbeam received from the 'Men of the Trees' in the corner of the ground between the swings and the Nailbourne. Cllr. Peter Lawrence reported that he had the routine maintenance of the playground equipment in hand and that damage to the seat there was repairable.

Streets and Footways. Cllr. Lawrence also reported that before he had been able to repair the seat by the bridge in the High Street, it had been further damaged and he advised that the best course of action was for him to finish making the seat neat, tidy and safe for the time being. This the Council accepted. He also drew attention to the rendering on the adjacent retaining wall of the raised flowerbed, parts of which were crumbling and breaking off, and the Clerk was to get in touch with the Kent County Council about it as it was thought to be their responsibility. The Clerk was also to contact the Police following complaints about repeated parking on the double yellow lines in the village.

Village Hall. Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young informed members that she was obtaining estimates for a new heating system for the hall.

Canterbury City Council Anti-Litter Campaign 1987. Cllr. Mrs. Margaret Jones reported on a meeting which she and Cllr. Ken Greenaway had attended in connection with the City Council's Anti-Litter Campaign for 1987. Several topics had been highlighted, including dog fouling, to control which a new byelaw was shortly to be adopted, the relaunch of

bottlebanks and the encouragement by Parish Councils of village clean-ups. She also drew attention to the fact that this was European Year of the Environment and that in this connection. the week from the 25th April to the 4th May had been designated as Environment Week when it was hoped that everyone would make a special effort to clean and tidy up the village.

Planning. No new applications had been considered. Notification had been received that planning permission had been granted for the following applications:— erection of detached garage plus new vehicular access at 'Yew Tree', Higham Lane (CA/87/0232/BRI), outline permission for the erection of a single storey dwelling at 'Cedars', Higham Lane (CA/86/1483/BRI) and for a change of use to retirement home and outline plan to erect a 2 storey building to house residents at 'Field House', Station Road (CA/86/1447BRI). The City Council had refused permission for the erection of a detached bungalow and integral garage on land adjoining 'Filmer Cottage', Filmer Road (CA/87/0083/BRI) and for a change of use from residence to residential home for the elderly and extension to provide additional bedrooms at 'The Plat', Beech Hill (CA/87/0273/BRI).

The Council congratulated Mr. and Mrs. D. Whittaker of 9 High Street on becoming the official area representatives of the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation.

The Council considered a letter from the Kent County Council offering the Parish Council the possibility of purchasing the surplus land at The New Close for retention as an Open Space in view of the Parish Council's previous objections to residential development of this land. Cllr. Gulvin advised that the Parish Council should only be prepared to buy the land at a 'Peppercorn' figure. As a first step, enquiries were to be made of the City Council who had been similarly approached to ascertain their reaction.

Before closing the Meeting, the Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, thanked all Members for their services to the Council, and especially those four Members not seeking re-election, Cllr. Raymond Gilbert after four years as a Councillor, Cllr. John Anderson who had been involved in Parish affairs for the past ten years, Cllr. Mrs. Anne Young his Vice-Chairman for the last seven years as well as being Chairman herself for another four of her total of nineteen years as Councillor, and finally Cllr. Peter Lawrence who had been a member of the Parish Council for twenty-three years and Chairman from 1977 to 1980. He wished the new Council every success.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

Fish News

Due to shortage of space in this issue Mrs Warren's report on the Fish Scheme AGM has been held over until next month.

The Community Care Scheme

As an alternative to residential care, the county council's Social Services Department has developed a scheme for supporting elderly people in their own homes. Up to three visits a day are made by a team of carers. Full time staff are employed for weekday daytime visits but local people are recruited to make evening and weekend calls. If any reader is interested in helping with this scheme they should get in touch with Mrs. Jean Newell, the Community Care Organiser, at Connors House, Craddock Road, Canterbury (tel: 457740). It is important to have people trained and available in local areas so that help can be given quickly when it is needed. Payment is made for all visits.

Cleaning	St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne	Flowers
Mrs Russell	3rd May	Mrs Mount
Mrs Grey	10th May	Mrs Skinner
Mrs Beckett	17th May	Mrs Clifford
Mrs Smith	24th May	Mrs Smith
Mrs Farbrace	31st May	Mrs Farbrace

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

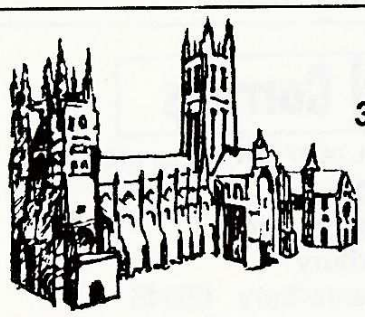
Churchwardens: Mr. J.J. Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge CT4 5JX (830399)
Mr. S.R. Pike, 12 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JY (830708)
Hon. Secretary: Mr. L.W. Sanford, 11 Windmill Close, Bridge CT4 5LY (830411)
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D.R. Hill, Red Deer, Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830426)
Organist (Bridge): Mr. M. Miles, 7 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EE (462947)
Organist (Patrixbourne): Mrs. G. Allan, 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. J. Purchese, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (830937)
Mr. N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)
Hon Secretary: Mr. J. Purchese, 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. David Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne CT4 5HA (830659)

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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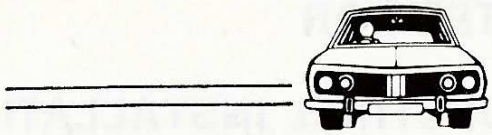

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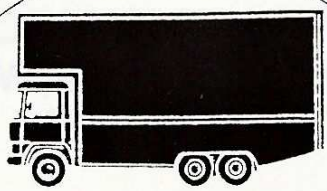

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On the Nail

A MAGAZINE FOR THE VILLAGES ALONG THE NAILBOURNE

June 1987 25p

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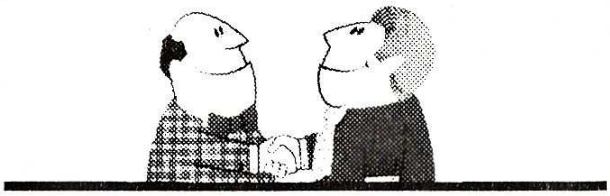

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Sunday Worship in June

Bridge	Patrixbourne	Bekesbourne
7th:		
11am Family Eucharist & Baptism	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
6.30pm Festal Evensong		
14th:		
9.30 The Eucharist *(Rite A)*	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong		
21st:		
9.30 Parish Communion *(Rite A)*	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
6.30pm Evensong		
28th:		
8am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion	11am Matins
6.30pm Choral Eucharist		
5th July:		
11am Family Service	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong		

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *7th,* Mr. E.R. O'Mahony. *14th, Holy Communion,* The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met.,B.D. *21st,* The Revd. J. Turner, B.A. *28th,* Mr. J. Whalan.

Weekdays Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and Friday (ASB Rite A) except 19th at 7.30am, also on the first Wednesday of each month in Churchill House at 10.15am. A short, informal act of worship takes place every Wednesday at 2.30pm in The New Close, at which visitors are always most welcome.

For your diary and prayer list

1st *St. Justin, Martyr of Rome, c.165*

4th Pray for David Smith, to be consecrated Bishop of Maidstone this morning in the Cathedral.
Prayers for Health & Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm.

5th *St. Boniface, Bishop, Missionary, Martyr, 754*

6th Fish Scheme Coffee Morning, Bridge Village Hall.

7th **PENTECOST** (Whit Sunday)

9th *St. Columba, Abbot of Iona, Missionary, 597*
Pray for the Vicar on this 24th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Members of all three congregations are invited to join a special Eucharist which he will celebrate in St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 7.30pm.

10th Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15am
Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm

11th **St. Barnabas the Apostle**

13th Pray for Amanda Whiting and Knut Johannson to be married today at Bridge.

14th **Trinity Sunday**
16th Bekesbourne PCC meets, School House, 8pm
18th *Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of the Holy Communion*
There will be a Eucharist in Bridge Church at 7.30pm
20th *BRIDGE SUMMER FETE* (Further details on page 14)
21st **First Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 2*
22nd *St. Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c.209*
24th **Birth of St. John the Baptist**
Bridge School Governors meeting
27th Pray for Caroline Jarvis and Nicholas Jaggers to be married today at Bridge.
28th **Second Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 3*
This being the eve of St. Peter's Day there will be a Eucharist at 6.30pm instead of Evensong to celebrate our Patronal Festival.
29th **St. Peter the Apostle, Patron of Bridge and Bekesbourne**
30th Pray for the clergy of the Deanery who meet this morning at Barham.

Bridge Building

Bridge readers of *On The Nail* will know that the Methodist Church in the village has been running a PR exercise designed to drum up support from those in the village who are themselves Methodist, either actual or lapsed. The initial response has been very encouraging and that small community of penioners has received a real boost by the arrival of at least two younger members with families, plus the pure joy of being able to form the nucleus of a Sunday School. Five children may not be a lot but it's a start and, if you'll bear with the old adage for the umpteenth time, 'great oaks from little acorns grow'.

In wishing our friends in Patrixbourne Road well with their Bridge Building the point must be made that what they are doing for their own denomination the Anglicans and the Roman Catholics, as the other main Christian bodies in the village, are trying also to do. All of us are engaged in the same evangelistic endeavours in that we seek to present the gospel of 'Jesus and his love' in the local community. Let's not leave out those at Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne either, for it is the mission of the Christian Church everywhere to witness for God in its own sphere of existence.

We can take a leaf out of Bridge Methodists' book as well by realizing that the best form of evangelism is example, by living one's life to the full and to the glory of God, not by staging events that are outside of our normal custom and thus not being true to ourselves. A recently departed Methodist theologian, Dr. Gordon Rupp made a telling observation when he said he was against rallies, because a rally tended to precede a death. Not for us the mass mission with its call for conversions and its importation of outsiders to conduct emotional services and meetings. We in Bridge are a village community and those who belong to the Churches have been set in this particular environment to carry out the practice of their faith in the place where they live. Moreover, we are called to do it not by making ourselves unpopular and an embarrassment to our neighbours, but by the quality of life we lead.

Bridge building's the name of the game, whatever branch of Christianity we represent, and if we tackle the job from the attitude of servants under God there is more chance of building and less of demolishing.

Two Happy Occasions

We report the baptism at Bekesbourne Church on Easter afternoon, 19th April of **Andrew James Cassidy,** son of Alan and Carole-Ann (nee Payne), also the marriage on 9th May at St. Peter's, Bridge of **Jackie Eynon** to **Peter Degg.**

The New Close an appeal for volunteers

My appeal for help with the Wednesday afternoon services prompted one or two ladies to respond and we are glad to have them. We could happily accept further help in this way because the more helpers there are the better. So, if you have been toying with the idea, come along!

The staff at the home are asking for volunteers (when the weather is good) to take some of the residents to Bridge recreation ground, where they can watch the sporting activities or have a little picnic. Please help if you can, in which case contact The New Close, 830263.

Bridge School

The following from Mrs. Anna Newton, our Headmistress, re-inforces an earlier request from the Parish Council vis-à-vis the recreation ground:

Dog Fouling

'Summer has come to the sunny lands,
Summer is here again.
Bringing the dog-walkers out in their droves,
But PLEASE not upon our land!'

(My apologies to Florence Hoatson for adapting her song to my needs.)

At this time of year the children at Bridge and Patrixbourne CE Primary School like to make full use of every part of the school fields, not only at playtimes but also for PE and Games. It is most unpleasant for them, and there is also the risk of infection, when they come into contact with dogs' mess.

Please, therefore, do not walk your dogs in the area of the school but instead allow the children to enjoy fully the pleasure of their school grounds.

Save The Children Fund

The Canterbury Branch of the *Save The Children Fund* would like to thank all the friends and relations of Bridge Junior Church who have so generously knitted this year for the fund's stock of clothing for children everywhere.

22 blankets presented to us in January have now been joined by 33 gorgeously coloured jerseys. I know that their warmth will comfort the bodies of the African toddlers, to whom they will mostly go, and the cheerful and exciting designs will delight their hearts. *M.A.Y.*

(Ed: Well done, Junior Church, and God bless you all!)

Still on children's charities Ann Medhurst writes:

On behalf of the *Church of England Children's Society* may I thank everyone who contributed to our recent envelope collection. The sum of £231.49 was raised.

And further on the fund-raising theme:

Please support a fund-raising day in aid of **The Samaritans** at 18 Conyngham Lane on Tuesday, 9th June. Coffee served between 10am and 12 noon, and tea between 2 and 4pm. Bring & Buy and Raffle. *M.E.J.*

New Sports Pavilion

This is a scheme to benefit the Bridge community by providing a permanent central pavilion on the main recreation field, for the use of five sporting clubs. A trust has been formed and its committee is working hard to achieve the 'goal'.

An impressive start has been made on the fund-raising front, with the total raised so far exceeding £2,500.

In addition to the obvious need for more financial assistance, offers of practical help when the building work commences would be greatly appreciated by the committee.

The success of the scheme will depend on the level of support afforded by the people of Bridge. Anyone able to assist (either financially or practically) should contact John Knight, the Chairman. *C.W.M.*

Bridge Folk Dance Group will meet as usual on the first and third Thursdays at 8 o'clock in the village hall. Please join us, especially on the 4th June when we have our party night. Enquires on 830285 or 830652.

Patrixbourne Church A sterling effort

At the Patrixbourne with Bridge Parochial Church Council meeting on Friday, 15th May the secretary read a report from Bill Rose on the repair and maintenance work recently carried out to St. Mary's Church on a purely voluntary basis, and a more impressive chronicle of achievements it would be hard to find.

Although Bill was the inspiration behind it (and clerk of works into the bargain) he did not work alone, being given valuable assistance by Doug Hill, Alan Jackson, 'Sandy' Sanford and Sidney Shorter from Bridge, and, helping with internal decoration, George Robertson from Patrixbourne.

The programme took these gallant workmen over the church roofs re-tiling where necessary, cleaning out gutters and downpipes, scraping moss off all slopes, re-fixing dangerous ridge tiles, and at ground level replacing brick gutters at the base of all walls, cleaning and re-pointing as necessary and removing all wall growths.

They gave the belfry a thorough and much needed going-over, sweeping the floor clean of years of accumulated dead insects, treating and painting the bell and clock mechanism and making sure clock and bells are in good working order.

Inside the church they dealt with the very extensive flaking wall plaster, and I recommend everyone with an interest in St. Mary's Church to go and see for themselves how marvellously these good men have laboured.

I hope the sight of such a beautifully re-decorated church will spur on everybody who sees it to give a generous donation to the church's repair funds, for, believe it or not, much of this work had to be done before we could claim a grant from *English Heritage*. As it is they insist that we paint every bit of the perimeter fence, which is exceedingly extensive, before they will pay out to help with more major works. A further team of volunteers worked hard on that in several shifts but it is a slow job and the correct sort of paint is costly. So despite what Bill & Co have done, and bless them for it, we have not finished by any means. If you want to help, practically or with a handsome donation, we shall be eternally grateful. Meanwhile to all six gentlemen, very, very many thanks from all who love and use Patrixbourne Church!

Bridge Guides Win Competition

During the winter term, London and South East England Girl Guides held a Festival of Creative Art which included photography, design writing, music and dance. Two guides from Bridge entered. Emma Field wrote both words and music of a 'Song suitable for a religious festival' (she chose Christmas) and Lucinda Spencer wrote 500 words on 'The Best Day of My Life ...so far'.

Out of all the entries the best musical items were chosen to form a Festival Concert in London's Guildhall on 6th June and Emma will perform her Christmas Carol on that occasion in front of an invited audience. In addition Lucinda's story has won First Prize in its section and will be on display at the Guildhall for the same event.

We are proud that these two guides have put our village and Guide Company on the map and congratulate them on their success. *T.P.*

(Ed: Well done, Emma and Lucinda! This is the kind of success we like to hear about.)

What is a Covenant?

For the benefit of the uninformed and to clear up one or two misconceptions, the following notes try to show why taking out a covenant is a particularly useful way of giving to the church. If, having read them, you would like to know more about the subject and maybe covenant your own contribution to the church please contact the appropriate church treasurer, Mr. D.R. Hill (Patrixbourne and Bridge) or Mr. D. Millyard (Bekesbourne).

1. A Covenant is a simple, written agreement to give regularly a sum of money to the church for a period of four or seven years (your choice).

2. All 'TAX PAYERS' can covenant. Married women without earnings/ income of their own are normally included in their husband's annual tax return and may therefore covenant in their own names.

Continued on page 13

3. To become a Covenanter simply:
   (a) ask your PCC Treasurer for a Covenant form.
   (b) fill in the details on the form and have your signature witnessed. (The Treasurer will willingly assist you to do this, should you so require.)
   (c) return the completed form to the PCC Treasurer.
   Rest assured that at all stages at which covenants are handled a high degree of confidentiality is maintained.

4. Method of Covenanting.
   Covenant payments may be made either
   (a) weekly or monthly in cash (We provide you with envelopes for this purpose), or
   (b) monthly, quarterly or annually by cheque or Banker's Order.

5. Recovery of Income Tax on Covenants.
   Certificates of Deduction of Income Tax (Form R185) will be sent to you annually by Diocesan House, who administer the recovery of tax from the Inland Revenue. On the return of your duly signed certificate to Diocesan House, they will claim a tax refund from the Inland Revenue.

6. The Gain to the Churches in the Parish.
   If you pay income tax at the basic rate of 27% the church will gain a tax refund of 37p on every £1 you covenant.

Bekesbourne Carpet Fund

There has been a generous response so far to the Bekesbourne Carpet Fund, which you will remember is to provide a replacement carpet for the Chancel and Sanctuary areas in St. Peter's Church. Donations currently total £192, which is well on the way to the required £350. If you have not already contributed and would wish to do so, please send your donation, no matter how small, to the PCC Treasurer, David Millyard, School House, School Lane or hand it in at church. Confident that with your help we shall raise the full cost, the order for the carpet has been placed, so it should not be long before the interior of Bekesbourne Church looks extra resplendent.

We did it!

Last year an over-optimistic gremlin in the printer's office *(mea culpa!—J.P.)* reversed the figures in the *On The Nail* report of the total collected in **Christian Aid Week**, turning £418 into £481. I suggested then that it might be a challenge for us for this year. It was! This year's house-to-house collection reached £483·12. The combined efforts of collectors and contributors in our three villages showed that there is a growing understanding of the way we can give the poor the power to help themselves. Thank you to everyone on behalf of the many thousands all over the world supported by *Christian Aid*. Clearly the challenge for next year is for well over the £500 mark! *Muriel Packer*

* * *

Residents of Bekesbourne were saddened by the death on 17th May of a true son of the village, **Henry Charles Goodwin**, Orchard View, Bekesbourne Lane. Mr. Goodwin had spent all his life in Bekesbourne and had contributed much to the village's life over his seventy-six years. The church choir (he was a member as a boy) led the singing at his funeral service, conducted by the vicar, in St. Peter's Church on 21st May, after which his body was appropriately laid to rest in the churchyard. We offer our sympathy to Mrs. Goodwin and their family.

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PARISH PUMP

Parish Council News

Bridge Parish Council

The newly elected Councillors, Mrs. Billie Anderson, Teddy Edwards, David Heap and Mrs. Ann King, joined those re-elected, Ken Greenaway, Mervyn Gulvin, John Hill and Mrs. Margaret Jones for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the 14th May. Cllr. Hill was re-elected Chairman for 1987/88 with Cllr. Hoare as his Vice-Chairman.

After welcoming the new Councillors, the Chairman proceeded to deal firstly with matters relating to the **Recreation Ground**. The Council heard that the weed spraying and cutting of the perimeter of the Ground by the County Council was already in hand and that Mr. M. Stewart was trying to arrange for the Southern Water Authority to clear the Nailbourne bed before the Council considered any work on the banks and surrounding area. The Council felt that the S.W.A. ought to be asked to clear those parts of the banks not in private ownership and to remove the rubbish. Cllrs. Gulvin and Heap were to represent the Council at a meeting of the Bridge Village Sports Trust Committee to which a representative of the Sports Council had been invited to discuss financial aid for the proposed new pavilion. Cllr. Mrs. Anderson reported that the hornbeam planted recently in the corner of the Ground by the swings was in leaf.

Streets and Footways: Cllr. Mrs. Jones submitted, for forwarding to the County Council, her report on the condition of the roads and footways. She said that they were not in as bad a condition as might be expected after the severe winter weather. The Council were informed that John Knight Builders had in hand the repair of the damaged concrete bus shelter on the bridge in the High Street, and that a claim had been submitted to the Council's insurers. The dental practice were going to attend to the railings alongside the shelter once it was repaired. The Clerk was to ask the Landlord of the White Horse to cut back his hedge which was encroaching and obstructing the footpath between the High Street and Riverside Close.

Village Hall: Cllr. Greenaway was congratulated on his appointment to the Kent Village Halls Committee. The Council expressed their disapproval on learning that there were problems with Jumble Sales in the hall in that unsold jumble was not always removed from the hall by the organisers after the event.

Planning: The Council had no objections to make to applications for a first floor extension to the dental surgery at 78 High Street (CA /87/0658/BRI) or to a fresh outline application for a house with paddock and garage, plus seven garages for use by the residents of The Close on land to the north and west of The Close, Union Road (CA/87/0587/ BRI). Notification had been received that the City Council had granted planning permission for a first floor extension over garage, 'The Purlins', Meadow Close (CA/87/0326/BRI).

The Council decided to offer a 'peppercorn' figure to the Kent County Council for the purchase of the surplus land in front of The New Close Old People's Home, Conygham Lane, which they would then maintain as an open space in accordance with the opinion and wishes of the residents of the village who had last year expressed strong opposition to the development of the land for housing.

To avoid the date of the General Election, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, 10th June at the usual time of 7.30 pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall. *K.A. Walder, Clerk*

'Fish' News

The Fish Scheme's Annual General Meeting took place in Bridge Methodist Church on 6th April and was chaired by Mrs M.A. Young. Members of the committee and volunteers were thanked for their help and support during the year and reports were given of the scheme's activities.

The Chiropody Clinic has ninety-four registered patients, the time span between treatments varying from one to three and a half months. The Luncheon Club numbers keep steady, although six members had been admitted to residential care during the past year. All requests for transport had been met.

With the government policy of caring for the elderly in the community there was a growing need for welfare work. Some people require a great deal of support and it often takes a long time to get help from the overloaded statutory services

Help had been given with applications for heating grants. The Rotary Club had made a donation of £50 for distribution to people having difficulty meeting heating bills. Money was also available from the Fish Fund for this purpose.

Many offers of help were made during the bad weather, and shopping and path clearing had been done for elderly residents. Five people now attend the *Age Concern* Day Centre. The Housebound Library Service was bringing a regular supply of books to housebound readers. The Coffee Pop-In numbers were gradually increasing.

Among other activities, the Blossom and Orchard Tours had been very successful and would be repeated this year. Residents had been taken to the *Volunteer Bureau* Christmas Shopping Evening and arrangements had been made for five people to spend Christmas Day at the *Age Concern* Centre. Christmas parcels from The Archbishop's School had been distributed. In addition 700lbs of butter and 200lbs of cheese had been collected and distributed. Over a hundred garments had been knitted for the WRVS to distribute to local children in need.

The Treasurer, Mr. W. Johnson, presented the annual accounts. The total cost of the scheme last year was £504. The small surplus had gone into the reserve fund which is held for emergencies and further development costs.

Mrs. Sue Rowlands was thanked for her work for the scheme and for acting as the Fish representative in Bishopsbourne. Now that she has moved to Canterbury her work will be taken over by Mrs. K. Cobbett.

Annual Coffee Morning

Our Annual Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy will be held in Bridge Village

Hall on Saturday, 6th June from 10 - 11.45am. This is our only fund-raising event. We hope to make at least £200 to go towards the cost of running the Fish Scheme and to make a donation to *Age Concern Canterbury* towards the cost of looking after local residents in the Day Centre. Please give us your generous support. There will be a raffle and stalls for cakes, groceries, plants, books, gifts and bric-à-brac.

Joan Warren, 830233

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Mrs Hogben	7th June	..... Mrs Broadwater
Mrs Watson	14th June	..... Mrs Watson
Mrs Russell	21st June	..... Mrs Purchese
Mrs Grey	28th June	..... Mrs Purchese

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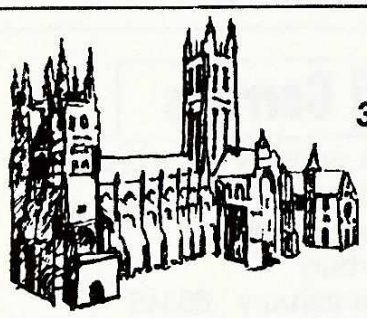
PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens: Mr. J.J. Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge CT4 5JX (830399)
Mr. S.R. Pike, 12 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JY (830708)
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, 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. J. Purchese, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (830937)
Mr. N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)
Hon Secretary: Mr. J. Purchese, 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. David Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne CT4 5HA (830659)
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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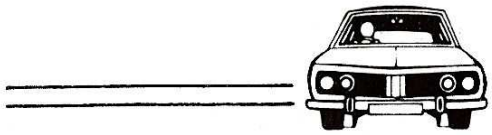

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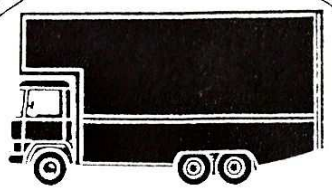

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On the Nail

Bekesbourne

Patrixbourne

Bridge

A MAGAZINE FOR THE VILLAGES ALONG THE NAILBOURNE

July 1987 25p

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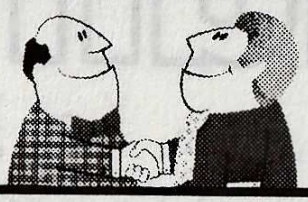

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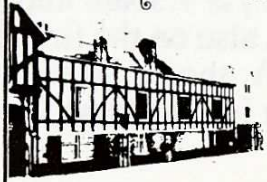

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Sunday Worship in July

Bridge	Patrixbourne	Bekesbourne
5th:		
11am Family Service & Baptism	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong		
12th:		
9.30 The Eucharist *(Rite A)*	11am Matins	6.30pm Evensong
19th:		
9.30 Parish Communion *(Rite A)(Revd D.W. Ratcliff)*	8am Holy Communion *(Revd C. Verity)*	11am *Songs of Praise*
6.30pm Evensong *(Revd W. Owen)*		
26th:		
8am Holy Communion *(Canon J.W. Packer)*	9am Holy Communion *(Revd C. Verity)*	11am Matins *(Canon F. Bull)*
6.30pm Choral Evensong *(Canon F. Bull)*		
2nd August:		
11am Family Service	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong		

(Junior Church invite you to their own version of 'Songs of Praise' on Sunday, 19th at 10.30am in Bridge Church. They want it to be known that this is not a concert but a sing-along-a-Junior Church to which you should come prepared to join in. This in no way competes with the first of Bekesbourne's summer 'Songs of Praise's, which you will notice also takes place on 19th, and surely will offer a different menu.)

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *5th, Family Service & Communion,* The Revd M. Peter Taylor, B.Met.,B.D. *12th,* Miss E.Tresidder, Ph.D. *19th*, J.R. Butler, Ph.D. *26th*, The Revd J. Turner, B.A.

Weekdays Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and Friday (ASB Rite A) at 7.30am (except Fridays 24th and 31st), also on the first Wednesday of each month in Churchill House at 10.15am. A short, informal act of worship takes place every Wednesday at 2.30pm in The New Close, at which visitors are always most welcome.

———————

VICARAGE HOLIDAY Please note that Raymond and Rosemary Gilbert will be on holiday from 19th July to 1st August inclusive. Anyone requiring the services of a priest during that time is asked to contact Canon Frank Bull (830440), but only in cases of emergency that cannot wait until the vicar's return.

For your diary and prayer list

1st The annual Roman Catholic Mass for the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul will be held this evening in St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 8pm. The service will follow the pattern of the last few years and it is hoped members of the regular Bridge Church congregation will attend.
2nd Prayers for Health and Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm
3rd **St. Thomas the Apostle**
5th **Third Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 4*
6th *St. Thomas More, Martyr, 1535*
8th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
9th Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
11th *St. Benedict, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c.550*
The New Close Coffee Morning in aid of the Amenity Fund, 10am.
Pray for Jennifer Redfern and Simon Suggett, to be married this afternoon at Bridge.
12th **Fourth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 5*
Evensong will be at Bekesbourne, not Bridge, to coincide with the opening of Cobham Court Garden.
16th Prayers for Health and Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm
18th Pray for Sally Voisey-Youldon and David Tunbridge, to be married today at Bekesbourne.
19th **Fifth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 6*
Instead of Matins there will be 'Songs of Praise' at Bekesbourne at 11am. Your hymn requests are welcomed. Please pass them on to either Churchwarden John Purchese or Organist Stanley Grey as soon as possible, so that they can be incorporated into the service and the necessary research be carried out.
21st Bridge with Patrixbourne WI, Village Hall, 7.30pm
22nd **St. Mary Magdalen**
25th **St. James the Apostle**
26th **Sixth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 7*

Who to thank for the Summer Fête?

It's the 20th June and the 1987 Bridge Summer Fête has just ended! On the face of it, and of course allowing for the fact that the takings are yet to be counted, it has been a great success. Which is surprising when you remember this has been probably the wettest June of all time and the rain was fair bucketting down in the middle of last night! Yet what happened? Come the time the fête was due to begin the clouds had blown away, the sun shone warmly down and the recent appalling weather was all but forgotten.

Obviously the changed weather affected the turn-out, and people who might otherwise have stayed away came along to enjoy an outdoor function that, for the first time this summer, did not seem likely to end prematurely in a downpour. Then again there was so much to attract and, moreover, to hold the attention for longer. Tantalizing stalls selling irresistible articles, competitions and games to enjoy playing, and sideshows with an appeal for all sorts and conditions of men, women and children. If in times past the fête seemed to draw an initial crowd, then quickly dwindle, 1987's kept the patrons, who all

seemed happy (a) to be out of doors at last, and (b) to be in each other's company, which, together with making a good profit, is the object of the exercise.

We should be so lucky!

It would be a brave person who ventured an opinion as to why our fête was so blessed weather-wise. One or two remarks came my way, to the effect that 'He's on our side', 'You must have been praying hard, vicar', 'Is it you we've got to thank for this sunshine?' Well, let me admit I did pray about the fête because it is an important event in the village calendar, and not just as a money-spinner either. But then it is my custom as well as my duty to pray for the village, so naturally I included the fête.

But don't imagine that I spent long and anxious hours wearing out my trousers' knees, bombarding the Almighty for a fine day, for that is not what prayer is really about. (How did we get on to prayer? Never mind, we did, so let's stick to it. Now read on!) Prayer never is and never was a tool for cajoling God to our way of thinking, and when we pray we ought not to suppose that that is really what we are trying to do. Of course if we are praying for a dear one who is very ill we shall want to ask God to make him or her better. Ideally, though, we ought courageously to ask God to do what he considers best for that person and leave the final decision with him. Mind you it takes courage to do that because we know what we really want and, in our prayers, feel obliged to say so.

On the whole, though, the secret of prayer is communication with God, realizing that asking for things is only part of it, even if it is the one we are most likely to use. The most rewarding prayer is prayer that is not too specific, that leaves the ultimate decision to God, for we ought not to pray in such a way as to assume God will always give us what we ask. If our prayer is on the level of talking to God about something or someone for whom we are concerned we cannot do better than end by saying, in effect, 'Right, now it's over to you, God'. At least that way we shall not get 'no' for an answer and thus assume, quite incorrectly as many do, that God does not answer prayers after all. Anyway, to return to where we started, I *did* pray for the fête, though not in precisely the way you might have thought I should.

Oh, in case you are wondering, I'm sure God *does* approve of fêtes, though whether he was responsible for the super one we have just had I must leave to you to decide. I reckon he certainly had a hand in it!

* * *

By way of a postscript, since writing the above the Treasurer has announced the glad tidings that the net takings of the Summer Fête amount to a splendid £1,958, which on a fifty-fifty split means £979 each for the School PTA and the church. Very many thanks to all for this wonderful outcome!

Here are the full statistics, so you can see just what we got and how we got it!

Bridge Summer Fête

Summary of Receipts and Payments

1986		1987
£		£
84	Teas	137
110	Cakes	123
50	Hot Dogs	33

51	Soft Drinks & Ices	47
109	Grocery Stall	100
119	Produce Stall	99
101	Patrixbourne Stall	116
60	Books and Games	44
33	Gifts and Toiletries	53
79	Handicrafts & Clowns	76
67	Colour Stall	83
37	Best Offers	58
101	White Elephant Stall	56
200	Bottle Stall	215
427	Grand Raffle	535
14	Guides Stall	15
—	Plant Stall	40
70	Programmes, Donations & Sundries	27
147	Side Shows	249
1859	*Total Net Receipts*	2106
	Displays and Operating Expenses	
25	Fancy Dress Display	18
15	Model Aircraft Display	15
15	Dancing Display	30
—	Invicta Concert Band	50
15	Youth Band	—
15	St. John's Ambulance	30
12	Sundries	5
97	*Total Operating Expenses*	148
1762	*NET SURPLUS*	1958

D.R. Hill, Honorary Treasurer

Joys and Sorrows

Never before has this column been so long, and whereas one might wish it was due to lots of happy occasions unfortunately this is not the case.

Baptism into Christ

On Saturday, 30th May in St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne **Paul Stewart**, the firstborn son of Hugues and Margaret (née McKeever) Holvec of Rheims, France was christened in the presence of a congregation comprising his English and French relations. The Lord's Prayer was said simultaneously in both languages.

The next afternoon the baby daughter of Paul and Patricia Kusel, 'Simla', Aerodrome Road, was baptized **Jeanette Mary** in St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne.

Whitsunday morning at Bridge was celebrated with a Family Eucharist in the context of which Holy Baptism was administered to **Georgina Sophia Marie Green**, 'Fernlea', Meadow Close and **William Henry Sperling**, 44 Bridge Down. Also baptized at Bridge, on 14th June, was **Jason Lee Tutt**, son of Christopher and Jayne (née Arnison) of Canterbury.

United in Marriage

St. Peter's, Bridge was the venue for the wedding of **Tina Charlton**, 2 Bridgeford Way and **Gerald Irvine** of Deal, which took place on 30th May. The same church provided the setting on 13th June when **Amanda Whiting** married **Knut Johannson** from Germany. Amanda, though now resident in Belgium, had her family home at 20 Conyngham Lane and was, for a number of years, a member of Bridge church choir.

Entry into more abundant life

The Vicar officiated at Barham crematorium on the occasion of the funeral of **Eric Monk**, 11 Union Road on 18th June. Our thoughts are with his widow Joy at this sad time of unexpected bereavement.

The cremation of Mrs **Kathleen Florence Wood**, 5 Bifrons Road, Bekesbourne, who had died on 12th June, took place on 19th, also at Barham, the vicar officiating. We extend our prayers and sympathy to Mr. Wood in his sad loss.

Their many friends in Bridge heard with bitter sadness of the sorrow that engulfed the Sutton family of 'Ardgarth', Meadow Close on the night of 10th/11th June when 5½ weeks old **Hilary** was found to have died as she slept. It was a tragedy that seemed to affect the whole community, who did their best to support Mary and Steve with their love and prayers. A small plot was found in Bridge churchyard, where her body was laid to rest after a service in church on 17th June that was attended by a large congregation. The vicar officiated, supported by Fr. Jeremiah Cronin of St. Thomas's Church, Canterbury. We shall go on remembering baby Hilary's family in our prayers and trust they will continue to find consolation and be uplifted through sharing in the fellowship of St. Peter's Church.

Kent Competitive Festival

Once again the *Kent Competitive Festival* has come to a successful close and children from this area have succeeded in gaining several first and second prizes. In particular I would mention Emma Field, Sarah Field and Lucinda Spencer, whose successes are catalogued to show just what they achieved:

Emma Field	1st — String Duet (13-16 years)
	2nd — Woodwind Solo
	1st — Humour in Verse (16 years and under)
	1st — Music Composition (under 19 years)
Sarah Field	2nd — 20th Century Music Solo (14 years and under)
	High marks in Brass and Wind Solos
	Canterbury Youth Band
Lucinda Spencer	1st — Prose Reading (14 years) *(Distinction)*
	3rd — Wind Solo (14 years)

The Canterbury Youth Band, which mainly comprises children from Bridge, Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne, obtained excellent marks and took first prize in both the open class and the 14 years and under class. I am sure that readers of *On The Nail* will want to congratulate them and wish them further success in the future.

Continued on page 13

For myself I am mainly concerned with the Dance section of the Festival and note with regret that we had no entries from the Nailbourne Districts. Surely amongst our talented youngsters some are proficient enough to enter the world of competitive dance — I hope to welcome some in 1988! *Doug Cartwright*

Ed: Dancing apart, we must congratulate our competitive young people on some splendid successes: a real feather in the three villages' caps.

A Story of Four People

unearthed by young Ann Yuen

This is a story of four people, named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody would not do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody accused Anybody.

By Faith . . .

'Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.'* By faith the first Christians defied the Imperial Power of Rome 'and through great persecution, out of weakness were made strong'. By faith when Rome was overthrown many strove to keep alive the Knowledge of the Kingdom through darkness and chaos. Of such were Augustine, Paulinus and Alcuin, and the Irish scholars.

By faith, when in time wealth and power had corrupted the Church, St. Francis and St. Teresa, Wycliff, More, Colet and Erasmus strove to establish a simpler and purer rule. By faith, through Luther and George Fox, Bunyan and John Wesley a fresh vision of truth was revealed. 'These all died in faith and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.'

By Faith, having learnt from them the lessons of the Kingdom, a whole company devoted their lives to the suffering and outcast so that the Kingdom might come on earth as it is in heaven.

Of these were Thomas Coram, Lord Shaftesbury and Dr. Barnado who established the first schools and Homes and obtained the first legal protection for poor and friendless children. Of these, too, were John Woolman and William Wilberforce and in our own time Albert Schweitzer and Michael Scott, all of whom have given themselves to the service of the exploited African.

By faith too, Elizabeth Fry brought comfort and hope to the miserable prisons and Florence Nightingale reformed the Hospitals. 'These chose rather to suffer affliction with the wretched' than to enjoy the position and privileges to which they were born.

All these by faith faced and overcame opposition and selfishness, apathy and stupidity and manifold disappointments and difficulties.

David Livingstone, Robert Morrison, Mary Slessor and William Carey are a few of the many who by faith 'wrought righteousness' in far countries and among strange peoples, leaving their homes to spread the knowledge of the Kingdom abroad.

By faith too, lived and died those who 'had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea moreover of bonds and imprisonment' from the early martyrs Ignatius and Perpetua and countless others and so through the ages, Joan of Arc, Latimer and Ridley, the seventeenth-century Quakers, the Covenanters down to those thousands of Catholics and Protestants alike who have suffered and are suffering today for their faith in Germany, Russia, in Eastern Europe and in China.

All these, prophets and teachers, helpers of the helpless, missionaries and martyrs by Faith served the Kingdom 'whose builder and maker is God'.

'Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every wieght and the sin which doth so easily beset us and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.' *U.K. Moore*

**Hebrews 11, 1 (see the whole chapter)*

Illustrations of Bekesbourne taken from 'Saunters through Kent with Pen and Pencil' written by Charles Igglesden, published fifty years ago.

The League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals, Bridge Branch are holding a Strawberry Tea at the Old Palace, Bekesbourne on Sunday 5th July—see below.

Again, Cobham Court Gardens are being opened on the 12th and 15th July. For details see the report below.

Cobham Court Garden

The garden of Cobham Court, Bekesbourne will be open to the public on Sunday, 12th July and the Wednesday following (15th) between the hours of 2 and 6pm. The price of admission is 75p for adults: children (who must be accompanied by an adult) are admitted free of charge. The proceeds from this garden opening, which is under the auspices of the National Garden Scheme, will be divided between the MacMillan Nurses and the Canterbury Cancer Care Centre. Neighbouring St. Peter's Church will be open at the same times as the garden and visitors to the one may care to view the other. Evensong will be held in the Church on the Sunday evening at 6.30pm.

Bekesbourne Church jumble sale

The jumble sale held on behalf of Bekesbourne Church in Bridge Village Hall on 30th May produced upwards of £170 for church funds, for which we are most grateful to all who participated.

The New Close Saturday, 11th July

There will be a Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy Stall and Raffle at The New Close on Saturday, 11th July from 10am to 11.45am. Proceeds for the Amenity Fund.

O.I. Knight

* * *

M.E.J. Writes: On behalf of the Samaritans I should like to thank *everyone* who supported me on 9th June. Through your help and generosity I shall be able to hand over at least £105.

League of Friends Bridge Branch

Mrs Carole Turner of Bekesbourne ran for the Bridge Branch of the League of Friends in the London Marathon. She completed the course in 4hrs 51mins and has raised in excess of £350 in sponsor money, which will be used to purchase a Syringe Driver for the Kent & Canterbury Hospital. This is a tremendous effort for which the committee are very grateful and congratulate Carole on her success.

Strawberry Teas

We are praying for fine weather on Sunday, 5th July, as we hope as many people as possible will join us for a strawberry tea at the Old Palace, Bekesbourne between 3 and 5.30pm. There will be a cake and plant stall, raffle and of course, strawberries! Do come and join us in the garden of this lovely house, and help the local hospital.

M.S.F

Bridge Parish Council

At the meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 10th June, Members heard firstly that the felling of the trees on Bridge Hill was being phased over a period of four years to remove any dead and therefore dangerous ones and were assured by the Chairman, Cllr. Tim Hoare, that this was not in contravention of any conservation regulations.

Recreation Ground: The Council were informed by Mr. M. Stewart, a resident present at the meeting, and Cllr. Mrs. Ann King that the Southern Water Authority had that day been clearing the riverbed of the Nailbourne. The Council decided to hold a site meeting to see the extent of the Water Authority's work before deciding on what further course of action to take to improve the area. Cllr. David Heap reported on a recent meeting he and Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin had attended with the Bridge Village Sports Trust Committee and a representative from the Sports Council. He stated that the Trust's application for a grant for the new pavilion from the Sports Council would be considered favourably. The Clerk reported that the painting of the playground equipment and bridge was expected to be carried out under the Community Programme Scheme towards the end of June.

Streets and Footways: The Chairman was to meet with a representative of the Highways Department of the County Council to discuss the cutting of the banks, including the clearing away of the debris,along both Town Hill and Bridge Hill.

Village Hall: The Chairman was also to ask the County Council about the provision of a rainwater cross-over for the footpath in front of the Village Hall to take away excess water from the hall's down drainpipe.

Planning: The application for a change of use from residence to residential home for the elderly and extension to provide additional bedrooms at The Plat, Beech Hill had been withdrawn (CA/87/725/BRI). The Council had no observations to make on applications for a first floor extension to 26 Bridge Down (CA/87/816/BRI), for a lounge extension at 52 Bridge Down other than that the window to be installed should match that on the first floor (CA/87/746/BRI) or for the erection of nine garages and related fencing on the site between The Close and Churchill House, Union Road, other than to point out to the Planning Authority that seven of the garages were to be solely for the use of the residents of The Close (CA/87/0820/BRI).

Audit: The Council heard that the Annual Audit of the Parish Council Accounts would take place on Monday 6th July.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 9th July at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

'Fish' News

The **Blossom Tour** on 8th May was enjoyed by a party of fifty-two. This year we planned a different route through some of our best local scenery, including a short drive by the sea. The weather was perfect, and a delicious cream tea and a visit to a garden shop all contributed towards a successful outing.

The **Orchard Tour**. Three days later we were invited to make a five mile car drive through our local orchards, when the blossom was at its peak—a wonderful experience. We are grateful to Chris Jarvis, the farm manager, for organizing the tour and to the management of Highland Court Farm for their hospitality. May we also convey our thanks to the fifteen car drivers who made the tour possible.

The annual **Coffee Morning** on 6th June raised £198 towards the cost of the Fish Scheme, and will enable us to make a donation to *Age Concern Canterbury* Day Centre, which cares for some of our local residents. Our thanks to all the people who gave us their help and generous support.

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

Joan Warren, 830233

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

At the meeting on 21st July Mrs. N. Pilcher will give a talk entitled 'Hedgerow and other Basketry' and there will be a competition for a jar of lemon curd.

* * *

Lovers of Flower Festivals might like to visit one at Eythorne Parish Church from 2nd to 5th July on the theme JOURNEYS. It is open daily from 10am to 8pm (Sunday 12 noon to 5.30pm).

Cleaning	ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BEKESBOURNE	Flowers
Mrs Beckett	4th July	..... Mrs Whigham
Mrs Smith	11th July	..... Mrs Ash
	18th July	. Mrs Clifford *(Wedding)*
Mrs Hogben	25th July	..... Mrs Hogben
Mrs Watson	1st August	..... Mrs Broadwater

Happy Holidays

With the holiday season on us again *On The Nail* would like to wish you a good holiday, with plenty of rest and refreshment. Wherever your holiday takes you do try and make use of the local church, and please pass on to the person in charge greetings from your home congregation.

HOW ABOUT THAT?

The congregation was dismayed when the lightning struck and sent rafters crashing down on the church altar. 'Fortunately,' said the vicar, 'we are insured against Acts of God'.

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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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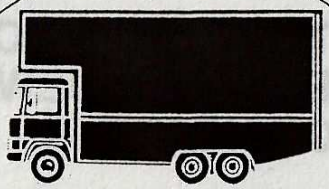

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August 1987 25p

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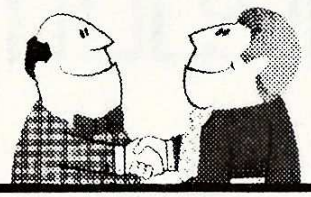

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Sunday Worship in August

Bridge	Patrixbourne	Bekesbourne
2nd:		
11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
9th:		
9.30 The Eucharist *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
16th:		
9.30 Parish Communion *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	11am *Songs of Praise*
23rd:		
8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Matins
30th:		
9.30 The Eucharist *(Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
6th September:		
11am Family Service *(Canon J. Packer)* 6.30pm Evensong *(Canon F. Bull)*	8am Holy Communion *(Canon J. Packer)*	9.30 Parish Communion *(Revd. W. Owen)*

The Family Service on 2nd August will be The Eucharist and will include suitable, well-known hymns.
Once again the third Sunday Matins at Bekesbourne will be replaced by a 'Songs of Praise'. If you were not successful in getting your choice of hymn included in the July programme do submit it again for this one. All hymn choices, please, to churchwarden John Purchese or organist Stanley Grey. Don't hesitate and don't delay!

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *2nd*, Mr. C.G. Robertson. *9th, Holy Communion*, The Revd. M. Peter Taylor, B.Met., B.D. *16th*, The Revd. Wilfred J. Hill, M.C., B.Sc. *23rd*, Miss K.J. Knight. *30th*, Mr. A.P. Barwick.

Weekdays Holy Communion is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and Friday (ASB Rite A) at 7.30am, also on the first Wednesday of each month in Churchill House at 10.15am. A short, informal act of worship takes place every Wednesday at 2.30pm in The New Close, at which visitors are always most welcome.

For your diary and prayer list

2nd **Seventh Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 8*
4th *St. Dominic, Priest, Friar, 1221*
5th *St. Oswald, King of Northumbria, 642*

● *Please note late news about services on page 14!*

6th **Transfiguration of our Lord** Prayers for Health and Healing, Bridge Church, 7pm. (Also on Thursday, 20th August, Bridge Church, 7pm) Please pray for Raymond Gilbert who has a sinus operation in St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy, London, this morning. He regrets that convalescence will keep him out of the parish until towards the end of the month. In emergency please contact Canon Bull.

9th **Eighth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 9*

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

11th *St. Clare of Assisi, Virgin, 1253*

12th Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall from 10.15am

13th *Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down and Connor, Pastor, Teacher, 1667*

15th Pray for Ruth Hodgson and Nicholas Lewin to be married today at Patrixbourne.

16th **Ninth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 10*

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

22nd Pray for Caroline Pentin and Mark Blamey to be married today in the Cathedral Undercroft.

23rd **Tenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 11*

24th **St. Bartholomew the Apostle**

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

30th **Eleventh Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 12*

31st *St. Aidan, Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651*

Holy Saints on Holi-days!

Look again at the above diary and you will see that August is liberally sprinkled with Saints' Days: indeed, there seem far more than in any other month. Now that is rather a pity, because it is likely to mean that those self-same saints are going to be overlooked and not get the attention from us that they deserve, and which their inclusion in the ecclesiastical calendar clearly intends.

It is particularly hard on those churches whose patron saint is among them, for August is generally a non-month where church life is concerned. Quite often the vicar is on holiday (or in this case taking advantage of the quiet month to have his sinuses fixed) and parish activities, where they exist, are held in abeyance. Then with schools and colleges on holiday the family tends quite naturally to go away for a couple of weeks at least in August, so attendance at services falls off—unless the church in question happens to be on a tourist route or at a holiday resort. So for St. Aidan's, Puddlecombe Magna and St. Bartholomew's, Much Snoozing, not to mention St. Oswald's, King's Ransom, the chances of a patronal festival worthy of the name are pretty slender.

The irony of it all is that the observance of holy days is marred by holidays; and haven't we always been told that the one word derives from the other? So when we might be celebrating one of the church's many holy days, our minds are far removed from church matters because we are making the most of our summer holidays. Such, I suppose, is the way of things if your particular saint is commemorated in the peak holiday month of the year.

But can I put in a plea that, saints apart, we do not make our holidays an excuse for taking time off from all church-going? Even if we let St. Dominic or St. Clare or St. Bernard do without us, and even though we may be far

from our home parish church, we do not cease to be members of the Church's worshipping community. Then while we are away let us pay a visit to the local church on a Sunday and join its worship, even if it is not what we are used to or is a different denomination (thinking of those going abroad). A holiday is not a rest from God and might well be an opportunity to devote slightly more time to his praise than we usually manage—leastways, we might be able to concentrate on the service more because we are relaxed and in unfamiliar surroundings. Anyway, do have a good holiday!

Joyful occasions

The Family Service on 5th July had as its theme our Patron Saint, St. Peter. To provide clues as to the theme Mrs. Julia Simnett painted splendid pictures of symbols associated with St. Peter—crossed keys, a cockerel, a cross and a fish. We also made use of a Simon and a Peter, who helped to keep the congregation guessing: thanks to Simon Flisher and Peter Parker for bravely stepping forward.

Everyone was suitably mystified, particularly when the cross was displayed upside-down. One of the older persons present (whom I thought would have known better, so shall remain anonymous) drew attention to the 'mistake', until it was explained that, according to legend, St. Peter suffered martyrdom by crucifixion, and requested that he be crucified upside-down, not feeling worthy to emulate his Lord. So the inverted cross became a Petrine symbol.

There was also a Baptism at the service, though not of a Peter, and we were glad to welcome into the Lord's family **Edward Jonathan Carlton** of 25 The Close, Union Road.

* * *

1987 has been a summer for weddings and no mistake, and each one has been an event of great happiness and joy which will long be remembered. Since the last *On The Nail* we have celebrated the marriage of **Caroline Jarvis** and **Nicholas Jaggers**, both of Bridge, at a service in St. Peter's Church on 27th June (two days before the saint's day). Bridge was again the venue when **Jennifer Redfern** of The Cottage, Bridge Hill, married **Simon Suggett** of Canterbury. In deference to Simon's Roman Catholic background we were delighted to welcome Fr. Jeremiah Cronin to read the lesson at this wedding.

The third wedding was at Bekesbourne on 18th July, when **Sally Voisey-Youldon**, daughter of Mrs. Zan Clifford, Oakleigh, Bekesbourne Hill was married to **David Tunbridge** of Littlebourne. The ceremony was performed by Sally's uncle, Canon Norman Baldock, Vicar of Margate.

* * *

Still on the theme of St. Peter, the 29th June in the Roman Catholic Calendar is the dual feast of Saints Peter and Paul, and it was at this tide that we gladly welcomed the Bridge-Barham community of the RC Church for Mass in Bridge Church. Sadly quite a number who would normally be there had to miss this year's celebration, but we still had an occasion of genuine fraternity that faithfully marked the level of unity that has been established between the Anglicans and Catholics of Bridge and district. Fr. Cronin celebrated the Mass, which was attended by members of both churches, and Mrs. Muriel Packer was invited to read a lesson and the Vicar the Gospel. Communion was administered to both communities; Catholics at the nave altar and

Anglicans, from our own reserved sacrament, at the High Altar.

This annual event has become very precious for the two churches and the degree of warmth in the fellowship we share has to be experienced to be believed.

Junior Church says thank-you

As many of you know, Bridge Junior Church is now four years old and fifty children attend regularly. You can imagine the assortment of books and papers we require for our weekly sessions, and space is limited in which to store them.

Our quandary was answered when Mr. Sidney Roe, whose grandchildren attend Junior Church, kindly made a storage cupboard for us. We appreciate his hard work and thank him very much indeed!

League of Friends—BRIDGE BRANCH

The Strawberry Tea at the Old Palace, Bekesbourne on a beautiful July afternoon was a great success and raised £231 for the League of Friends. Our grateful thanks to all who supported us and especially to Nickie Fry who opened her house and garden for this event. *M.S.F.*

Guide gains top award

On Friday 3rd July, Emma Field was presented with the Baden-Powell Trefoil Badge by Division Commissioner, Mrs. Day. This is the highest award a Guide can receive and was the result of a year's work covering such projects as the History of Guiding, Service to the Community, Outdoor Cooking, Guiding in two other countries, a new hobby and much more. The presentation was attended by Emma's former Brownie Guiders, friends and relatives. Emma cut a celebration cake made and decorated with all her badges, by Assistant Guider, Mrs. Pam Simmons. *T.P*

Our trip to France

by Sasha Gabbé, Adam Fuller,
Edward Weatherall and Eliot Hodges

The date was Wednesday, 10th June and we were just about awake when we reached school. The coach arrived at 6.05am. Our class J4 travelled to Dover Docks, which Les 'our driver' drove us to. At Dover we joined Ash and Wingham schools. At 7.45 we left England on the *Pride of Free Enterprise.* Our coach was on deck 'Whale Two'. We went to the main lounge deck, we found some seats next to the café. When we arrived in Calais it was 9.15. We went straight to Eperleques the French missile bunker. From there we went to Vimy which was the ridge held by the Germans. The Canadians conquered it and the land was given to Canada by France. From there we went to the school where we were to stay. Our dormitory was on the top floor and we had to go up ten flights of stairs to reach it.

We chose our beds and put our luggage in the cupboard by them. We then went down for our first meal of artichokes for starters, meat balls and chips for main course, and strawberries for afters.

After our meal we played some sports. Then when it started to rain we went inside and entertained each other. We went to sleep.

The next morning we had our breakfast early so that we could have an early start to get to Paris. We didn't end up having an early start because someone sprained his ankle and had to go to hospital. By the time we got to Paris it was almost mid-day. We went straight to the Eiffel Tower and had lunch on a green near by. Only a few people went up the Eiffel Tower. After that we went on our boat trip down the River Seine. We went under lots of bridges. After that we walked up hundreds of steps to reach the Sacré Coeur. On the way back we got caught in a shower of rain and by the time we arrived back at the coach we were soaked through. After a meal in a restaurant which didn't seem very French we drove back to Bethune, tired and sleepy.

The last day we spent looking round Bethune. We went round the market which was very colourful. We saw some ducks in a small cage ready to be sold for a dinner. Then we went swimming which was fun. Then we went back to the school for dinner which was gherkins and ham, followed by chips and fish and afterwards we had nice red cherries. We then went to a hypermarket, where we bought boxes of chocolates, bread and some cheese. Then we went to Calais where we travelled on a new ship called the *Pride of Dover*. We walked round the boat and bought some souvenirs. Soon we could see a brilliant sight which was of course England!

Bridge School PTA organized a successful Car Treasure Hunt on Sunday, 5th July, with a salad tea laid on at school afterwards. The Treasure Hunt was won by the Gabbé family from Bekesbourne. Twenty-five cars entered and some £50 was raised as a result for school funds.

A.W.

* * *

Nailbourne Horticultural Society annual Summer Show will be held in the Conrad Hall, Bishopsbourne on Saturday, 8th August, commencing at 2.30 pm, with presentation of prizes at 4pm. Refreshments will be available and there will be an auction of produce afterwards.

K.W.

* * *

The Friends of The New Close thank all those who gave their help and support at the Coffee Morning on 11th July. The Amenity Fund benefitted by £76.

O.I.K.

Fifty Years On

by The Revd. M. Peter Taylor

At the end of August Sharon and I will be leaving Kent to begin a new life in South Wales. I have been here as a Methodist minister for five years and I look back on those years and can see differences in my ministry. As I pondered on this, I wondered what changes have taken place since 1937.

There have been changes in the content of our worship, with new hymn books and new translations of the Bible. In 1937 most Methodist services were held in the evening, or afternoon, whereas now it is becoming increasingly rare to find a church with anything other than a morning service.

Clerical dress has undergone great changes. Fifty years ago no Methodist minister would have been seen wearing anything other than a black suit and black clerical shirt, unless it was a cassock. Today there is a bewildering

Continued on page 13

variety of costume and colour.

In 1937 no-one would dare call their minister by his first name, a sign of respect. Today most people call me Peter, and treat me like anyone else (well, almost). I am not sure whether this is a different sort of respect, or just one more step towards calling God, 'Our chum in the sky'.

It is, of course, in technology that the greatest changes have come. A 1937 minister would come round on bicycle or on foot, not in a car like today. Many ministers had no telephone, and even fewer church members, whereas today it is a surprise when we find that someone has no 'phone. The greatest change for me has been my computer, which I bought over a year ago, and now wonder how I ever managed without it. It has enabled me to alter this piece of writing, including spelling mistakes, without having to type it several times. When it is ready I then can make a printed copy, or several if I prefer. Whatever next?!

Some changes have been good, some may be questionable, but all have taken place. I only wonder what will happen in the next fifty years . . . I do not know, but wish me well as I move on and live through those years.

God speed you, Peter!

Anglican friends from these villages offer prayers and blessings to the Revd. Peter Taylor and his wife Sharon, in thanksgiving to God 'for our fellowship in the Gospel' and for all that has been achieved on the ecumenical front in the past five years.

We have valued much the frequent occasions on which we have met and worked together in Christ's service over this period, and we wish them both 'good luck in the name of the Lord'.

* * *

Peter's successor, who commences her ministry here in September, is the Revd. Sheila Foreman. We look forward to her arrival and pray for God's richest blessings upon her work and the continuation of Christian witness in Bridge, Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne.

Calling all cyclists and walkers!

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Are you getting in trim for the Sponsored Cycle Ride on **Saturday, 5th September** between 10am and 6pm. Please help to raise much-needed money for your Church and have fun doing it.

This is for the young and the not-so-young alike. Less active walkers have ten churches in Canterbury within easy reach of each other, so there is no excuse. Start strolling! You can even buy a yellow T-shirt with the Sponsored Bike Ride logo on it!

Get your sponsor forms right away from your local organizer: Mrs. Andrea Nicholson (Tel: 830947) or Mrs. Rosalie Stacey (830205) for Patrixbourne and Mrs. Christine Ash (830214) for Bekesbourne. For Bridge, as well as me, Kath Pierce (830844), Mr. and Mrs. Robert Eaton of The Village Shop have generously offered to hold a supply of forms, but please be sure to write

your name and address on the board provided if you pick up one of their forms.

A full list of churches open on the day will be available from each organizer, and a copy will be displayed as well on the noticeboard of each church. If anyone wants help in planning a route I shall be only too pleased to assist.

As well as bikers and walkers, volunteers are needed to man each church between 10am and 6pm. Please offer your services if you can spare an hour or two. Your organiser will be very grateful for your help, and it is very interesting and rewarding too, meeting folk from other churches. *K.P.*

Bridge NSPCC Group

A successful Summer Fayre and Fashion Show was held in the grounds of Highland Court Hospital on 12th July. A most enjoyable time was had by all and some £500 was raised for the NSPCC and the Cancer Care Unit at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

I would like to thank those local businesses, residents, helpers and stall-holders who gave so generously the prizes for the raffle, their time and contributions, together with the staff of Highland Court Hospital. *Irene Roe, Chairman*

Linda and David Newport of *Hopkins Private Hire (Taxi)* wish to thank all our customers for their support over the last eighteen months. We hope you will continue to use the service now provided by Mrs. Sheila Jarvis, 40 Bridge Down (830343) *(See Advert on p.19)* Thanks again.

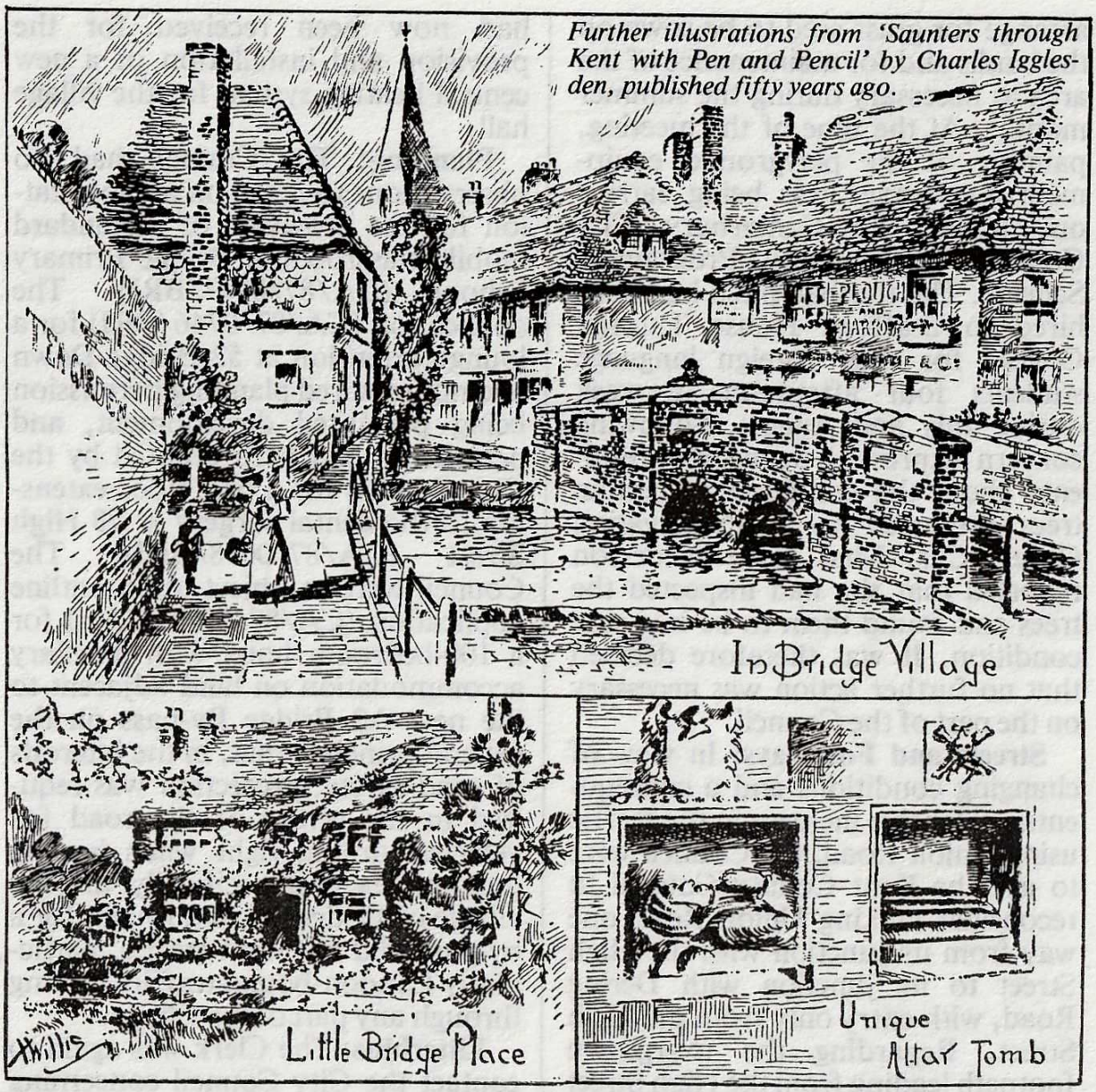
Stop Press—

Bridge Church—INTERIOR TIMBER TREATMENT

After this issue of *On The Nail* had initially gone to press the firm of *Rentokil* came up with a suggested date for attending to the roof timbers of St. Peter's Church. This is all part of the work for which the last appeal was launched. They require sole access to the church for a complete working week, and in consultation with me agreed this would be more convenient in August, when little is going on in the building.

Consequently Bridge Church will be closed for all purposes, including services, from 3rd to 7th of this month, which of course means there will not be a Wednesday or Friday Communion that week.

Apparently the work will entail erecting scaffolding, and it goes without saying that no matter how careful the workmen are there will be a considerable amount of cleaning and sprucing up to be done once they have moved out, if the church is to be fit for worship on the Sunday. Can I call on all available hands to chip in on the Saturday morning, whether you usually clean the church or not? We cannot leave it all to Mrs. Apps, even with Jack to help her! So please don't wait to be approached personally. A few young willing souls, assuming you are not miles away, would break the back of it in no time; and can I suggest you bring cleaning materials as well? Grateful thanks in anticipation!



Further illustrations from 'Saunters through Kent with Pen and Pencil' by Charles Igglesden, published fifty years ago.

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council News

Bridge Parish Council

First items dealt with at the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 9th July related to the **Recreation Ground**. The Council heard from Mr. R. Moore, the Secretary of the Bridge Village Sports Trust, that the actual building of the new pavilion was to commence in about two weeks' time now that Building Regulations approval had been obtained. The Council agreed to support an application from the Trust to the Canterbury City Council's Lottery Fund to the sum of £420 towards the cost of building the new pavilion. The Council heard from Cllr. Tim Hoare that the Nailbourne bed and banks had been cleared and the Clerk was to

arrange for grass seed to be sown on the banks and for maintenance of the area as necessary during the summer months. At the time of the meeting, painting of the playground equipment and bridge was being carried out under the Canterbury City Council's Community Programme Scheme. The football pitch had been hired to Stafford House Tutorial College for their foreign language students four afternoons a week during July and August. Following concern expressed by nearby residents about the condition of certain trees protected by a Preservation Order, Cllr. Mrs. Billie Anderson reported that she had inspected the trees and found them to be in a safe condition. It was therefore decided that no further action was necessary on the part of the Council.

Streets and Footways: In view of changing conditions and a consequential extensive increase in the traffic using Union Road, the Council were to ask the Kent County Council to reconsider making Union Road one way from its junction with the High Street to its junction with Dering Road, with entry only from the High Street. Regarding the overgrown footpath leading from the High Street to Riverside Close, the Clerk was to write to Whitbread-Fremlins, the brewery owning the White Horse Public House, asking them to reinstate their fence running parallel to the footpath before any further clearance work was undertaken.

Village Hall: Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin informed the Meeting that tenders had now been received for the provision and installation of a new central heating system for the village hall.

Planning: The Council had no observations to make on an application for the provision of a standard mobile classroom at Bridge Primary School (CA/87/0947/BRI). The application (CA/87/0746/BRI) for a lounge extension at 52 Bridge Down had not required planning permission being permitted development, and permission had been granted by the City Council for a first floor extension to the dental surgery at 78 High Street (CA/87/0658/BRI). The Council were to object to an outline application (CA/87/0998/CAN) for a 100-bedroom hotel with ancillary accommodation on land adjacent to the new A2 Bridge By-pass on the general principle that, in the interests of road safety, protection was required in the centre of the road for vehicles turning right when leaving the complex, and specifically, that the village of Bridge, having fought for a by-pass, did not want traffic, particularly London-bound traffic, passing through any part of the village.

Litterbins: The Clerk was again to contact the City Council concerning the emptying of the litterbins which were often overflowing.

The Council next meet after the summer recess on Thursday 10th September at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall and as always parishioners are welcome to attend.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

On The Nail—September issue

Would contributors to the parish magazine please note that since the Vicar, the Editor, will be in hospital at the time of going to press for the September issue of *On The Nail*, copy should be sent direct to the printer John Purchese, either to Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne or to the firm's address in Cow Lane, Canterbury.

Fish News

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

The **Luncheon Club** will be closed for the whole of August, and there will not be a **Chiropody Clinic** on 30th July or 6th August.

All other services provided by the Fish Scheme will carry on as usual during the holiday period.

The next **Coffee Pop-In** will be on Wednesday, 12th August in Bridge Village Hall from 10.15am till 11.45am.

Joan Warren (830233)

Cleaning	ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BEKESBOURNE	*Flowers*
Mrs Watson	2nd August	Mrs Broadwater
Mrs Russell	9th August	Mrs Russell
Mrs Grey	16th August	Mrs Farbrace
Mrs Beckett	23rd August	Mrs Ash
Mrs Smith	30th August	Mrs Smith

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens: Mr. J.J. Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge CT4 5JX (830399)
Mr. S.R. Pike, 12 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JY (830708)
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, 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)

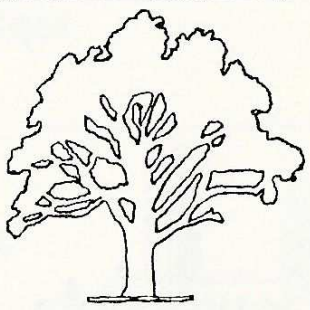
BEKESBOURNE

Churchwardens: Mr. J. Purchese, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (830937)
Mr. N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)
Hon Secretary: Mr. J. Purchese, 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. David Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne CT4 5HA (830659)

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.

J.B. Gardener



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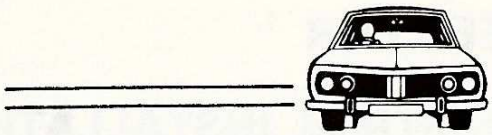

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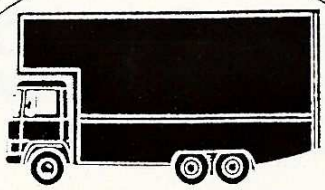

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September 1987 25p

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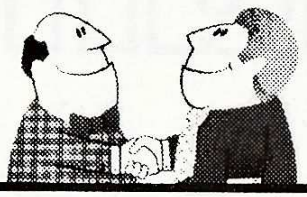

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Sunday Worship in September

Bridge	Patrixbourne	Bekesbourne
6th:		
11am Family Service *(Canon J. Packer)*	8am Holy Communion *(Canon J. Packer)*	9.30 Parish Communion *(Revd. W. Owen)*
6.30pm Evensong *(Canon F. Bull)*		
13th:		
No Services at Bridge	6.30pm *Harvest Evensong (Canon F. Bull)*	*No Service at Bekesbourne*
20th:		
9.30 Parish Communion *(Rite A)*	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
6.30pm Evensong		
27th:		
8am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion	11am *Harvest Matins*
6.30pm Evensong		
4th October:		
11am Family Service *Harvest Festival*	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
6.30pm *Harvest Evensong. (Preacher: Canon Peter Brett)*		

The East Bridge Deanery Festival *takes place on Sunday, 13th at Ickham and is a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, followed by a picnic on the green (bring your own food, drinks provided). The service is at 10.30am. At the request of the Deanery Synod we are suspending our normal Sunday services on the festival day, members of all congregations being asked to worship at Ickham. Last year's Festival was a huge success, which we supported well from our three churches. Let's do the same again this year!*

Harvest Thanksgiving services take place

—*at Patrixbourne on Sunday, 13th at 6.30pm, where Evensong will be conducted by Canon Frank Bull.*

—*at Bekesbourne on Sunday, 27th at 11am, where the Vicar will officiate and preach the sermon.*

—*at Bridge on Sunday, 4th October, with the Family Service at 11am, conducted by the Vicar; and Evensong at 6.30pm, at which the preacher will be Canon Peter Brett from the Cathedral.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *6th*, The Revd. Peter J. Boyden, M.A., M.Litt. *13th, Harvest Festival,* Canon J.W. Packer, B.A.,B.D.,A.K.C., M.Th. *(The Harvest Festival continues with a service on Monday, 14th at 7.30pm.) 20th, Holy Communion*, The Revd. Sheila Foreman. *27th*, Miss J. Charlesworth, M.A.

Weekdays: Holy Communion will be celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and on Friday, 25th (ASB Rite A) at 7.30am. There will be no other Friday communions this month. For this

month only the Churchill House Communion Service will be celebrated by Canon Packer on the second Wednesday (9th) at 10.15am. A short, informal act of worship takes place every Wednesday at 2.30pm in The New Close, at which visitors are always most welcome.

Sunday Worship in September

3rd *St. Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher, 604*
5th Sponsored Cycle Ride. Please support in every way possible.
Pray for James Muir-Little and Joanne Smith who are to be married today at Bridge.
6th **Twelfth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 13*
8th **The Blessed Virgin Mary**
9th Holy Communion at Churchill House, 10.15am.
13th **Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 14*
Deanery Festival Day *(see above for details and Rural Dean's note).*
Patrixbourne Harvest Festival is celebrated at a special Harvest Evensong at 6.30pm in St. Mary's Church. This will be the only act of worship today in the three village churches.
14th *Holy Cross Day*
20th **Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 15*
21st **St. Matthew the Apostle**
22nd Bridge with Patrixbourne WI Harvest Supper.
Canterbury Wives Fellowship meets in Bridge Church for a Eucharist at 10.30am, celebrated by the vicar.
Patrixbourne with Bridge Parochial Church Council meets, 7.30pm.
25th *Launcelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, 1626*
27th **Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 16*
Bekesbourne Harvest Festival is celebrated at 11am Matins.
29th **St. Michael and All Angels**

VICARAGE HOLIDAY Please note that Raymond and Rosemary Gilbert will be on holiday from Monday, 31st August to Saturday, 19th September inclusive. During that time anyone requiring the services of a priest is asked to contact Canon Frank Bull (830440), but only in cases of emergency that cannot wait until the vicar's return.

Now for the weather!

Well, has there been enough water for you? I apologize for any note of sarcasm in that question, but this has hardly been the driest summer on record, has it? At the time of writing (3rd August) the weather is distinctly showery, as it has been for weeks—or so it seems. It sounds barely credible that I overheard someone remark a short while ago that the gardens could do with some rain because the ground was so dry. Well that particular gardener got her way. She is probably now praying like billy-ho for some lengthy spells of sunshine!

We Brits of course are famed for our pre-occupation with the weather, which we bring into every greeting and conversation. You would think that the older we got the more used we would become to the English climate, and so would drop this traditional habit, but not a bit of it. We notice the weather to our dying day. The story is told of an expatriot lady, domiciled in the

tropics, who arrived at the breakfast table every morning with the surprised announcement, "Aren't we lucky! Another lovely day again!"

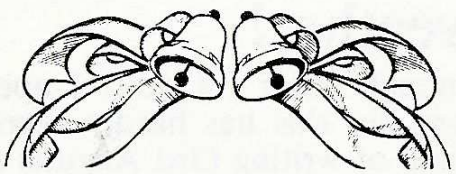
It has long been admitted that an Englishman is never satisfied with any kind of weather for very long. One summer like this and he yearns for a series of dry, sunny days. Get a drought, like that of '76 and he craves for several days of steady rain. Changeable conditions find him bemoaning the fact that everything is so unsettled and he gets fed up, whenever he goes anywhere, having to take rainwear along with summer clothing. You really *would* think we would eventually get used to the British weather, but we never do!

And have you noticed how it isn't only individuals who never seem prepared for a fluctuating weather-pattern? Back in June, when we had a long spell of hot sunshine, the genuine article no less, the water authorities in the west country very rapidly started mumbling in their beards about possible drought and saving water. And why are we never prepared for snow in the winter? Twice in successive years we have been caught out by it and have watched communications grinding to a halt as a consequence. If officialdom hasn't got used to coping with a changing climate (and we've had it for rather a long time) what hope for Tom, Dick or Mary?

Yet given the chance, I strongly suspect that that basic human being, the man-in-the-street, would opt to stick to the present set-up. Unsettled our weather may be but at least we know that arctic winters are not really arctic and they won't last indefinitely. The rain, when it comes, will not be so torrential that it washes the crops out of the ground, nor will periods of drought lead to a British version of Ethiopia. Changeability may produce uncertainty but at least it saves us from natural disaster—even earthquakes leave us alone.

* * *

This is Harvest Festival month. Each year those of us who have to preach harvest sermons, either at home or away, search for something new to say on what, after all, is an old subject. I am tempted, this time round, to remind the congregation just how fortunate we are to live in such a temperate zone, and how we ought to be grateful for it. Not that I want to imply that we have been singled out by the natural order or special treatment: I don't happen to believe that God is an Englishman. But we have a goodly land and the ideal opportunities to use it well (Please God, stop us from ill-using it!), and that is cause for heartfelt gratitude.



Joined together by God

Two weddings took place in August, both conducted by Canon Frank Bull while the vicar was in hospital.

On 8th at Bekesbourne **Shelley Harrison** married **Mark Eckersley**. Though both are resident in London, Shelley and her family hail from Bekesbourne. The following Saturday, 15th **Ruth Hodgson** of Barberry Cottage, Patrixbourne Road married Lieutenant **Nicholas Lewin** RN of *HMS Illustrious* in St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne. We wish both couples long and happy years together.

Wanted

The following missive dropped through the editor's letterbox at the beginning of last month. Seeing that it was accompanied by a distinguished list of signatories and had with it a crudely-drawn revolver in the process of being fired (at the editor's head?) it seemed safer to publish: either that or be d—ed, presumably. There was also this tempting offer to the right person: "Reward—a couple of hours of pure bliss every other weekend". Who could resist?

> WANTED a young, enthusiastic person with a sense of humour. Around the age of twenty, male or female or other (?), willing to help out at The Ants Group. Members are aged from nine to fifteen. Would be helpful if this person could drive. This job is voluntary. Our last leader is getting married but she will help out whenever possible. This is a charity-based club but we aim to learn about the community and have fun at the same time. Contact 831880 (Imogen Dinsmore), 830028 (Sam King).
> Yours hopefully, Caroline King, Beverley Eaton, Matthew Wood, Alison Stewart, Imogen Dinsmore, Sam King, Katherine Fairweather, Oliver Dinsmore, Dominic Legge, Julian Fagg.

As a foot-note, The Ants is also the follow-on to Junior Church and was brought into being to cater for the in-between ages until Confirmation. The PCC is most grateful to Caroline Blamey (née Pentin) for getting the enterprise off the ground and running it ever since. Perhaps anyone contemplating taking on the job would also contact the vicar as we ought to keep it on an official footing. Many of us are anxious not to lose the church connection.

Thanks to those concerned . . .

The thanks of the PCC are extended to all those who so willingly turned up to help with dusting and polishing in St. Peter's, Bridge following *Rentokil*'s exit—specially Marie Nares, to whom a big thank-you. *E.A.*

Those who have recently visited St. Peter's, Bekesbourne cannot but have been impressed with the new carpet from the altar to the chancel steps. The contributions to the carpet fund have entirely paid for this new carpet, and we wish to thank all those who so willingly gave. We must also add a special thank-you to Mrs. Christine Ash for all her work in arranging for the carpet to be bought and laid. *J.P.*

Bridge Flower rota

Would the ladies on the Flower rota please try to do their arranging on Friday mornings, asks Mrs Apps. If this is an inconvenient time, she adds, please contact her at 34 High Street.

Deanery Family Festival 1987

Our celebration together this year as a Deanery is to be in the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Ickham (by kind invitation of the Revd. John Allan) on Sunday 13th September, at 10.30am. The Revd. Alan Dawkins, our Diocesan Tait Missioner, will be the guest preacher and with the agreement of deanery clergy and Parochial Church Councils other churches in the deanery will not be meeting for mid-morning worship on this second Sunday in September. How good it will be to all gather together—"The Lord's People, on the Lord's Day around the Lord's Table" as one family in the East Bridge Deanery.

Last year's service in Wingham was a splendid occasion being part of their 700 Celebrations. This year at Ickham we shall be seeking together the guidance of the Holy Spirit; praying for God's blessing on our newly-elected Deanery Synod, and on the continuing prayerful work and witness of SPAN. There will also be an opportunity to think about participation in this autumn's "Framework For Faith" course and other ways of fostering relationships across parish and group boundaries.

The time of the service on Sunday, 13th September, has been brought forward to 10.30am so that everyone will be able to stay for light pre-lunch refreshments afterwards on the church green, and kindly provided by the host parish.

We shall hope meanwhile for an improvement in the weather of recent weeks, but let nothing dampen our spirits as we come together for our 1987 Deanery Celebration. We look forward to seeing you there.

Revd. Clive Barlow—Rural Dean

Important Notice

The Revd. John Allan will shortly circulate to our choirs and organists details of the hymns and music and will arrange readers of lessons, etc. Each church will be making its own transport arrangements. Clergy, Readers and Choirs are invited to robe for the Service.

Bridge Folk Dance Group

Fresh from our summer holidays we resume our meetings this month. Please join us on Thursdays 3rd and 17th at 8 o'clock in Bridge Village Hall.

As usual our patient caller is Alf Matthews, and new dancers are made very welcome. Enquiries, please ring 830285 or 830652. *J.H.*

Newspaper collection

Thanks to the tireless efforts of collectors, newspapers now pile up at Beech Cottage at the rate of some ten tons per annum, thus raising a yearly sum of about £100 towards Village Hall expenses.

Supervision of the collection and sale of papers, as well as the storage, will need to pass into other hands in about a year's time. If you have space of about 2x2x2 yards (to house one ton) and would be willing to give about half an hour a week to tie and stack the papers, please may we hear from you.

For the sake of conservation as well as finance, it would be a pity of the scheme should die. *M.A.Y. 830457*

FRAMEWORK FOR FAITH — the course for the Autumn Term is described below. Anyone interested should contact the vicar.

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

99%—The Ministry of the Laity

The Laity represents more than 99% of Church members and this short course is aimed at helping them to look at their ministry, not only in the parish but also in their Monday to Friday occupations.

The course will provide opportunities to examine

—What we mean by lay ministry

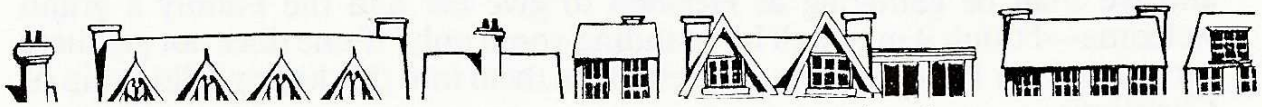
—How we can exercise it in daily life

—What spiritual and educational resources we need to sustain it

—What we expect of our clergy and they of us

The course will be based on "ALL ARE CALLED", a lively readable report published by the Church of England Board of Education. It challenges us to return to a New Testament model of ministry in which the rôles of both laity and clergy are fulfilling, and where gifts are fully used. This is a course not only of vital importance to the Church but one which challenges us as individuals in working out our discipleship.

CHIMNEYS



Sauntering along Bridge High Street glancing at the sky
Chimneys of all kinds come before my observing eye.
Tall ones, short ones, in regimental lines and solitaire,
Fat ones, thin ones, light red, then a yellow pair.

On some a Coolie's hat is worn,
Others, square metal boxes adorn.
Chimney stacks minus pots, pots plus cowls,
Ideal resting places for pigeons and tired owls.

A solitary wisp of smoke steals into the still air,
Most smoke-blackened chimneys are idle, having done their share.
Austere modern buildings are denied this crowning glory,
Central-heating needs no crown; but that's another story!

Bill Trickett

Hail and Farewell!

Methodists throughout the country are going through a taxing time—as are the Ministers! The Methodist year starts on 1st September and under our system Ministers move to other Circuits, by invitation, as they complete their term of service. This is usually a minimum of five years and a maximum of nine; there are of course variations to this as circumstances dictate.

We at Bridge are very sorry to bid farewell to the Revd. Peter Taylor and his wife Sharon. After five very happy years of his Ministry among us there are bound to be regrets at his departure. Coming to us fresh from College he was naturally learning all the way: it is a happy reflection that we were also learning along with him. With an impressive array of talents so willingly shared with us, it is no wonder this young man walked right into our hearts. Peter's last service at Bridge was on 9th August, when he was presented with tokens of our grateful thanks for his time with us. Sharon was also remembered, in particular for her invaluable help and guidance in getting our Sunday School going. We shall miss them both, but send them off with richest blessings as they venture into a challenging ministry in the Mid-Glamorgan Mission. From five churches here, they will have no less than nine there. I am sure that many of our Anglican friends who know them will wish to join in our good wishes.

Having said our farewells, there is a happy and joyful occasion in the offing—for on Wednesday, 2nd September we have the great pleasure to welcome the Revd. Sheila Foreman to our Circuit. Sheila, already an Ordained Methodist Minister, comes from the Bromley area and will bring with her, her own specific gifts and personality. A woman with a grown-up family of four she has a wide experience of life, and a deep involvement and commitment to Christian principles and social concerns.

No mean task faces her, a Woman Methodist Minister, who apart from five churches will also be sharing with the Rector of Sturry, the Revd. Peter Gausden, in the ecumenical experiment in the parishes of Sturry, Westbere, Hersden and Fordwich.

Mrs Foreman will have our full support and blessing in her new challenge and we shall be gathering at Hersden to give her and the Family a grand welcome—I think it may well be 'standing-room only' if one does not get there early as we say Hello to them, and embrace them into this happy fellowship of Christians.

Pat Grant

Songs of Praise and their writers

● *Songs of Praise have been introduced into the weeks of Trinity for many years at Bekesbourne; the idea of Stanley Grey, organist.*

A&M 217: "All hail the power of Jesus' name".

The words are by Edward Perronet, who was born in 1726. He was, in his early years a controversial author who came to the notice of John Wesley with his satire *The Mitre*. The book has been described as " . . . a priceless reflex of contemporary ecclesiastical opinion and sentiment. It is pungent, salted with wit, gleams with humour, hits off vividly the well-known celebrities in Church and State, and is well-wrought in picked and packed words"! It roused Wesley's hottest anger, and he recorded in his diary for 1749—with obvious pleasure—"From Rochdale went to Bolton and soon found that the Rochdale

lions were lambs in comparison with those of Bolton. Edward Perronet was thrown down and rolled in mud and mire. Stones were hurled and windows broken''. Perronet survived and came to live in Canterbury where ''in season and out of season he evangelized''. He was the minister of a chapel in Watling Street. He died in January 1792 and was buried in the Cathedral cloisters. He published his first hymnal in 1774, and a second in 1782. Of his abilities as a hymn-writer there is no doubt.

The tune, *Miles Lane* is by W. Shrubsole, 1760 - 1806. The son of a mast-maker at Sheerness dockyard, he worked for a time as a ship-wright and clerk. He then moved to London to a clerical post in the Bank of England, and eventually became Secretary to the Committee of the Treasury. He was a lay preacher, and interested himself in the work of the London Missionary Society, becoming a Director. He wrote the words for a number of hymns in his time—but these have disappeared. Here his musicianship is notable.

The hymn calls on all creation to praise the Lord—the angelic host, the firmament of stars, the Christian martyrs and the body of Christendom down to the lowliest sinner.

A&M 281: ''O what their joy and their glory must be''.

This is the first time anyone has chosen this interesting hymn in our *Songs of Praise*. The words were written in Latin by Peter Abelard, and translated into English by J.M. Neale.

Peter Abelard was born in 1079 near Nantes in France. At the age of thirty-six he became the most famous teacher of philosophy in Europe, and his school at Notre Dame was crowded with students from many countries.

He is best remembered for the story of his love for Héloise, niece of the Canon of Notre Dame, Fulbert. The canon thought that Peter Abelard had seduced his niece and 'procured an outrage' on him. This forced Aberlard into a monastery at Ste. Denis in Paris, and Héloise to a convent in Argenteuil. The couple met again in death when they were buried in a grave in the churchyard of Père-la-Chaise in Paris.

Peter Abelard wrote many treatise and managed to continue teaching from his monastery for many years. In this hymn he is setting out his ideas of heaven—where there are no distractions or tiredness to prevent everlasting praise of God. It is certainly a mediaeval vision, described in a vivid way.

The tune *O quanta qualia* takes its name from the first line of Abelard's Latin hymn. The tune was published in 1808 by La Feillée in a book called *Method of Plainchant*.

''Morning has broken''—on a hymn-sheet.

The words were written by Eleanor Farjeon, and is set to an old Gaelic melody. The hymn gives thanks to God for a new day.

Eleanor Farjeon was born in 1881, and grew up in a Victorian household with nursery governesses and a tutor; and surrounded by visitors to her parents from the Bohemian literary and dramatic world. She was take to the theatre and opera from the age of four, so it is not surprising she made her début as a librettist at the age of saixteen. The opera was called *Floretta*, with the music composed by her brother, Harry, and the production staged by the Royal Academy of Music.

She wrote many books and poems, principally for children, and lived in Hampstead during her working life, before retiring to Sussex. One critic wrote of her work that ''. . . joy is the keynote of all her poems and music'', and this is very evident here.

Fish News

The Luncheon Club starts up again on September 7th after the summer break. Many of our drivers and helpers have been with us since we started in 1980. We should be glad to hear from newly-retired people or new residents who would come in and help on a regular or relief basis.

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Miss Kathleen Pomroy at the Old Rectory, Harbledown, in her ninety-third year. She was one of the first members of the Luncheon Club. Our sympathy goes out to her brother whose devoted care enabled her to stay at home until a late stage in her long and painful illness.

Seven members of the Luncheon Club were invited to join the Social Services Community Care Outing in the Freedom Coach. They had a wonderful trip to Windsor Safari Park—a unique experience for them. We have been promised spare seats on future outings, and after glowing reports of the care and catering there will be keen competition for places on the next trip.

The August **Coffee Pop-In** was well attended in spite of a rival attraction on that day! One of our frequent visitors is Mrs Elsie Anderson who now lives at the Abbeyfield House in Canterbury—a monthly return visit enables her to meet her friends and catch up with the village news. If you haven't been to the Pop-In, do join us on Wednesday, September 9th in Bridge Village Hall from 10.15am to 11.45am—everyone is welcome. *Joan Warren 830233*

Joan Warren also writes:—

From time to time Age Concern issues useful 'Fact-Sheets' giving helpful advice and information on various subjects. Here I list three of them which may be of use to us all—dealing with wills, information for executors and arranging funerals.

1. **Making a Will:** Have you made a will? According to the Law Society only one person in four does make one. Many people think that their estate is too small to bother to make a will, but increasing home ownership and the enormous rise in house prices have changed this. It is often assumed that a surviving spouse automatically inherits everything, but this is not so—if you are married with children your spouse gets the first £75,000 of your estate and your personal possessions, whilst the rest goes to your children although your spouse retains a life interest in half the residue. This fact-sheet explains the law for distribution of your property if you haven't left a will. It is always safer to get a solicitor to make your will. However, if you wish to make your own there is helpful advice and warning of the many pitfalls and complications you may encounter.

2. **Instructions for my Next-of-Kin** and **Executors:** Having made your will, where do you keep it and does anyone else know where it is? A recent correspondence in *The Times* has highlighted how frequently wills cannot be found, causing lengthy delays in settling an estate. One solution is to deposit your will with The Principal Registry of the Family Division at Somerset House for a fee of £1. Alternatively, Age Concern have produced an invaluable form on which you enter all the important information which will be needed by your executors including the whereabouts of your will, house deeds, important documents, insurance policies, bank and saving accounts, etc. This should be kept in a safe place known to your next-of-kin and executor and updated as necessary.

3. **Arranging a Funeral:** Most of us will have to cope with the death of a relative or friend at some time in our lives. This fact-sheet is a useful source of information on what has to be done, what arrangements have to be made for a funeral and what financial help is available.

● Copies of the Fact-Sheets can be obtained by post from Age Concern Kent, Galleon House, 77 - 87 King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EG. (You should enclose 40p in stamps if ordering all three.) I have copies which can be consulted at the Coffee Pop-In.

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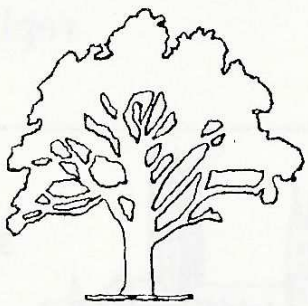
Magazine Editor: The Vicar, who is responsible for unsigned articles.

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.

J.B. Gardener



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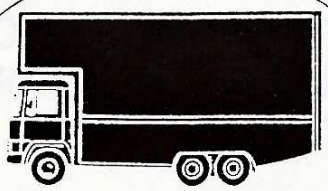

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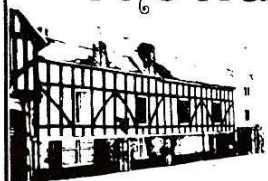

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Sunday Worship in October

Bridge	Patrixbourne	Bekesbourne
4th:		
11am *Harvest Family Service* with Baptism 6.30pm *Harvest Evensong (Preacher: Canon Peter Brett)*	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
11th:		
9.30 The Eucharist *(ASB Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
18th:		
9.30 Parish Communion *(ASB Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong *(Canon F. Bull)*	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
25th:		
8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am *Songs of Praise*
1st November:		
11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong *(Canon F. Bull)*	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am:*4th, Holy Communion,* The Revd. Sheila Foreman. *11th*, Mr. David Morton. *18th*, The Revd. Wilfred J. Hill, M.C, B.Sc. *25th*, Mr. Alistair Barwick.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday *(BCP)* at 9.30am and Fridays *(ASB Rite A)* at 7.30am, also at Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am. A short Act of Worship for the residents is held each Wednesday afternoon at 2.30pm in The New Close.

For your diary and prayer list

1st Prayers for Health & Healing, Bridge Lady Chapel, 7pm
2nd Church Harvest Supper and Barn Dance, Bridge School, 8pm
4th **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 17*
Bridge Harvest Festival is celebrated at both services and we are delighted to have Canon Peter Brett from the Cathedral to preach at Evensong. This will be his first visit to Bridge.
6th *William Tyndale, Translator of the Bible, 1536*
9th Bridge School Harvest Festival, St. Peter's Church
10th *St. Paulinus, Bishop, Missionary, 644*
11th **Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 18*
13th *St. Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066*
Bekesbourne PCC meets this evening, usual time and place.
14th Deanery Healing Service, Nongton Church, 7pm

15th *St. Teresa of Avila, Mystic, 1582*
Prayers for Health & Healing, Bridge Lady Chapel, 7pm
17th *St. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, c.107*
Canterbury Council for Health & Healing AGM and study Day *(see page 6)*
18th **Saint Luke the Evangelist** *Trinity 18 & Last Sunday after Pentecost*
20th Pray for the Deanery Synod this evening and for our parish representatives—John Purchese *(Bekesbourne)*, Sheila Fenn and Ted Weatherall *(Patrixbourne with Bridge)*
25th **Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity** *9 before Christmas*
28th **Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles**
29th *James Hannington, Bishop, Missionary, Martyr, 1885*
31st Pray for the Diocesan Synod meeting today

§ *I would like to convey my deep gratitude for all the prayers and expressions of concern during my recent operation. The many cards I received and the flowers from the Friday morning congregation were a constant reminder of so much love. The skill of the surgeon, the care of the staff of St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy in London and the heartfelt prayer emanating very largely from home combined to give me an easy passage and rapid recovery. I am particularly appreciative of all that Canon Frank Bull did in keeping the show-on-the-road during my absence.*

Raymond Gilbert

Caring for the Carers

In days gone by it was customary for most churches' Easter collections to be given as a personal gift to the vicar: remember those printed cards put in the pews the Sunday before and signed by the churchwardens? When that practice first came into the being the Easter collection constituted a valuable perquisite for the poorly paid clargyman and afforded a way for the people *en masse* to show their appreciation of his pastoral concern for them.

Subsequently the tax man got his beady eye on it and by the time he had taken his cut the Easter offering had lost both its value and its shine. Then, when clergy stipends were levelled out and such extras as fees for weddings and funerals had to be assigned to the diocese, the Easter gift lost all its allure, because it too had to be passed to the diocese. So what began as a gift from people to priest became a distinct disadvantage to the clergyman, because it meant he was paying tax on something he did not get anyway.

When I came here I was obliged to sign over all fees to the diocese and very wisely the churchwardens of the time decided to do away with the Easter offering. Then the idea came to me of maintaining in effect the spirit of the Easter offering though abandoning the letter of it. Why not give it instead to St. Luke's Hospital for Clergy? This way the inland revenue kept its distance and the vicar yet gained the benefit of it, or would if the need should arise. So far it has on three occasions and will do again when I go up for a very minor op at the beginning of November. The PCCs of both parishes accepted the idea and as a result we have been able to send sizeable donations to the valuable work done by St. Luke's.

What's the idea?

If the hospital has a motto it is 'Caring for the Carers', for that is precisely

what it exists to do. It provides speedy medical treatment for clergy of the Church of England, their wives and dependent children, also for full-time lay workers, monks and nuns. The operative word is 'speedy' for it is neither private nor privileged treatment. True, patients don't have to wait very long for the sort of operations that under the NHS would entail months of waiting, but this is not due to queue-jumping. Rather it is a case of taking out of queues so that the others are able to move up a place. And this is not done by paying surgeons and consultants exorbitant fees for their skill and expertise since not one of them accepts a penny piece for his or her work.

St. Luke's has at its service over a hundred of London's top consultants, all of whom give their services entirely free and in their spare time as part of their contribution to the work of the Church. How's that for Christian Stewardship of time and talents? Without these most dedicated people the hospital could not, of course, exist. As it is the General Secretary, the Revd. Peter Nicholson, spends the bulk of his time trying to raise some £1,400 per day, because despite the honorary consultants there are running costs that have to be met, such as nurses' pay and the upkeep of buildings and equipment.

The aim of St. Luke's is to get clergy back to work with all possible speed, to care for the carers so that they can return to their caring. The staff do a marvellous job, as I know from first-hand experience. They really *do* care, and it is good, speaking as a carer, to be cared for when you most need it. I am extremely grateful to them—and to you for your Easter offering which, I hope you will agree, is very well spent.

The Church's healing ministry

WHY DO SOME SHUN IT?

This is the theme for the Canterbury Council for Health & Healing's annual St. Luke's-tide Study Day on Saturday, 17th October.

The day begins with the Council's Annual General Meeting at 10.30am (at which your vicar is due to assume the reins of the secretary) and after a picnic lunch, which participants provide for themselves (the organisers provide tea or coffee) the study session follows. The speaker is the Revd. David Dale, Chairman of the Churches' Council for Health & Healing, Adviser to the United Reformed Church on Health & Healing and a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the URC.

The kind of questions that will be faced during the day are: How do you see this Ministry being practised by the Church today? Is there a difference between healing and curing a person? How do you see God operating and healing taking place, in your community and in the life of the Church? What kind of teaching do you think we need; how should it be given; and by whom?

This year's venue is the Franciscan Study Centre in Giles Lane, Canterbury and the cost, to cover expenses, is £2 per head (£1·50 for couples). This is a valuable occasion for all who are concerned for the re-growth of the healing ministry within the Church as a whole and our own church in particular. Do take part, even if you only come for the afternoon session!

Deanery Healing Service

A glance back at the Diary will show you that on 14th October a Healing Service is to take place in Nonington Church at 7pm.

This is an initial venture arising out of (a) the resurgence of interest in the healing ministry that is being felt throughout the contemporary church, (b) the need by many, often unspoken, to receive this ministry either for themselves or for someone dear to them, and (c) the feeling expressed by some of the deanery clergy that a healing service embracing the deanery would be more practical, not to say beneficial, than one held by a parish alone. In East Bridge we like deanery events and we believe the same will apply to a healing service.

Anyone who seeks this aspect of the Church's ministry is warmly invited to Nonington on the 14th. All are welcome to receive the laying of hands with prayer for God's healing.

Times of Joy

The afternoon of 22nd August, one of the rare 'summer' days of that month saw the marriage of our own **Caroline Pentin** to **Mark Blamey** from Canterbury. I was privileged to conduct the ceremony, which took place in the Crypt of the Cathedral and was in the context of the Eucharist.

Bridge Church Choir sang at the wedding of a former member, **James Muir-Little**, to **Joanna Smith** on 5th September in St. Peter's Church. Canon Frank Bull deputised for me as I was on holiday at the time.

We wish both couples every blessing and prosperity in their new life together.

Confirmation, 1988

An initial get-together of all young people who are considering dedicating their lives to God through the sacrament of Confirmation will take place in the Vicarage on **Friday, 9th October at 6.30pm**. They should be at least thirteen years old on the day of their Confirmation.

The service at which members of the ensuing group will hope to be confirmed will take place on St. Peter's Day, 29th June, 1988 in Bridge Church at 7.30pm.

If this interests you just turn up on the 9th for about half an hour! No need to tell me in advance that you are coming! And by the way, now is not the time for final decisions, so even if you are not sure still come along.

I believe some adults are contemplating confirmation. If so, please get in touch with me so that we can arrange for instruction sessions as a separate group. Past adult confirmation groups have proved particularly rewarding, not to say stimulating.

Letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

ABOUT THE CHURCH URBAN FUND

We want to tell you now that we will be launching the public appeal for the Church Urban Fund on **Wednesday, 20th April 1988.**

The Church Urban Fund is a central part of the Church's response to *Faith in the City*. It will be a vital means of strengthening its mission in our most deprived urban areas. We are called to offer fresh hope, purpose and opportunity to many who often feel excluded from society (including the Church) and unable to influence their own lives.

The Church can do this because it is already present in these areas, through the hard and costly work of priests and congregations. We need now to support and strengthen them. The Church Urban Fund will provide an opportunity for the whole Church to demonstrate its commitment to them. It is a question of all together sharing in a witness to the love of Christ for everyone in our society.

We need to raise through the public campaign a capital sum to provide at least £1 million a year. The target for this is £18 million. It is a daunting sum, yet small in comparison with the need.

In total the aim of the Church Urban Fund is that £4m a year should be spent on church-related projects in urban areas. £1m will come from the Church Commissioners, subject to Parliamentary approval. There will be other substantial sums from companies, trusts and foundations, and a local contribution will be required for all projects.

At the start of the campaign we shall be issuing a pastoral letter to be read from every pulpit on **Sunday, 24th April 1988**—the first Sunday after the launch. It will need to initiate two years of hard work if we are to raise the sum we seek.

Each diocese, under the leadership of its Bishop, has been asked to establish in its part of the country the specific means to stimulate and encourage giving for the Church Urban Fund, and this will be supported by a national campaign office. The positive response of parishes will be essential in this task.

+ Robert Cantuar : + John Ebor

Lambeth Palace, London
Bishopthorpe, York
August 1987

St. Peter's Lady Chapel improvements

Parishioners at Bridge will have noticed the Lady Chapel altar is uncovered, revealing a magnificent oak table. We would like to have new curtains, kneelers and carpet in the Lady Chapel. Donations for this particular project would be welcomed and there will be a coffee morning on Saturday, 10th October at 10.30am at Beechmount, 1 Conyngham Lane, Bridge.

Ailsa Williamson and Alicia Pentin

St. John's Gospel from beginning to end

On All Saints' Day, 1st November in St. Mary's Church, Elham at 7pm Paul Alexander will give a performance of his widely acclaimed narration of the Gospel according to St. John.

This unusual and stimulating one-man theatrical event has already been experienced in theatres and churches in the UK and the USA, and this summer at the Edinburgh Festival. It has also been shown on BBC television, having been filmed entirely on location in the Holy Land.

Among many reviews praising his performance was this one in the *Daily Telegraph*: 'Mr Alexander, possessing an attractive and sensitive voice and a magnetic gaze, can hold the audience with the Gospel's dramatic style and wealth of detail. He becomes deeply engrossed and impassioned, with an often spell-binding approach. A special triumph of the performance is clarification in the spoken word of the more difficult passages of Christ's message. It is an arresting two and a half hour tour de force'.

Tickets are available at £3, £2 (for children and OAPs) and £1 (side aisles) from:

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Mrs K. Hill
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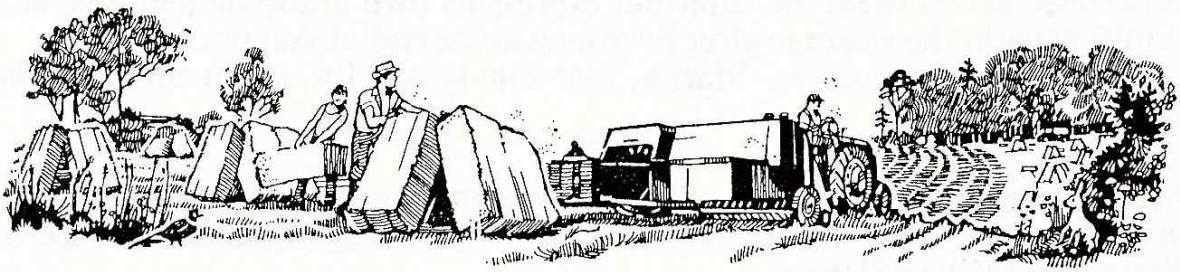
Elham (Tel: 030 384 623)



Harvest Supper and Barn Dance

A reminder that the Patrixbourne with Bridge Harvest Supper and Barn Dance takes place on Friday, 2nd October at Bridge School. Tickets are £3.00 each, and are available in Bridge from Doug Hill and Stephen Pike, and in Patrixbourne from Joan Carpenter.

Bridge Organist's departure: **A temporary move**

Martin Miles has been playing the organ at Bridge almost as long as I have been vicar. For just over half that time he was the Sunday morning organist only, in the days when the regular holder of the post could only come in the evenings. On the departure of Dennis Mathew I was able to persuade Martin to take on the job completely.

Martin's full-time occupation is that of German master at The King's School and last month he took over the additional duties of housemaster of Lattergate. Sadly this meant that he had to give up his Sunday commitment to Bridge, a situation much regretted by Bridge's choir and congregation, not to mention Martin himself.

In Martin Miles we have had a quite exceptional organist who has entered into the spirit of the church's worship here with a dedication regrettably not always to be found in church musicians. He has responded splendidly to such occasions as the Family Service, not to mention his lively accompaniment of the all-important 'Praise him' chorus at the end of the Parish Communion, so vital to the Junior Church children. But it is his work with the choir that has shone most brilliantly and the enthusiasm he has brought to it, coupled with his professional skills as a teacher and communicator, have resulted in a body of people who respond well to what he has demanded of them and who have greatly enhanced the music of Bridge Church by the way they have worked together. The Carol Service at Christmas, not to mention the occasional extras at Passiontide, have delighted everybody and their success has been in no small measure due to the time and energy Martin himself has put into them. We are all sorry that this happy arrangement has had to cease, none more so than Martin, who has a great affection for Bridge Church.

But all may not be lost! A little bird has whispered to me that Martin's new job at King's may not last above a year—though not because he can't do it, I hasten to add. In which case he will, in all probability, rejoin us as organist, and that will be a joy to all of us. Meanwhile Martin hopes to continue to play for the monthly Family Service and during half-term and full-term holidays, and already on my desk are the carols he and I have chosen for Christmas and which he is looking forward to directing as of yore. It is this hope that he might be back that made it inappropriate to make a great thing of his departure, nevertheless the choir did express its own gratitude and love at a drinks party in the vicarage after Evensong at the end of August.

For now, every success, Martin, and thank you for so much! We'll be seeing you.

* * *

Martin's departure provides a suitable opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation of the help we receive from two visiting organists, Dr. Lewis Ryder and Michael Brewer.

Dr. Ryder is by profession a physicist at the University, but he also a most accomplished organist. He has played for us on a number of occasions, including the last two Easter mornings where his expertise has done much to make the festival truly festive. Very often his children come with him and we like to welcome them into the choir whenever they are here.

Michael Brewer teaches at Milner Court and most readily comes over, when free, from his home at Boughton to play for us. He also makes a valuable contribution to the quality of our services.

Not altogether a visitor, Stanley Grey is always happy to step into the breach any time I ask him, but then he is not exactly a stranger either to Bridge Church or its organ.

Songs of Praise

Following the great success of the earlier *Songs of Praise* services at Bekesbourne during the summer months, a third one is to be held, as you will see from the services list, on Sunday, 25th October at 11am. As before, let Organist Stanley Grey (830522) or Churchwarden John Purchese (830937, if he's in!) have your hymn choice as soon as possible, so that it can be researched and included in the service.

Christmas Market preparation

Yes, I'm afraid so! The Christmas Market season is not too far away and now is the time to start getting ready for the one at Bridge, even though it does not happen until 12th December.

Please will anyone who is willing to lend a hand in whatever capacity at this important event of our social calendar put in an appearance at the initial preparation meeting or indicate to Stephen Pike their readiness to help. The meeting is at chez Pike, i.e., 12 High Street on Wednesday, 14th October at 8pm. This is not the time to be reticent or to hide your light under the proverbial bushel! Be forthcoming and help this year's market follow its predecessors by exceeding all our expectations!

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council News

Bridge Parish Council

Several parishioners were present on Thursday, 10th September at the first meeting of the Paris Council after the summer recess.

Recreation Ground The Council heard from Mr. John Knight that the footings of the new pavilion had been finished and that it was hoped to have reached roof level by the end of November. It was also hoped that the Sports Council would approve grant aid for the project when they next met in October. The Council decided to arrange for grass seeding of the banks of the Nailbourne stream. Regarding the lopping which had been carried out about the end of July of a number of branches from two of the trees covered by a Preservation Order, the Council were told that an application had been granted about a year ago for this work to be done. The painting of the playground equipment and the bridge had been carried out satisfactorily, although somewhat later than originally planned, under the Community Programme Scheme whereby the Parish Council had only had to pay for materials used and not for the labour involved.

Village Hall Cllr Mervyn Gulvin reported that work on the installation of the new gas central heating system for the hall was expected to commence shortly.

Streets and Footways The City Council were to be approached about clearing the footpath, badly overgrown in places, leading from the High Street to Riverside Close. The Council heard that the glass of the Parish Noticeboard had been smashed on the Saturady night prior to the meeting. Cllr Ken Greenaway had cleared up the broken glass and had covered the board with polythene as a temporary measure and the Clerk was to arrange for its repair and refurbishment.

Planning Several planning applications had been considered during the previous two months by the Council's Planning Committee. Of these, the Council had no objection to the following: An application for the demolition of existing iron roofed timber and brick outbuilding at rear of Plough and Harrow PH (CA/87/155/BRI); an amendment to the conversion of The Stables at Field House, Station Road, although they remained opposed to the use of the house as a retirement home (CA/87/1089/BRI); a rear extension to dwelling at 16 Conyngham Lane (CA/87/1234/BRI); an application for the reconstruction of an existing building to form a two-bed house, construction of a new five-bed house and construction of garage for four cars at River House, 67

High Street (CA/87/1207/BRI); and an application for single storey extensions and change of use from dwelling to home for the elderly at 30 Western Avenue (CA/87/1167/BRI). They had however objected to an application for a proposed conservatory at 49 High Street on the grounds that it was incompatible with the character of the listed building (CA/87/127/BRI). They had also forwarded their objections to the Secretary of State following an appeal submitted against the City Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the erection of a detached bungalow and garage on land adjoining Filmer Cottage, Filmer Road (CA/87/83/BRI). Planning permission had been granted for a first floor extension at 26 Bridge Down (CA/87/0186/BRI) and for the erection of nine garages and related fencing on the site between The Close and Churchill House, Union Road (CA/87/0820/BRI). Cllr Gulvin reported that he had attended the Public Meeting on 3rd August at the Village Hall where there was large opposition expressed, mainly on traffic grounds, to the proposed hundred-bedroom hotel to be built on land adjacent to the A2 Bridge By-pass by Pond Cottage.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 8th October at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall *K.A. Walder, Clerk*

Fish News

Luncheon Club meetings started again on 7th September and preparations are under way for our 7th birthday celebrations on 5th October.

One of our oldest and most active members, Miss Sophie Quested, died recently, just before her 92nd birthday. Sophie spent most of her life farming in Barham before coming to live in Churchill House about six years ago. She will be missed and fondly remembered by the many friends she made in Bridge and particularly by her fellow members at Bridge Methodist Church. We send our sympathy to her family and her sister Mrs. Keeler, who moved into the village a short time ago.

The Canterbury Volunteer Bureau will be organising its annual Christmas Shopping Evening for elderly and disabled people on Wednesday, 25th November, when Marks & Spencer, British Home Stores, W.H. Smith, Woolworths, C & H Fabrics, Boots and C & A will be open from 6.00 to 7.45pm. The Christmas lights will be switched on that evening. Please let me know by Monday, 12th October if you would like a ticket and whether you need transport. This is always a happy event with carols and refreshments provided.

OPEN DOORS, a new and enlarged access guide to the Canterbury City Council area has recently been published. It gives information of accessibility to churches, shops, public buildings, places of entertainment, etc. in Canterbury, Herne Bay, Whitstable and some of the villages. It also gives other helpful information for disabled people. Copies can be obtained free of charge from City Council Offices and Social Service Departments. A copy is available for consultation at Bridge Post Office and at the Coffee Pop-In, the next one of which is on Wednesday, 14th October in Bridge Village Hall from 10.15 - 11.45am. *Joan Warren, 830233*

Canterbury Volunteer Bureau Exhibition

Canterbury Volunteer Bureau sends details of an exhibition of the local caring organisations called ***CANTERBURY CARES*** that is being staged in the Chapter House of the Cathedral from 23rd to 25th October. The Dean is

to open the exhibition at 11am on Friday, 23rd and it will be open on the Friday from 11am to 5pm, on the Saturday from 10am to 5pm and on the Sunday from 12 noon to 5pm. Musical entertainment will be provided throughout the three days. If you have spare time to give or if you need help you may find what you are looking for at ***Canterbury Cares***. Organised by the *CVB* it is sponsored by National Westminster Bank plc, Barclays and the Midland Banks and is a way of paying tribute to the vast amount of voluntary work that is done in the city. It also aims to promote and encourage volunteering. Thirty-three organisations will be having displays.

Christine Browne, Bureau Organiser

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

Mrs Grey	4th October	..... Mrs Watson
Mrs Beckett	11th October	..... Mrs Clifford
Mrs Smith	18th October	..... Mrs Millyard
Mrs Farbrace	25th October	..... Mrs Farbrace
Mrs Hogben	1st November	..... Mrs Hogben

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

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Mr. S.R. Pike, 12 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JY (830708)
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):
Organist (Patrixbourne): 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)

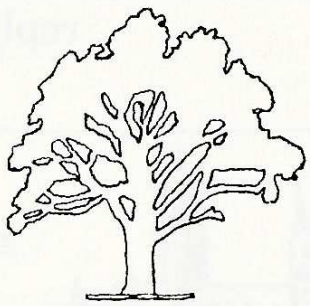
BEKESBOURNE

Churchwardens: Mr. J. Purchese, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (830937)
Mr. N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)
Hon Secretary: Mr. J. Purchese, 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. David Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne CT4 5HA (830659)

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.

J.B. Gardener



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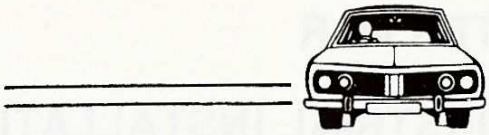

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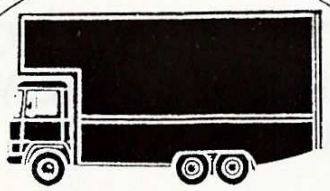

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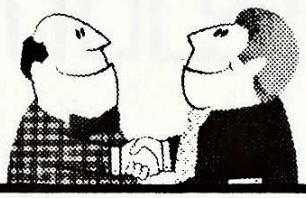

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Sunday Worship in November

Bridge	Patrixbourne	Bekesbourne
1st		
11am Family Service	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong		
(Canon F.S. Bull)		
8th:		
9.30 The Eucharist	10.55 Matins	8am Holy Communion
(ASB Rite A)	*(Revd. C. Verity)*	
10.55 *Remembrance Service*		
6.30pm Evensong		
15th:		
9.30 Parish Communion	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
(ASB Rite A)		
6.30pm Evensong		
22nd:		
8am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion	11am Matins
6.30pm Choral Evensong		
29th:		
9.30 The Eucharist	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
(ASB Rite A)		
6.30pm Evensong		
6th December:		
11am Family Gift Service	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong		

Remembrance Sunday, 8th November: *In response to a request from the Bridge Branch of the Royal British Legion a special Remembrance Service will be held in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on the morning of Remembrance Sunday. Though timed for 11 o'clock it will in fact commence with a wreath-laying and the two minutes silence at the War Memorial in the Churchyard, where we shall assemble at 10.55am. This does not affect the other services on 8th November, but please note that Matins at Patrixbourne begins at 10.55, so that the silence can be kept in church on the stroke of eleven.*

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *1st*, Miss E.A.H. Tresidder, Ph.D. *8th*, Mr. L. Dron. *15th, Holy Communion*, The Revd. Sheila Foreman. *22nd*, The Revd. John Turner, B.A. *29th*, Miss K.J. Knight.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Bridge every Wednesday *(BCP)* at 9.30am and Fridays *(ASB Rite A)* at 7.30am, also at Churchill House on the first Wednesday at 10.15am. A short Act of Worship for the residents is held each Wednesday afternoon at 2.30pm in The New Close.

For your diary and prayer list

1st **All Saints' Day** *Trinity 20* *8th Sunday before Christmas*

2nd *Commemoration of All Souls*
3rd *Richard Hooker, Teacher & sometime Rector of Bishopsbourne, 1600*
5th Prayer for Health & Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm
7th Bridge Guides Jumble Sale, Village Hall, 10am
8th **Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity** *Remembrance Sunday*
See Service Rota for details of a special Remembrance Service.
11th *St. Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397 (See article below)*
12th Interchurch Meeting, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
15th **Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity** *6 before Christmas*
16th *St. Margaret of Scotland, Queen, Wife, Mother, 1093*
17th *St. Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680 & St. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200*
19th Prayer for Health & Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm
20th *St. Edmund of East Anglia, King, Martyr, 870*
21st The New Close Coffee Morning, 10.00 - 11.45am
22nd **Sunday next before Advent** *5 before Christmas*
24th Pray for the Deanery Clergy, who meet in Chapter this morning.
25th Bridge School Governors meet this afternoon.
28th ***Bekesbourne Church & Brownies Christmas Market***, Village Hall, 2.15
(See display on page 13 for details)
29th **Advent Sunday**
30th **Saint Andrew the Apostle**

A site less frequented!

One of the highlights of our September holiday was the chance to pray at the tomb of St. Martin, whose feast day falls on the 11th of this month. We found ourselves with an hour to spend in the French city of Tours and had to decide between a visit to the cathedral or to St. Martin's basilica: they are quite a distance apart. We opted for the latter for the simple reason that it houses the tomb of the city's most illustrious bishop, a man who rightly takes his place in the calendar of Christian saints and who is renowned for his interesting and intensely spiritual life.

* * *

St. Martin, a soldier's son, was born in what is now Hungary and brought up in Italy, at Pavia. As a young officer at Amiens he gave half his cloak to a naked beggar, in whom he was led to recognize Christ, and this act, which is all most people know about St. Martin of Tours, was followed soon afterwards by his baptism.

About 339 AD he asked for discharge from the army, for, he said, "I am Christ's soldier; I am not allowed to fight". Accused of cowardice, he retorted by offering to stand unarmed between the opposing lines. However, he was given his discharge, and lived for a time in Italy before becoming an island recluse. In 360 he became one of St. Hilary's clergy at Poitiers, south of Tours, and founded the first monastery in Gaul. He was made Bishop of Tours in 370 or 371 and lived in a solitary place nearby, which soon developed into another monastery, Marmoutier. His example and encouragement led to the establishment of other communities elsewhere.

St. Martin was an extremely active missionary, his preaching being reinforced by his reputation as a wonder-worker; he penetrated into the

remotest parts of his diocese and beyond its borders, on foot, on donkey-back, or by water.

As an evangelizer of rural Gaul and the father of monasticism in France St. Martin of Tours was a figure of great importance and his fame spread far and wide. He was one of the first holy men who was not a martyr to be publicly venerated as a saint, and his influence was felt from Ireland to Africa and the East. In England many churches are dedicated to his honour, of which St. Martin's here at Canterbury is reputedly the oldest and St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London perhaps the best-known.

* * *

We found it a most moving experience to be physically so near one who, chronologically speaking, could not be more remote. It was particularly fortuitous that we had the entire shrine to ourselves: an added privilege!

St. Martin's basilica is a comparatively new building, erected at right-angles to its predecessor and in such a position that the saint's tomb remains on its original spot, and it is just possible, through a pair of red glass windows, to see the slab that covers them. The tomb is illuminated by subdued electric lighting, just too dim to pick out the lettering on it. If you ever find yourself at Tours it is well worth visiting the final resting-place of the mortal remains of the fourth century St. Martin of Tours, one of the truly holy sites of Europe.

Sponsored cycle ride The results

Bekesbourne

Jill Gillanders and Christine Ash, the organisers, write to thank the three intrepid riders who did the Sponsored Ride for Bekesbourne Church back in September.

Vicky, who is the grand-daughter of Anne Barnes, was staying in the village on holiday, and together with Marion Trudghill they both did extremely well competing with Ian Gillanders to raise a total of £90. Grateful thanks are expressed to all the sponsors and to John Purchese for manning the church.

Bridge

Kath Pierce writes: The Sponsored Cycle Ride was a resounding success once again. Bridge Church produced thirteen cyclists and one walker this year, and between them they raised the magnificent sum of £232·42 in sponsor money, of which half has already come back to church funds.

They visited between six and twenty-six churches that day, and one stalwart, Rosalind Waller, not only raised the most money and visited twenty-two churches, she walked the distance of **twenty miles**! One young lad unfortunately had a puncture, but apart from that all enjoyed their day and didn't notice the rain.

Let us give a big thank-you to them all for their splendid effort: Pamela and Peter Elgar, Joan Hill of Renville Oast, Erwin Meyboom, Stephen and Hilary Pike and their daughters Elizabeth and Katie, Rosalind Waller, David Waters, Andrew and Ian Whatley, Ailsa Williamson, Enid Wintle—quite an age range.

One hundred and thirty-six cyclists visited Bridge Church during the day, some had cycled from as far as Herne Bay, Whitstable, Margate and Dover. Those who arrived at noon witnessed a delightful wedding. Thanks are due to the helpers who manned the church during the day.

Patrixbourne

Rosalie Stacey reports: The final contributions are now in and Patrixbourne can feel pleased that a total of £197·30 was collected by its small band of cyclists. Some contributions have come in from as far away as Scotland. We especially want to thank Miss Joan Carpenter and Mrs. Marion Harlow who raised more than half the total. I would like to thank all those who contributed to a successful day, with an especial thank-you to my co-organiser Mrs. Andrea Nicholson.

Bekesbourne Christmas Market

You will see from the display in this issue that the annual combined Church and Brownie Christmas Market at Bekesbourne Village Hall is on Saturday, 28th of this month at 2.15pm.

Mrs. Zan Clifford has kindly agreed to spearhead the pre-market arrangements and would be appreciative of any help you can give, either before or on the day. She particularly requests items for sale, cakes and tombola prizes. Give her a call on 830328!

Interchurch meeting

It is difficult to find an ideal title for this ecumenical meeting that is held at regular intervals in Bridge Methodist Church. Calling it a 'group' might imply a clique, but it most certainly is not. Quite simply it is an *ad hoc* assembly of people from the different churches represented in the village, who meet in order to become better acquainted, to discuss points of mutual concern, not necessarily to do with Christian unity, and of course to pray together.

The invitation to come along to the next gathering on **Thursday, 12th November** in the Methodist Church, Patrixbourne Road at 7.30pm is for everyone, and we very much hope you will accept. The meeting generally lasts for about an hour and a half.

The next meeting is by way of being a special one, since it will be the first time the new Methodist minister, the Revd. Sheila Foreman has been with us. We hope this will be an added inducement to come along and share a pleasant evening of fellowship.

Joys and a sorrow

Harvest Festival weekend at Bridge got under way on Friday, 2nd October with a quite splendid Harvest Supper and Barn Dance in the school hall. The food was excellent, warmest thanks to the providers, the company most congenial and the dancing far more fun (be honest!) than any of us really expected.

We were expertly and patiently taught the various dances by Alf Matthews

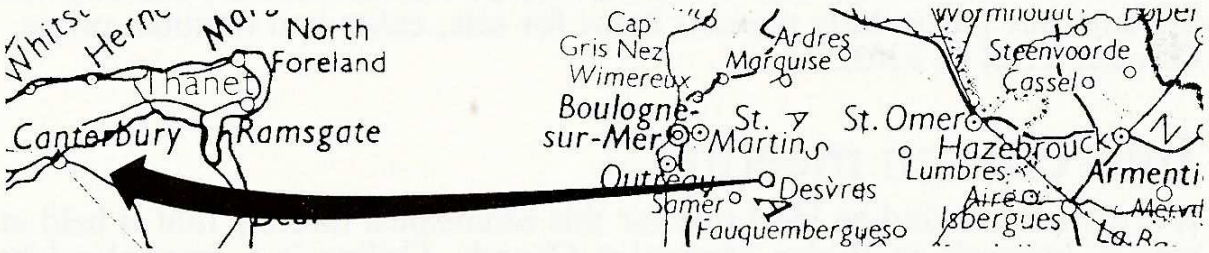
—a true *afficionado* of the folk dance world. The music was provided by the Street End Folk, a combination that defies anyone not to get on their feet. If this is what Bridge Folk Dance Group enjoys twice a month in the village hall I am amazed they are not inundated with members.

The celebrations continued on the Sunday morning with a packed church at the 11 o'clock Family Service. We sang the traditional harvest hymns, the children brought their beautifully arranged offerings and the occasion was taken to admit to the Christian family through baptism **Richard Alan Philpott**, the infant son of Paul and Teresa (née Harvey). It was most fitting that the christening of the Guide Captain's firstborn should be witnessed by Bridge Guides and Brownies, who were there in force.

Harvest Evensong, with full choir in attendance, gave us the opportunity to welcome as preacher Canon Peter Brett from the cathedral. It was altogether a memorable weekend.

* * *

Friends in Patrixbourne and Bekesbourne were saddened by the passing of Mrs. **Evelyn (Bubbles) Hawkins**, formerly of Bifrons Road, but lately of Churchill Close. A service in St. Mary's Church, Patrixbourne on 8th October, conducted by Canon Frank Bull, was followed by cremation at Barham. We offer sincerest sympathy to Mr. Hawkins and his family.



A Deanery link

For several years now the clergy of East Bridge Deanery have been in regular contact with the deanery of Desvres, France, *i.e.* the area around Boulogne. The form this takes is two-way visits at approximately six monthly intervals, designed to cement a growing relationship with a comparable deanery just across the Channel.

The latest get-together took place last month, when a party of five came to this deanery. They consisted of three priests, one being the 'rural dean' of Desvres, and a married couple (their daughter spent last Christmas with us at the vicarage and took part in the offertory procession at the Midnight Eucharist). Their arrival was delayed due, need I say, to bad weather, so the programme we had mapped out for them had to be shortened. We began at Parsonage Farm, Bekesbourne (they are very agriculturally minded) where we were given a most hospitable welcome by John and Christine Ash. Then it was on to Nonington vicarage for lunch, the fruits of several vicarage larders, with a tempting selection of eleven English cheeses.

In the ensuing discussion we exchanged information on our respective rôles and our guests spoke of the changing attitudes on the part of the laity of Northern France towards the curé. Not surprisingly, the Channel tunnel cropped up, the French clergy's view being that, though still against it, they must accept it as inevitable as respond accordingly. It is nearer to being a reality there than here, digging having already started.

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Junior Church news

Reports from the Junior Church leaders indicate how greatly God is blessing this work with our children, as this conflation of their reports shows.

There are currently fifty-four children attending Junior Church, joyous news in one respect but sad in that they can no longer meet in the Methodist Church. This happy work of co-operation with our Methodist friends has gone on throughout Junior Church's history, but with so many children and the need for enough space so that one age group does not encroach upon another, it has been necessary to move their sphere of operation to the less salubrious environs of the village hall. We are most grateful for the Methodists' hospitality in the past and are confident that although this particular piece of unity must end, relationships with each other will continue to mature at other levels.

One of the reasons for this increase in numbers has been the creation of an extra group, to continue instruction for children from ten-years old until the age of confirmation, which is generally thirteen. We are most appreciative of Mrs. Christine Sladden's willingness to look after the older children and wish her and them well in this extension of Junior Church's work.

* * *

On 13th September Junior Church enjoyed a very pleasant day on the hop farm at Beltring, Paddock Wood. What started off as a very dull and rainy morning turned out to be a very enjoyable day, and some thirty adults and twenty-eight children were able to see various craft centres, pets, museums, shire horses, a video on hops, a flower festival, pottery and also take a walk on the nature trail.

Three children, on their own initiative, decided to organise a sponsored

'stair-run'. This involved running up and down three flights of stairs ten times: whatever will they think of next?! All managed to complete the course successfully, and between them raised £21·90 for the *Church of England Children's Society*. Jolly well done all who ran and all who sponsored them! Next time, let *us* in on the act: you'll make more money that way.

The leaders would like to thank all those who gave up their valuable time to collect for the *Cancer Research Campaign*, and all who gave to it. In Bridge alone they raised the marvellous sum of £179·07.

On The Nail Noticeboard

Bridge Folk Dance Group

We would like to thank the organisers of the Harvest Supper and Barn Dance for a super evening. I'm sure everyone enjoyed it as much as we did. If so, why not come along to our meetings on Thursday, 5th and 19th November, and learn some more 'easy little dances'. Please come along to the Village Hall on those dates at 8 o'clock, now you know how patient Alf our caller really is. Enquiries 830285 or 830652. *J.H.*

* * *

Bridge Guides

Bridge Guides are holding a Jumble Sale in the Village Hall at 10am on Saturday, 7th November. Jumble should be left at the hall between 6.30pm and 8pm on Friday, 6th or by *9am* on the Saturday. If any jumble needs collecting, please leave a message at the Village Shop, but please **do not** leave jumble there. Many thanks for your support!

The Divisional Swimming Gala was held at Kingsmead on Saturday, 3rd October. Bridge Guides entered a team which included Sarah Howland, Sarah Field, Katherine Fairweather, Paula Dickenson, Emma Field, Marie Coppins and Vanessa Fisher. Our District (Canterbury Rural) won the cup, with Bridge Guides winning every event they entered. Four Guides will be swimming for Canterbury Division in the County Swimming Gala at Kingsmead on Saturday, 17th October.

M.S.F.

* * *

The New Close

A coffee morning in aid of the Amenities Fund will be held at The New Close on Saturday, 21st November from 10am till 11.45am. Gifts for the cake stall, bric-à-brac, books, etc will be appreciated. Christmas wrapping paper and crackers will be on sale. *O.I. Knight*

* * *

Kent Trust for Nature Conservation

The annual Christmas Sales Stall will be held at 9 High Street, Bridge on Saturday and Sunday 28th and 29th November, 10am to 6pm, and Monday, 7th December to Sunday, 13th December 2 - 6pm. Everyone welcome! *D. Whittaker*

Bridge Church Lady Chapel

The coffee morning to raise donations for refurbishment of the Lady Chapel brought in £200; so very many thanks to all those who supported it or sent contributions. We shall put this to use immediately, but there is plenty to be done, such as disguising the Victorian heating pipes and hopefully improving the lighting, so please do not consider the fund is closed. *A.P. and A.W.*

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

There was an excellent turnout on the 5th October at Bishopsbourne for the first meeting of the season which took the form of a Competition and Quiz evening. Mr. W. Hopkins was presented with the shield for the heaviest pumpkin, Mrs. L. Sinnock received the cup for the 'Most Picturesque Garden', judged this year in September, and Mr. R. Austin won the quiz.

K.A.W.

A Swiss visitor to Bridge

At the end of September St. Peter's, Bridge registered a 'first' in having a Swiss pastor to preach at Evensong. Pfarrer (*i.e.* Pastor) Urs Joerg of the Reformed Church in Switzerland was on a visit to Canterbury, together with a group of German reformed pastors from his neighbourhood, as part of the Continental Church exchange with this diocese. We aim to meet in each others' countries every two years: you may remember my visit to Basel in 1985.

Having enjoyed the hospitality of Urs and his charming family on that occasion it was a pleasure to welcome him to our home in Bridge. It was particularly good to have him visit the school for the Friday assembly and as preacher on the Sunday—his English is impeccable. At the end of the service he gave the blessing in German.

The exchange continued on the Monday whenRosemary and I formed part of the group on a visit to the British Council of Churches in London and for a trip down the Thames as far as the flood barrier. We had two further days of talks at St. Gabriel's, Westgate, ending with a memorable eucharist on the Wednesday evening.

This exchange, designed to foster relationships between our two churches, is proving most valuable, and Rosemary and I feel privileged to have a share in it.

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council News

Bridge Parish Council

The first major item discussed at the Parish Council meeting on Thursday 8th October was the recent disturbances which had occurred in the Village High Street during the early hours of Sunday, 27th September at the time when people were leaving Bridge Place Country Club. The Chairman, Cllr John Hill, stated that he had received a number of letters as a result of that evening and that he had contacted those parishioners most affected by it. He said that the general feeling was that people were very

concerned at the disturbances in the village, not only on that particular evening, but generally on weekend nights and looked for greater Police presence on these evenings. Cllr. Mrs. Billie Anderson gave examples of the type of disturbance and nuisances which the village was subjected to, adding that although there had always been a problem with noise on these evenings, the situation had greatly deteriorated over the last year. Sgt. R. Mortley, the Rural Police Sergeant, who was in attendance at the meeting at the request of the Parish Council, explained the situation from the Police aspect and advised on the positive action which the Police were now taking as a result. The Clerk was to send copies of the letters received to the Police Superintendent at Canterbury expressing on behalf of parishioners the Parish Council's great concern at the disturbances in the village arising particularly when people leaving the Country Club passed through the village and, at the same time, thanking him for the action the Police were taking, which the Parish Council hoped would be maintained.

Recreation Ground The Council heard that the banks of the Nailbourne had been sown with grass seed and expressed thanks to Mr. B. Whiting for his voluntary help in this task. The Council were informed of letters received requesting the installation of safety surfaces around the playground equipment and Cllr. David Heap added that there was general concern being expressed that the Council should take such action. Cllr. Heap was to look at the use of composted bark as an alternative to the astroturf which he had already investigated. Mr. P. Sinnock, Chairman of Bridge Juniors F.C., who was present at the meeting, drew the Council's attention yet again to the state of the Ground which was badly fouled by dogs and to the danger it posed to the many youngsters of the Club and of the village who played there, as well as to the other sportsmen using the Recreation Ground. Members expressed their disgust at owners allowing their dogs to foul that area, particularly when there was alternative open space where dogs could be exercised around the village, and the Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of making a Byelaw.

Village Hall The installation of the new gas central heating system was to commence on Wednesday, 14th October. Cllr. Ken. Greenaway was thanked for repairing and strengthening the rear doors to the hall.

Planning The Council raised no objection to an application for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of nine terraced two-bedroom houses with car parking at John Knight & Son's Builders Yard, Bridge. Planning permission had been granted by the City Council for a change of use from dwelling to home for the elderly and the erection of single storey extensions at 30 Western Avenue.

Telephone Kiosk Details of the telephone kiosk outside the Post Office were to be sent to the City Council for considereration in their negotiations with British Telecom with a view to it being retained rather than replaced with a modern equivalent.

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

Finally, would anyone wishing to contact the Clerk please note that her new address is 17 Union Road, Bridge, tel: 830057.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

Fish News

On 5th October Luncheon Club members celebrated the club's seventh birthday with a splendid meal. We would like to thank the catering staff, not only for this delicious meal but for all the other good meals they provide. May I add my thanks to the drivers and volunteers for their support, which makes the whole project possible? Could I appeal again for a few more people to come forward to replace those who have moved away or had to give up?

Mr. Welsh, our chiropodist since 1983, is moving to Maidstone at the end

of November. Many people will want to join me in sending our thanks to him for the skill, care and kindness he has shown during his time with us. If any alterations have to be made in appointment times during the change-over period, patients will be notified as soon as possible.

Our knitters are keeping up a steady flow of garments for the WRVS clothes store for our local children in need. Our raffle at the October Pop-In raised £14 to buy wool. We are always pleased to welcome new knitters and are grateful for any wool you have to spare.

The next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 11th November in Bridge Village Hall from 10.15 to 11.45am.

Joan Warren (830233)

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

Mrs Hogben	1st November	..... Mrs Hogben
Mrs Watson	8th November	..... Mrs Whigham
Mrs Russell	15th November	..... Mrs Russell
Mrs Grey	22nd November	..... Mrs Skinner
Mrs Beckett	29th November	*No Flowers in Advent*

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

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Mr. S.R. Pike, 12 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JY (830708)
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):
Organist (Patrixbourne): 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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Churchwardens: Mr. J. Purchese, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (830937)
Mr. N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)
Hon Secretary: Mr. J. Purchese, 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. David Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne CT4 5HA (830659)

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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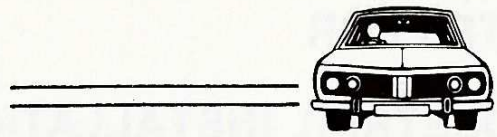

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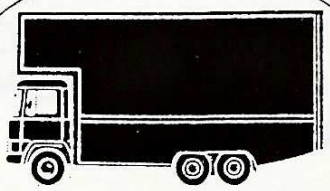

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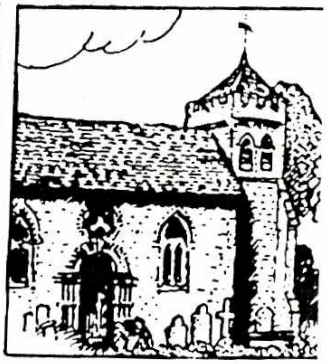
On the Nail



Bekesbourne

Patrixbourne

Bridge

A MAGAZINE FOR THE VILLAGES ALONG THE NAILBOURNE

December 1987 25p

Sunday Worship in December

Bridge	Patrixbourne	Bekesbourne
6th:		
11am Family Gift Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
13th:		
9.30 The Eucharist *(ASB Rite A)* 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
20th:		
9.30 Parish Communion *(ASB Rite A)* 6.30pm *Carol Service*	11am *Carol Service*	8am Holy Communion
27th:		
No Services today	9am Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion
3rd January:		
11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

The Carol Service at Patrixbourne this year is on Sunday morning, 20th. To accommodate it the services and service times there and at Bekesbourne are interchanged on 13th and 20th: see above.
On the Sunday after Christmas, 27th, the only services will be celebrations of the Holy Communion in Bekesbourne and Patrixbourne Churches at 8 and 9am respectively.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *6th*, Mr J. Whalan. *13th, Holy Communion,* The Revd Sheila Foreman. *20th*, Miss D. Rosman, Ph.D. *27th*, Mr E. R. O'Mahony.

Weekdays The usual Wednesday and Friday celebrations of Holy Communion will be held, except on Christmas Day. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 2nd at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, except on 16th when there will instead be a Carol Service at 7pm.

For your diary and prayer list

3rd Prayer for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
6th **Second Sunday in Advent**
7th *St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan*
9th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall
10th Magazine Distributors Meeting, Methodist Church, 2.30pm
Bridge Parish Council meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
Hospital League of Friends Whist Drive, Bekesbourne Village Hall, 7.30pm
12th ***Bridge & Patrixbourne Christmas Market***, Village Hall, 2pm
13th **Third Sunday in Advent**
14th *St. John of the Cross, Mystic, Teacher, 1591*
15th Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC meeting. Methodist Church, 7.30pm

16th Carol Service at The New Close, 7pm
17th Prayer for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
Junior Church will be carol singing between 6 and 8pm. Please welcome them!
20th **Fourth Sunday in Advent**
Carol Services today are in St. Mary's, Patrixbourne at 11am and St. Peter's, Bridge by candlelight at 6.30pm. Also today Junior Church presents its Nativity Play in Bridge Village Hall at 4pm.
24th **Christmas Eve** } *See details*
25th **CHRISTMAS DAY** } *below*
26th **St. Stephen the First Martyr**
27th **First Sunday after Christmas**
(See service rota above for changes to the usual fourth Sunday pattern)
28th **Holy Innocents**
29th **St. John the Evangelist**
St. Thomas of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170

Christmas Services

St. Peter's Bridge

Christmas Eve	Christingle Service with Blessing of the Crib	4pm
	Midnight Eucharist *(The Vicar)*	11.30pm
Christmas Day	Holy Communion *(The Vicar)*	8.00am
	The Eucharist with Carols *(Revd. W. Owen)*	10.30am

St. Mary's, Patrixbourne

Christmas Day	Holy Communion with Carols *(The Vicar)*	9.30am

St. Peter's, Bekesbourne

Christmas Eve	Midnight Eucharist *(Canon F. Bull)*	11.30pm
Christmas Day	Family Carol Service *(The Vicar)*	11.00am

Collections will be made at all Christmas services. Those at Bridge and Patrixbourne will be given to The Church of England Children's Society and Save the Children Fund.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION AT HOME

Those who are unable to make their communion this Christmas through ill-health or incapacity can be communicated at home from the reserved sacrament by prior arrangement with the vicar. Please do not hesitate to contact him about this.

Keep Christ in Christmas

The sentiments expressed in the poem by William Carr that features elsewhere in this issue of *On The Nail* trouble many thinking Christian people at this time of year. Is there a genuine likelihood of the masses so embracing the tinselly, commercial side of Christmas that they forget or choose to ignore what the season properly celebrates?

This is a view periodically aired in such articles as this, in an attempt to redress what is seen as an imbalance in the annual seasonal observances. True, the secular side of Christmas appears to be thrust at us ever earlier with the passage of the years, and to build up to a fortissimo of inducement to buy and over-indulge, in which each year outstrips its predecessor. But is this invariably at the expense of the true Christian feats?

Someone was once heard to remark that "they're even trying now to bring religion into Christmas". If that really was said, then it looks as if things are indeed getting out of hand; or maybe Christian efforts to reintroduce Christ into Christmas were actually beginning to penetrate the sacred precincts of commerce. No-one wants to be a kill-joy—at least I don't—but it is a fact that Christmas stuffed full of good cheer, but without recognition of its true meaning, is far less enjoyable than one religiously observed, as witness those continental countries that manage to keep a sense of proportion in these affairs. One way a more Christ-filled Christmas could be painlessly achieved is by following their example and divorcing the present-exchanging business from Christmas and transfering it to either St. Nicholas'-tide (6th December) or the Epiphany (6th January). Some hope, of course! In the meantime we shall just have to make the best of it and keep our own particular Christmas as a religious feast first and a calorific one second. I can recommend this as the remedy for a much better Christmas than perhaps we are used to!

A seventeenth century in twentieth century Bridge

Anyone in the vicinity of St. Peter's Church, Bridge on the afternoon of Saturday, 24th October could have been forgiven for wondering if they were at the mercy of a time-machine that had got its wires crossed. There was quite a crowd outside the church, most of whom wore costume of seventeenth century England. Some of the men carried enormous pikes, others had swords, drums and even firing pieces. Two musketeers kept guard either side of the church door.

No, it wasn't a film crew or the telly that had brought them to Bridge Church, but the wedding of Nicholas and Jacqueline Adams of 61a High Street. The secret behind the seventeenth century dress is that both bride and groom are keen and, from the size of the turnout, popular members of *The Sealed Knot*, a society that meets to re-enact campaigns in the Civil War—that fascinating period of our history when King Charles I had been beheaded and Cromwell held sway over The Commonwealth. The company at the wedding was greatly reinforced by a whole coachload of kindred spirits from Germany, who had come especially for the occasion. Those in modern dress seemed the odd ones out for a change.

In case anyone thinks it was all wrong and a lampoon let me assure them, nothing could have been further from the truth. This was no fancy-dress parade but a very serious wedding that everyone present treated as such. The service took place in as reverent an atmosphere as I have known—a good deal more reverent than many, I might add—and it was a great joy to officiate at Nick and Jackie's wedding. If their wedding service is anything to go by they should enjoy a colourful, happy and purposeful life together. We wish them very well!

DOROTHY HOWELLS

Old freinds, particularly from her Bridge Down days, were saddened by the passing of Mrs. Dorothy Howells of Western Avenue, widow of Raymond Howells.

Dorothy had gone to stay with her niece in Norwich and died while she was there. A gentle person, the frailty of increasing age coupled with blindness kept her indoors a great deal, although on warm days it was always a joy to see her out for an occasional stroll in the village. She was a keen reader so the loss of her sight made time hang heavily and she lamented the isolation from the world of books and newspapers. May she rest in the peace of her Lord, joyfully reunited with her beloved Ray!

A heartfelt thank-you

The following, from Steve and Mary Sutton and children Matthew and Anna, speaks for itself.

It is now nearly six months since our darling baby Hilary died. During this time we have been very grateful for the wonderful kindness shown to the family by the village in our pain. It has been difficult to express our thanks but we wanted to say how much every kindness has been treasured and will never be forgotten.

Special thanks are due to Elizabeth Stewart and Rosemary Bodger and their families. They, like us, lost a baby and relived their sadness in supporting us.

As you may know, like Alison and Tom no one seems to know why Hilary died. Our only hope now is to support the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths. If an answer can be found, families in the future may be spared such sadness.

Junior Church at Christmas

As if they didn't do enough already, the hardworking leaders of Junior Church are steering the children through a busy programme in celebration of the coming festival. Do give them every support in the following events.

* * *

Most of their time is being taken up with preparations for the annual Nativity Play on Sunday 20th December at 4pm. Because lots of people complained they couldn't see in the church, the play this year will be in Bridge Village Hall. This may mean fewer will be able to attend, since the hall holds far less than the church, but we can't have it both ways. Can I plead with everyone though, not to complain to the leaders if this new venue isn't satisfactory either? They are

trying to be accommodating. Instead, let *me* know what you think and whether in the end you would not opt for clarity and atmosphere with limited visibility, as against limited audience space and no atmosphere.

* * *

On Thursday evening, 17th, the children will be going carol singing between 6 and 8pm. If they call on you be sure to give them a good welcome, although it is unlikely they will be able to cover a very large area.

* * *

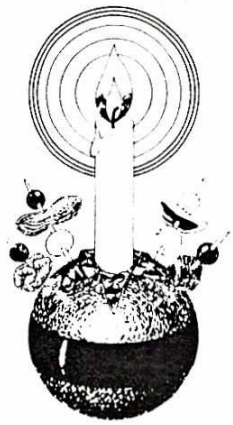
Though not specifically a Junior Church occasion it is from them that the idea came of holding a Christingle Service on Christmas Eve afternoon. The service is at 4 o'clock and will also include the Blessing of the Crib, previously done at the start of the Midnight Eucharist. Christingles will be provided and the children will be presenting purses of money, which will go to the work of *The Church of England Children's Society*. I hope many will be able to spare the time from seasonal preparations to join this new venture, which should provide a gentle and pleasant start to the festivities.

On The Nail Noticeboard

The *Canterbury Diocesan Association for the Deaf* would appreciate our support on the occasion of their Christmas Bazaar. It is from 10am till 12 noon in the Longport Hall, Canterbury on Saturday, 5th December. There will be a raffle (over forty prizes), cake stall, produce, gifts, crafts, white elephant, etc., and coffee and tea are available. If anyone would like to donate a gift for any of the stalls these can be handed in at Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green. Or 'phone the Revd. Tony Old on either 459401 or 65816, and he will arrange collection.

* * *

The Bridge branch of the *League of Friends* has a whist drive in Bekesbourne Village Hall on Thursday, 10th December at 7.30pm. Light refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle. All are welcome!



Christingle—the light of Christ

"Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of Christ the Saviour." *(ASB p.248)*

A Christingle symbolizes the world we live in and the love Christ showed by his life on earth. The orange represents the world, four cocktail sticks stand for the four seasons of the year and the fruit and sweets they carry are the fruits of the earth and the food we eat. The red ribbon round the orange reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for us and the candle represents the Light of the World.

CANTERBURY DIOCESAN
ISSN 0260-9924
December 1987
NEWS SERVICE

GOD WITH US

THE DOVER PASSAGE

The Cathedral Crib

The mediaeval church of SS Cosmas & Damian, Challock, deserted by its village since the Black Death and on no main road since eighteenth century landlords took the highway into their expanding estates, was wonderfully enhanced in the post-war years by an extensive series of murals painted by the local artist and Royal Academician John Ward. He chose as his theme the main events of the gospel story but set them in the local landscape and peopled them with the parishioners of today. Here is Christ baptised in a tributary of the Kentish Stour. Here he preaches to folk who might be on their way to shop in Canterbury. Here is Christ, incarnate among us.

I am reminded of the Challock wall-paintings every Christmas as the crib makes its reappearance in the Cathedral. Here again is the work of a local artist, Gordon Davies of Hastingleigh, who has set the nativity in farm buildings which could be at home in any Downland or Wealden village.

Such pictures help us, perhaps, to recognise the earthiness of the gospel story and to grasp that Bethlehem, Galilee and Calvary are real places; that God's coming is history and not a fairy tale. It is good to be shown the wonder of every day things so easily missed. How many of us recognise the beauty of that ancient tree only now that the October hurricane has taken it away?

Yet the reality of the presence of God, it seems to me, is much more matter of fact. William Blake wonders: "And did those feet in ancient times walk upon England's mountains green?"—and the truthful, historical answer is NO! But to recognise his path and to build his new Jerusalem among "the dark satanic mills", is practical, committed discipleship.

This decade does not lack for men of vision and prophetic courage who confront us with the implications of the gospel. We would much prefer at Christmas time to have a respite from *Faith in the City* and to forget the poverty and degradation of our inner cities, along with the wars and rumours of wars in the Gulf and other distant places, the oppressed races of Africa, and the world's starving millions. But that would be to turn aside from the place where the incarnate God is in reality to be found.

If we spend our lives clothing religion with make-believe and choosing to be deaf to the world, we approach the moment when we may have to say: "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry, or thirsty, or naked, or ill, or in prison, and did nothing for you?"

+ Richard Dover

GOSPEL AND CULTURE

USPG is organising a conference entitled *Gospel and Culture*, January 1st - 3rd, 1988 at All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney. Seminar Groups include 'Black Britain', 'A Gospel for Britain's Inner Cities' and 'Using Dance to express Spirituality'. Phone USPG Christians Aware for details: 01-928 8681.

LENT 88

WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU?

This is the national theme for Lent '88 when local radio stations will use the same basic study booklet of the same name.

BBC Radio Kent will present a series on Thursday evenings during Lent from 8.00pm to 9.00pm when groups will be left to continue their discussions.

The weekly themes and speakers will be as follows:—

February 25th ***I'm being framed***: How do we see people? Speaker: Lord Longford.

March 3rd ***The Generation Game***: Relationship in the family. Speaker Michele Guinness, Author and Broadcaster.

March 10th ***Inside out***: Who belongs and who doesn't? Speaker: Adrian Plass, TV Presenter and Author of *The Sacred Diary of Adrian Plass.*

March 17th ***Little and Large***: Think wide, act local. Speaker: Max Peberdy, Training Officer with OXFAM and Author of *Third World Conumdrum.*

March 24th ***Be seeing you***: A look back over the previous sessions with a Studio Panel.

Listening groups will be invited to 'phone in and to write to the Radio Station. Order forms for Study Books, Posters, Notes for Group Leaders and Cassettes will soon be available. For further information contact Alan Dawkins.

Lambeth Talk

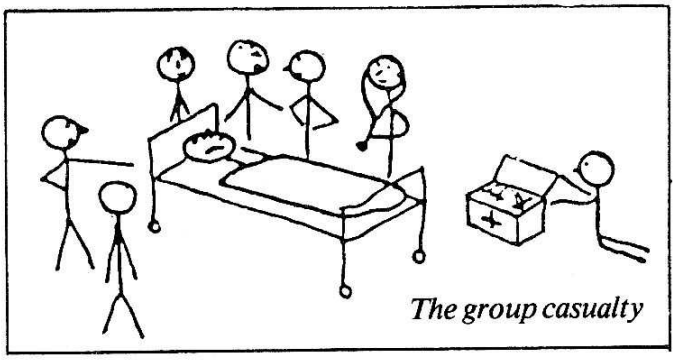
Twelve deaneries or clergy chapters have so far booked the video introduction to Lambeth '88 *The Call.* Orders are still coming in for the Canterbury Diocesan *Lambeth Conference Special* and about 25,000 copies have been distributed. The discussion material prepared by the Tait Missioner, is also available.

If you would like a copy of the special inset prepared by the Board of Mission and Unity and the Partnership for World Mission, please contact the Diocesan Office. *Lambeth '88 in your Church* includes the basis for a visual display, an outline of the preparatory documents for Lambeth, together with a book list for background reading.

BOOKS

Bishop John Robinson

Canon Eric James has written *A Life of Bishop John Robinson, Scholar Pastor, Prophet.* This biography traces his path from his start as an outstanding student through his time as a Curate in Bristol, to Wells where he was Chaplain at the Theological College. In 1951 he became Dean of Clare College, Cambridge, and in 1959 was consecrated Bishop of Woolwich. A true scholar and original thinker, he had a gift for assimilating and communicating the great theological themes of our time. The biography gives us an insight into the man himself and, remembering his links with Canterbury, there will be many who will be eager to read about the life of this remarkable man. Published by Collins: £15.00



The group casualty

Once upon a Group

Michael Kindred has produced this book, which is aimed at providing a light-hearted approach to a subject that can be quite heavy. It is intended to help us to develop our understanding of what happens in groups. The book contains seventy-one drawings which take a humerous look at situations which occur in groups. Please order from Michael Kindred, 20 Dover Street, Southwell, Nott'shire NG25 0EZ.

All Age Worship

Maggie Durran has had a wide and deep experience of why and how to structure our main act of weekly worship, whether the Eucharist or a Family Service, so that people of all ages can feel involved and contributing. This book offers the way forward to help the congregation use everyone's gifts with a wealth of resources. Published by Angel Press: £7.95.

The Sacrament of the Word

Lord Coggan has written a book which will be essential reading for lay people and clergy. He re-establishes the place of the word in worship and shows how it can reach out to enrich not only our liturgy but our whole lives. A Fount Original: £2.95.

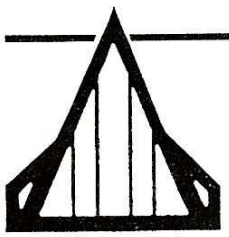
Donald Coggan, Servant of Christ by Margaret Pawley: SPCK 1987. £10.95

This new book, whose subject and whose author have both served Canterbury Diocese so well, should receive a very warm welcome.

Those who came to know and love Donald Coggan after his translation to Canterbury will be interested in the account of his former labours. Especially enlightening are the stories of his childhood and youth, and his heroic days as Principal of the London College of Divinity, when, in the harsh conditions of post-war England he laboured with striking success to revive a college that, when he joined it, hardly existed.

To write about a man whose ministry is not yet finished could not be easy. Margaret Pawley leaves a good deal of interpretation to the reader, though she writes appreciatively of the way an amazing capacity for hard work and an ever-widening sympathy allowed Dr Coggan to transcend the limitations which his upbringing and early education had imposed. She focuses on the Archbishop himself at close range, leaving the task of historical appreciation to her successors. What emerges is the portrait of a man strenuously dedicated to the ministry of Christ, who always set the highest standards for the clergy, and gave himself wholeheartedly to realising those standards in himself.

Kenneth Mason



SCARGILL HOUSE is a Christian Conference and Holiday Centre set in the heart of the magnificent Yorkshire Dales near the village of Kettlewell. It is a spacious country house with accommodation for some ninety guests. Perhaps the real secret of a visit to Scargill House is the dimension added by the community of some forty members. In this homely atmosphere guests find it easy to settle quickly and make new friends. There is a beautiful modern chapel, a library, conference rooms and attractive gardens. There is an annual programme offering holidays, retreats, conferences and opportunities for mini sabbaticals.

'Life in the Dales' weeks offer a chance to learn something about the character of this beautiful part of England and are highly recommended. Why not write to Scargill House, Kettlewell, Skipton, N Yorks BD23 5HU for further details.

Our Diocesan Surveyor, David Clark tells us that 110 Vicarages were damaged by the great storm in October.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Appointments: The Revd Dr **Paul Rampton** (Vicar of St Paul, Maidstone) has been appointed Vicar of St Martin, Maidstone. The Revd **Stephen Warnes** (Vicar of Blean) has been appointed Warden of Readers—this is an additional appointment—to succeed The Revd **Ian Butler** with effect from 1st November 1987.

Retirement: The Revd **Gordon Parlett** (Vicar of Loose) retires on 30th November.

Permission to Officiate: The Revd **Dudley Tizzard**, 61 Robins Avenue, Lenham ME17 2HP. Tel: 0622-850110. The Revd **Geoffrey Newman**, 55 St Mildred's Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RJ.

Permission to Preach: Lt Commander **David Lermitte**, Regional Director, Missions to Seamen, has permission to preach in the Diocese at the invitation of incumbents in connection with his work for the Missions to Seamen.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

This year there will be a unique and special opportunity for young people from Youth Groups from all over Mid, South and East Kent to share together in a ***Christmas Celebration*** in Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday, 10th December. This "Celebration" organised by the Kent Youth and Community Service, with the cooperation of the Diocesan Board of Education, will include—traditional readings and carols; dance and mime; poetry; special guest artists and young musicians who will accompany the the singing.

It is hoped that leaders and members from your group will join us on this special occasion. To make it even more special, and in an affort to present a different and positive image of young people to the people of Canterbury, the "Celebration" will be preceded by a March through Canterbury led by a brass band. We hope there will be several hundred young people singing carols as we walk through the City and even more joining us in the Cathedral. If possible we will make this a torchlight procession.

It is obviously very important for the organisers to know fairly accurately how many people wish to attend the "Celebration" in order that sufficient parking and seating arrangements can be organised.

For further details contact Brian Curtis, Area Youth and Community Service Officer for East Kent on Canterbury 766722 ext 236.

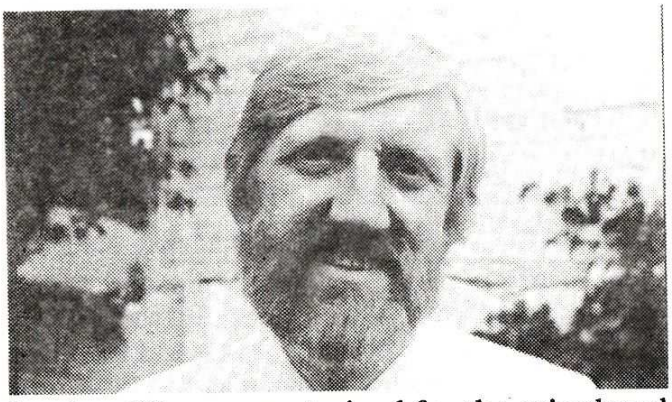
Hail and farewell!

At the beginning of November two important changes occured in the care of Readers in the Diocese.

The Reverend Ian Butler relinquished the post of Warden of Readers to be succeeded by the Reverend Stephen Warnes, and Miss Millington has retired as Assistant Warden with responsibility for academic training to be succeeded by the Reverend Christopher Dent.

There will be an appropriate opportunity to express our gratitude for their work in due course, but all connected with the work of Readers are very appreciative of the major contribution to the life of the Diocese which Ian and Constance have made.

We are delighted to know that Constance is still able to teach Old Testament Studies and wish her well in the important research work in which she is engaged. *+ David Maidstone*



Stephen Warnes was trained for the priesthood at Kelham, and served his title in the parish of St Augustine, Tonge Moor, in the Diocese of Manchester. He worked in South Africa for eighteen years as, among other things, chaplain and lecturer in African Studies at the University of Natal; and also as Provincial Director of Training for Ministries for the CPSA. His wife Pamela is a trained Family Therapist and was a Spiritual Director and teacher of prayer with the Johannesburg Diocesan Institute for the Study of Spirituality. Stephen became Vicar of Blean in May this year.

Diocesan Communications Officer

The Diocese of Canterbury wishes to appoint a full-time Diocesan Communications Officer to be a link between the Diocese and the media and to develop internal communications within the Diocese. The post is open to both clergy and lay applicants who should have a knowledge of Diocesan and Parochial problems and experience in one or more branches of the media. Application forms and detailed job description can be obtained from the Bishop of Dover, Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury CT1 1NQ.

Christopher Dent read history at Kings College, London and theology at Cambridge. He gained a doctorate at Oxford in 16th Century Reformation History and Theology. He was a Curate at Chelsea—"In the swinging 70s", he says, and has a particular interest in theological education and is committed to things ecumenical. The incumbent of Hollingbourne and Hucking with Leeds and Broomfield, he is married to Vanessa who is a Reader, and they have a four-month-old son, Jonathan. As Dean of New College, Oxford, Christopher has had wide experience of caring for students and teaching theology.

DECEMBER IN THE CATHEDRAL

Thur 3	11.15am	Special Schools Carol Service
Sat 5	5.30pm	Evensong
	7.30pm	Concert: Canterbury Choral Society
Wed 9	7.30pm	Geoffrey Chaucer Carol Service
Thur 10	7.30pm	Christmas Celebration—KCC Education Department
Fri 11	7.30pm	St Edmund's School Carol Service
Sat 12	7.30pm	National Children's Home Concert
Mon 14	2.15pm	Simon Langton Boys School Carol Service
	7.00pm	Carol Concert, Canterbury Choral Society
Tue 15	8.30am	University Carol Service
Wed 16	2.30pm	Barton Court School Carol Service
	8.00pm	The King's School Carol Service
Thur 17	7.30pm	Kent College Carol Service
Fri 18	11.30am	- 2.00pm Cathedral closed to visitors
	7.30pm	Concert: Canterbury Cantata Choir
Sat 19	3.15pm	Evensong and Installation of Canon Residentiary
Thur 24	11.00am	Crib Service
	3.00pm	Cathedral Carol Service
	5.00pm	Evensong
Fri 25	10.00am	**CHRISTMAS DAY** Choral Mattins
	11.00am	Sung Eucharist
	3.15pm	Evensong and Carols
Sat 26		**St Stephen the first Martyr**
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.15am	Holy Communion
Sun 27 - Wed 30		Services sung by De Boxtelse Cantorij
Mon 28	8.00am	**Holy Innocents** Holy Communion
	10.15am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Christingle
	4.00pm	Evensong
Tue 29	8.00am	**St Thomas of Canterbury** Holy Comm.
	10.15am	Holy Communion
	3.15pm	Evensong and Procession to Martyrdom
Wed 30	12 noon	Recital: De Boxtelse Cantorij
	3.15pm	Evensong
Thur 31	3.15pm	Evensong sung by the Choir of Pembroke Girls' School, Australia

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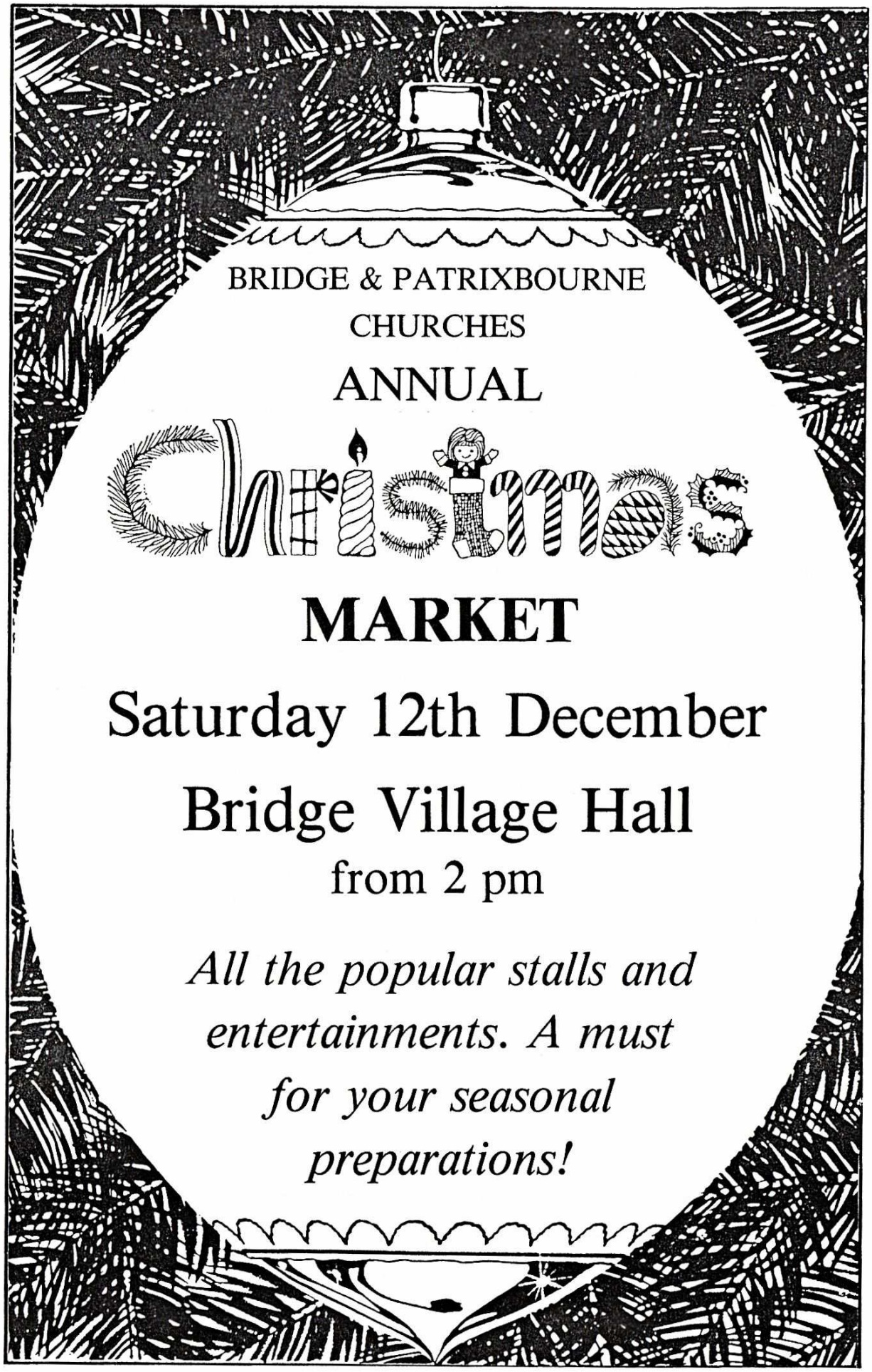
BRIDGE & PATRIXBOURNE
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ANNUAL
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Saturday 12th December
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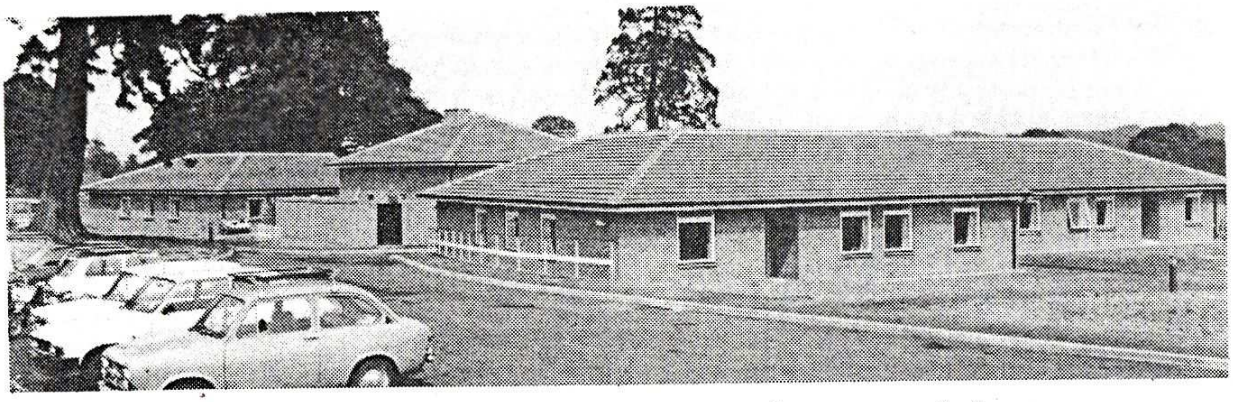
from 2 pm
All the popular stalls and entertainments. A must for your seasonal preparations!



Family Service—6th December at 11am

This month's Family Service at Bridge is the annual occasion on which Christmas presents are brought for the residents of The New Close. Families are invited to do up a small gift suitable for an elderly confused person, and to label it "To —— from (your family name)". Presents will be received at the Family Service by Mr. W. Pearson, the officer in charge, and kept for Christmas Day. Not all the residents are remembered in the normal run of things, so we like to guarantee that everyone has a parcel to open.

If you are wondering what to get, toiletries are always welcome, as are sweets, hankies or small ornaments. For a lady stockings are acceptable but not, please, tights.

Guides' Raven Run '87

by Srah Goff, Paula Dickenson, Susannah Smith, Rebecca Clifton
1st Bridge Guides

We had seven and a half hours to complete the course, which covered an area from Littlebourne to Fordwich. We were given a map, compass and a list of co-ordinates and at 9am were driven in a ricketty old minibus to our staring point.

We had to walk to each co-ordinate given to us, some of which were incident points. These ranged froma BMX obstacle course to finding out how much someone weighed using a see-saw and some containers of water! All incident points were manned by Venture Scouts, who helped us when we had difficulties!!

There were eighteen groups of four scouts or four guides and despite getting lost once, we finished the course and came sixth. We took away with us a certificate, a pennant and lots of happy memories of a wonderful day.

BRIDGE GUIDES held a very successful Jumble Sale and raised over £200 towards much-needed funds. Very many thanks to all who supported us.

M.S.F.

Magazine distributors meeting

The annual get-together of magazine distributors will take place on Thursday, 10th December in the Methodist Church, Patrixbourne Road at 2.30pm. For any with children at school we shall be finished well before 3.30, so I hope we shall have a good turn-out.

Grateful thanks to these good people who see that *On The Nail* drops through our letterbox on time each month.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

At the recent AGM of the Canterbury Branch it was suggested by the Area District Organiser that smaller local branches have in some areas produced excellent fund-raising results, not counting the flag day which is organised by the area branch on a national scale.

Until two years ago I was the Social Events organiser of the Canterbury Branch, and feel that given the support of the residents along the Nailbourne (many of whom I know are connected with the sea for their livelihood) several events might be put on, such as wine and cheese evenings, coffee mornings, film shows, barn dances and sponsorships for various events fopr all age groups. In addition, a closer connection might be established with one of our local lifeboats, either Dover or Walmer, meeting the crew, etc.

I would be pleased to have an informal meeting in the new year with anyone interested, so please contact me at 78b Riverside Close or telephone 831095.

D. Cartwright

Christmas 1961

by William Carr

Is it old age that makes the cheer
Of Christmas seem to be each year
Less pleasing to the spirit than the purse?
Or is it just the troubles of our age
When nations ceaseless warfare wage
That merely makes each Christmas worse?

Each bleak December sees the city's streets
Ablaze with coloured lights, while sweet conceits
Of pseudo-tinselled snow on artificial trees
Are so designed to lead the unwary eye
To windows over-dressed and laden high
With gaudy gifts that only spendthrifts please.

I find no joy this year in choosing gifts
While every tiny caroller who lifts
His voice, soon finds it falling onto ears
Too deaf to hear his plaintive pleas
"O come ye faithful, come" which on the breeze
Had pleased me so in earlier years.

Has Christmas come, as cynics say,
To fleece? Must pray be now spelt prey!
Has man by mammon been enticed?
Or will I when I greet the dawn
Of yet another Christmas morn
Remember Christmas still begins with Christ?

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council News

Bridge Parish Council

At the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday, 12th November members were told that following the Council's letter to Police Superintendent Wright at Canterbury expressing concern at recent disturbances in the High Street, a reply had been received from him in which he stated that increased Police activity would continue in the foreseeable future. Cllr. Mrs. Billie Anderson confirmed that the village had been much quieter on weekend nights.

Recreation Ground The Clerk reported that the City Council were at present investigating the making of bye-laws to control fouling by dogs in public open spaces and that it looked likely that the Recreation Ground could be included in those areas to be covered by the bye-laws. Members were advised however that the process of making and having the byelaws confirmed could take some considerable time.

Streets and Footways The Council were informed that due to a change in the Gas Board's contractor, work in cutting off the old gas main at the corner of Conyngham Lane and the High Street had been delayed. This had resulted in the site being left open for some time, but work was expected to recommence there very soon.

The City Council had inspected the footpath leading from the High Street to Riverside Close and were not able to justify the undertaking of any clearance work there at the present time.

Village Hall Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin reported the installation of the new gas central heating system in the hall was almost complete.

Village Appraisal The Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, advised that as a result of certain disturbing aspects relating to future development arising from the County Council's Second Review of the Kent Structure Plan, it was of the utmost importance that a forward looking village appraisal be carried out for Bridge. To this end it was decided to set up a Sub-Committee which Cllr. Gulvin was to chair initially and on to which it was proposed to co-opt a small number of parishioners.

Planning The Council had objected to an amended application for a proposed conservatory/aviary, 49 High Street on the grounds that the proposed alterations were still incompatible with the character of the listed building. They also objected most strongly to the County Council's proposed development of two detached bungalows on land at The New Close OPH, Conyngham Lane, Bridge.

Planning permission had been granted by the City Council for a two-storey rear extension to 16 Conyngham Lane and for the conversion of stables into dwelling at Field House, Station Road.

Storm Damage Cllr. Mrs. Anderson reported that a total of four mature trees had been lost in the Recreation Ground as well as damage which would necessitate tree surgery to one of the trees covered by a Preservation Order. The Clerk was to submit details to the City Council who had been asked to forward such information to the Countryside Commission who were able to offer financial assistance for trees on publicly owned land. Cllr. Mrs. Anderson added that all the new trees planted on the Recreation Ground had survived.

Newspaper Collection Money from the collection of used newspaper helps with the running costs of the Village Hall. Mrs. Anne Young has been responsible for organising its collection for some years, but someone with spare storage space, say an empty garage or shed, is urgently required to take over the job. Would anyone able to help please contact the Clerk, Mrs. Kathy Walder, on 830057.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 10th December at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

'Fish' News

The great storm of 16th October made problems for us all, but it was particularly difficult for our elderly residents, many of whom have all-electric homes. Neighbours, friends and voluntary organisations came to their rescue and I have been asked to say a public 'thank-you' on their behalf for all the kindness, help and support they were given during the crisis.

The Luncheon Club will be having Christmas dinner on Monday, 21st December. There will be no meeting on 28th December.

It was a very wet and windy day for the November Coffee Pop-In but the many who attended appreciated the warmth of the new central heating system in the Village Hall. This month's is on the 9th, when mince pies will be served with the coffee.

Joan Warren, 830233

St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

It being Advent there are no flowers in church this month until the morning of Wednesday, 23rd December at 10am when a full turn-out of decorators at the church will be much appreciated.

C.A.

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

PATRIXBOURNE WITH BRIDGE

Churchwardens: Mr. J.J. Williamson, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge CT4 5JX (830399)
Mr. S.R. Pike, 12 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JY (830708)
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):
Organist (Patrixbourne): 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)

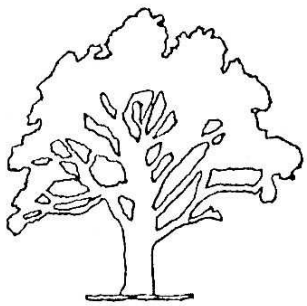
BEKESBOURNE

Churchwardens: Mr. J. Purchese, Mill Cottage, Bekesbourne CT4 5HD (830937)
Mr. N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)
Hon Secretary: Mr. J. Purchese, 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. David Farbrace, 3 Downside, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne CT4 5HA (830659)

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.

J.B. Gardener



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