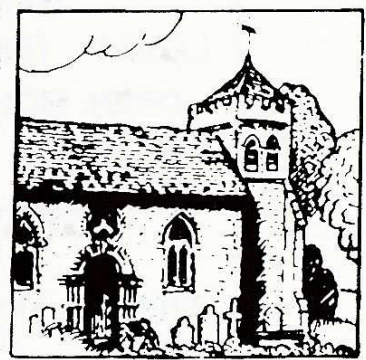
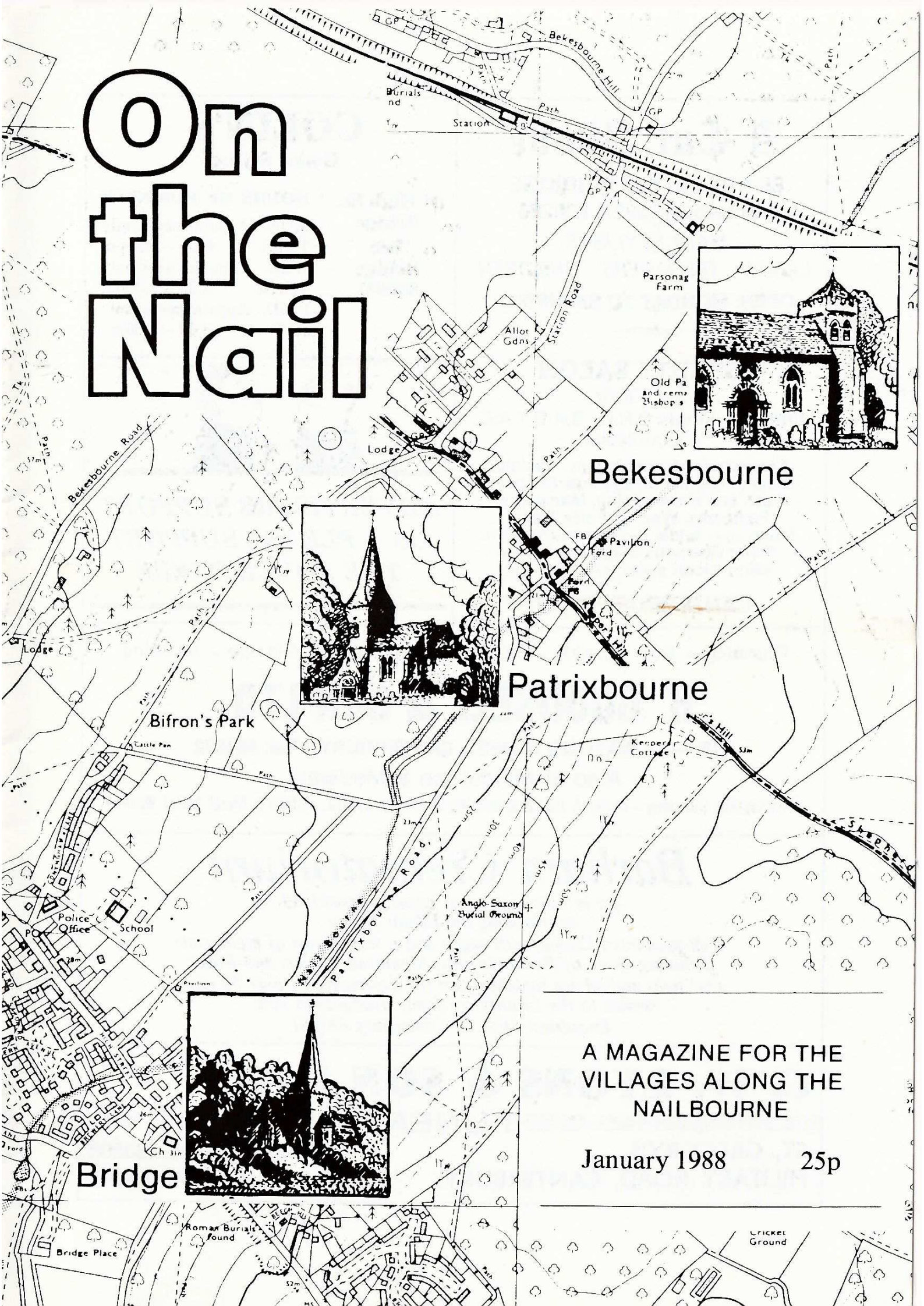


On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patricxbourne



Bridge

A MAGAZINE FOR THE
VILLAGES ALONG THE
NAILBOURNE

January 1988

25p

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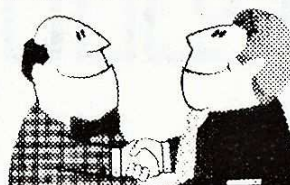
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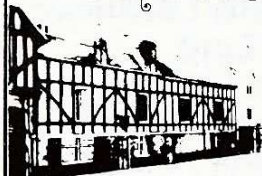
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Sunday Worship in January

Bridge	Patricxbourne	Bekesbourne
3rd: 11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
10th: 9.30 The Eucharist (ASB Rite A) 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
17th: 9.30 Parish Communion (ASB 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 (ASB Rite A) 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
7th February: 11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *3rd*, Miss D.R. Rosman, Ph.D *10th*, *Covenant Service*, The Revd. Sheila Foreman. *17th*, Mrs M.C. Fairhurst, B.Ed. *24th*, Miss J. Charlesworth, M.A. *31st*, The Revd. Dr. T. Willshaw, M.A., B.D.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion will be held in St. Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (*BCP*) at 9.30am and Friday (*ASB Rite A*), except the 1st, at 7.30am. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 6th at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always welcome to this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st **Naming of Jesus** or *Circumcision of Christ*
- 3rd **Second Sunday after Christmas**
- 6th **Epiphany of Our Lord**
- 10th **First Sunday after Epiphany**
Junior Church re-commences at 9.30am in Bridge Village Hall
- 13th *St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367*
Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
- 14th Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 17th **Second Sunday after Epiphany**
- 18th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity until 25th
- 19th Bekesbourne PCC, School House, 8pm
- 21st *St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr, 304*
United Service, Bridge Church, 7.30pm

- 24th **Third Sunday after Epiphany**
 25th **Conversion of St. Paul**
 26th *St. Timothy & St. Titus, Companions of St. Paul*
 East Bridge Deanery Synod meets in Bridge Methodist Church
 27th *St. John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, Teacher, 407*
 28th *St. Thomas Aquinas, Teacher of the Faith, 1274*
 30th Pray for Brian Stonard and Louise Hollingsbee, to marry today at Bridge.
 31st **Septuagesima Sunday** 9 before Easter

Rosemary and Raymond Gilbert would like to thank all who sent Christmas greetings to them and the family. Thank you also for so much love and support on so many occasions.

The Revd Clive Barlow is our Rural Dean, and in sending his New Year greetings to us all he offers these perceptive thoughts for 1988.

Expanding horizons

A story is told of the late Bishop William Quayle, who on a train journey found himself one of several men discussing various problems. Finally one of his travelling companions, a sales representative of a commercial company, turned to the Bishop, whose identity he did not know, and asked, "What is your line of business? What do you deal in?" To which the Bishop replied: "Horizons".

Last month, the media went to town on the Archbishop of Canterbury; the coming Lambeth Conference; the Church of England in general and Bishops in particular. Bishops have an impossible task in today's church, as do any who find themselves 'called into office' to exercise leadership in an institution—even Rural Deans and Parish Priests seeking to encourage shared ministry in a more democratic church.

What is your line of business? What do you deal in? Bishop William Quayle replied, "Horizons". His commission as a representative of Christ required him to lift peoples' eyes from the immediate and near to the distant skyline and beckoning goals of God's Kingdom. He knew what he should be about. Do we?

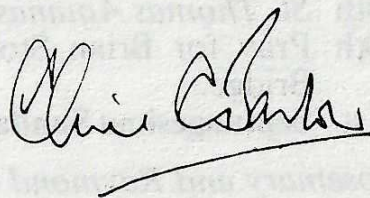
As we enter another year, I trust that in all the parishes of East Bridge Deanery, Christians will endeavour to expand their horizons, putting service before security, partnership before status; be persevering, adaptable, receptive—and above all, be faithful to the call of Christian discipleship.

During 1988 and beyond, churches and communities in Canterbury Diocese which have the most resources and are well provided for, will be called upon to help and strengthen churches and communities in the places where demands are greater; facilities poorer and very often, labourers few. I trust that in our Deanery Working Groups and SPAN meetings we shall expand our horizons by sharing and caring, giving and receiving, and as we grow together, find that we are building up the body of Christ.

Those who have opportunity to watch the Lambeth 1988 video programme will receive a powerful reminder of the different cultures which will be represented by the Bishops of our Anglican Family meeting in Canterbury, and that Christianity is about entering new relationships, overcoming prejudices, reconciling; sharing pain and being part of the healing processes experienced in

living out the Gospel.

If we can bring this perspective into our individual lives; into our communities and deanery, our horizons will expand, and we shall pray God's guidance and wisdom not on the basis of what we may have already planned to do (that he may bless our way) but that we may discover his way for us joyfully in 1988.



Crockfords and all that

Until last month's unhappy episode connected with the preface to the latest edition, few people had ever heard of *Crockfords*, other than maybe as a London gaming house of that name.

Crockford's Clerical Dictionary, to give it its proper title, is essentially just what its name suggests, a dictionary containing professional details of all the clergy of the Church of England. So, for instance, should you want to know such scintillating information as where your vicar did his training, when and where I was ordained and what I got up to before arriving in these parishes, *Crockfords* will oblige. It will also tell you that I am either older than you imagined, or not as old as you thought I was, for nowadays a clergyman's year of birth is also given.

Before you all rush off to buy a copy, however, you should know that *Crockfords* is extremely expensive. It will set you back more than £25 to satisfy your curiosity! Certainly I cannot imagine any of the entrants being able to buy *Crockfords*, unless they get it by virtue of their office, or from a rich donor, or happen to be that virtually extinct breed, the parson of means.

* * *

To return to the affair of the Preface. I wonder what you thought of it all? I don't mean, did you agree with what the author wrote, but how did the whole incident strike you? Working under the cloak of anonymity those who write the *Crockfords* prefaces usually take the opportunity to speak their mind, knowing they personally cannot be held to account for what subsequently appears in print. And they usually do so with valued and constructive judgement. Whether this particular preface was faithful to those ideals I would not know, since I have not read it, but it is poignantly sad that the man who wrote it should end up taking his life for a reason presumably not wholly disconnected with it.

The writing at issue seems to have overstepped the bounds of acceptable controversy, to an extent where it was certain to raise a few hackles and cause a few hurts. That is in itself a sad situation, but maybe we of his diocese feel particularly sore that our revered and beloved archbishop should be bruised in the course of it. Of course, those in high office are open to criticism, indeed they expect it, and no one is perfect, but when the assailant is clearly someone of note (and that is one thing about these authors we *do* know) it is especially hard to withstand, and must cause the victims unjustifiable hurt. One thing is certain, those responsible for selecting future anonymous authors will be well advised to tread exceptionally warily. If I were them I think I would be inclined to pass the choice over to someone else!

St. Peter's Church, Bridge appeal

In response to justifiable enquiries Douglas Hill, our Honorary Treasurer, submits the following report on the 1985 Appeal.

It is now over two years since the Bridge Church Appeal was launched, designed to raise the necessary funds to meet the cost of specified major repairs to the church fabric. These repairs were completed progressively during 1987. The last of the accounts for the repair work has finally been received from the contractors and has been paid. This action enabled me to claim the balance of the Grant Aid promised, and this too has been recently received. It is, therefore, now possible for me to report on the financial aspects of the appeal, and the funding of the repairs, and this is summarised below.

Since the original appeal, we have been faced with additional costly repairs to the bell tower stonework, occasioned no doubt by the rigours of the two recent arctic winters.

Although it will necessitate exhausting our Bridge General Reserve Fund, and bearing this in mind, I am pleased to report that our remaining funds should be sufficient—hopefully—to complete all the work above. Unfortunately, and I must stress this point, there will be little or nothing left in the Bridge Church General Reserve Fund to meet any contingency, which undoubtedly will arise in the future.

Summary of Major Repair Works and the Funding thereof

<i>Costs</i>	<i>£</i>
Included under the Bridge Church Appeal:	
Treatment of Roof Timbers by Rentokil, and Architects' Fees	2933
Exterior Flintwork repairs by Barton Construction Ltd and Architects' Fees	2283
Flintwork 'bulge' repairs above the West Door by Canterbury Cathedral Stonemasons and Architects' Fees	650
Total work completed and paid	5866
Estimate of cost of Bell Tower Stonework repair work in hand by Canterbury Cathedral Stonemasons, together with Architects' Fees	3425
<i>Total Costs</i>	9291
<i>Funded By</i>	
Bridge Church Appeal Fund	4096
General Reserve (Bridge Church)	1163
Grants received:	
Marshall's Charity	2000
Historic Churches Preservation Trust	1000
Canterbury City Council	732
Kent County Council	250
East Bridge Deanery	50
<i>Total Funds</i>	9291

Made members of Christ

Janine Coralyn Burge, daughter of Christopher and Rosina, was brought all the way from her home in Singapore to be baptized on Saturday, 5th December last in St. Mary's Church, Patricbourne, where her parents were married. The next day, at the Family Gift Service, these baby girls were christened in St. Peter's Church, Bridge: **Lucy Angela McCann**, daughter of Leslie and Angela of 70 Riverside Close, and **Annie Louise Berbiers**, whose parents are Nicholas and Debra of Yew Tree, Higham Lane.

Many thanks . . .

to Martin Fry for voluntarily engineering a great clearance of fallen trees on Old Palace Road, Bekesbourne; also to John Young for much time and effort spent in Bridge Churchyard armed with a chainsaw. Thanks also to those who so willingly assisted both men.

* * *

from the residents and 'Friends' of The New Close to all those who supported so generously the Christmas Coffee Morning on 21st November. The event was a great success socially as well as financially. *O.I.K.*

* * *

for the sum of £41, raised at the whist drive in Bekesbourne Village Hall on 10th December towards the funds of the Bridge branch of the Hospital League of Friends. *M.S.F.*

* * *

to all who made Junior Church truly welcome and gave so generously when some fifty-six adults and children went carol singing on 17th December. They raised £65.76 for *Help The Aged*. *P.S.*

And . . .

The 1987 Bridge & Patricbourne Christmas Market realized a record £722, and we should like to take this opportunity to thank all those who worked so hard to make it a success. Special thanks are due to the Brownies who nobly ran the Children's Toys and Books stall, the traders of the village and the many other good friends who kindly donated prizes and items for sale.

It is only through activities such as this that we continue to be able to pay our way, so we would say thank you to all our friends for your support over the past year, and ask for your continued support in the future.

Stephen Pike, Churchwarden

Bekesbourne too had a very successful Christmas Market, run in conjunction with the Brownies as in recent years. This has the great advantage of bringing in many new faces, both in preparing for the day and in customers on the day.

Grateful thanks to all concerned. Money is always a difficulty, and specially with the hurricane roof damage meaning two lots of work to be done on the roof in one year. The Market was a cheerful affair, and so, thank you to the contributors to its success. *John Purchase, Churchwarden*

A diet from the Bible Reading Fellowship

by Nigel Allan

An increasing number of people devote much attention to their diet and that of their family. Health programmes on TV and radio and articles in newspapers and elsewhere have persuaded people to look at their eating habits with the result of usually finding them inadequate to healthy living. By taking more trouble to select what they will eat, they can improve the quality of their lives, reduce avoidable illness and so enjoy good health. The extra trouble spent in judicious shopping and careful preparation is amply rewarded with a soundness of body which is reflected in work and other activities.

While it goes without saying that bodily health is of utmost importance, we Christians know that without spiritual health we are incomplete and unable to face the rough and tumble of life with a positiveness and confidence derived from a wholesome spiritual diet. The *Bible Reading Fellowship* endeavours to provide such a diet judiciously selected from Holy Scripture and carefully prepared by experts. Each day the reader can set aside just a short time to follow a course of selected Bible readings, with helpful notes to explain what is being read. Working through all parts of the Bible, well known and less familiar, you can share in the insights of fellow-Christians and grow with them into deeper understanding and a more firmly-rooted faith. As you feed your mind with knowledge and understanding, and bring your heart to God in prayer, you will become stronger and healthier.

The *Bible Reading Fellowship* provides three series of notes to balance your diet of Bible reading.

'DAYLIGHT'

This course will give you, in one booklet, Bible readings and a devotional commentary. Each day's reading is printed out, with an explanation and suitable prayers.

'GUIDELINES'

—specifies longer readings for which you require to use your own Bible. Its commentary is more thoughtful, with devotional points being summarised separately. Readings can be used as convenient within each week.

'COMPASS'

For younger people—a series of hand-outs where puzzles, cartoons and picture stories hold the interest. (It uses the *Alternative Service Book* readings for Sundays.)

All these titles are published three times a year and cost £4.05 each per annum. They can be obtained from me, Nigel Allan, Ardpriority, Bekebourne Lane (Tel: 462695). A display of *BRF* literature is on show now at the back of Bridge Church.

A strong, healthy Christian is the best advertisement for our faith in the world today. Fitness for Faith is fitness for life!

Children's Sequence Dancing Classes will commence in Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday, 13th January from 4 to 5pm. At £1 per class, children will be trained for exams with the *International Dance Teachers Association*.

On The Nail

Subscribers to our very successful and highly popular magazine will be pleased to hear that *On The Nail* will continue in 1988 to be offered for a mere 25p per copy, which at an annual subscription of just £3 is, we believe, real value for money. In thanking existing subscribers for their support we hope to be able to count on their continued patronage. If you are able to pay your whole year's subscription at one go it would be much appreciated, although we quite understand this would be difficult for some.

If this is your first encounter with *On The Nail* we hope you are enjoying it and finding it both interesting and informative. Regular orders can be placed with Mrs Jane Millyard, School House, School Lane (Tel: 830256) if you live in Bekesbourne, and Mr R. Beckett, 3 Riverside Cottages (Tel: 830658) for Patricbourne residents. If you live in Bridge please contact the magazine distributor for your road, whose name and address is on the list just inside St. Peter's Church door.



Bridge Guides success

On 4th December Lucinda Spencer was awarded the Baden Powell Trefoil by former District Commissioner, Mrs Judy Wiltshier. This is the highest award a Guide can receive, and Lucinda is the second Bridge Guide to gain the Trefoil this year. Work for the badge included a project on the History of Guiding, Service to the Community, new homecraft skills, a new hobby and learning about Guiding in two other countries. Lucinda cut a celebration trefoil cake, made and decorated by her mother, who attended the ceremony with relatives and Lucinda's former Brownie Guider.

M.S.F.

(Ed: Bravo Lucinda! Congratulations from us all!)

New Guides District Commissioner

With effect from this month Mrs Margaret Field (Maggie to most of us) will be taking over as District Commissioner for the Canterbury Rural area of the Girl Guides Association. Maggie replaces Mrs Judy Wiltshier, who has been our Commissioner for the past ten years, and who will become the new Division Commissioner for the Canterbury area, incorporating girls from the Rural, City and Blean districts.

Maggie joined *1st Bridge Guides* initially as a unit helper and has steadily taken on more responsibilities ever since. She has been a tremendous help in organizing badge testers for the wide range of interests covered by our Guides and has helped with much of the 'official' side of Guiding. Even the rigours of camp life have not dimmed Maggie's enthusiasm. Since September she has been completely organizing Bridge Guides in my absence, allowing me to adjust to first-time motherhood.

I would like to thank Maggie for all her past help with the company. I know that the Guides and Brownies join me in wishing her every success in those future activities which the new position entails. Good luck!

Teresa



Nailbourne Protection Society

The Nailbourne Protection Society was formed some years ago to keep a watchful eye on the environment around the Nailbourne Valley. The Society has been instrumental in stopping various disastrous local plans such as the threatened Pop music festival in Charlton Park and many planning applications which were considered by the community to be solely in the interests of the entrepreneurs involved. The society continues to be very conscious of the potential hazards which could slip through planning committees whose members might not be fully aware of the long-term outcome of such plans or the wish of communities in this part of Kent to preserve their peace and the beauty of their villages and surroundings.

This is a properly constituted society with many members and there will be an AGM on 25th January at The Barn, Kingston at 8pm, to which everyone will be welcome.

In the meantime, we send out a special cry for assistance, as our hard-working Hon Secretary for the past seven years has found it necessary to resign and the society is in urgent need of a secretary. If anyone would care to assist in this much needed and continual monitoring of our shrinking green heritage, please contact the undersigned chairman of the society on (0227) 830242.

Pleasance Kirk

Bridge Lady Chapel

The new curtains behind the Lady Chapel altar are in place and arousing very favourable comment. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Ailsa Williamson, Alicia Pentin and their helpers who have done a first class job, not forgetting the many others who contributed towards the cost. A judicious adjustment to the lighting by Peter Lawrence has further enhanced what was previously quite a gloomy corner and given us a chapel worthy of its dedication.

The Press—*Kentish Gazette*

May I remind everyone in the villages of Bridge and Patricebourne that if they have any articles they wish to be publicised in the paper, could they send it by post or hand it in to my house by Sunday evening before the Friday of publication?

I am reminded of the story of when MacMillan became Prime Minister in 1957. His appointment took second place on the front page of his local paper in Sussex to a report of a Brighton and Hove Albion football match. He used to keep the cutting on his desk at No 10, as he said, to prevent himself from indulging the impulse towards self-importance.

Although we may not have budding prime ministers in this village, do not be afraid of handing in an article which may be of great interest to those both within and outside your own club or society.

John Williamson, Kentish Gazette Correspondent for Bridge and Patricebourne; Beechmount, Conygham Lane, Bridge (Tel: 830399)

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting on the 10th December, representatives from the Bridge Village Sports Trust were present. Mr John Knight reported that the new sports pavilion was only four working days away from roof level and would be completed by the date promised to the Cricket Club, and the Treasurer of the Trust, Mr John Edgington, gave a full financial report, including grants and loans expected or applied for. Cllr Mrs Margaret Jones suggested that they also apply for assistance to Television South who, she said, had indicated that they welcomed such applications. On the question of byelaws which the City Council were preparing to control fouling by dogs in public open spaces, the Parish Council decided to inform the City Council that they would favour a byelaw involving a total ban of dogs from the Recreation Ground, particularly as it was used primarily for organised sports and children playing, and there were alternative areas available nearby for exercising dogs. The Clerk reported that grant aid was expected through the City Council for clearance work and replanting of trees on the Recreation Ground after the damage caused by the storms in October.

Streets and Footways The Parish Council noted with regret that their request for Union Road to be made 'one way' from its junction with the High Street to its junction with Dering Road, had been turned down by the County

Council after consultation with the Police.

Planning The Council had no observations to make on applications for an additional bedroom, home for the elderly, 30 Western Avenue, a garage extension to The Plat, Beech Hill, or in principle to an application for a single storey rear extension to the bungalow at 5 Western Avenue, although they would point out to the City Council that the proposed extension would restrict light to the adjoining property.

The Council were strongly opposed to an application for a large development on land at Kingston adjacent to the A2 to provide services and other facilities. Cllr David Heap had represented the Parish Council at a Parish Meeting held in Kingston recently to discuss the action to be taken by them. The Clerk was instructed at this stage to write letters of objection to the scheme to the City Council Technical Director, The Chairman of their Planning Committee as well as to the local MP, Julian Brazier and local District and County Councillors.

Regarding the carrying out of a village appraisal for Bridge in view of the Kent Structure Plan proposals, an initial meeting with interested parties had been arranged for 16th December.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 14th January at 7.30pm in what is now a nice and cosy Hunter Room, thanks to the newly installed central heating system.

K. A. Walder, Clerk

'Fish' Scheme news



With the coming of winter demands on the WRVS clothing store of warm clothing for children and the elderly have become very heavy. Our knitters are keeping up a good supply of children's clothing. At present the store is very short of men's jerseys and cardigans. If you have any surplus clothes in good

condition they will be put to good use for local people in need. Clothes or wool can be taken to the WRVS centre in the Castle Street Car Park or we can arrange to collect them from you.

The shopping evening arranged by the Canterbury Volunteer Bureau made an enjoyable evening outing for a party of our senior citizens who don't often get in to Canterbury to shop. They send their thanks to the Volunteer Bureau and the volunteer drivers.

* * *

The next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 13th January in Bridge Village Hall from 10.15 to 11.45am. Everyone is welcome to come and join us!

Joan Warren, 830233

St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

The cleaning rota for January is as follows (date is that of the Sunday): *3rd*, Mrs Russell. *10th*, Mrs Grey. *17th*, Mrs Beckett. *24th*, Mrs Smith. Mrs Ash will attend to the flowers as necessary during the month.

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

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

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

Mr. N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)

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

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

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

Captain of the Bells: Mr. 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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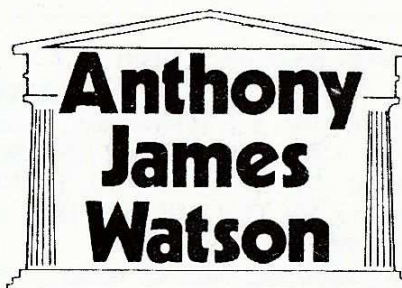
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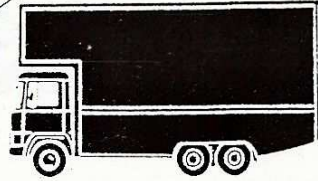
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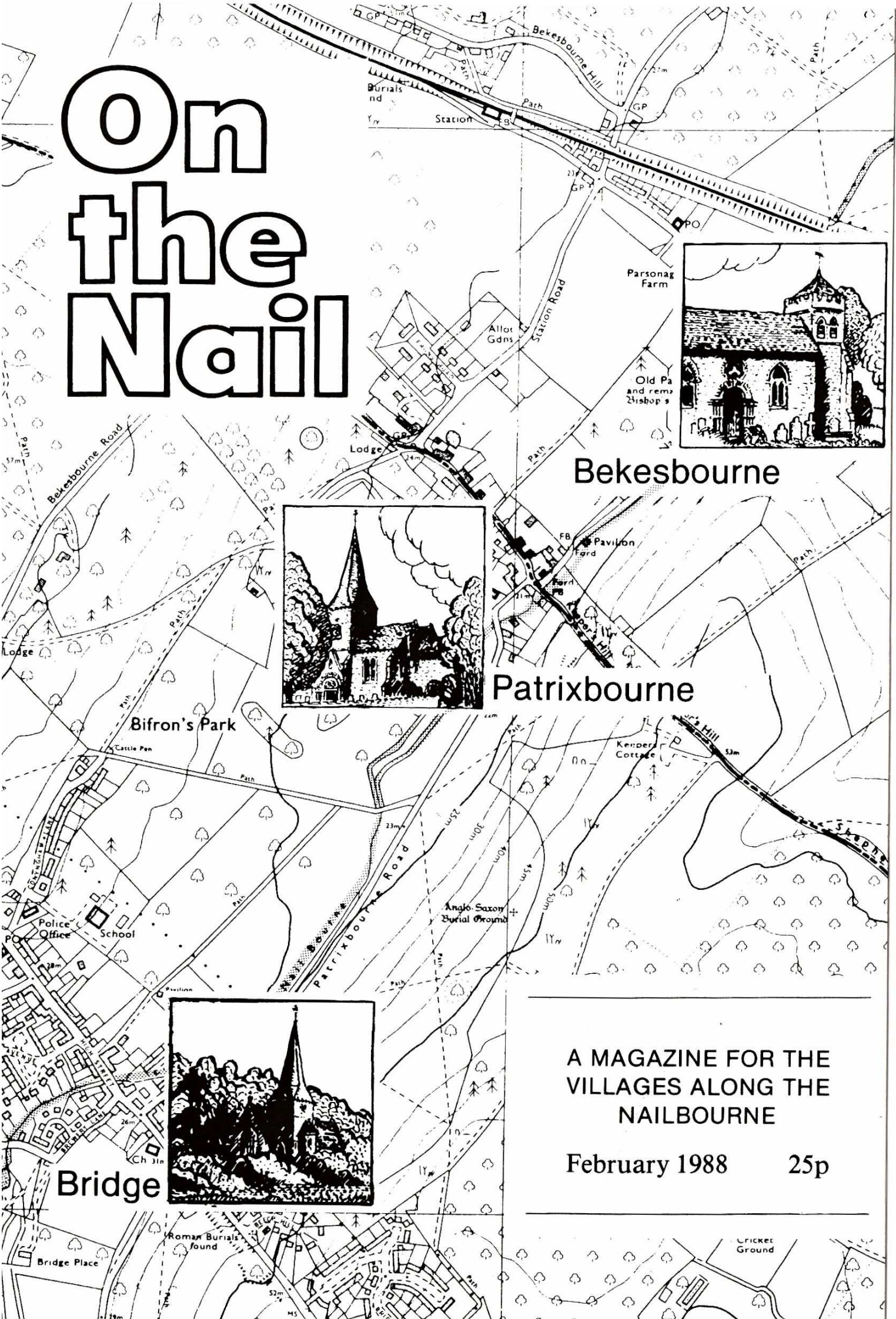
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patrixbourne



Bridge

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February 1988 25p

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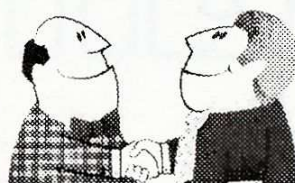
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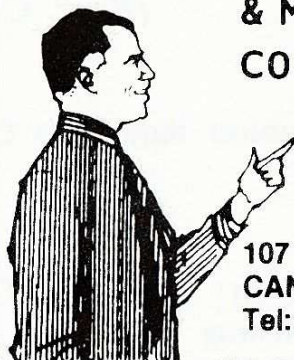
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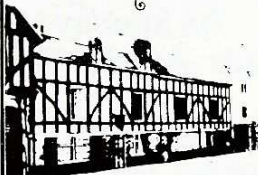
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Sunday Worship in February

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

7th:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

14th:

9.30 The Eucharist
(*ASB Rite A*)
6.30pm Evensong

11am Matins
(*Revd. C. Verity*)

8am Holy Communion

21st:

9.30 Parish Communion
(*ASB Rite A*)
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 11am Matins

28th:

8am Holy Communion
6.30pm Choral Evensong

9am Holy Communion 11am Matins

6th March:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *7th*, Mr E.R. O'Mahony. *14th*, Mr A.P. Barwick, B.Sc. *21st*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd. Sheila Foreman. *28th*, Mr H. Sheehan.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion are held in St. Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (*BCP*) at 9.30am and Friday (*ASB Rite A*) at 7.30am. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 4th at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always welcome to this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

2nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC meets this evening.

4th Prayers for Health & Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm

6th Pray for HM the Queen on the anniversary of her Accession.

7th Sexagesima *8th Sunday before Easter*

10th Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am

14th Quinquagesima *7th Sunday before Easter*

15th League of Friends AGM, The Hunter Room, Bridge Village Hall, 7.30pm

Bridge with Patricxbourne WI, Bridge Village Hall, 7.30pm

16th Pray for the Deanery Clergy who meet this morning at Ash

17th Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent

18th Prayers for Health & Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm

20th Lady Chapel Fabric Jumble Sale, Bridge Village Hall, 10.30am

21st First Sunday in Lent

23rd *St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c155*

28th Second Sunday in Lent

Christian Stewards

This coming Spring the parish of Patrixbourne with Bridge will be carrying out a renewal of its Christian Stewardship: Bekesbourne has decided not to participate on this occasion. Spearheading our renewal as Chairman of the Stewardship Committee will be Canon Frank Bull, a former vicar of Kenilworth who since retirement has taken up residence in Riverside Close. Over the next month or so Canon Bull will be using this column to remind us of the theory behind Christian Stewardship, preparatory to urging us to turn theory into practice this May. His first article draws our attention to the notion of 'Christian Stewards'.

'Steward' is not a word which I come across often, nor frequently use. When I lived in the Midlands I knew both the 'steward' of the local Conservative Association and the 'steward' of our Working Men's Club: and I've come across stewards on trains, ships or aeroplanes; and on one rare occasion come into contact with the steward of a large estate. I looked the word up in my New Testament and could only find it used on fourteen occasions, and each time with the thought of house management.

Perhaps the most thought-provoking usage of 'steward' is to be found in Peter's first general letter where he writes: 'Whatever gift each of you may have received, use it in service to one another, like good stewards dispensing the grace of God in its varied forms'. That was written centuries ago, but it seems to me that it is just as applicable to those of us who call ourselves Christians or Christ's followers today. We are stewards of God's earthly 'estate' and responsible to him for 'house management'; and that must include not only the local Christian community where we live, but also the world-wide community of which we are all part.

This is how I see stewardship in a Christian setting, and why I have to take it seriously when my local church (as it does here in Bridge and Patrixbourne) says: "We practise it!"

If you practise anything, it is essential that at times you should examine just how you are matching up to your aims. In the same way that I need to ask myself sometimes, "How am I making out as a father, or husband, or in my job?" so we need also to take stock and ask, "How am I making out in my responsibility to God and his Church?"

For example, how supportive am I in ensuring that I make it quite clear that I stand four square with all those who say, "We believe in God", and that it is of the utmost importance to share that faith. How supportive also, am I in making such talents as God has given me, available to him and to his Church?

These are the sort of questions our Church Council is asking us to think about this year. This is the way I understand stewardship in a Christian context—assessing (or re-assessing) my responsibility to God, his world, and his Church. It is one way in which I thank God for placing me here, for his immense love for me, and for the faith he has given me. Does this make sense to you?

Christingle Service—A HAPPY OCCASION

What a delightful afternoon we had on Christmas Eve when a large congregation of parents and children gathered in St. Peter's Church, Bridge for a Christ-

ingle Service, conducted by the Vicar.

Envelopes of money, produced by the children for *The Children's Society*, were presented and the service reached its climax when, most carefully carrying a lighted Christingle, the children gathered at the crib for the blessing and prayers.

* * *

Six days afterwards the annual Christingle Service took place in the cathedral. This is always a very big occasion indeed, with the cathedral nave invariably full to overflowing.

Picture the scene, if you can, then realise that the lesson at this service—a fine but difficult passage from 1 John 4—was read by our own Katie Pike, who is all of eight-years old. Reports, from other than her parents, tell us that she read superbly, and in congratulating Katie we want her to know how proud we are of her and to thank her for what she did for Bridge that afternoon.

Junior Church's Nativity Play, held this time in the Village Hall, was as good as ever, and even made the local paper. A collection taken at it produced £31·87, which will go to a charity for the blind.

Bridge Guides camp fire competition

Not to be outdone by those even younger than themselves, Bridge Guides have again come up trumps, as the following, written by three of them, reports:

On Thursday, 14th January we all met at Longport Hall for a District Camp Fire Singing Competition. There were three companies taking part; 1st Littlebourne, 1st Sturry and us. We performed third. We sat in a horseshoe around a home-made camp fire and sang nine songs. At the end the three judges commented on how happy we looked and how so many of us put so much effort into the singing, which gained us first place. This means that on 25th January we go through to the Division heat and then perhaps to the County heat. We thoroughly enjoyed our evening out and are looking forward to the next opportunity to share with others the fun of Guiding.

On The Nail

The announcement that the price of *On The Nail* is to be pegged at 25p in 1988 gives me a chance to say how much I enjoy its arrival each month with news of the villages along the Nailbourne.

Perhaps one of the secrets of its success is that it really lives up to its claim to be a magazine for the three villages. By including news of general interest it shows the church's concern for all aspects of community life.

In some intangible way people can stamp their personalities on publications and houses. You feel immediately that they are warm and welcoming. *On The Nail* is a friendly magazine and leaves the happy impression of the parishes it serves.

A word of thanks is due to the printer, too. In a sloppy age when even the more dignified dailies can be bedeviled by literals* you're hard put to find a misprint in *On The Nail*. K.B.

*A literal would be 'Grauniad' for 'Guardian'!—*Your printer*.

On The Nail Noticeboard

A Jumble Sale will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday, 20th February at 10.30am to raise money for the fabric of the Lady Chapel in Bridge Church. Anyone who has jumble to contribute please bring to the hall at 9am on the day of the sale or contact Ailsa Williamson or Alicia Pentin if help with collection is needed. Please note the event is being held in the morning, which is earlier than most jumble sales. Your help and support will be very much appreciated. A.P.

* * *

The annual general meeting of the Bridge branch of the League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals will be held in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 15th February. All welcome. M.S.F.

* * *

The first meeting of the year of The Senior Citizens Club will be on Tuesday, 1st March at 2.30pm in Bridge Village Hall. New members will be made very welcome. Enquiries to the leader, Mrs. Knight, tel 830584. O.I.K.

* * *

The Women's Institute meets on the third Tuesday of each month in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm. Our next meeting is on 16th February, when Mr. Arnold Bosworth will speak on 'My Country Life'. Please come along and join our friendly gathering. Visitors are always welcome. D. King

* * *

I would like to appeal to anyone in the village who has any photos taken of the gale damage on 16th October 1987 to pass them on to me for the benefit of the village archives. The areas especially required are around St. Peter's Church, Highland Court and Bifrons.

*John Williamson, Beechmount,
Conyngam Lane, Bridge, tel 830399*

Departed this life

We record the death on Christmas Day age the age of eighty-three of Mrs. **Irene Esther Price** of The Cottage, Station Approach, Bekesbourne. The vicar conducted a cremation service at Barham on 7th January.

On New Year's Day Mrs. **Jane Batchelor**, formerly of the Plough and Harrow, Bridge died at the early age of forty-five. A funeral service in Bridge Church on 15th January was followed by cremation at Barham. Her ashes were subsequently interred in her son's grave in Bridge Churchyard.



Bridge Church Bookstall

My appeal for shelves to house the books in Bridge Church resulted in a very serviceable bookcase being donated by Mr. Howard Crouch, a former member of Bridge Methodist Church until his move to Kingston. Bill Rose gave it a lick of paint and it has been in situ at the back of St. Peter's Church for several weeks, though still with the previous rather sad collection of books.

Now, thanks to a generous donation from a parishioner and organised by my wife, Rosemary with help from Mrs. Enid Wintle, the church has the basis of a very attractive library of books, all of them available to be taken away, and well worthy of anyone's time to read. All we ask is that when you borrow a book you fill in the relevant details in the exercise book provided, and sign it in when you bring the book back.

Our intention is steadily to build up the church library, to which end we would be grateful for donations with which to buy new books. We would prefer the money so that we can choose books suitable to our needs, though if you possess a book or books that you are willing to part with, that are in reasonable condition and which you think might be acceptable, do please contact me.

The gate of The Year

When King George VI quoted the first few lines of the following poem in a Christmas Day broadcast, he not only made them justifiably famous but also set off a chain of enquiry as to the source of the words and whether there were any more. As you can see, there certainly are and we print the whole of M.L. Haskin's beautiful writing for your lasting enjoyment and, hopefully, spiritual edification.

And I said to the Man who stood at The Gate of The Year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And He replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God;
that shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth and, finding the Hand of God, trod safely into the night;
and He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So, heart, be still. What need our little lives, our human lives, to know
if God hath comprehension?

In all the dizzy strife of things, both high and low, God hideth His
intention.

God knows and His Will is best,
The stretch of years which wind ahead so dim to our imperfect vision
are clear to God;
ours fears are premature;
in Him all time hath full provision.

Then rest until God moves to lift the veil from our impatient eyes;
when as the sweeter features of life's stern face we hail,
fair beyond all surmise,
God's Thought around His creatures
our minds shall fill.

And I said: "What is the Hand of God and how can I reach unto it in
the darkness?"

He who was with me at first made no answer.
The night folded itself around me and the sky was wide and solitary.

Then He said: "The Kingdom of God is within you".

At these words I wondered, for they were familiar to my ears but strange to my understanding.

And He continued:

"God is not apart from His Kingdom, neither is Hand separated from His Being;

in the giving of Man for his fellows, the Hand of God closes upon the hand of man—and—the Way of their feet is one.

This is the beginning of that adventure in which darkness and light are unimportant".

Also, these words sounded through the darkness . . .

"It is a little and vain thing to seek safety for your own feet and peace for your own heart.

There are others who walk through this same night".

Then my ears were opened to the sound of many voices.

I had thought myself apart, but know now that I was one of a great multitude.

And, as I listened, there came to me a new understanding.

"My darkness is as light in the depth of their shadow".

I cried: "What can I do?"

"Walk with them", He replied.

"He who enters into the shadow of another's pain is nearer to the Mind of God; and nearer the morning, than he who broods on the darkness of his own night".

M.L. Haskins

The Martyrdom of Polycarp

The 23rd of this month is the feast of St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna who suffered martyrdom at the Roman festival of Caesar in AD 155. The following extracts from an account of it are reproduced both to show to what lengths the early Christians were prepared to go for the faith, but also as an example of writings of the time. In these words we savour the strength of our ancestors' faith, especially in times of great testing. The second century source is 'Martyrium Polycarpi', a letter from the Church of Smyrna.

All the crowd (in the stadium) astonished at the noble conduct of the God-beloved and God-fearing race of Christians, cried out, 'Away with the atheists*; let search be made for Polycarp.'

Now, as he was entering the stadium, there came to Polycarp a voice from heaven, 'Be strong, Polycarp, and play the man.' And no one saw the speaker, but the voice was heard by those of our people who were there. Thereupon he was led forth, and great was the uproar of them that heard that Polycarp had been seized. Accordingly he was led before the Proconsul, who asked him if he was the man himself. And when he confessed the Proconsul tried to persuade

*An epithet commonly applied to Christians because they refused to worship heathen idols and had no images or shrines of their own.

him, saying, 'Have respect to thine age,' and so forth, according to their customary form; "Swear by the genius (*oath*) of Caesar,' 'Repent,' 'Say, "Away with the atthesists!" ' Then Polycarp looked with a severe countenance on the mob of lawless heathen in the stadium, and he waved his hand at them, and looking up to heaven he groaned and said, 'Away with the atheists'. But the Proconsul urged him and said, 'Swear, and I will release thee; curse the Christ.' And Polycarp said, 'Eighty and six years have I served him, and he hath done me no wrong; how then can I blaspheme my king who saved me?'

As he spake these words and many more, he was filled with courage and joy; and his countenance was full of grace, so that not only did it fall not in dismay at what was being said to him, but on the contrary the Proconsul was astonished, and sent his herald to proclaim thrice in the midst of the stadium, 'Polycarp hath confessed himself to be a Christian'. When this was proclaimed by the herald the whole multitude of Gentiles and Jews who dwelt in Smyrna cried out with ungovernable rage and in a loud voice, 'This is the teacher of Asia, the father of the Christians, the destroyer of our gods, that teacheth many not to sacrifice nor worship'. They kept shouting this, asking Philip, the Asiarch (*chief priest of Asia and president of the games*) to loose a lion at Polycarp. But he said that it was not lawful for him, since he had finished the sports. Then they decided to shout with one accord that he should be burned alive.

And now things happened with such speed, in less time than it takes to tell; for the mob straitway (*sic*) brought together timber and faggots from the workshops and baths, the Jews giving themselves zealously to the work, as they were like to do . . . They were about to nail him to the stake, when he said, 'Let me be as I am. He that granted me to endure the fire will grant me also to remain at the pyre unmoved, without being secured with nails'.

When he had finished his prayer the firemen lighted the fire. And a great flame flashed forth: and we, to whom it was given to see, beheld a marvel . . . The fire took the shape of a vault, like a ship's sail bellying in the wind, and it made a wall round the martyr's body; and there was the body in the midst, like a loaf being baked or like gold or silver being tried in the furnace . . .

So at length the lawless ones, seeing that his body could not be consumed by fire, bade an executioner approach him to drive in a dagger. And when he had done this there came out [a dove and] abundance of blood so that it quenched the fire, and all the multitude marvelled at the great difference between the unbelievers and the elect . . .

Terry Waite

The media attention on the anniversary of Terry Waite's disappearance did all of us a great service, for we had got so used to his continued absence that we had begun to forget about him. Obviously we can do very little in a practical way to help find him or secure his release, but it was unforgivable simply to dismiss him from our minds. If we believe there is any power in prayer at all, the least we could do was keep praying for him.

Hopefully, within the church at least we can include him and other hostages regularly in our intercessions, and if anyone begins to tire of hearing his name mentioned time after time, then shame on them.

To focus our prayers, the Julian Shrine at Norwich has written a prayer, copies of which are available on cards at the back of the churches.

Cadetcare Associates

Cadetcare is a home care project managed by Cadet Advisory Services Ltd. The organisation's main aim is to provide preventative and supportive home care for the elderly in the community, thereby enabling them to maintain their independence for as long as possible in their own homes.

Sheila Moat, who is the Co-ordinator for *Cadetcare Associates* in this area, says that most of her clients are referred to them by KCC Social Services, but they are happy to serve those who choose to go to *CA* direct.

Cadet Associates provides a high standard of service approved by KCC by trained people and eligible clients will pay no more than the present KCC charges. Many clients are referred from the Home Help Managers and *CA* works in the closest possible liaison with KCC, Social Services and the Canterbury and Thanet Health Authority.

Kent Family Conciliation Service

Under the presidency of the Bishop of Rochester the *Kent Family Conciliation Service* exists to provide help for any whose family life has broken up or is about to do so. Individuals or organisations who would like to know more about the service *KFCS* provides can contact the Secretary, Alan Goodman, of 40 The Street, Kingston, Kent CT4 6JE.

BBC Radio Kent Lent Course, 1988

Under the umbrella title *Who on earth are you?*, this year's *Radio Kent* Lent Course takes place on five consecutive Thursday evenings, starting on 25th February. The format is somewhat different this year, in that the broadcast part of the evening lasts only from 8 to 9pm and there is no 'phone-in, so having listened to the broadcast groups will be left to discuss the evening's topic for as long as they wish.

The various themes and guest speakers are as follows: 25th Feb, 'I'm being framed' (Lord Longford): 3rd March, 'The Generation Game' (Michele Guinness): 10th March, 'Inside out' (Adrian Plass): 17th March, 'Little and Large' (Max Peberdy): 24th March, 'Be seeing you' (a studio panel).

It is hoped to have ecumenical groups meeting in Bridge, as in previous years, and anyone who would like to join one of them is invited to contact Mrs Kath Pierce, 7 Windmill Close (tel: 830844) as soon as possible.

The Archbishop's C.E. Secondary School

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The Archbishop's School, Canterbury, is the only voluntary aided Church of England School for secondary age children in East Kent, and caters for children of all abilities from 11 to 18, offering an education with a distinctly Christian ethos.

The main criterion for entry is commitment to Christian worship and education on the part of the parents and children. Application forms may be obtained from the Vicar, who will be pleased to supply an assessment form relating to your commitment to Christian worship required in connection with the application. Completed applications should be received at The Archbishop's School, by Wednesday, 27th April.

PARISH PUMP

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News



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council's first meeting of the New Year was on Thursday 14th January. Cllr. Mrs. Billie Anderson had again looked at the trees in the Recreation Ground and following her report, it was decided to order replacements for the four trees lost in the storm in October, including the two left as stumps which were now to be removed completely as it was felt that even if they did shoot again, their shape would not be acceptable. The Council accepted with thanks the offer from Mr. P. Davies of a mature oak tree which Mr. Davies was to be requested to plant in the far corner by the school grounds. Although the Chairman, Cllr. John Hill felt that there was a need for further tree planting in the Recreation Ground, it was decided to reconsider this later in the year when all the work following the storm damage had been completed. It was decided to ask Kent County Council to roll the ground when conditions were suitable in the Spring.

Village Appraisal Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin stated that the initial meeting held just before Christmas had been successful with enough people willing to take on almost all of the various aspects of the appraisal. He added that work on a questionnaire to be circulated to all households in the village was well in hand.

Streets and Footways The Parish Council had no objection to the four new houses in Union Road being named 'Mount Charles Walk'. The Clerk was to write to Corralls asking them to arrange for reinstatement of the grass verge in Pett Hill below its junction with Union Road which had been badly cut up by a tanker delivering oil to the depot.

Village Hall Cllr. Gulvin reported that a schedule of usage had been worked out for the main hall and the central heating programmed accordingly. The Clerk was to obtain a quotation for a new notice-board on the wall outside the hall for which financial assistance might be available through Kent Voluntary Service Council.

Planning The appeal against the City Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the erection of a bungalow and integral garage on land adjoining Filmer Cottage, Filmer Road had been dismissed by the Secretary of State for the Environment. Planning permission had been granted by the City Council both for an additional bedroom at the residential home for the elderly, 30 Western Avenue and for a garage extension at 'The Plat', Beech Hill. The Council had no observations to make on either amended plans relating to proposals at River House, 67 High Street or amended plans related to the erection of nine two-bedroom houses at John Knight & Sons Builders Yard, High Street.

The Council were to raise no objection to the transfer of the Justices On-Licence at Bridge Place Country Club from Mr. P.R. Malkin to Mr. Malkin and Mr. J.B. Gunn.

The Clerk was to write to the Manager of British Telecom about the filthy condition of the kiosk outside the Post Office and the fact that it was repeatedly only able to be used for Emergency 999 calls.

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

K.A. Walder, Clerk

'Fish' News

Luncheon Club members and their guests celebrated with Christmas dinner on 21st December. As usual, the catering staff at The New Close provided a delicious meal and their hard work, combined with that of our volunteers, made it a happy and memorable occasion.

Once again the children of the Archbishop's School made up magnificent food parcels, which they delivered to local elderly and housebound people. In addition the senior boys, under the supervision of Mr. Richard Whatley, their Senior Master, cut and delivered loads of wood from the churchyard. These kind deeds were much appreciated.

Don't forget that if you are ill or have a sick child you cannot leave, we can find a volunteer to collect prescriptions or do shopping for you. Although most of our work is concerned with our elderly residents we are prepared to help any member of the community in an emergency.

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

Joan Warren, 830233

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)

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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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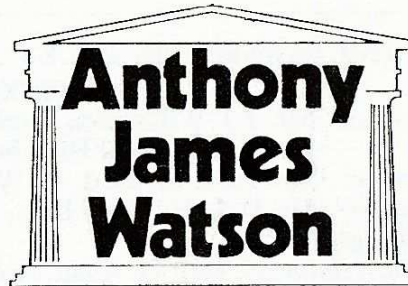
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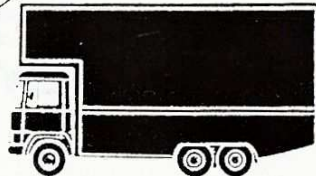
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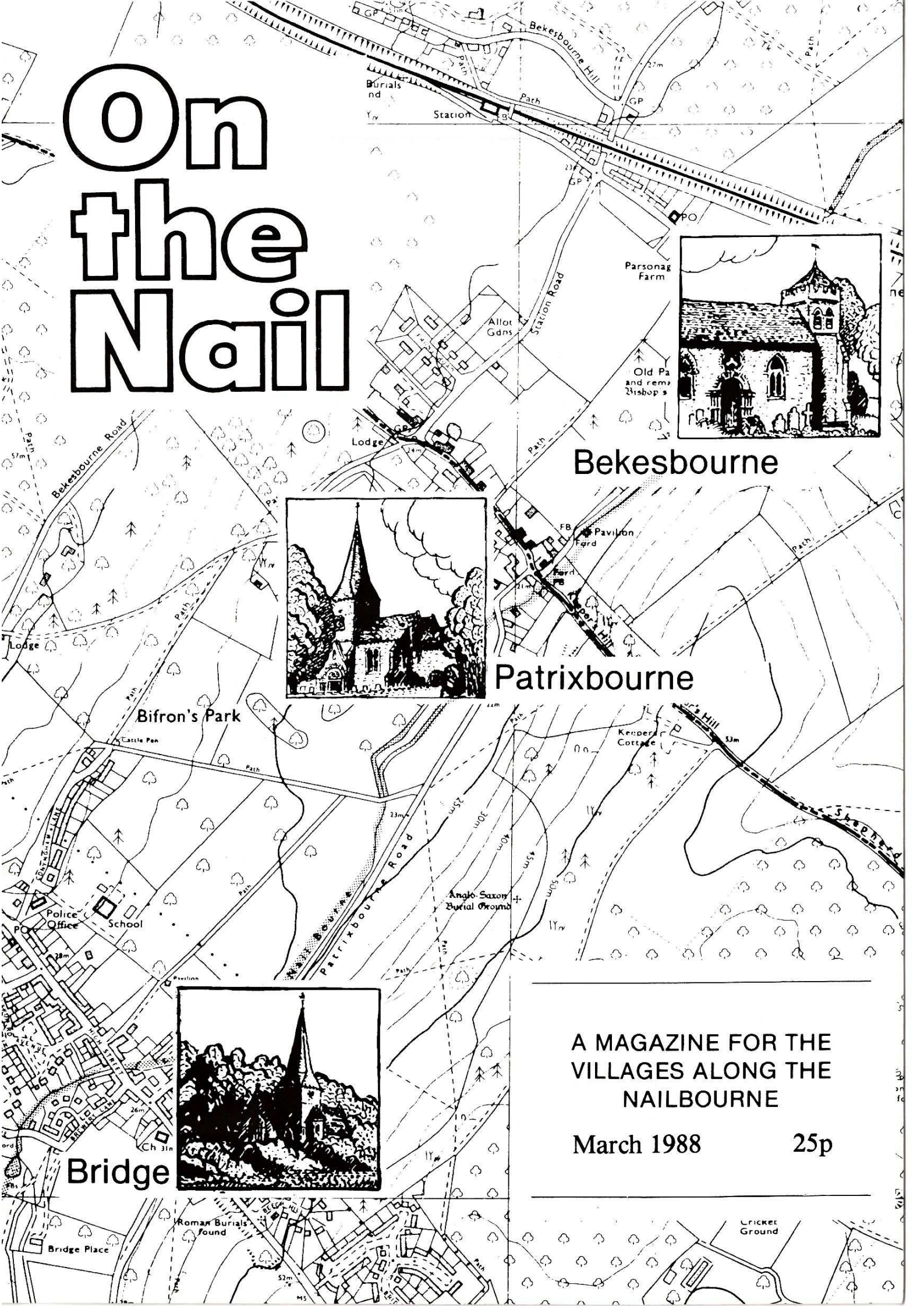
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patricxbourne



Bridge

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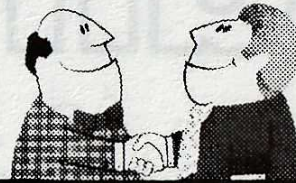
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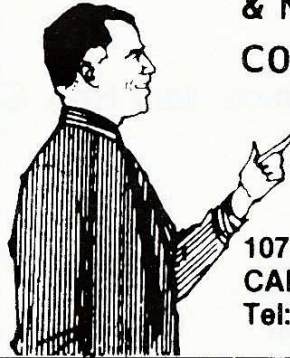
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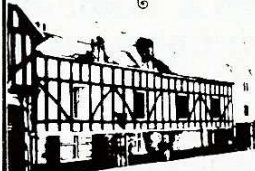
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Sunday Worship in March

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

6th:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

13th:

9.30 The Eucharist
(*ASB Rite A*)
6.30pm Evensong

11am Matins
(*Revd C. Verity*)

11am *Mothering Sunday*
Service

20th:

9.30 Parish Communion
(*ASB Rite A*)
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 11am Matins

27th:

8am Holy Communion
6.30pm *Words & Music*
on Christ's Passion

9am Holy Communion 11am Palm Sunday
Eucharist

3rd April (EASTER DAY)

11am Family Eucharist
6.30pm Festal Evensong

9.30 Holy Communion
with Hymns

8am Holy Communion
11am Matins & Holy
Communion
(*Revd W. Owen*)

PLEASE NOTE—Bekesbourne's highly popular Mothering Sunday Service will again be held this year, and Junior Church children and their parents will attend. Also at Bekesbourne, the 11am service on Palm Sunday will not be Matins but a special Eucharist with hymns and a sermon, preceded by the blessing and distribution of palm crosses.

Junior Church regularly meets on all but the first Sunday of every month at 9.30am in Bridge Village Hall. On the third Sunday the children go on to join the adults at the Parish Communion, and should be collected from the church. Parents may, of course, like to attend the 9.30 service and so be there when Junior Church arrives.

For this month only there will be no Junior Church on 13th as all are invited to Bekesbourne for the Mothering Sunday Service at 11am. Parents please note, they will not be coming to Bridge Church on the third Sunday of this month, so should be collected from the Village Hall.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *6th*, Mrs H. Colyer, B.A. *13th*, Mr J.R. Butler, Ph.D. *20th*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd Sheila Foreman. *27th*, The Revd Wilfred J. Hill, M.C., B.Sc.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion will be held in St. Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (*BCP*) at 9.30am and Friday (*ASB Rite A*) at 7.30am. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 2nd at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always welcome to this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

1st *St. Chad, Bishop, Patron Saint of Wales, c601*

- 2nd *St. Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672*
 3rd Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
 4th *Women's World Day of Prayer Service, St. Peter's Bridge, 2.30pm*
 5th Pray for Susan Horne and Mark Richardson who marry today at Bridge.
 6th **Third Sunday in Lent**
 7th *St. Perpetua and her Companions, Martyrs of Carthage, 203*
 8th *Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, Teacher, Pastor, 1910*
 13th **Fourth Sunday in Lent or Mothering Sunday**
Come and enjoy the customary Mothering Sunday 11 o'clock service at Bekesbourne Church, attended by Junior Church and their parents.
 15th Bekesbourne Annual Church Meeting, Parsonage Farm, 7.30pm
 17th *St. Patrick, Bishop, Patron Saint of Ireland, c460*
 Prayers for Health and Healing, 7pm
 19th **St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 20th **Fifth Sunday in Lent or Passion Sunday**
 24th Pray for the School Governors, who meet this afternoon.
 25th **Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 26th Pray for the Diocesan Synod, which meets today
 27th **Palm Sunday**
 Bridge Choir will present words and music on the Passion of our Lord. This is at 6.30pm and will replace Evensong. Last year's musical meditation was much appreciated and paved the way for keeping Holy Week. The music will be directed by Martin Miles.
 28th **Monday in Holy Week**
 9.30am Holy Communion (*St. Mary's, Patrixbourne*)
 29th **Tuesday in Holy Week**
 9.30am Holy Communion (*St. Peter's, Bridge*)
 30th **Wednesday in Holy Week**
 9.30am Holy Communion (*St. Peter's, Bridge*)
 10.30am School Pre-Easter Service in St. Peter's Church, Bridge
 31st **Thursday in Holy Week**
 7.30pm Evening Eucharist commemorating the Last Supper (*Bridge*)

Good Friday & Easter Day

Good Friday, 1st April:

- 11am Music & Readings on the Cross (*Bekesbourne*)
 2 - 3pm *The Last Hour* A meditation conducted by Mr Norman Wareham, Licensed Reader (*Bridge*)

EASTER DAY, 3rd April:

- 8am Sung Communion (*Bekesbourne*) (*The Vicar*)
 9.30am Sung Communion (*Patrixbourne*) (*The Vicar*)
 11am Parish Eucharist (*Bridge*) (*The Vicar*)
 11am Matins and Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
 (*Revd W. Owen*)
 6.30pm Festal Evensong (*Bridge*) (*The Vicar*)

Waiting for Easter

The reason why the Easter services appear in this issue of *On The Nail* is because Easter Day is on the 3rd April and, despite our best endeavours, we

just might not get your magazine to you in time.

I mention this in case you think I have succumbed to outside commercial pressures and am celebrating Easter ahead of time. You should know me better than that by now! Let us pre-empt Christmas if the traders insist upon it—and we all know that that anticipation gets worse year by year—but it can't be done with Easter. We have to wait for Easter and the reason is explained by Good Friday which, as you know, comes two days before it.

Yes, I do realise that Good Friday also comes next month (just) but the events immediately preceding it in the life of Jesus—we call it his Passion—are commemorated *this* month, and Good Friday is after all the climax of the Passion. So, enough apologising; it is the incidents connected with our Lord's Passion that concern us now: we are waiting for Easter!

In one sense the forty days of Lent have been leading us up to the full rigours of Holy Week, but so dramatic, nay searing, are those happenings that to do them justice we *cannot* begin to celebrate Easter until they have been properly remembered.

* * *

Holy Week is the most meticulously chronicled period in the New Testament, for each of the Four Gospels is in effect a Passion narrative with an introduction. The introduction is all that comes before, i.e. the birth stories of Jesus and the details of his ministry, with the healing miracles and the teachings. As presented they form the prelude to what follows, the great and momentous events of the Passion. All of Jesus' life moved inexorably towards that week of weeks, and if we are to understand what he suffered for us we must taste as much of it as we can. We could not savour all this nor benefit from it if we were to go straight to Easter; and that would be a spiritual impoverishment we could ill afford to sustain.

The truth is that Easter can only be understood in the light of Good Friday, and if we were to by-pass the Passion we would assuredly by-pass Easter, since it would have little significance for us. So we wait for Easter because we need first to immerse ourselves in the tale of Good Friday's sacrifice. We need to feel the desperation of Jesus' disciples when they saw him die on the cross, before we can become alive to the risen Christ who came to them in the upper room on the third day and who lives in our hearts today. We must accept that Christ has died before we can rejoice that Christ is risen! I hope you will avail yourself of what the church has to offer from Palm Sunday to Good Friday, and then—and only then—join in the celebrations that make up Easter Day, the greatest day in the year. They will be well worth waiting for!

Christian Stewards of Time and Talents

by Frank Bull

There used to be—indeed it may still be there for all I know—a large house in Bermondsey called 'The Time and Talents Settlement'. Those who lived and worked from it were very gifted people who gave their time and their talents to serving the local church and community in whatever way they could best do so.

I'm not suggesting that we should think about setting up such a house here, but it isn't surely such a bad idea for the Church family to picture itself as a very diverse group of people who are entrusted by God with various talents

which he wants used in the service of the local church and the local community. We can see ourselves as very different people, of all different ages, and endowed with different talents to be used in his service. And if we are to do just that then we must make time for it.

Jesus had a story about people's God-given talents: you can find it in St. Matthew chapter 25 verses 14 to 30. In it he quite openly acknowledged that some people have been entrusted with more than others, but that does not excuse any one of us from using to the full what we have been given. I knew a churchwarden who, in the days when our church still had a coke-fired boiler, lit it and kept it stoked every winter weekend. Looking in another direction and much nearer home, we have the wonderful example of using time and talents exhibited by the leaders of Junior Church, who are greatly helping our children to know the Lord and what it involves to worship him.

There are many areas in which the Church can make use of people's time and talents. We need those who are able to see that our church buildings look cared for and welcoming, and that cannot best be done just by employing paid professionals, even if we had that kind of money. We need people who will regularly supply not only 'elbow grease' but time and imagination.

Having said that, though, I know there is a problem here. The church can suggest jobs which want doing, but those suggestions may not fit in with the talents God has given us or the time which we can make available. Alternatively we may have a gift that the Church is not able to utilize. If this is the case then we can use the opportunity of the Stewardship Renewal to offer our particular God-given ability not only to the Church but maybe to the local community in God's name. The renewal will give us the chance to work this out in practice.

As St. Paul wisely wrote to the Christians who belonged to the Church in Rome: "Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith God has given to you all". (*Romans 12 vv. 1-3*) That suggests why from time to time we should examine our stewardship of the time and talents with which God has provided us.



Women's World Day of Prayer

After a year's respite we shall once again observe the annual *Women's World Day of Prayer* at St. Peter's, Bridge. There is always a set order of service that is translated into many languages and used all over the world: this year's has been put together by women from Brazil and not surprisingly reflects their thinking and concerns.

The 'day' is 4th March and our service will take place at 2.30pm. Mrs Muriel Packer has agreed to lead the service and other women from the surrounding district and from different churches will assist her. An address will be given by Mrs Dorothy Hawkins, a Licensed Reader in this deanery and wife of the Vicar of Nonington.

Past services have been well supported and I am sure this one will be no exception.

Joys and Sorrows

The January bride who hoped for snow was disappointed, but at least she didn't get rain. **Louise Hollingsbee** married **Brian Stonard** in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on 30th January, and was lucky to get one of the few rain-free days in a very wet spell that the Brewery Lane area won't forget in a hurry. We wish the happy couple well and pray that the sun will steadily shine on their future together.

We record the death on 12th February of Mrs **Nancy Eleanor Wallis**, formerly of Oakleigh Farm, Bekesbourne but latterly of 'Bantam', Bossingham. A requiem mass on 17th February was celebrated in Bekesbourne Church by Fr. John Lawrence, after which her body was laid to rest in the churchyard.

On The Nail Noticeboard

Bridge with Patricxbourne Women's Institute

Following delivery of notices to all houses in Bridge, issuing an invitation to sample the WI, there was a splendid attendance of about sixty on the evening of Tuesday, 16th February. Mr Arnold Bosworth, who writes the nature article in the *Kentish Gazette*, gave a most informative talk on the wildlife of East Kent, illustrated with some wonderful colour slides.

Next month, on Tuesday, 15th March, we shall learn about 'Growing plants in Baskets and Containers'.
D. King

League of Friends—*Bridge Branch*

The League of Friends of the Canterbury Hospitals is holding a Wine and Cheese evening in Bishopsbourne Village Hall on Saturday, 26th March from 6.30 to 8.30pm. Tickets are £2 each, available from Elizabeth Stewart (Tel 830344) or Maureen Baker (Tel 830715). Do come and help us raise funds for the local hospitals.
M.S.F

Newspaper Collection—*Beech Cottage*

Very sincere thanks to all who have taken part for many years in our efforts to prevent waste and to raise funds for the Village Hall. Sadly nobody has offered to take over this service, so there is no alternative but to close it down at the end of this month.
M.A.Y

Ed: Users of the Village Hall—and that must mean all of us at some time or other—will want to record their appreciation of Mrs Young's efforts, which have generated a lot of money for the hall over the years.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

The *RNLI* will be having a house-to-house collection during the week commencing 11th April.

There are now nearly 4,000 lifeboat launches every year, with over a 1,000 people saved from death, and hundreds more taken off vessels. To run the Lifeboat Service around £25 million a year must be raised.

If anyone feels they could assist with the one week's house-to-house collection—just to do one or two roads would be a great help—please contact Mrs Joan Hill, Renville Oast (Tel 830215).
J.H.

Continued on page 13

Bridge Folk Dance Group

Bridge Folk Dance Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month in the Village Hall at 8 o'clock. Alf Matthews is our caller and new dancers of all ages are made very welcome. So please join us when we re-start, fresh from our winter break, on 3rd and 17th March. For further details ring 830285 or 830652.

J. Hopkins

Christian Link Association for Single Parents

CLASP for short, this association exists to provide support and help to single parents by inviting them to attend meetings for talking, sharing and praying together. Anyone in this position is cordially welcome to join a meeting of *CLASP* in the St. Mary Bredin Church Hall, Nunnery Fields, Canterbury on Tuesday, 29th March at 7.45pm. For more details ring Jenny Lawson (454477), Jo Whittaker (831214) or Brigitte Pachot-Hyde (454753).

Visit to Taizé 13th - 22nd August 1988

Taizé is a small village in the hills of Eastern France. Brother Roger, the founder of the ecumenical community, first went there in 1940. Today there are about eighty brothers in the community who are from twenty different countries and of different Christian denominations. Since the 1950s, the community has welcomed a constant stream of people. Whether people go alone or in groups, it is always for a very personal reason: because they have heard that Taizé is a place where with others one can seek a meaning for one's life, in Christ.

Young adults are in the majority at Taizé, but families and adults are always welcome. Going to Taizé means being ready to take part in the whole rhythm of daily life there: prayer, meetings, meals, small groups. Upon arrival meeting groups are formed: those who have arrived in a group are asked not to stick all together but to mix in with others. Each week there are several meetings for people of all ages who are from the same country.

Morning, mid-day and evening, everyone gathers with the community for prayer. Some brothers stay in the church in the evening to listen to those who want to speak personally.

What is it for?

The week in Taizé is for young people aged 16 (approx) or over of any church denomination; adults interested in visiting Taizé and especially those planning to take a youth group in the future.

What happens there?

Each week the meetings begin on Sunday afternoon and last through to the following Sunday mid-day.

The meetings include Bible introductions given by a brother, sharing in small groups, time to reflect in silence. To each small group a practical task is entrusted, e.g. serving meals, washing-up, helping in church etc. Those who wish may opt for a group that involves more manual work.

During the week adults form a group together. There are biblical introductions, times to reflect in silence, discussion in small groups, meals together.

Want to know more?

If this appeals to you or you would like further details I can help to a limited extent, but you might be better advised to contact the Diocesan Youth Officer,

Mr Peter Ball at Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury CT1 1TL (Tel: 459401). Peter is quite well-known in Bridge, being a school parent and involved in preparations for the Summer Fête.

Fish News

The government's policy of reducing residential care and caring for elderly people within the community has necessitated extensive re-organisation in Social Service Departments. In the Canterbury area local government services for the elderly are organised by two teams, one for the north and one for the south. These teams, each consisting of a manager, social worker and home help organiser, are based at 1a Craddock Road (part of the Connors House complex). If you need help for yourself or an elderly relative or neighbour you should contact the duty officer at the Resource Centre, tel: Canterbury 457740. An assessment visit will be made and an appropriate programme of care will be set up. This may range from a few hours help a week with housework to three or four visits a day from care attendants under the Community Care Scheme.

The Home Help Service has been re-organised. Anyone needing just a few hours housework each week will be referred to the *Cadet* Scheme. This service was originally started under the Manpower Services Commission and has been running successfully in the city for some time. Carefully selected people are given training in caring for elderly people and work within their own area under the direction of a supervisor. These helpers will be self-employed and payment will be made directly to them by the client. The original home helps, who have now had additional training, will concentrate on people needing more help and personal care. Payment for this service will continue to be made through the County Council.

We are hoping to arrange for a Social Services representative to come to our Annual General Meeting in April, to give an account of the new services and answer queries.

Dates for your diary

The next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 9th March in Bridge Village Hall from 10.15 to 11.45am.

The annual Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale will be on Saturday, 4th June.

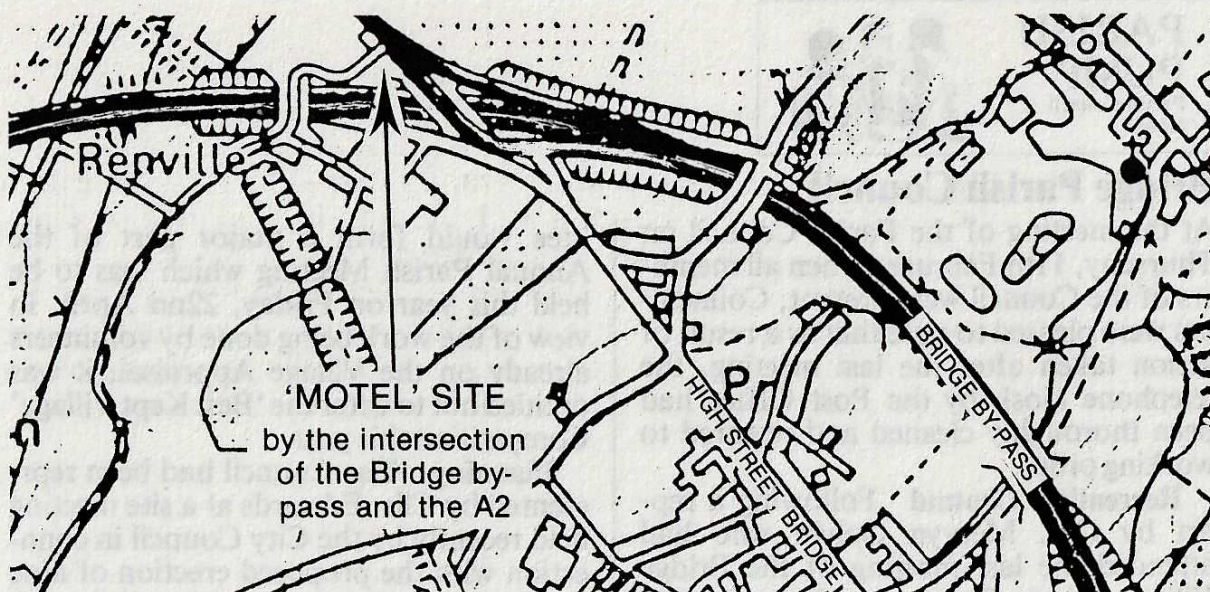
Joan Warren, 830233

Bridge 'Motel' development

May I through the pages of the Parish Magazine update local residents on what has been happening between last August when a Public Meeting was convened to discuss the traffic implications of the 'Motel' project and the recent report in the local Press to the effect that our objections on traffic grounds have been overruled.

Following the Public Meeting on 3rd August numerous individuals wrote to the various officials, both Local and County, registering their concern over the traffic implications.

Letters were sent from the Bridge-Canterbury Traffic Group to eighteen members of the Planning Committee, the County Surveyor, Local and County Councillors and local Parish Councils. All were copied with details of the various traffic surveys carried out and the resolution unanimously approved at



the Public Meeting.

Letters were also sent to the City Council by the Nailbourne Protection Society setting out their objections to the scheme and their fears about the traffic implications.

Somewhat contrary to our expectations the scheme was not discussed by the Planning Committee on the 26th August, 1987 as "opinions were being obtained from the County Surveyor".

At about this time direct contact was made with Cllr. Marion Attwood whose area includes the Pond Cottages site and who is also a member of the Planning Committee. Marion attended various BCTG Committee meetings and has done tremendous work behind the scenes on our behalf.

Since September it has been a matter of examining every possible scheme to alleviate the traffic danger, coupled with a lot of behind-the-scenes canvassing. Regrettably neither the Transport Department nor the County Council's Highways Department shared our concerns and expressed their satisfaction regarding the traffic arrangements. Thus, when the Application finally came before the City Planning Committee on 10th February, 1988 the outcome, despite strenuous pleas for a site meeting by Marion Attwood and a few other local councillors, was virtually *fait accompli*.

As the Chairman of the Planning Committee explained prior to taking a vote on Cllr. Attwood's plea for a site meeting, to have rejected the Application on traffic grounds in the face of approval by the two Highway Authorities concerned would have left the Council 'without a leg to stand on' in defending the inevitable Appeal (and its associated costs).

It was therefore with considerable reluctance that Outline Planning Consent was granted.

And so where does this leave us now? The Application still has to receive Detail Approval but this is unlikely to impede its progress into reality.

The Bridge-Canterbury Traffic Group will now press for any improvements which could alleviate the traffic hazards in the immediate vicinity of the Motel and/or reduce the impact on local roads.

But, as is always the case in these matters, bringing pressure to bear is determined by public support; we may well be calling for your support again before long.

Alan Howland, Chairman BCTG



Bridge Parish Council

At the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday, 11th February when all members of the Council were present, Councillors were pleased to note that as a result of action taken after the last meeting, the telephone kiosk by the Post Office had been thoroughly cleaned and restored to working order.

Recreation Ground Following a report by Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin who had attended the last meeting of the Bridge Village Sports Trust, the Council were satisfied that the new sports pavilion would progress to completion and agreed unanimously to make a grant of £1,000 to the Sports Trust towards the building costs. Councillors were to plant nine horse chestnuts which the Chairman, Cllr. John Hill had obtained, in those areas of the Recreation Ground requiring further tree planting. The Council had no objection to a pitch of suitable size being marked out for an under-12's side which Bridge Junior Football club intended to run next season, provided that the approval of the Cricket club was obtained.

Streets and Footways Although generally the recent road sweeping in the village had been satisfactory, the Clerk was to ask the Kent County Council if advance notice could be given in future so that areas, particularly the High Street, where there were a lot of parked cars could be coned for a short period to enable the sweeping to be carried out effectively.

Regarding the flooding in the village resulting from the very wet weather and the rise in level of the Nailbourne, the Council were to write to Southern Water expressing their concern and supporting County Councillor Mr L. Shirley's request to the Authority for urgent action to be taken to survey the stream and deepen its bed.

Village Appraisal Cllr. Gulvin reported that preparation work on the appraisal was well under way by members of the Sub-Committee and that the response to the recently distributed questionnaire appeared good. It was intended that discussion of the findings of the Sub-Comm-

ittee would form a major part of the Annual Parish Meeting which was to be held this year on Friday, 22nd April. In view of the work being done by volunteers already on the Village Appraisal, it was decided not to enter the 'Best Kept Village' Competition this year.

Planning The Council had been represented by Cllr. Edwards at a site meeting held recently by the City Council in connection with the proposed erection of nine two-bedroom houses at John Knight & Sons Builders Yard (CA/87/1438/BRI). The Council had objected to an application to enclose the side garden at 12 Bridge Down mainly because it was incompatible with the open plan design of the estate (CA/88/0072/BRI). Planning permission had been granted by the City Council for the reconstruction of an existing building to form a two-bedroom dwelling, the erection of a five-bedroom dwelling and a garage for four cars at River House, 67 High Street (CA/87/1207/BRI) and for the erection of a conservatory/aviary at the rear of 49 High Street (CA/L/87/0186/BRI and CA/387/1483/BRI).

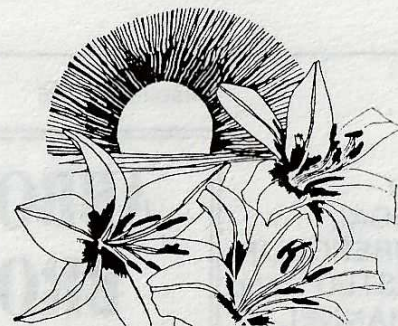
Parish Noticeboard The Council thanked Cllr. Ken Greenaway for his work on refurbishing the Parish Noticeboard which was now back in place in the High Street in front of Presto.

Cllr. Greenaway was to represent the Council at the Kent Village Halls Conference in March and had agreed to accept the Council's nomination again for the coming year to the Kent Village Halls Committee. Cllr. Gulvin was to represent the Council at a Kent Association of Parish Councils Area Committee Meeting being held in connection with the preparation of a Canterbury Rural Plan whilst Cllr. Edwards was to attend the next meeting of the Police Advisory Committee on 16th February.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday, 10th March at the usual time of 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall. *K.A. Walder, Clerk*

Easter church decoration

Bekesbourne



All available flower ladies are asked to turn up at Bekesbourne Church on Easter Eve, 2nd April at 10.30am. Donations for lilies will be gratefully received. Please let Christine Ash, Parsonage Farm have your donation, and accept our thanks in advance.

Bridge

Lilies for Easter will be £1.60 this year. If anyone would like to give one, would they give their money to me, Mrs Roger Hunter, 24 High Street or to Mrs Elsie Apps, 34 High Street. Decorating for Easter will take place on Saturday, 2nd April at 9.45am. Any offers of help or flowers will be most welcome. *J.H.*

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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)

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

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

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On The Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

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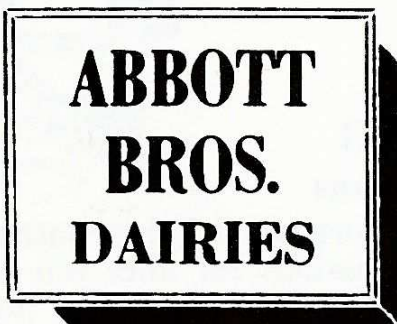
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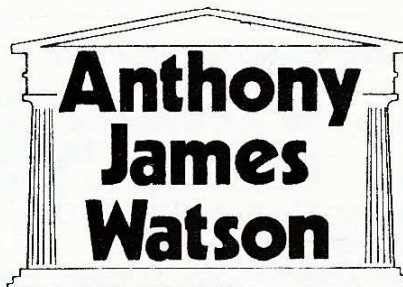
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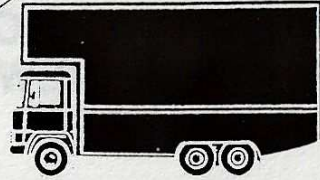
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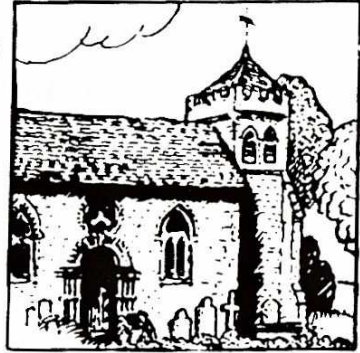
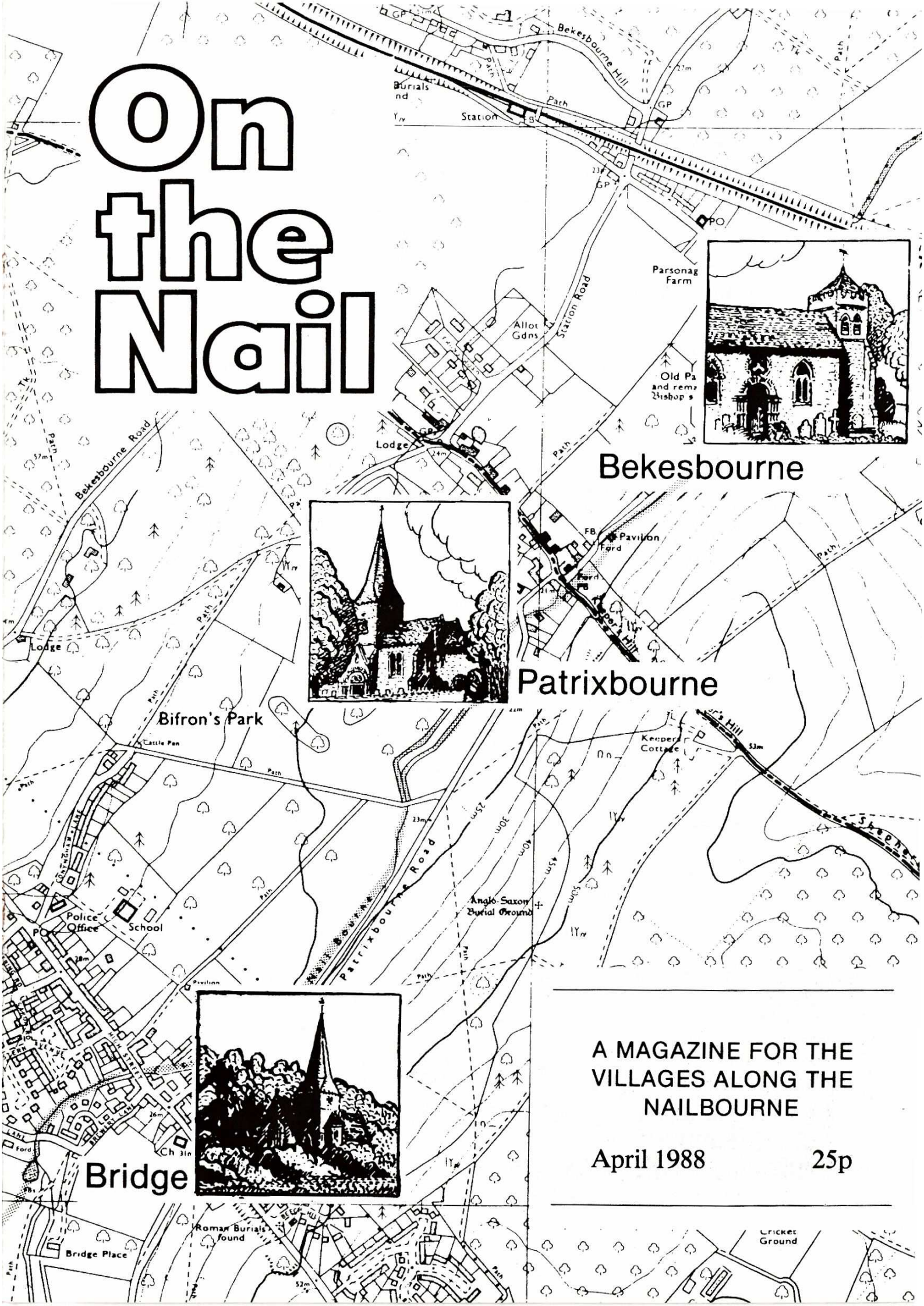
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patricbourne



Bridge

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NAILBOURNE

April 1988

25p

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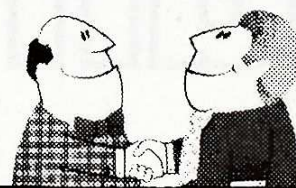
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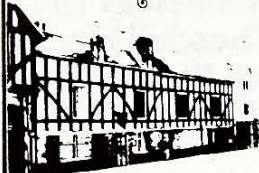
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Sunday Worship in April

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

3rd (EASTER DAY):

11am Family Eucharist
6.30pm Festal Evensong

9.30 Holy Communion
With Hymns

8am Holy Communion
11am Matins & Holy
Communion
(Revd W. Owen)

10th:

9.30 The Eucharist
(ASB Rite A)
(Revd W. Owen)
6.30pm Evensong
(Canon F. Bull)

11am Matins
(Revd C. Verity)

8am Holy Communion
(Canon F. Bull)

17th:

9.30 Parish Communion
(ASB Rite A)
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion
4pm Holy Baptism

11am Matins

24th:

8am Holy Communion
6.30pm Choral Evensong

9am Holy Communion
11am Matins

1st May:

11am Family Service
with Stewardship
Commissioning
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion
9.30 Parish Communion

Junior Church regularly meets on all but the first Sunday of every month at 9.30am in Bridge Village Hall. On the third Sunday the children go on to join the adults at the Parish Communion, and should be collected from the church. Parents will, of course, be very welcome to attend the 9.30 service and so be there when Junior Church arrives.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *3rd, Holy Communion*, The Revd Sheila Foreman. *10th*, Mr E.R. O'Mahony. *17th*, Dr Maureen Rosman. *24th, Local Preacher's Sunday*, Mr H. Hurford.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion will be held in St. Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and Friday (ASB Rite A). Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 6th at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always welcome to this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

Good Friday, 1st April:

11am
2 - 3pm

Music & Readings on the Cross (Bekesbourne)
The Last Hour A meditation conducted by Mr
Norman Wareham, Licensed Reader (Bridge)

EASTER DAY, 3rd April:

- 8am Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*) (*The Vicar*)
9.30am Sung Communion (*Patricbourne*) (*The Vicar*)
11am Parish Eucharist (*Bridge*) (*The Vicar*)
11am Matins and Holy Communion (*Bekesbourne*)
(*Revd W. Owen*)
6.30pm Festal Evensong (*Bridge*) (*The Vicar*)
- 4th **Monday in Easter Week**
5th **Tuesday in Easter Week**
6th **Wednesday in Easter Week**
7th **Thursday in Easter Week**
Prayers for Health and Healing, 7pm
8th **Friday in Easter Week**
9th **Saturday in Easter Week**
Nailbourne Ladies Group Jumble Sale, Bridge Village Hall, 2pm
Bridge Folk Dance Group Barn Dance, Bridge Village Hall, 8pm
10th **First Sunday after Easter**
12th Nailbourne Horticultural Society Show, Bridge Village Hall, 7.15pm
Patricbourne with Bridge Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
13th Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
14th *Deanery Healing Service*, St. Peter's Church, Bridge, 7.30pm
Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
17th **Second Sunday after Easter**
19th Pray for the clergy of East Bridge Deanery who meet this morning at Littlebourne vicarage.
Bridge with Patricbourne Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
20th Fish Scheme AGM, Bridge Methodist Church, Patricbourne Road, 8pm
21st *St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109*
Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
23rd *St. George, Patron Saint of England, Martyr, 4th cent.*
Pray for David Upton and Caroline Ritson, also Andrew Bate and Elizabeth Round who marry today at Patricbourne and Bridge Churches respectively.
Deanery *Songs of Praise*, Ash Parish Church, 7pm
24th **Third Sunday after Easter**
25th **St. Mark the Evangelist**
29th *St Catherine of Siena, Mystic, 1380*

The Vicar is taking an Easter break from Monday, 4th to Monday, 11th April inclusive. During that time Canon Frank Bull (830440) is kindly making himself available if the services of a priest are urgently required. But please only call upon him in cases of emergency that cannot wait until the Vicar's return.

STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

In his final article leading up to Patricbourne with Bridge's Christian Stewardship Renewal Canon Frank Bull, Stewardship Committee Chairman faces up to the of-quoted challenge

They're always after your money!

Who are "they"? The government for one, charities for another: and so one could go on! But writing in a church magazine means one must not forget THE CHURCH. And as this is my last article about our Christian Stewardship Renewal Campaign I'm certain everyone will expect me to talk about money! I won't disappoint you!

Indeed, why should I not write about money? It is only a means of exchange, but none of us can get on without it! Jesus may not have handled money himself, but his small band of followers certainly had 'a common purse' to which the crowds he attracted made contributions, and out of which they paid their 'living expenses'.

A lot has happened since those early days and the outward appearance of the Christian Church has developed and changed across the centuries, but it still needs money to pay 'living expenses'. Across the years churches, like charities have attracted endowments of one sort or another (and most valuable they are) but never sufficient to pay all expenses, keep pace with inflation and allow for venturing into new areas for extending God's kingdom.

So what are we doing in a Christian Stewardship Campaign? We are not holding out 'the begging bowl'! We are saying, let us who call ourselves Christians face up to the question, 'How grateful am I for our Church and the faith it stands for?' Having answered that then we must surely face up to the further question, 'How much am I able and willing to give on a regular basis that the Church and its work can go on?' We don't have to answer that question to anyone but God: it is between our conscience and his love!

Something which every Christian Stewardship Campaign must aim to do is provide simple answers to questions which people ask. For example, 'How can I decide what my giving should be?' or 'How much have we got to find to keep our church going for another year?' or 'How much do we need if we are to extend the work?' We hope to provide guidance in simple and easily understood terms, but we want everyone who is approached to be sure of this, no one from the Church will suggest to you what you ought to give. What we decide is our decision and reached between us and God.

Joys and Sorrows

The baptism of **James Adam**, son of Vera and Derek Newington took place in Derek's home village of Bekesbourne on 28th February. The next Sunday, 6th March there were three baptisms at Bridge's Family Service—**Charles Edward**, baby son of Harry and Susan Bullard, 28 Riverside Close, and **David Lewis** and **Mary Clare**, children of Christine and John Sladden, Cowhouse Cottage, Bekesbourne. Both David and Clare belong to Junior Church and attend Bridge School.

On 5th March **Susan Horne**, 40 Western Avenue married **Mark Richardson** from Whitstable in St. Peter's Church, Bridge. We wish them every happiness!

The funeral of **John Dennis Jubb**, 'Kilburn', Station Road, Bekesbourne took place in St. Peter's Church on Friday, 18th March. Conducted by the Vicar, it was followed by cremation at Barham crematorium.

Deanery Healing Service

Healing formed an integral part of the early Church's ministry. Over the subsequent centuries it faded from the scene, but is now re-emerging.

Churches country-wide are re-discovering this forgotten aspect of their ministry, which properly exercised, in a gentle and undemonstrative way, is bringing health and peace to sick and sound alike.

In this diocese the *Canterbury Council for Health and Healing* is making an important contribution to the revival, offering guidance and support to an increasing number of parishes, who want to see the healing ministry back to its ancient prominence in their life.

In a literally rural deanery like ours individual parish ventures in this area may encounter a limited response, often because it is unfamiliar and seen as catering only to a minority interest. So it may be helpful to revive the healing ministry here on a deanery rather than parish basis.

Conscious of a growing concern in East Bridge Deanery about the Church and healing, and since we are a deanery that happily functions as such, a modest start was made with a Healing Service in Nonington Church last autumn. Despite a dark, stormy night and the minimum of publicity, those who came were most appreciative and asked that further services be held.

There will therefore be another Deanery Healing Service, this time in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on Thursday, 14th April at 7.30pm. The service (not a eucharist) will include the ministry of the laying-on-of-hands for all who wish to receive it. An address will be given by Dr Derek Hall, a retired General Practitioner, who is the Co-ordinator of the *Canterbury Council for Health and Healing*.

The Church's healing ministry is not a substitute for the recognised medical services, nor does it engage in flamboyant behaviour or make excessive claims. It is concerned essentially with whole person healing and seeks to bring health to the personality, even in cases where symptoms persist. 'Health' comes from the same root as 'salvation' and is thus what Christ came to bring. The Church, as Christ's body, must be involved!

PARISH PRAYERS for health and healing are offered twice monthly on the first and third Thursdays at 7pm. It is important to understand this is not an exclusive gathering but is open for all to participate and add their own prayer intentions. We meet in the vicarage for up to half an hour each time, and apart from direct intercession, include a reading to focus our attention. In addition to prayers for the sick and suffering the group is methodically praying round the village for all residents house by house, taking part of a street each time. This way everyone, whatever their state of health, is held up to God in prayer; we believe this to be an important aspect of a parish prayer group.

On The Nail Noticeboard

Charities Jumble Sale

The Nailbourne Ladies Group is holding a Jumble Sale in Bridge Village Hall on Saturday, 9th April at 2 o'clock in aid of the NSPCC and other charities. For collection of jumble please ring 830960 or 830204, or the Village Hall will be open from 10am to 12 noon on the day of the sale.

E.A.

Barn Dance

Bridge Folk Dance Group is holding a Barn Dance in the Village Hall on Saturday, 9th April at 8pm. The caller will be Alf Matthews and admission is £2, which includes refreshments. Proceeds in aid of East Kent Badger Group for the protection of badgers.

D. Whittaker

Women's Institute

At the meeting on 15th March Mr G. Wickham demonstrated how to plant up hanging baskets for the summer. He illustrated his talk with many amusing details, including how to wear one's apron for 'potting up'.

Three ladies tied for first place in the competition for the best house plants: there are obviously many experts in this field in Bridge.

The next meeting on 19th April at 7.30pm is our 69th Birthday Party, when we hope to arrange a fish and chip supper.

D. King, Correspondent

Antiques Fair

Mr J. Wellard is holding an Antiques Fair and Auction in Bridge Village Hall on Friday and Saturday, 29th and 30th April. This will be on similar lines to the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* except that items for sale will be auctioned in aid of local charities, including the Village Hall and the Royal British Legion. More details later.

D. Cartwright

Children's Society Week 1988

From door to door to children

Last year, the Church of England Children's Society helped care for more children, young people and their families than ever before; 11,000 in a record 107 projects throughout England and Wales. Every year, inflation increases the costs of caring, and opening new projects puts greater strain on the Society's resources.

During Children's Society Week, April 10th - 16th, every home in this parish will be getting a small blue envelope from The Children's Society. Please consider this envelope carefully and think about those 11,000 young people; young people under pressure from poverty, unemployment, mental or physical handicap, homelessness or the lack of a family.

If you place a gift in your envelope, you will be sharing in bringing hope to young people who feel unwanted and overwhelmed. You will be showing that there are people who care.

During Children's Society Week, volunteers throughout England and Wales will be delivering envelopes to as many home as possible and collecting them later.

Here in Bridge, we have a team of volunteers raring to go; but their efforts will be wasted if the envelopes are not returned. The Children's Society needs a gift in every envelope.

Let's make sure that even more people than ever before make a generous donation towards the work of the Society. Please pray for our collectors and all the people they will visit in our parish.

Ann Medhurst, Organiser

EASTER SUNDAY

A translation from some lines of a medieval poet, an Irish scholar at Liège.

Last night did Christ the Sun rise from the dark,
The mystic harvest of the fields of God,
And now the little wandering tribes of bees
Are brawling in the scarlet flowers abroad.
The winds are soft with birdsong; all night long
Darkling the nightingale her descant told,
And now inside Church doors the happy folk
The Alleluia chant a hundredfold.
O Father of thy folk, be thine by right
The Easter joy, the threshold of the light.

SEDULIUS SCOTTUS (flourished 848-74), Helen Waddell's translation (*Medieval Latin Lyrics*)

Hail and farewell!

Sharon, Gerald, Thomas, Matthew and William Sperling would like to thank all of their friends and Bridge Down neighbours for the six happy years they have spent in Bridge. They are moving to Meopham and wish everyone a Happy Easter!

All the Sperlings

New Autumn Fayre 12th November

Historians among our readers may know for exactly how many years Bridge and Patricxbourne have been holding a Christmas Market in the Village Hall. It must be quite a few: I've known nine such events.

No matter, when churchwarden Stephen Pike recently got together a working party to prepare well in advance for 1988, they unanimously decided that it was time for a change. The group's deliberations, ratified by a subsequent PCC meeting, resulted in a whole new approach, producing a fresh title, date and venue. In fact there is to be what we are calling *The New Autumn Fayre*, and it will be held on 12th November and in the school.

We realise it is a long way off—indeed there is a joint Summer Fête first, on 18th June—but the extra notice is to enable stallholders to prepare and assemble stock in good time. One example is the Handicraft Stall, which is not something that can be put on at a minute's notice. In respect of that particular stall Gill Harvey is already making a start, as will be seen from the following:

I am hoping to form a group of helpers to prepare items for sale on the handicraft stall at the New Autumn Fayre. If you can help in any way we are having a get-together on Thursday, 21st April at 2.30pm at 6 Bridgeford Way. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to help please contact me on 830494. Unused materials, wool, etc. would be most welcome.

County Campfire Singing Competition

Having won the District and Division heats of the Campfire Singing Competition, Bridge Guides represented the Canterbury Division in the final on Saturday, 5th March. We were given seven set songs, three of which we had to learn from scratch and two were our own choice. Ten companies entered the final from all over East Kent and we came second with 82% and some very favourable comments. The competition has been great fun but quite hard work, and may I thank the parents of the guides for their encouragement and support.

M.S.F.

League of Friends

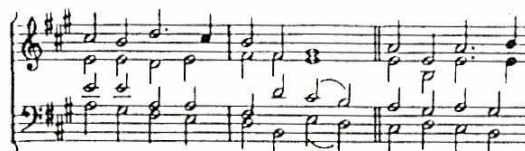
The Bridge branch of the hospital *League of Friends* held its AGM on Monday, 15th February. The Chairman, Mr George Stewart, reported a successful year's fund raising totalling £1200, which had bought three syringe drivers, a child's bed and mattress, lockers and large print books for the hospital. The Chairman and Committee were elected to remain unchanged for the next year.

The Chairman reported that the Hospital Fair would undergo a change this year. It would be held on Saturday, 16th July in the Out-patients Car Park of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital and not at the cricket ground as in previous years.

M.S.F.

Deanery Songs of Praise

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, ASH



A new deanery event that is sure to be repeated gets off the ground on Saturday, 23rd April. At 7 o'clock that evening choirs and congregations from all over the deanery will assemble in the church at Ash to sing *Songs of Praise*, a service of hymns and readings with an organ intermission.

Fourteen hymns have been chosen, all thoroughly well known and very popular. Some are relatively new hymns, some old, but all, as might be imagined, hymns of praise. When it is all over refreshments will be served in the church—and right welcome they are sure to be, considering all the singing involved. Donations of refreshments are requested. Why not give it a try!

The New Close service

I am most grateful for the response to an earlier appeal for helpers at the weekly Wednesday afternoon service I take for the residents at The New Close. That doesn't mean we have reached saturation point: we can always do with further help, if you are free and willing.

A few weeks ago, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of The New Close the unsatisfactory hymnbook situation at this service was resolved, so that instead of having to use battered copies of *English Hymnal* (an excellent hymnbook in many ways, but totally unsuited to The New Close situation) we are able to give the residents large print editions of the book we use in the churches. The difference this has made to their participation is quite remarkable. Thank you so much, Friends!

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday, 10th March, members heard first of all that, following the flooding, Southern Water were to undertake a survey of the Nailbourne to establish whether improvement works were feasible whilst continuing in the meantime with their regular channel maintenance. They were also informed that Kent County Council had been working on the drain in Brewery Lane where they had replaced some lengths of drain piping.

Recreation Ground The Chairman, Cllr. John Hill, thanked those members who had helped with the planting of the horse chestnuts on 21st February. The Clerk was to make arrangements for delivery and planting of a further four trees, ordered through the City Council to replace those damaged in the storm and for which grant aid was available from the Countryside Commission. Arrangements were being made for the ground to be rolled, or harrowed, whichever was deemed more suitable by the County Council.

Streets and Footways Although the dental practice had indicated their willingness to repair the railings adjacent to their practice, it was decided initially to ask the County Council, as Highway Authority, to repair them as it was understood they had done so in the past and the railings constituted a danger, particularly to young children. The Clerk was to ask the City Council to investigate the lighting programme for the lamps in the High Street as there appeared to be no street lamps alight after midnight for the stretch between Meadow Close and Western Avenue.

Trees in Your Village Competition The Council decided it worthwhile to enter the competition again this year since the expert judges would be able to offer

invaluable advice especially after the damage caused by last October's storm.

Annual Parish Meeting It was decided to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting until Friday, 20th May to allow more time for the preparation of the Village Appraisal material which was to be presented at the Meeting for discussion and consultation. Cllr. Mervyn Gulvin stated that the drafts were now being prepared by the members of the Subcommittee. He stated that he had been disappointed, with only an approximate 30% response to the questionnaire.

Planning The Council had no observations to make on applications for a renewal of outline permission for a single storey dwelling on land adjoining 23 Union Road or for an outline application for a single storey two-bedroom dwelling at Bournes Corner, Bekesbourne Road. The Council did however object to an application for a change of use to Care Home for the Elderly (10 residents) at East Bridge Country Guest House, Bridge Hill and to amended plans for the demolition of an outbuilding at the Plough and Harrow Public House. Planning permission had been granted for a single storey rear extension to 5 Western Avenue and for the erection of nine terraced two-bedroom houses at John Knight & Sons Builders Yard, High Street. Regarding the extension at 30 Western Avenue overhanging the pavement in Saxon Road, a licence to overhang the highway had been sought from and subsequently granted by the Highways Department of the County Council.

Parish Rate The rate levy for the parish for the coming year was 1.7p The next meeting of the Council will be on Thursday, 14th April at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

The Wine and cheese served at the 'Gardeners' Forum' may have been responsible for the good attendance at Bishopsbourne on the evening of Wednesday, 9th March. A panel of three members of the Society, Mrs Pat Davidson, Roger Austin and Fred Atkins, answered a variety of questions put to them from the floor, which made for an enjoyable and informative evening.

The next date on the Society's calendar is the Spring Show to be held in Bridge Village Hall on Tuesday, 12th April. The hall will be open from 6pm to allow competitors to stage their exhibits and judging will take place at 7.15pm. Refreshments will be provided. Anyone requiring Show Schedules should contact either Kathy Walder (830057) or Pat Davidson (830340). This year there is a new trophy to be won for the 'Best Pot Plant in Show'.

On Thursday, 28th April in Bishopsbourne Village Hall at 8.00pm, the Society will be holding a Plant and Produce (including cakes) Bring and Buy Sale in conjunction with the AGM. There will be plenty of Spring plant bargains to be had that evening.

K. W.

Fish News

Annual General Meeting

The Fish Scheme AGM will be held on Wednesday, 20th April at 8pm in Bridge Methodist Church, Patricxbourne Road. This is an open meeting and all residents of the four villages are invited to join us to discuss the running of the scheme and to make suggestions for improvements.

Blossom Tour

Our annual Blossom Tour has been arranged for Wednesday, 4th May. The coach will leave the bottom of Western Avenue (opposite Green Court) at 2.15pm returning about 5.30pm. We shall be stopping at Chilham Fruit Farm for cream tea and to visit the farm shop. The inclusive charge will be £2.75. Priority will be given to pensioners living alone. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to join us.

Fresh Volunteers

A group of our younger volunteers, under the leadership of Mrs Rosy Green and Mrs Ann Medhurst, has taken over the running of the monthly Coffee Pop-In. This is a very welcome development as we are anxious to spread the responsibility for our scheme throughout the community to ensure continuity. Many of our original volunteers were well over retirement age when we started the scheme in 1980—they are now feeling the need to hand over some of their tasks to younger people.

The next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 13th April in Bridge Village Hall from 10.15 to 11.45am.

Joan Warren, 830233

St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

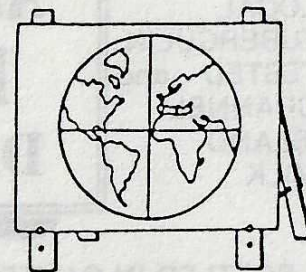
April Cleaning and Flower-arranging

On 9th April Mrs Hogben has accepted responsibility for church cleaning and Mrs Smith for arranging the flowers. Mrs Clifford will cover both jobs for 16th, 23rd and 30th April.

World Education and Development Group (East Kent)

The World Education and Development Group, an organisation which grew out of a suggestion made at a meeting of local Peace, Justice Development Groups in the Spring of 1986, has recently opened its Centre above the Oxfam Shop in St. Peter's Street, Canterbury.

Its aim is to help everyone understand problems in world development, *i.e.* education in the widest sense. We have available a wide range of leaflets, booklets, teachers' packs, games etc. plus information on relevant local groups and their activities. We can also give help with school projects. As well as premises provided by Oxfam, we receive funding from Christian Aid. **DO COME AND VISIT US!**



Contributed

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

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

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

Mr. N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)

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

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

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

Captain of the Bells: Mr. 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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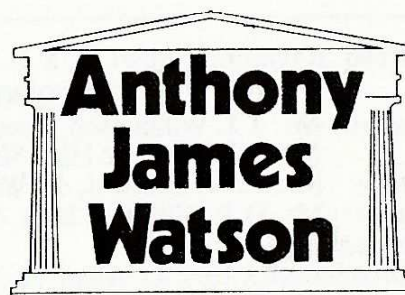
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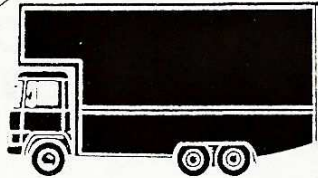
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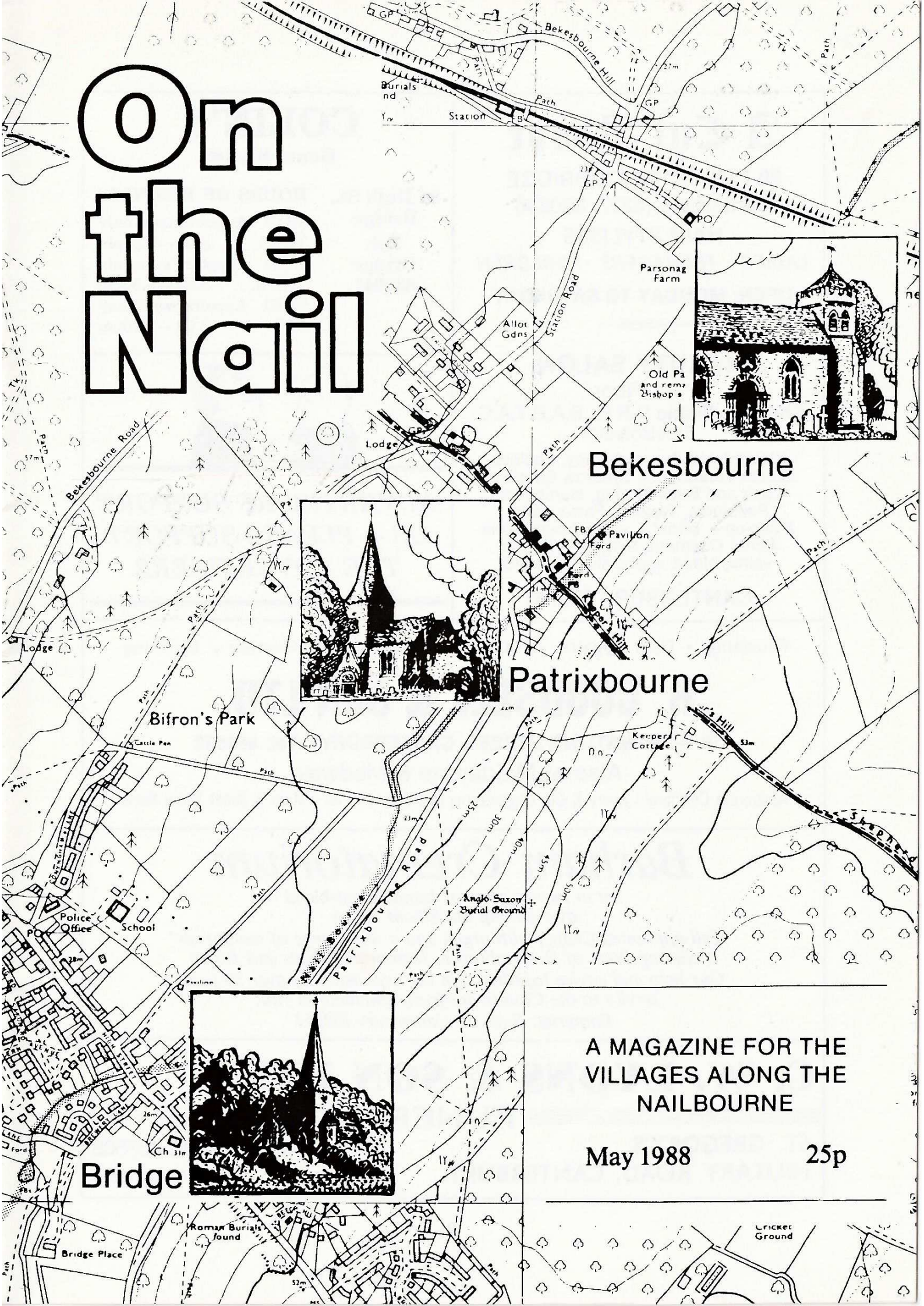
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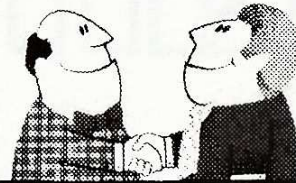
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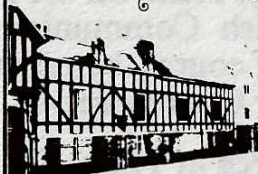
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Sunday Worship in May

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

1st May:

11am Family Service
with Stewardship
Commissioning
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

8th:

9.30 The Eucharist
(ASB Rite A)
3.30pm Holy Baptism
6.30pm Evensong

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

15th:

9.30 Parish Communion
(ASB Rite A)
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 11am Matins

22nd WHITSUNDAY

11am Stewardship
Thanksgiving Eucharist
6.30pm Choral Evensong

11am Matins
(Revd W. Owen)

29th:

9.30 The Eucharist
(ASB Rite A)
6.30pm Evensong

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

5th June:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

Patricxbourne with Bridge's Stewardship Renewal spans most of this month. It commences with a special Commissioning at the Family Service on 1st, and concludes with a Thanksgiving Eucharist on the morning of Whitsunday, commencing at 11am. The latter will be the only service in either church that morning. We ask for a big turn-out on both those occasions, and of course, for lots of support in prayer and in person during the renewal campaign.

Junior Church regularly meets on all but the first Sunday of every month at 9.30am in Bridge Village Hall. On the third Sunday the children go on to join the adults at the Parish Communion, and should be collected from the church. Parents will, of course, be very welcome to attend the 9.30 service and so be there when Junior Church arrives.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 1st, Mrs M C Fairhurst, B.Ed. 8th, Holy Communion, The Revd Sheila Foreman. 15th, The Revd Dr. Mervyn T Willshaw, M.A.,B.D. 22nd, Church Anniversary, Miss J Charlesworth, M.A. 29th, Miss E A H Tresidder, Ph.D.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion will be held in St. Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and Friday (ASB Rite A) at 7.30am. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 4th at

10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always welcome to this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st **St. Philip and St. James, Apostles**
The 11am Family Service at Bridge will include the commissioning of stewardship visitors and effectively launches the Stewardship Renewal.
- 2nd *St. Athanasius, Teacher, Bishop of Antioch, 373*
- 4th Stewardship Renewal Meeting, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30 to 9pm
- 5th Bridge Methodists' Coffee Morning, Patricxbourne Road, 10am
Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
Stewardship Renewal Meeting, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30 to 9pm
Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm
- 6th Stewardship Renewal Meeting, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30 to 9pm
- 8th **Fifth Sunday after Easter Rogation Sunday**
- 9th Bekesbourne Village Hall Committee AGM, 8pm—all welcome
- 11th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am
- 12th **ASCENSION DAY**
The Eucharist, St. Peter's Church, Bridge, 7.30pm
- 14th **St. Matthias the Apostle**
- 15th **Sunday after Ascension Day**
- 16th *Christian Aid Week until 21st*
- 19th *St. Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988*
Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm
- 20th Bridge Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 22nd **WHITSUNDAY** also called *PENTECOST*
The closing act of worship of Patricxbourne with Bridge Parish Stewardship Renewal will be the only service this morning in the parish, and is at 11am in St. Peter's Church. In thanksgiving for the renewal and in prayer for the future we hope a large congregation will join us this Whitsunday at the Lord's table for this important Festival Eucharist. 11am Matins will be held as usual at Bekesbourne, which is not involved in stewardship renewal.
- 24th *John and Charles Wesley, Priests, Poets, Teachers, 1791, 1788*
Bridge Methodist Church Open Day, 10am - 1pm, 2 - 6pm
Evensong Anniversary Service, 7.30pm
Pray for East Bridge Deanery Synod which meets this evening at Elmstone.
- 25th *Venerable Bede, Priest, Monk of Jarrow, 735*
Bekesbourne PCC meets this evening.
- 26th *St. Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605*
- 28th Bekesbourne Sport and Social Club Barn Dance, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 29th **Trinity Sunday**
- 31st *Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth*

Thanks be to God!

The word 'stewardship' is being bandied about just now in church circles in

both Patrixbourne and Bridge, and Canon Frank Bull has already written several informative articles in *On The Nail* to explain why.

As you will see in the CALENDAR and DIARY columns above, the first of this month sees our thinking about stewardship put into practice and we hope a large number of parishioners are going to share the experience.

At the opening service we shall be commissioning the gallant band of visitors who eventually will do the rounds to help individual families crystalize their thinking about Christian Stewardship and how they might respond to it. Your support and encouragement at the Family Service on 1st May will be of inestimable value to them, and we hope you will be there to give it.

Then you may also have seen in the DIARY there are three open meetings on successive evenings the very next week. We don't expect you to attend more than one because they will, in any case, be identical. But knowing how full diaries get, and because we *do* want the pleasure of your company, we are offering three evenings for you to choose from. The meetings are in the Methodist Church, Patrixbourne Road on Wednesday, 4th, Thursday, 5th and Friday, 6th May and each one will last from 7.30 to 9pm. We hope to have a video presentation and will give you plenty of time to ply us with questions and hopefully clear up any problems you may have about Christian Stewardship. It will be a relaxed and convivial evening, a chance to talk together and enjoy a few refreshments.

The Renewal Campaign reaches its conclusion on Whitsunday—one of the Church's major festivals—when we shall gather in St. Peter's Church for an 11am Eucharist. The title 'eucharist' means 'thanksgiving', and this one will certainly live up to its name for by then we should have much to be thankful for.

But that is precisely why the parish decided eight years ago to adopt the principle of Christian Stewardship, and has run on those lines ever since. It is an admission that we have so much in life to be thankful for, and that we owe it all to God. Our stewardship enables us to ally our thanksgiving in a tangible way with our faith. So we offer back to God tokens of his bounty, and one of the best ways of doing that is by putting those tokens at the local church's disposal. Through stewardship we can say thank you to God for his gifts in life of ability and property, coupled with the time in which to employ them, by offering tokens of them to his church. The added spin-off is that in return the church, both people and buildings, is maintained and enhanced, so can do the work for which God created it.

This idea is no longer new to many readers, but even if it *is* old hat please support your local church as it tries to live true to its message of salvation through Christ Jesus, and as it works to provide an outlet for this devotion to God which is his due and for which he set us on this earth.

Bekesbourne, too, joins in Stewardship

Although we are not having a formal programme of Christian Stewardship in the parish, certainly the activities of our neighbouring parish will not go unmarked. On one Sunday in the month there will be a display at the west end of the church about the principles of Stewardship, and an appeal will go out to all worshippers in the parish to see what they can do to help support the Church both in the building and the people of Bekesbourne.

J.P.

Roger Bennett Hunter

1910 - 1988

Doctor Roger Hunter was born the 16th May 1910 and died the 21st March 1988 after more than fifty years of devoted marriage and fatherhood, and nigh on fifty years in Bridge. His practice as a physician was shortened by grave illness in December 1965, when he was snatched back from death by the skills of his colleagues and the care of his wife, for all of which he often voiced his thanks. Yet the years of retirement which followed were ones in which the variety of his talents and interests enriched alike his own life and thought and all those who had the good fortune of his friendship.



He was educated at Coleraine Academy, where his own father was Headmaster, founding himself on the Latin and Greek classics which he pursued for his first year of study at Trinity College, Dublin; then turning to medicine, to the gain of successive generations in our villages since he first came here in 1939. He was first briefly in practice in Sheerness, but more important was the job as a 'locum' in Guernsey where he met and married Joyce on that May Day of 1937 when they entered the 'united way' which is lovingly mentioned in his poetry, and from which he had so much strength and support. With Joyce and all his family we united and prayed at his funeral, and still unite in prayer and sympathy, as in pride of memory.

So much for mere chronology—what matters is the man we loved. Words such as 'respect', 'affection' and 'trust'—all of which his friends and patients held him in—are inadequate for feelings which mirror his own qualities. The calm devotion which he brought to his vocation inspired all these feelings, touching people's lives when they most needed reassurance. But there, as in all his social contacts, was a wily amused compassion for human frailty—gently mocking within, but never hurting. A careful watcher might see the diagnosis of pretension or humbug being quietly reached, and the corrective quietly administered without the 'patient' even knowing it.

There were, if one pauses to analyse, a number of factors persisting throughout his practice and for the last two decades and more since formal 'retirement', though even in these he did not wholly cease from medical work. 'Love of mankind' may be the short answer, based on faith, and breadth of scholarship and understanding.

He was familiar with a number of languages, classical and modern, and had a wide scope of reading and interests—whether it were music, the flora he studied and loved, or the works of man-made art he appreciated so much—coins, silver, porcelain or paintings: in short, all that showed the hand of the Creator or those skills with which He had endowed His creatures, in nature, art, or those sorts which Roger joyed in watching and following.

All this is reflected in his poetry. Its economy hides a richness of knowledge and, above all, belief—a recognition that the '. . . wind of God blows all things clear', as he wrote.

But the words bear a little dissection, to disclose the scholar's memory of the Greek *pneuma* . . . wind, or rather Spirit, which served for him to '. . . mythologise the commonplace' using his own words again. Every line is a

minute cameo of engraved Faith. Each poem reflects a sensitivity to God, to beauty, to history. Any effort to analyse further would be impudence, for the words he wrote speak for themselves in terms of loving understanding of humanity and of rooted trust in God.

Roger himself would be the first to writhe at, and instantly disclaim, words of praise. So we need go no further than the words of the Fifteenth Psalm which triumphantly opened his Funeral, and which provide a succinct checklist of his noble qualities: those things, which he did in his life, give the firm confidence that 'he shall never fall', and—to use his own verse once more—that he will be 'united with Infinity'.

There is already a physical memorial in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall, to which he contributed so generously. But with a final paraphrase from his own writings, this memorial is a physical 'real' that may be crushed in time, yet '... the ideal form remains' in the hearts of his family and all whom his life and work have touched.

G.R.

Christian Aid Week 16th - 21st May

"The poor haven't a share in the world!" This is the theme for the 1988 *Christian Aid Week* and it is a theme for thought. In some ways the statement is clearly true, and yet *Christian Aid's* overseas experience is of work shared, ideas shared, meagre rations shared, hopes shared and joys shared. This readiness to share among the poorest communities in all parts of the world should make us all think—and act.

Please read the leaflet which will be delivered with the *Christian Aid* envelope and notice that it speaks of sharing as 'giving a part of what we have, rather than a bit of the surplus we don't need'. Let our response to this week for *Christian Aid* show we are ready to accept a shared responsibility for the needs of others.

Muriel Packer

HONOUR YOUR PARTNER!

Bridge Folk Dance Group

No experience or partners are needed to join the above on the first and third Thursdays of each month, so please join us in the Village Hall on the 5th and 19th May at 8 o'clock, with our caller Alf Matthews. For further details ring either 830285 or 830652.

J.H.

Bekesbourne Sport and Social Club

Bekesbourne Sport and Social Club are holding a Barn Dance in the Village Hall on Saturday, 28th May from 7.30 to 11pm, with caller Edna May. There will be a licensed bar and admission tickets are £1.50.

New members are welcome to the club, where we now play short mat bowls. For information and dance tickets please contact J Gater (830237) or J Hopkins (830652).

J.H.

After the event

1st Bekesbourne Brownies wish to thank all parents and friends who supported the Brownies Tupperware Evening. £75 was raised for the Brownie funds. Thanks also to Mrs Margaret Phillips, the Tupperware demonstrator

Continued on page 13

and to Mrs Sue Diplock for collecting and delivering the Tupperware.

Bekesbourne Brownies hold their meetings on a Tuesday in the Village Hall from 5.45 to 7pm, for girls between 7 and 10 years of age. Anyone interested should contact either Phyl Denne (830675 - evenings) or Jill Gillanders (830894)

P.D.

Bridge Methodists

We are holding our annual Coffee Morning and Sale on Thursday, 5th May from 10.30am to 12 noon. Proceeds will, as is our custom, be shared with a deserving charity. We will be glad of your support!

* * *

Bridge Methodists celebrate the 94th anniversary of their church on 22nd and 24th May. To mark this special occasion, which coincides with the 250th anniversary of John Wesley's conversion, the church will have an Open Day.

There will be an exhibition of events in the life of the Wesley family, including extracts from his Journal and memorabilia of his ministry in the Anglican and Methodist Churches. A warm invitation is extended to all to come and see what a tremendous impact the Wesley family had on the whole world.

The church will be open from 10am to 1pm, and 2 to 6pm. The week-night service on 24th, conducted by the Revd Sheila Foreman, follows at 7.30pm. Do come!

Pat Grant, Church Steward

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

The Village Hall in Bridge looked most spring-like on Tuesday, 12th April on the occasion of the Horticultural Society's Annual Spring Show. Despite unaccustomed warm weather during March, which had brought on the bulbs earlier than in the previous three years, there was still a 'Host of Golden Daffodils' in evidence, with plenty of entries of a good standard.

Mr Graham Talbot was presented with a voucher for the Kent Garden Centre for gaining most points in the show. He also received the cup for the 'Best Bloom in the Show', while Mrs May Greenaway won the newly-instituted cup for 'Best Post Plant in the Show'.

K.A.W.

Bridge Tennis Club

The storm-damaged surround netting has been completely renewed in time for the new season. The opening tournament starts promptly at 2pm on Saturday, 30th April, and new members are cordially invited to turn out and join it.

Club sessions will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6.30pm, and on Saturdays from 2pm.

Junior coaching sessions will start on Tuesday, 10th May and applicants should approach Joan Hill, Renville Oast, Bridge (830215). *Dermot Stewart*

Nailbourne Ladies Group's Jumble Sale held on 9th April was most successful. Donations from the proceeds have been made to the *NSPCC*, Bridge Church Library Fund and Sandy Gall's *Limbs for Children* Appeal.

E.A.

Gifts to St. Peter's, Bridge

We acknowledge with gratitude the generous donation made by the *Nailbourne Ladies Group* towards books for the church library. It was most kind of them to include us in their Jumble Sale proceeds, a gesture we appreciate, and it will enable us to add to the existing books.

The library *is* being used, I am happy to say, and books are available to be borrowed during church opening hours, which means most of every day.

* * *

A choirman of many years standing (and sitting, if it comes to that), Tim Hoare has presented a complete set of seat cushions for the back rows of the choir stalls, for which we are all (tenors and basses particularly) most grateful. Those of us who aren't tenors or basses and who therefore won't sit on the cushions, can take it from those who *are* that they are a distinct asset. Very many thanks Tim!

* * *

The Paschal or Easter Candle that made its first appearance this Easter has been much admired. The standard candlestick was specially made for us by the Bishopsbourne Forge, who also made the aumbry light, and has been given by Mrs D Davis in memory of her late husband, Malcolm.

A Paschal Candle has a symbolism all its own, and bears witness to the risen Christ, whose resurrection from the dead brought new light to drive away the darkness of sin and death. The emblem traced on the candle has the A (Alpha) and Ω (Omega), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, above and below the cross, and within the arms of the cross the digits of the current year.

This all represents Christ, the same yesterday, today and for ever, who on the cross brought redemption to us his people. Surmounting all this is, of course, the flame, the light of Christ, 'who by death trampled down death' and rose victoriously to newness of life, thus paving the way for our deliverance.

Since Easter lasts until Ascension Day the Paschal Candle is the first to be lit and the last to be extinguished at all services during that period. This is a most pleasing acquisition and we thank Mrs Davis very much for providing the candlestick: it is a worthy memorial to a much loved husband and father.

Parish Pump

Part of the Annual Parish Meeting, which is to be held on Friday, 20th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, will be devoted to discussion of the investigations of the Village Appraisal Sub-Committee and of the information collated from the Village Appraisal Questionnaire which was circulated earlier in the year to all households in the parish. Do come along to the meeting and participate in this discussion, which could have a bearing on the future of **your village**.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

Cleaning and Flower Rota: 7th May Mrs Gillanders, 14th Mrs Mount, 21st Mrs Purchase, 28th Mrs Farbrace.

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

In the absence of the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr John Hill, the Vice-Chairman Cllr Tim Hoare chaired the meeting of the Council on Thursday, 14th April.

Recreation Ground Members were pleased to note that the roof was now being put on the new sports pavilion, but were concerned at the amount of builder's rubbish surrounding the site, and the Clerk was to ask that the area be cleared of unnecessary materials and rubbish so that the gang mower could cut the grass before it got too long. The Council noted that the County Council's cost for weed-spraying the perimeter of the Ground was £20 and that for the two cuts requested, again of the perimeter, the charge was £16 per cut, whilst the cost of harrowing the ground would be £50. The four trees to replace those lost in the storm last October had been planted towards the end of March under the Manpower Services Council scheme at no charge to the Parish.

Cllr Mrs Billie Anderson agreed to inspect them and remove any suckers appearing. The Clerk had already asked the City Council for another litterbin to replace the one which had disappeared from its position by the bridge into the Recreation Ground.

Streets and Footways The Clerk was to ask the County Council to repair the pavement outside the Village Hall which was uneven and causing problems, particularly for the elderly who use the hall. The Clerk was also to report to the City Council two of the street lamps on Bridge Hill, one of which was damaged and the other alight both day and night.

Village Hall Cllr Mervyn Gulvin reported that the work to box in the central heating controls, to connect the extractor fans in the kitchen and to make good around the fireplace in the hall had now

been completed, but that a small leak discovered during the work around the outside of one of the extractor fans had still to be attended to. Cllr Mrs Ann King drew attention to the need for redecoration of the walls which would likely necessitate complete replastering. Cllr Gulvin was to look into alternative methods to conventional plaster, whilst the Clerk was to find out about the availability of grants to help with the cost of such work.

Lottery Fund The Council agreed to support an application from the Tennis Club to the City Council's Lottery Fund for £250 towards the cost of new netting for the courts.

Village Appraisal Mr Vernon David had taken over as Chairman of the Village Appraisal Sub-Committee which was on target to produce its findings at the Annual parish Meeting on 20th May.

Planning There were no objections to an outline application for a dwelling on land adjacent to 'The Plat', Beech Hill or for an application for an extension to 'Forge Cottage', 51 High Street. The City Council had granted permission for a house with paddock and garage plus seven garages on site to North and North-West of 'The Close', Union Road and for the renewal of permission for the erection of a bungalow on land adjoining 23 Union Road but had refused permission for the erection of a boundary fence to enclose the side garden at 12 Bridge Down.

The Clerk was to write to the owner of the 'fish and chips' van welcoming him and the service he was providing to the village and requesting him to make every effort to ensure that there was no resulting litter problem for the village.

The next meeting of the Parish Council, when officers are elected for the coming year, will be held in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th May.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

Fish News

Our annual **Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale** will be held in Bridge Village Hall on Saturday, 4th June from 10.30am to 12 noon. This is our only fund-raising event and finances our work in caring for elderly residents and others who need our help in our four villages. With the present cutting back of statutory services our help will be needed more than ever. Please come and give us your support. There will be stalls for cakes, groceries, gifts, plants and 'white elephant', in addition to a raffle.

Orchard Tour As in previous years we have been invited to take a party of retired people for a car tour through the Highland Court orchards. In order to see the blossom at its peak we are unable to fix a date until the last minute but it will probably be during the second week in May. If you would like to come or can drive for us please let me know.

Blossom Tour The coach leaves the bottom of Western Avenue (opposite Green Court) at 2.15pm on Wednesday, 4th May. If you have not booked and would like to join us, your name can be put on a waiting list to fill any last-minute cancellations.

The next **Coffee Pop-In** is on Wednesday, 11th May in Bridge Village Hall from 10.15 to 11.45am.

Joan Warren, 830233

The Treasurer's Report

Following our usual custom we reproduce for a wider readership the annual report Douglas Hill, Honorary Treasurer made at the Patricxbourne with Bridge Annual Church Meeting on 12th April. It is only right that all who look to St. Mary's or St. Peter's Church at some time or other should see for themselves how well they manage their financial affairs. We are fortunate to have such a skilled and highly professional treasurer.

In my annual report of April 1987, it was indicated that we should be able to just meet our total revenue commitments in 1987. This was on the assumption that all sources of income and levels of expenditure continued at the then current levels. What happened in the event was indeed very encouraging, for with the highest revenue surplus of £1,157 we have ever experienced, we have been able to increase our General Reserve by £1,100 to meet existing and planned structural repair costs. At the same time, we have also been able to transfer the sum of £57, albeit small, to the Lady Chapel Refurbishment Fund, in recognition of the splendid work of the ladies devoted to this project, who are in fact carrying out the task from funds raised by their own efforts.

The surplus of £1,157 compared with the 'break even' forecast can be explained to have arisen in general over five revenue headings:

Planned Giving

Following appeals made during the year to church members for new or updated covenants to arrest the decline of covenant income, due to both covenants falling out and to the effect of the reduction of tax reclaimable from all covenants (resulting from the lowering of the standard rate of taxation) the response from certain church members showed their concern. The net effect of fifteen new and updated covenants against six terminated covenants, has resulted in a gain of £168 compared with the forecast, or £187 compared with this heading for 1986.

Church Collections, including Wall Boxes

These showed an increase of £330 against the forecast, or £286 against the total for 1986.

Summer Fête and Christmas Market

Against a forecast of £1,400 for these two events, the total surpluses of £1,701 showed a

better than forecast figure of £310. Under this heading it is interesting to note that the figure for 1987 of £1,701 is £214 greater than for 1986. A truly superb result for such happy occasions, and I may add, rewarding for the efforts of the many helpers and for those who came along to support us.

Salaries and Wages

Expenditure against forecast under this heading showed a saving of £119 mainly due to the vacancy of an organist at Bridge for a considerable part of the year.

Repairs and Maintenance

Compared with the forecast of £550 actual expenditure of £259 showed a saving of £291. This arose from certain planned maintenance, of a day to day nature, not having been completed, and this, of course, will be remedied in 1988.

MAJOR CHURCH REPAIRS—BRIDGE CHURCH

1987 proved to be quite an active year in this context, during which the repairs planned and associated with the Bridge Church Appeal came into fruition. All the repair work envisaged under the appeal was completed and paid for, and it is heartening to report that we have sufficient funds remaining to meet the heavy cost (estimated) of some £3,425 for stonework repairs to the bell-tower currently being dealt with. This latter repair work has arisen since the appeal in 1985.

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 R.C. Whatley, 54 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830512)

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

Organist (Bridge):

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

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

Mr N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)

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

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

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

Captain of the Bells: Mr D. 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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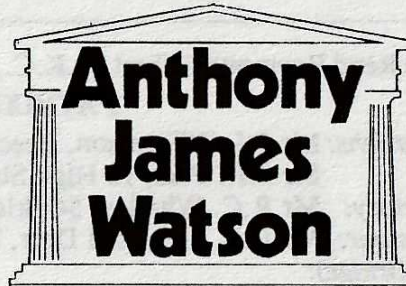
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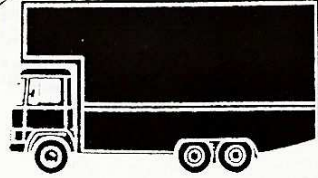
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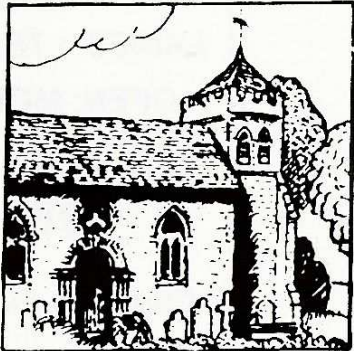
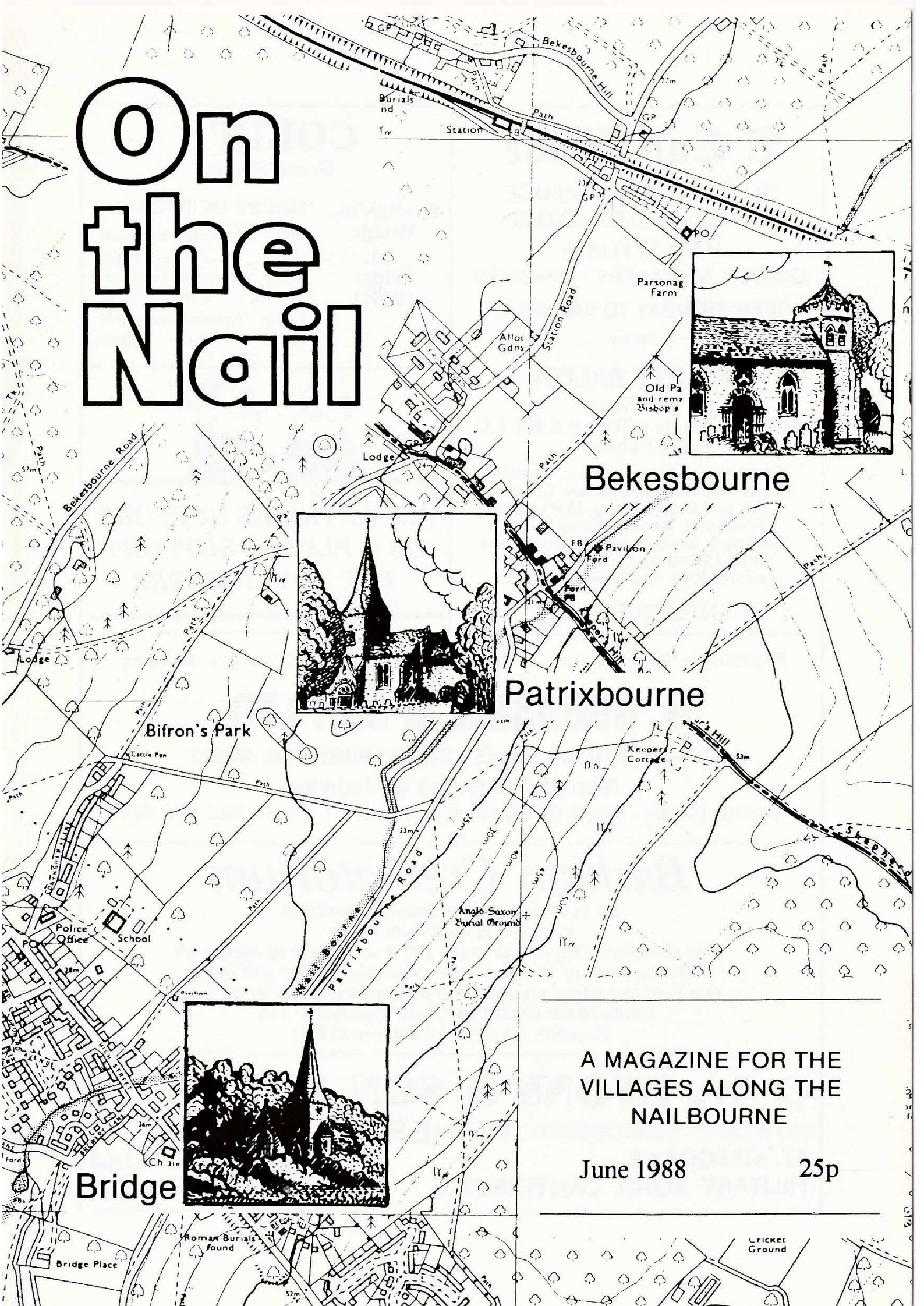
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patricxbourne



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June 1988

25p

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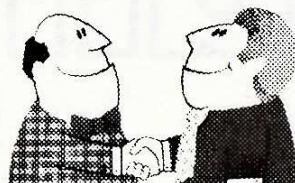
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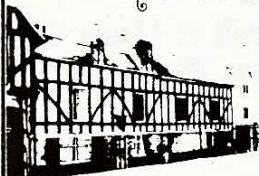
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Sunday Worship in June

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

5th June:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion

12th:

9.30 The Eucharist
(ASB Rite A)
6.30pm Evensong

11am Matins

8am Holy Communion

19th:

9.30 Parish Communion
(ASB Rite A)
6.30pm Evensong

8am Holy Communion 11am Matins

26th:

8am Holy Communion
11am Junior Church
Songs of Praise
6.30pm Choral Evensong

9am Holy Communion 11am Matins

3rd July:

11am Family Service 8am Holy Communion 9.30 Parish Communion
6.30pm *See below for Evensong details.*

Sunday Evensong, 3rd July will be held at Aylesham, not at Bridge. It will be a combined evensong shared by the Deanery's three St. Peter's Church congregations, Bekesbourne, Bridge and Aylesham. Coming within the octave of St. Peter's Day this joint act of worship forms part of Aylesham Church's 60th anniversary celebrations. Further details to follow, but reserve the date now.

Junior Church is holding a *Songs of Praise* service in Bridge Church on Sunday, 26th June at 11 o'clock. They want members of 'Senior' Church to join them, so let us see they are not disappointed. Their contribution to church life in both parishes is greater than they realise, and we owe them our full support in this service as in all they do.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *5th*, Mr A P Barwick. *12th*, Mr S Kentish. *19th*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd Sheila Foreman. *26th*, Miss C Pilkington, PhD.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion will be held in St. Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and Friday (ASB Rite A) at 7.30am. But please note there will be no Friday Communion on 10th. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 1st at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always welcome to this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st *St. Justin, Martyr of Rome, c165*
2nd *Thanksgiving for the Institution of the Holy Communion*
Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
Interchurch Meeting, The Methodist Church, 8pm
4th Pray for John Epps and Lynne Pullen who marry today at Bridge.
Fish Scheme Coffee Morning, Bridge Village Hall, 10.30am
5th **First Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 2**
7th Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC Meeting, The Methodist Church,
7.30pm
9th *St. Columba, Abbot of Iona, Missionary, 597*
Pray for Raymond Gilbert, ordained Priest 25 years ago today
Bridge Parish Council meets, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
11th **Saint Barnabas the Apostle**
12th **Second Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 3**
16th League of Friends Coffee Morning, 4 Meadow Close, Bridge, 10am—12
noon
Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
18th VILLAGE SUMMER FÊTE (See page 13)
19th **Third Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 4**
21st Pray for the Deanery clergy who meet this morning at Wingham.
22nd *St. Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c209*
24th **Birth of Saint John the Baptist**
25th Pray for Simon Hopkins and Rosalind Parker who marry today at
Bridge.
26th **Fourth Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 5**
Junior Church *Songs of Praise*, Bridge Church, 11am
28th *St. Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, Martyr, c200*
29th **SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE** Patron of Bridge and Bekesbourne
Holy Eucharist with Confirmation by the Bishop of Dover, St. Peter's
Church, Bridge, 7.30pm
30th Pray for the Governors of Bridge School, who meet today.

The rock-solid saint

Forgive me if I've said it before, but I do count myself fortunate to be vicar of no less than two St. Peter's Churches! The great apostle was such a splendid character, and his patronage is an inspiration to any church community dedicated to him.

A man of the world

What particularly attracts about St. Peter is that he was clearly a very down-to-earth chap, the sort anyone could get on with. Many of the saints strike one as having lived on an entirely different and far more exalted plane than us mere mortals, and it's hard to visualise them as really human. But Peter seems to have stayed earthbound, even once Simon Peter the outspoken, insecure disciple had become the rock-like Apostle and Church Leader.

The Saint of human frailties

The secret, as I see it, lies in the fact that St. Peter made mistakes—unlike St.

John, for instance, who never appeared to put a foot wrong. From what the gospels say, he was thoroughly amenable, a practical type who was good with his hands but invariably out of his depth when it came to words. He didn't find it at all easy to express himself: which is where some of the mistakes came in. Yet he loved the Lord to distraction, and showed it as only Peter could by protecting Jesus with the full force of his presence. The denial was a one-off affair, a sign of his inherent and very human vulnerability. It reduced Peter to tears at the time—surely no mean feat—but was probably quickly forgotten because it was as quickly forgiven by the Lord he had disowned.

Christians are ordinary people

The character of St. Peter makes it easier to be a Christian, because it allows for sins and shortcomings, and we are all susceptible to them. Saints set an example of Christian living, and Peter more than most because he makes it an attainable goal. He demonstrated a fine combination of human frailty and divine steadfastness, and thus blazed a trail that is well within our capabilities to follow. Thank God for St. Peter, say I!

Petertide celebrations

Confirmation Service at Bridge

St. Peter's Day this year will be marked by a service of Holy Communion in St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 7.30pm, during which four of our young people and two adults will be confirmed by the celebrant, the Bishop of Dover. So that you don't miss it and in case you've forgotten, St. Peter's Day is 29th June.

The adults to be confirmed are Clare Baden-Daintree and Lorraine Flisher, and the youngsters are Julia Harvey, Andrew Whatley, Dominic Legge and Martin Wraight. Please include all these in your prayers from now on, and if possible come to the service to support them on the occasion of their full admission to the fellowship. Remember it is also our Patronal Festival.

Evensong at Aylesham

The Sunday within the octave of St. Peter's Day is 3rd July, and that evening at 6.30pm Bekesbourne and Bridge Churches are invited to share Evensong at St. Peter's Church, Aylesham, as part of their Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The invitation also includes choirs, and the idea is to have Evensong for all the St. Peter's Churches in East Bridge Deanery. I have been asked by Alan Frostick, Vicar of Aylesham to preach, and I hope both our village churches will be well represented on this unique occasion. Let's give our friends at Aylesham the support they so richly deserve!

Also in June . . .

. . . your vicar has a personal celebration, which I would like you all to share with me. On 9th June 1963 I was ordained Priest in Derby Cathedral, so on 9th June this year I shall, God willing, mark the silver jubilee of my priesthood with a special celebration of the Holy Communion in St. Peter's Church Bridge at 7.30pm. I shall be so pleased if you can join me on this occasion.

Hail and Farewell Mrs Anne Young writes

By the time this is in print I shall have left Bridge to take up a new life in Yorkshire near the rest of my family. I hope that the very many friends who have made thirty-two years of life in Bridge so full of interest and pleasure will accept my thanks and good wishes in this short note. I need hardly say that there will be a warm welcome for any who venture so far, at 19 The Meadway, Dore, Sheffield S17 3GB.

(Ed: It will be strange here without Mrs Young, but we wish her good health and a long life in her new home. Thank you for everything, Anne!)

Bridge Methodists wish to say a very sincere 'thank-you' for the support given at our Coffee Morning and Sale. Many of the people who came expressed their appreciation of the friendly atmosphere prevailing. This was clear from the busy hum of happy conversation as friends met and greeted each other.

The amount raised was an amazing £170, for which we are most grateful. As is our custom we share the proceeds with a charity. This year we have sent a cheque for £100 to the hospice.

My personal thanks to all who gave of their Time, Talents and Treasure, in whatever way, to help make this event such a success.

P A Grant

Thanks to all who contributed to our recent **Children's Society** envelope collection. The sum raised was £212.22.

Ann Medhurst

Please come along to 18 Conyngham Lane on Thursday, 9th June and help me to raise much needed funds for the Canterbury branch of the Samaritans. Coffee 10am to 12 noon, tea 2pm to 4pm. Bring and buy and a raffle. *MEJ*

Calling all jam-makers

I am hoping to organise a stall of home-made preserves at *The New Autumn Fayre*. I would therefore be pleased to hear from anyone who would be willing to make jams, chutneys, etc. I would also be pleased to hear from anyone who has fruit surplus to requirements, or who would be willing to donate a bag of sugar.

Ann Medhurst, 830762

**BUT BEFORE THEN, DON'T FORGET TO SUPPORT THE VILLAGE
SUMMER FÊTE, 18th JUNE.**

Joys and Sorrows

We record two baptisms, that of **Annabelle Alexandra Katherine**, daughter of Charles and Carole Jardine, 17 Bifrons Road on 17th April at Patricbourne, and **Samuel Richard**, son of John and Emily Shirley, 16a High Street at Bridge on 8th May.

Saturday, 23rd April saw two weddings at Patricbourne and Bridge respectively. The former was that of **David Upton** and **Caroline Ritson**, and the latter of **Andrew Bate** and **Elizabeth Round**. We wish both couples every happiness in their future together.

Following cremation at Barham the remains of **Eva Caroline Vinten**, formerly of Filmer Road, were laid to rest in the family grave in Bridge

churchyard. A service in the cathedral for the late **Joyce Appleton** was followed by cremation at Barham and interment of ashes in Bekesbourne churchyard. Mrs Appleton was the wife of Canon Leonard Appleton, sometime vicar of Bekesbourne. A commemorative plaque to her will eventually be erected inside the church.

Pedal power pulls in the ££££s!

The 1987 Sponsored Bike Ride raised £490,000 in the country as a whole, and it was estimated that 20,000 people took part from the twenty participating counties. Kent came second in the league table with £62,000—a really magnificent contribution to help look after the churches and chapels in our county.

This year the date is **SATURDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER.**

All who have taken part in previous years know it is a great day out for all the family—book it in your diary NOW! This is to give you plenty of time to get those bikes oiled.

Sponsor forms are now available from your local organiser:

<i>Bekesbourne</i>	Jill Gillanders 830894 Christine Ash 830214
<i>Bridge</i>	Kath Pierce 830844
<i>Patricxbourne</i>	Rosalie Stacey 830205.

Bridge Lady Chapel

The project to refurbish the Lady Chapel is well under way with the hanging of new curtains and the making of tapestry kneelers. Two long kneelers are being worked, one by the Women's Institute, and individual hassocks are being made by members of the congregation.

Many people have given us help with the purchase of tapestry wools and Mrs Joy Monk gave an especially generous donation.

There is much enthusiasm to complete the work and possibly renew the hassocks in the remainder of the church. It is hoped that anyone who has or has had connections with the church may feel they would like to join the sewers or sponsor the making of the hassocks. Remember, gentlemen, Lord Coggan worked his own tapestry cushion in the Quire of Canterbury Cathedral.

Enquiries to Mrs Alicia Pentin (830278) or Mrs Ailsa Williamson (830399).

A W

Bridge with Patricxbourne Women's Institute

The recent Jumble Sale realised £80 and together with proceeds from various Coffee Mornings a donation was able to be sent to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

At the meeting on 16th May in the Village Hall the resolutions for the AGM in London were discussed.

In June we have a 'Garden Meeting'. This will take place at 18 Conyngham Lane at 7pm. There will be a Bring-and-Buy stall. We are hoping for a fine and warm evening!

D King

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VILLAGE FÊTE

Fun for all the family

Saturday, 18th June
at Bridge School
2 o'clock



Guides and Brownies *Help!*



Bridge Guides and Brownies are both in urgent need of assistance! We have a thriving Company and Pack, both filled to capacity and with waiting lists, but with only one qualified Guider struggling in both.

Since I moved on to become District Commissioner Teresa Philpott has coped with thirty-six Guides almost single handed. She has two very keen and capable Young Leaders aged 15 and a Unit Helper, but she does need someone who is prepared to assist her on a regular basis. Teresa has a young baby and it is not always possible to arrive on the dot, and if this occurs there is no adult on the premises. She also needs someone to share the planning of the meetings, outings, camp etc. The present Unity Helper leaves in July, leaving her completely without help.

I would hate to see this Company close, as there is so little for the young people in the village and Guiding gives a very good basic grounding for life. However, this could become a possibility if one or two people are not forthcoming.

Teresa now lives in Bossingham and therefore does not have the contact with the village that she had before she married—therefore a leader from Bridge, Patricxbourne or Bekesbourne is essential! Having done Guiding before I married, I told myself that I would not get involved again, but having been persuaded to help, found the work very rewarding and enjoyable. If you like children (that is essential!) and would be prepared to give an hour and a half on a Friday evening, plus an odd Saturday or evening for other events, we would love you to join our Guiding Family. We are a friendly and supportive group and I know you would not regret it. You do not need previous Guiding experience, although having been a Guide would be helpful.

We also need help with the Brownies for similar reasons. Sue Leaney teaches in Ashford and often cannot be at Brownie Meetings on time, and needs the peace of mind in knowing that someone will be there to take over if this occurs.

Don't be shy—if you are between 18 and 50 years of age WE NEED YOU! Please contact me and find out more. I will be only too happy to discuss it with you. Thank you in anticipation.

Maggie Field, 830224

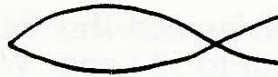
League of Friends Bridge Branch

The Bridge Branch of the *League of Friends* is holding a Coffee Morning at 4 Meadow Close on Thursday, 16th June from 10am to 12 noon, to raise funds for the local hospitals.

In addition to a Bring-and-Buy and local pottery stall there will be a raffle and a Thrift stall. If anyone has almost new clothes which they no longer require (adults' or childrens') we will try and sell them for you, taking 20% of the asking price. Please label the item of clothing with your name and the price and give them to a member of the committee or take them to Elizabeth Stewart at 4 Meadow Close. Please come and help us to help you—let's face it, most of us or members of our family are almost guaranteed to need the local hospital at some stage for something.

MSF

Fish News



The Fish Scheme AGM was held on 20th April. Business proceedings were kept short to give maximum time to the speaker, Mr Bob Milne, Social Services General Manager for the care of the elderly in this area.

Volunteers were thanked and a short report given of the work covered by the scheme during the preceding year. The financial cutbacks and the government's policy of caring for frail elderly people within the community had led to increasing demands on voluntary bodies such as our own.

The Fish Scheme has now been running since 1980, and it is vital to recruit younger volunteers to ensure the successful continuity of the work as older members retire. A new group of helpers has come in and is running the Coffee Pop-In.

* * *

Negotiations are under way for the Chiropody Clinic to be replaced by the mobile Chiropody Unit. This unit consists of a fully equipped surgery and waiting room and will give greatly improved facilities for patients and staff.

The Treasurer reported the total cost of the scheme for the year was £439.97. After grants from official bodies of £241.18 it had cost the community £198.69.

* * *

A presentation was made to our retiring chairman, Mrs M A Young, and she was thanked for all the help she had given in setting up the scheme and following it through with help and support.

* * *

Our guest speaker, Mr Milne described the services that are now provided by the Social Services Department. Their object was to concentrate help on those needing a great deal of care. The new basic charge for home help visits is £7 a week (£3.50 for those in receipt of income support). If more help is needed and the person receives Attendance Allowance the charge is £14 per week for the lower rate or £21 for the higher. Many people who received help from the old Home Help Service had been transferred to the CADET Scheme. Charges for this service were £3.50 per hour (although help could be obtained for people on income support).

Many questions were asked and a lively discussion followed. Everyone expressed grave concern that elderly people just above income support level could no longer afford help. How could they meet these enormous increases in the cost of help and the 50% increase in the Meals on Wheels charge, on the small amount of increase in retirement pension?

* * *

We had a fine afternoon for the Blossom Tour on 4th May. This year we followed an AA route in a new area, ending up at Chilham for a cream tea, followed by a visit to the farm shop and garden centre.

Unfortunately the Orchard Tour had to be cancelled at the last minute, due to heavy rain having made the ground too soft to take cars: a trial run that morning ended with the car getting firmly stuck in the mud.

The next Coffee Pop-In is in Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday, 8th June from 10.15am to 11.45am.

Don't forget our Coffee Morning and Bring-and-Buy Sale on Saturday, 4th June in Bridge Village Hall from 10.30am to 12 noon. We need your help to raise £200 to cover the work of the Fish Scheme for this year. This is our only fund-raising event of the year.

Joan Warren, 830233

(Ed: Just space to pay my usual tribute on your behalf to Joan for her caring and diligent service of our community. God bless you, Joan!)

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BEKESBOURNE

Church Flowers and Cleaning: *4th Mrs Watson, 11th Mrs Ellis, 18th Mrs Broadwater, 25th Mrs Gillanders.*

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the 12th May, Cllr John Hill was re-elected Chairman and Cllr Tim Hoare, Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

Recreation Ground The Council heard from Mr John Knight who was present at the meeting that the sports pavilion was finished apart from interior decoration and that the Cricket Club were to start using it from that coming weekend. He mentioned the intention of arranging a formal opening once landscaping around the pavilion had been carried out. The Council congratulated Mr Knight for organising the project which had provided the village with a valuable asset and asked him to convey their thanks to all concerned.

It was understood that the County Council were to cut the triangle of grass between the Nailbourne and the footpath in Patribourne Road and the Council decided to leave the banks of the stream for the present. The weed spraying of the perimeter had been effective and residents of properties in Riverside Close backing on to the Ground had cut back their hedges thus making a tidier overall appearance. The pile of branches in the corner had been burnt by men employed by the City Council under the Manpower Services Council. Cllr Mrs Billie Ander-

son had removed suckers from the newly planted trees, all of which were doing well, but she requested assistance with the larger trees where there was extra growth.

Streets and Footways Mr Knight was to fence the footpath by his builder's yard at the rear of the High Street. Cllr Mrs Margaret Jones, in presenting her report on the condition of the roads and footways in the Parish, commented that in general the condition of the pavements was worse and that of the roads better than a year ago. The report was to be submitted to the Highways Department of the County Council for attention.

Planning The Council objected to an application for a two-storey dwelling on land adjacent to 'The Cottage', Bridge Hill on the grounds that the development would be too cramped, but had no observations to make on an application for the erection of garage and loft spaces over approved block of three garages at River House, 67 High Street. Segas were to draw up a planting scheme to screen the new governor installed adjacent to the Church to improve gas supplies to the village and would then consult the Parish Council.

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

K A Walder, Clerk

Interchurch Meeting Thursday 2nd June

It is months since members of the Christian Churches in Bridge met together, and I am happy to announce that our once regular meetings start up again on the 2nd of this month in the Methodist Church at 8pm.

In the past Roman Catholics, Anglicans and, of course, Methodists have joined in and the evenings been keenly supported and greatly valued by all concerned. Until now we have never had an RC priest with us, so it will be a particular delight to have Fr Nicholas Hudson at the meeting. It will also be the first Interchurch Group since the Revd Sheila Foreman came to Bridge Methodist Church, so we shall be pleased to have her with us. In fact Mrs Foreman has agreed to lead the meeting and will help us focus on a popular theme amongst Christian congregations today and one in which Bridge's St Peter's Church is becoming increasingly involved, the Church's Healing Ministry.

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 R.C. Whatley, 54 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830512)

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

Organist (Bridge):

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

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

Mr N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)

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

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

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

Captain of the Bells: Mr D. 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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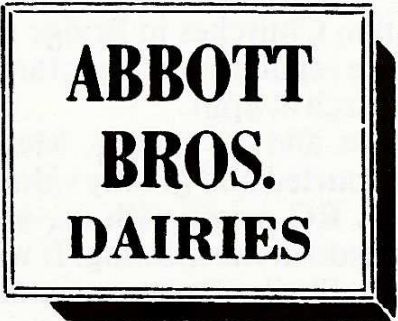
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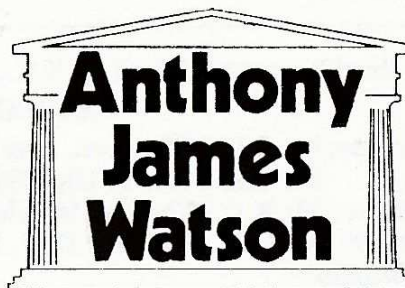
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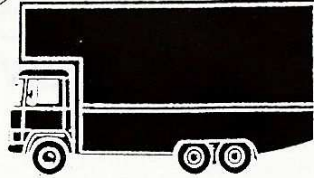
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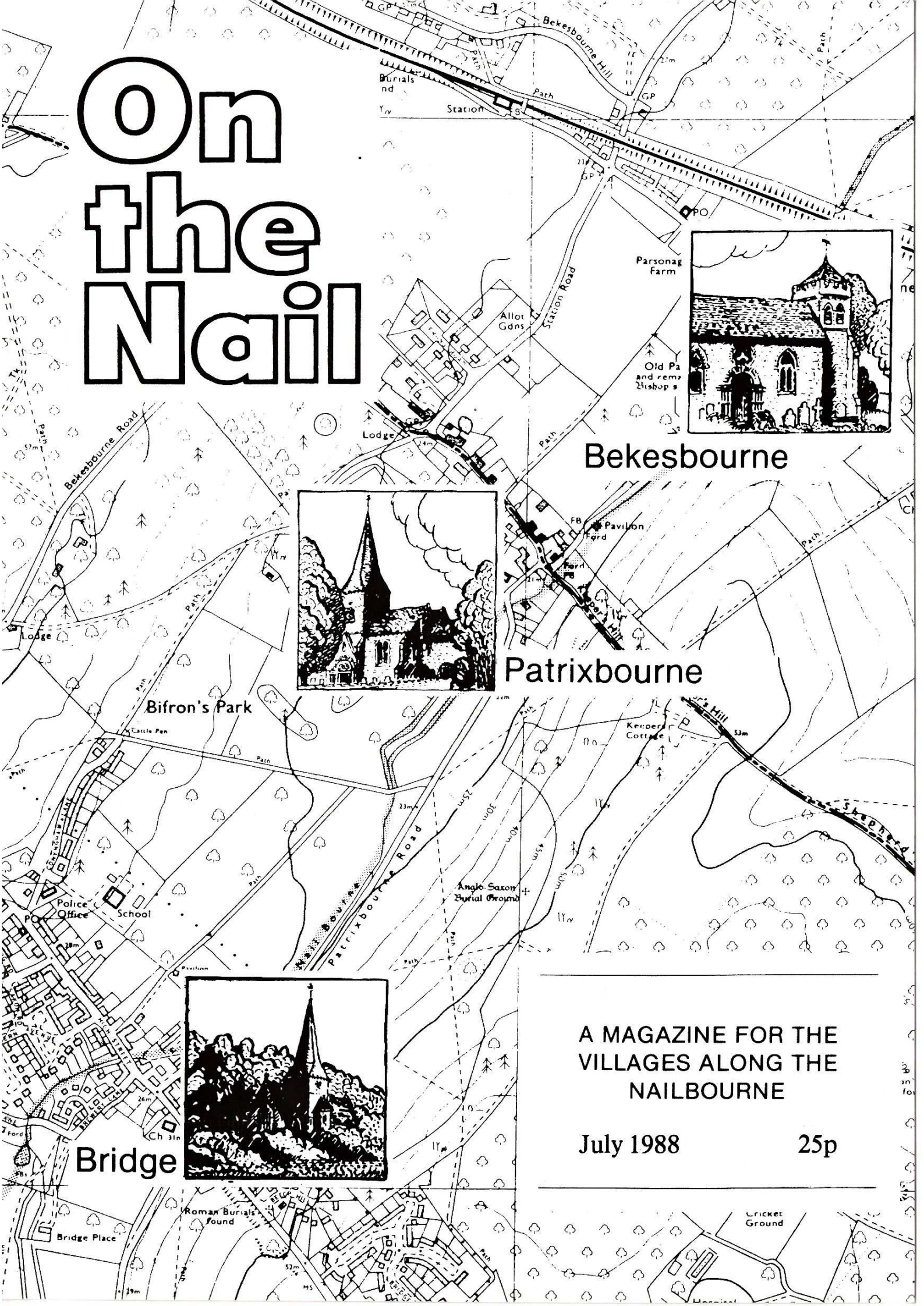
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patrixbourne



Bridge

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July 1988

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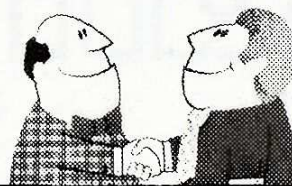
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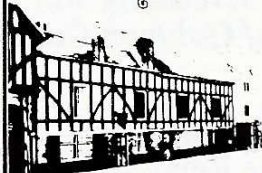
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Sunday Worship in July

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

3rd:

11am Family Service
with Baptisms

8am Holy Communion

9.30 Parish Communion

6.30pm Evensong at Aylesham

10th:

9.30 The Eucharist
(ASB Rite A)

11am Matins

6.30pm Evensong

17th:

9.30 Parish Communion
(ASB Rite A)

8am Holy Communion

11am Matins

6.30pm Evensong

24th:

8am Holy Communion
(Canon J W Packer)

9am Holy Communion

11am Matins

6.30pm Choral Evensong

31st:

9.30 The Eucharist
(ASB Rite A)
(Canon F Bull)

11am Matins
(Revd W Owen)

8am Holy Communion
(Canon J W Packer)

6.30pm Evensong
(Canon F Bull)

7th August:

11am Family Service
(Canon F Bull)

8am Holy Communion
(Canon J W Packer)

9.30 Parish Communion
(Canon F Bull)

6.30pm Evensong
(Revd W Owen)

Please note that Evensong on 3rd July is not at Bridge but Aylesham. This is a combined Evensong with the other two St. Peter's Churches in the deanery, Bekesbourne and Bridge, and we hope large contingents will be travelling to Aylesham for this special event. St. Peter's Church, Aylesham is this year celebrating the diamond jubilee of its dedication and this combined service forms part of the celebrations, so it is important that as many from our congregations attend as can. I have been asked to preach.

The following Sunday Evensong will be at Bekesbourne, to coincide with the opening to the public of Cobham Court gardens. This is an annual variation to our service pattern.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 3rd, Mr P Burt. 10th, Mr K Wood. 17th, Holy Communion, The Revd Sheila Foreman. 24th, Mrs H Colyer, BA. 31st, The Revd P F Boyden, MA, MLitt.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion will be held in St. Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (BCP) at 9.30am and Friday (ASB Rite A) at 7.30am. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 6th at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always welcome to this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st Canon Jeremiah Cronin will celebrate Mass for the Catholic community of this area in St. Peter's Church, Bridge at 7.30pm. The Anglican congregation is warmly encouraged to attend as usual and to communicate from our own reserved sacrament.
- 3rd **St. Thomas the Apostle** *Trinity 5 & Pentecost 6*
(See under the Calendar above for details of Evensong today.)
- 7th Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
Bridge School PFA "Grand Charity Auction", 7.30pm
- 9th The New Close Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy, 10 - 11.45am
- 10th **Sixth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 7*
(See under the Calendar above for details of Evensong today.)
- 11th *St. Benedict, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c550*
- 13th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am
- 14th Bridge Parish Council Meeting, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
- 17th **Seventh Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 8*
- 21st Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 22nd **St. Mary Magdalen**
- 24th **Eighth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 9*
- 25th **St. James the Apostle**
- 26th *St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- 28th Canterbury Library Summer Activity, Green Court, 4 - 4.30pm
- 30th Pray for Carolyn Harris and Michael Kendrick, to be married today at Bridge.
- 31st **Ninth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 10*

So much love

Thursday, 9th June, 1988 will always be high on the list in Rosemary and my catalogue of happy memories. Some who read this will know why, since they helped to make that day special; but for the rest, here's the story.

You may recall that in last week's *On The Nail* I offered an open invitation to join me at a special Eucharist that evening to mark the fact that I had been a priest for exactly twenty-five years. To my great joy thirty-one came to make their communion with me and there were other friends at the service who are not yet communicant members of the church. In all about forty people came along, including representatives from the congregations at Patricbourne and Bekesbourne.

The service was memorable not only for the nature of the occasion (an ordination anniversary is always important to the clergyman concerned) but also because of the love that enfolded it. Every eucharist is a communion with God and one's fellow Christians, and the quality that makes for a true communion is love. This love stems from God, who *is* love—what a resident of The New Close once described as 'church-love'—though the sad fact is, most of the time we aren't conscious of the love that is willy-nilly part of every eucharist. That Thursday evening, however, we certainly were! It was a real 'celebration' of the eucharist, a genuine 'holy' communion of the body and blood of Christ, a fellowship meal at the table of the Lord who reveals himself as perfect love!

That's not the end of the story! After the service most of us retired to Stephen and Hilary Pike's home, where the fellowship continued with a

sumptuous buffet meal put on for us by a group of friends. Here too love abounded; and it was not dissimilar from that in church, for the affection shown Rosemary and me was that of true friends in the Lord. In case this gives the impression of one of those insufferable and highly exclusive holy huddles let me quickly disillusion you. It was a rattling good party at which we set out to enjoy ourselves and did. Yet permeating it all was the love of God that makes the relationship between those of the faith different from all other relationships. Again, it's nothing prissy, reserved strictly for the élite, the in-people. It was a wonderful atmosphere and Rosemary and I felt both honoured and delighted to be at the centre of it. Mrs Gladys Flynn paid a marvellous tribute on behalf of every one there and including many who couldn't make it, and we were struck both by the sincerity of her words and the ready way all identified with them.

That evening continues to crop up in conversation and has inspired two future purely social gatherings, about which more anon. Rosemary and I want to thank all our dear friends for the evening, coupling with it the many other signs of support and affection that come our way. To think we should be shown so much love!

Further joys

The marriage of **John Epps** and **Lynne Pullen** took place in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on 4th June, and we wish them well in their future together.

Patrixbourne Church was the venue for the baptism of **Tammo Lynden**, firstborn son of Berend and Carolyn (née Kent) Wiersum. Before her marriage Carolyn lived at Hode Farm.

Brownie Revels

The following report was written (with no spelling mistakes) by Louise Hills, who you may be surprised to hear is only 7½.

On Saturday May 28th Brownie Revels were held at Sturry. I went with some of the brownies in my pack. When all the brownies had arrived we met tawny owl and we put our coats and picnic tea into a big tent. Then we were given a badge and whatever colour it was meant that was the team you were in. I was in the red team. We played lots of games and I made friends with Clare who belonged to the Sturry pack, it was very hot, so we ate our picnics on the grass. I made a hat with a peacock feather in it. We made a long line and went down the field collecting all the rubbish, then we all sat down and sang some songs, my favourite was called 'My ship sailed from China'. Then it was home time so we collected our things and waited for our mums to take us home. I had a good time and when I next went to Brownies I was given a venture badge for going to Revels.

The meaning of Carmel

The communion wafers we use in our three churches are made by the Carmelite sisters of Thicket Priory outside York, which is a Roman Catholic enclosed community. When I placed my last order with them I asked if they could furnish me with a few details of the community so that we might get to know something of their life and purpose: many people have their suspicions about enclosed orders of monks and nuns. It may eventually be possible to establish

some kind of prayer link with the nuns of Thicket Priory: already I am assured we are in their prayers.

Here is the first of two extracts from an article sent in answer to my enquiry. The author, Fr Robert Nash, SJ, seeks to justify the enclosed life and also provides an insight into what motivates the Carmelites.

Carmel is, to a great extent an enigma and a challenge to the modern world. At first sight the reports of the austerity of life and the appearance of the enclosure grilles is somewhat off-putting, but, on coming into contact with any Carmelite Community, one experiences immediately a wonderfully potent atmosphere of calm and prayer, and realises that the sisters all radiate a deep joy and serenity.

What is the cause of this joy?

They have surrendered temporal joys for joys which are everlasting, and have received the gift of peace promised by Our Lord to those who give up all and follow Him—the peace which surpasses all understanding, and which is so sadly lacking in the materialistic world of today.

Why this waste?

St. Mary Magdalen is a model for Carmelites. She knelt at the feet of Christ, looking Him full in the face, drinking into her soul the divine wisdom with which His every word was charged. She broke her jar of precious ointment and the whole house was filled with the exquisite perfume. By human standards it was a foolish thing to do and Judas, who sat watching, frowned and complained of the extravagance. The ointment should have been sold and the money it fetched given to the poor.

Perhaps we must admit we have a sneaking sympathy with Judas. A wave of materialism is threatening to inundate the world today. Why don't these Carmelites come out and help roll it back? Two-thirds of the world are ignorant of Christ. Does it make sense that the Carmelites lock themselves up, selfishly enjoying the fruits of contemplation, all unconcerned about the deplorable condition of pagans? Why not join our modern Mother Theresa of Calcutta and help her to lift up Christ in the persons of the leprous and the starving and the homeless and the lonely? Or at least why do the Carmelites not teach or nurse or care for the poor here at home? "To what purpose is this waste?"

"Why was this ointment not sold and the money given to the poor?" There is material for much thinking in the fact that it was Judas who asked that question, and we are told explicitly he cared nothing for the poor and wanted only to pocket the money for himself. "Why this waste?" The Carmelite does not need to utter a single sentence in her defence. Christ steps forward and constitutes Himself her apologist.

(Concluded next month)

Thanks . . .

to a lot of help and generosity, I have been able to hand over £135 to the Canterbury *Samaritans*. A marvellous result—many thanks to everyone. *M.J.*

* * *

Once again the *Christian Aid* Week collectors in our three villages worked very hard to offer everyone the opportunity to contribute towards *Christian Aid's* efforts to give the poor a share in the world. There have recently been many

calls on people's generosity both locally and nationally and, after a steady increase in our collection each year for many years, including a big one in 1987, we have now suffered a drop of £35 to £448.85.

The closing words of *Christian Aid's* revised statement of commitment are: "We believe this commitment, above all to a strategy of justice, is required of us by our Christian faith, which also requires us to look . . . beyond justice to forgiveness and reconciliation". I should like to express my own very sincere thanks and those of *Christian Aid* for the continued support given in Bridge, Patricbourne and Bekebourne, which shows we too share this commitment.

Muriel Packer

Please support . . .

the Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy stall at The New Close, Conyngham Lane on Saturday, 9th July from 10 to 11.45am. The proceeds are for the residents' Amenity Fund.

O.I.K.

Summer Holiday activities

Canterbury Library is again producing summer holiday activities in Bridge for any youngsters who are interested. The theme this year is *The Sea* and each activity takes place at Green Court from 4 to 4.30pm. The three dates are 28th July, 4th and 11th August.

Colin Brabazon, Assistant Librarian

Nailbourne Horticultural Society

We are hoping to create new interest in the *Nailbourne Horticultural Society*, which has narrowly escaped extinction!

Notices of forthcoming events have been distributed to all members, and any suggestions for our autumn/winter programme will be welcomed. Please contact the Secretary, Chairman or the Committee.

To join the society the subscription is a mere 50p per annum or £1 per family. It would be appreciated if all subs could be paid to the Treasurer by 30th April each year.

D.K.

Roast crocodile, roots and jungle-juice!

by Anna Newton

On the last Wednesday before half term we held a 'Fun Day' at school. Several of the Staff were a little apprehensive as to what this entailed and wondered if it was even possible to have 'fun' for a WHOLE day. Under the superb organisational skills of Mrs Pinnington we did just that and also raised nearly £120 for Great Ormond Street's Wishing Well Appeal. We also started something which I am sure will become a regular feature at Bridge and Patricbourne School.

At the end of most terms we have a non-uniform day or a silly-socks day, when the children dress as they please and give a donation to charity for the privilege of so doing. This time we decided to make an obstacle course for them in the form of a Jungle Jaunt.

The children had to pass through the Camouflage Station and have their faces smeared with mud. They then passed through the Piranha Peril over the Rocky Mountains and through the Swamps. The Swamps were in fact the

Continued on page 13

Infant climbing frame draped with ivy with a paddling pool underneath. By the second or third time around the older children spent more time in the pool than on the frame. Our ancient alligator (or is it a crocodile?) was brought out for an airing—most male visitors to the school know where it is usually kept! After trapping a monkey it was on to the Jungle Juice Rest for a squirt or two of a ghastly looking concoction of orange and blackcurrant squash. The children thought it was wonderful and so did Mrs Benzies, one of our cooks, who was photographed in the act.

When they had crawled through the Serpents' Pit, zipped past the Zebra, wound their way through the Monkey Maze they made their way to the Ancient Burial Mound. 1V had made a super totem pole and all sorts of weird figures from cardboard boxes which the very young ones enjoyed being frightened by. All that is except one lad who walked straight up to one of the figures and gave it a punch on the nose, at which one of its eyes fell off. A final crawl through the Tunnel of Darkness, a climb in the Spider's Web and they were safely home and ready to start again. And they did. By lunchtime many of them had completed five or six circuits.

For the first time that I can remember a menu was posted in the hall for the children to see what they would be getting for lunch. Hence the title of this account.

In the afternoon the children were divided into three groups, classes 6 & 7; 4 & 5; 1V, 1W and class 3. These groups were then divided into teams of six to eight children. An afternoon of 'Potted Sports' then took place. Each group, depending on age, took part in ten sporting activities, such as goal scoring football, jumping hurdles, filling buckets with bean bags, walking across a short course on three pieces of paper (not as easy as it sounds) and bouncing on Spacehoppers, to name but a few.

The sun shone all day. The children were so lovely with each other. They helped each other along the various obstacles. They were patient with each other when one of their team had problems with one of the activities and not a cross word was heard all day. That in itself must be some kind of record! At the end of the day two hundred worn out children made their way home. Not before many had remembered to thank their teachers for such a smashing day. One lad told his teacher that it had been the best day of his life. No higher praise can you ask for than that!

If you have time come into school and see some of the 'props' used in the 'Jungle Jaunt' and the photographs. They are all on display in the main entrance hall. Sports Day is on July 5th, and whilst it will not be offering Jungle Juice or Alligator Alleys I am sure that it will prove to be another most enjoyable sporting day. Come and join us, for you will be most welcome!

Sponsored Bike Ride 1988

Kath Pierce asks:

Have you collected your sponsor forms from your organiser? Get those sponsor forms before the summer holidays, as there will not be much time afterwards!

T-shirts were a great attraction last year and they are available again this year. There are four sizes—children's 28/30" at £3 each, adult sizes are small, medium and extra large, all at £3·50! Good value for the money and can be obtained through your local organisers

Maps of the area will be available in each church by August and if you are riding for the first time, your local organiser will be only too pleased to help you plan a route. If you don't own a cycle, many walked last year and enjoyed the experience!

Book the date! SATURDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER, 10am to 6pm. Local organisers as follows: *Bekesbourne*, Jill Gillanders (830894) and Christine Ash (830214); *Bridge*, Kath Pierce (830844); *Patricxbourne*, Andrea Nicholson (830947), Rosalie Stacey (830205).

More awards for Bridge youngsters

In this year's Kent Competitive Festival, which ended on Saturday, 21st May with a concert and presentation of awards, Bridge again scored several successes, namely:—

<i>DRAMA</i>	Lucinda Spencer	Own Composition	1st Place	
		Bible Reading	Merit	
		Verse Speaking	Merit	
	Timothy Spencer	Own Competition	1st Place and Distinctions	
		Reading at Sight	2nd Place	
		Verse Speaking and Humour in Verse	Merit	
<i>MUSIC</i>	Emma Field	Woodwind under 16	1st Place	
		Violin Duet	2nd Place	
		20th Century		
			Woodwind	2nd Place
			Bible Reading	2nd Place
	Sarah Field	Open Concerto	1st Place	
		Woodwind, 14 and under	1st Place	
Brass, 14 and under		2nd Place		
Bible Reading		2nd Place		

It is encouraging to note these successes, especially in the Bible Reading which is certainly not to the fore in these times. Many congratulations and further success to the pupils.

As one of the organisers of the Dance Event I must say again how disappointed I was not to see a Bridge boy or girl in the awards, but hope that the efforts of Mrs V Scarlett, who has now a thriving class of youngsters each Wednesday afternoon, may bring one if not more awards to Bridge in 1989.

D Cartwright

Brotherhood

One thing is certain. The twentieth century will go down in history as the century of change. Everybody has different ideas about the things which have benefitted mankind. Antibiotics are an obvious one. Some people may be grateful for that marvellous little gadget which enables one to switch off party political broadcasts from the comfort of an armchair.

It would be a pity if the great wealth of material achievements caused us to overlook a blessing which has come about quietly and without fuss. Something which is so much a part of the Christian scene in mainland Britain

to-day that it is taken almost for granted.

I am talking about the friendship and understanding between Anglican and Roman Catholic communities which is reflected in events like interchurch meetings—something which would have been unthinkable not so many years ago.

Things were very different in my youth. Instead of co-operation and goodwill there was antagonism and suspicion. One of my early memories is being taken into a Catholic church to see the crib. I went with a friend who had 'gone over to Rome' unbeknown to my parents. They were furious and I felt as if I had been contaminated in some way. This may seem less absurd if you remember that in those days Catholics had to seek—and were often refused—dispensation to enter an Anglican church for something as innocent as a wedding or funeral.

* * *

Ironically I got my first glimpse of the awakening spirit of Christian brotherhood during what was probably the most terrible night of my life.

Friday the thirteenth of February, 1942, was a day of ill omen in the dying city of Singapore. The Japs were within three miles of the city's outskirts. They had captured the last food and ammunition reserves and the reservoirs were in their hands.

My battery was destroyed in the early evening. One of my friends was among the survivors. He was fatally wounded and unconscious and I began the near hopeless task of finding medical help. The big military hospital had been overrun earlier in the day. Soldiers of the Japanese Imperial Guard ignored the red crosses and stormed through the wards, bayonetting and beheading the wounded in their beds.

A military policeman told me that the Anglican cathedral had become an emergency hospital. In the red glow of fires unchecked in the nearby city I saw that the floor was covered with wounded, row after row, reaching to the altar where surgeons were operating in the lights of a lorry's headlamps.

I became aware of a strange, indefinable noise. It rose and fell, a trembling, shuddering sound which came from every direction, filling the great cathedral with an uncanny resonance, almost as an organ might have done.

Suddenly I knew the source. What I was hearing was the terrible sound of mass suffering. The trembling air which had mystified me was the sobbing breath of frightened and dying men.

I saw a Catholic padre approaching. My friend's identity discs were buried in the bloody pulp which had been his chest. I said defensively: "He is C of E". As he knelt beside the dying man the padre said gently: "Your friend may have different tags but we are all God's children here to-night".

It appeared later that neither Anglican nor Catholic padres had paid much regard to denominational differences, and many there must have been who blessed them for it that terrible blood-soaked night.

When the time came for me to thank God for my survival I remembered that act of brotherhood in the cruelly defiled cathedral and went to a Catholic church to pray. The service was strange to me but I felt that God would understand and approve. As He must do now as Anglicans and Catholics learn to understand each other.

K.B.



Bridge Parish Council

Parish Diary Among the first matters discussed at the Parish Council meeting on Thursday, 9th June, was the suggestion raised at the Annual Parish Meeting that there should be a Parish Diary available for consultation by Secretaries of Clubs and Societies or anyone else organising social or fund raising event that affected the village to avoid any clashing of dates which might affect the success of the event. Mr and Mrs Eaton of the Village Shop had very kindly agreed to keep the diary at the shop as being a central point, but the onus would be on the secretaries and individuals to write in the details themselves as soon as possible to ensure that the idea was a success.

Recreation Ground It was decided to consider in depth the making of bye-laws for the control of dogs at the July meeting of the Council. The Chairman, Cllr John Hill, drew attention to various areas of the recreation ground which were not being cut satisfactorily by the County Council's gang mower and the Clerk was to take this up with the Superintendent of Grounds. The Clerk informed the Council that the area of grass lying between the Nailbourne and the footpath in Patricbourne Road opposite the recreation ground was scheduled to be cut monthly by the County Council.

Streets and Footways Following concern expressed at the number of lorries bound for Highland Court farm coming through the village, it was decided to ask Highland Court Farms to remind their

delivery lorry drivers to avoid coming through the village.

Planning The Council objected to an application for the erection of a detached dwelling on land to the rear of 'Conamore' Patricbourne Road on the grounds that such a proposal constituted backland development. The Council had no observations to make on amended plans to an extension at Forge Cottage, 51 High Street. Regarding an appeal to the Secretary of State in connection with the demolition of an outbuilding at the rear of the Plough and Harrow Public House, the Clerk was to write to the Department of the Environment endorsing their views already submitted to the City Council that the building should be retained. The City Council had refused planning permission for the erection of a dwelling adjacent to 'The Cottage', Bridge Hill, and it was understood that the County Council's application for two detached bungalows on land at The New Close Old People's Home, Conyngham Lane, was being with drawn.

Bourne View/Mill Terrace Residents Association The Council were concerned to hear from the newly formed Residents Association of Bourne View and Mill Terrace of the deterioration that was taking place in that area and also that several tenants were carrying on businesses from their homes. It was therefore decided to write in support of the Residents Association's letter to the City Housing Officer at the City Council asking what action the City Council proposed to take in this matter.

The next meeting of the Parish Council, which will be the last before the summer recess, will be held on Thursday, 14th July in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

Fish Scheme News



NHS Chiropody Service Negotiations have now been completed to replace our present clinic with visits from the Mobile Chiropody Unit. The unit, which contains a fully-equipped surgery and waiting room, will be placed in the car park of The New Close for three and a half days every two months. Existing patients will be notified of the new arrangements and given a new appointment. In future new bookings and cancellations should be made through the Herne Bay Clinic (Tel: 0227-373241). We will continue to arrange transport through the Fish Scheme for those who need it. If you have any queries or problems during the changeover period, please contact me. Once

established the new service will give improved facilities and conditions for patients and staff. *N.B. The NHS provides a free chiropody service for people over retirement age, children, expectant mothers and for anyone who is physically or mentally handicapped.*

The **Annual Coffee Morning** and Bring & Buy Sale took place on 4th June. I am very grateful to those who did all the hard work and to those who supported us. Despite all this work it is disappointing that we made less money than last year, in spite of the growing demands made on the Fish Scheme. We made £173 from the Coffee Morning and received a further £14 in donations during the subsequent week.

We have all been saddened to lose three of our original members of the Luncheon Club in a short space of time—Miss Eva Vinten and her sister Mrs Jessie Capper from Filmer Road and Mrs Gladys Jarvis from Bishopsbourne. All three fought illness and increasing disability with great courage and cheerfulness. We shall miss them all.

The next Coffee Pop-In will be in Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday, 13th July from 10.15 to 11.45am.

Joan Warren, 830233

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

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

Would Secretaries of Organisations and others with items for *On The Nail* please send them to the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication.



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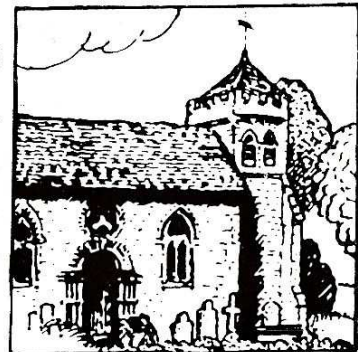
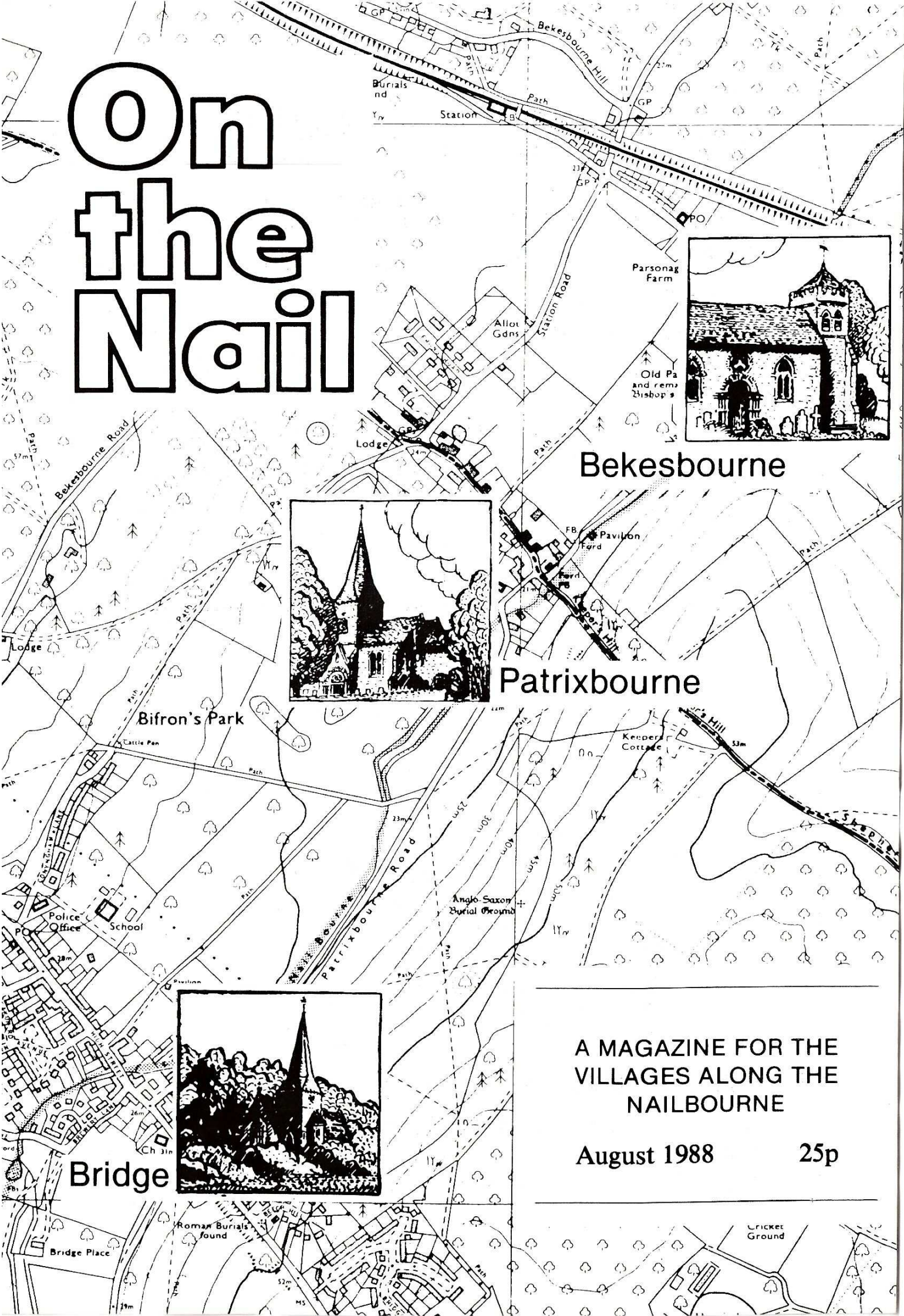
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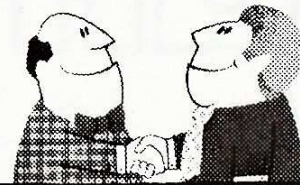
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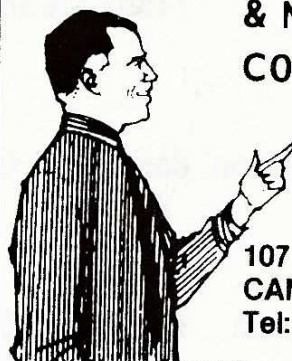
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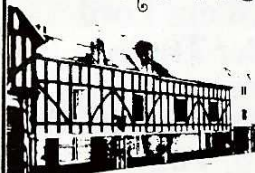
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Sunday Worship in August

Bridge	Patricxbourne	Bekesbourne
7th: 11am Family Service (<i>Canon F Bull</i>) 6.30pm Evensong (<i>Revd W Owen</i>)	8am Holy Communion (<i>Canon J W Packer</i>)	9.30 Parish Communion (<i>Canon F Bull</i>)
14th: 9.30 The Eucharist (<i>ASB Rite A</i>) 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
21st: 9.30 Parish Communion (<i>ASB Rite A</i>) 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	11am <i>Songs of Praise</i> 3pm Holy Baptism
28th: 8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Matins
4th September: 11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *7th*, Mr A P Barwick, BSc. *14th*, Miss K J Knight. *21st*, *Holy Communion*, The Revd John Turner, BA. *28th*, Mr C G Robertson.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion will be held as usual throughout August. They will be in St. Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (*BCP*) at 9.30am and Friday (*ASB Rite A*) at 7.30am. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 3rd at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always welcome to this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

- 4th *St. Dominic, Priest & Friar, 1221*
Prayers for Health & Healing, 'Orana', Brewery Lane, 7pm
- 5th *St. Oswald of Northumbria, King & Martyr, 642*
- 6th **Transfiguration of our Lord**
- 7th **Tenth Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 11**
- 10th *St. Laurence, Deacon & Martyr, 258*
Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 - 11.45am
- 11th *St. Clare of Assisi, Virgin, 1253*
- 13th *Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down and Connor, Pastor & Teacher, 1667*
Church Barbeque, Vicarage Garden, 7.30pm
- 14th **Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 12**
- 17th *Kent Chorale* sings Evensong, St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne, 7.30pm.
- 18th Prayers for Health & Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 20th *St. Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153*
Pray for Kim Billings and John Stagg who marry today at Bekesbourne.

- 21st **Twelfth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 13*
N.B. 11am "Songs of Praise" at Bekesbourne replaces Matins.
- 24th **St. Bartholomew the Apostle**
- 28th **Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 14*
- 31st *St. Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651*
 Pray for Bridget Stewart and Greg Piper who marry today at Patricbourne.

The Vicar is on holiday until 9th August. During this time Canon Frank Bull (830440) is available in the event of someone needing the urgent services of a priest, but please only contact him in cases of emergency that will not keep until the vicar's return.

Junior Church

Songs of Praise

A thoroughly cheering and helpful service entitled *Songs of Praise* took place in St. Peter's Church, Bridge on Sunday morning, 26th June. It was imaginatively compiled and charmingly conducted by the children of Junior Church and it was good to see a number of 'Senior Church' members among the congregation.

Of particular note were two of the spoken items, a short talk on what Junior Church does Sunday by Sunday, and what might best be described as an extended Lord's Prayer, with the customary text broken up into its component parts and additional thoughts added to each. At the conclusion the entire congregation said the prayer in the usual way.

Those who enjoyed this all too brief occasion, and those who didn't for that matter, may be pleased to know that a stereo recording was made of the complete service and cassettes of it can be bought from Stephen Pike for £1.50 each.

Stewards all

One thing you could never accuse the Junior Church of being is short on ideas! One of their latest came during our recent Christian Stewardship Renewal. Back in May Senior Church members were asked to take a long hard look at their stewardship of time, talents and money, with a view to making a re-appraisal of it.

Well, a nod was as good as a wink, and Junior Church decided to follow suit and have their own Stewardship Campaign, concentrating on time and talents. It took off on Saturday, 10th July when a sizeable posse of children (plus grown ups, of course) descended on Bridge churchyard and did a splendid and much-needed tidying-up operation. They spent the best part of two hours on the job, at the end of which and with a lot to show for it, all retired to the vicarage garden for a well-earned barbeque.

And so on

This autumn sees the first batch of Junior Church children to move *en bloc* into secondary education, and we have Junior Church to thank for the largest number in my time to go on to The Archbishop's School together. Here is a really encouraging sign and a further cause for rejoicing and thankfulness to God, who inspired the creation and building up of Junior Church. Included in

this number are Sarah Mummery, Clare Brasier, Lucy Wilmhurst, Emma Young and Elizabeth Walder. We wish them well!

Sealing our Fête

The Village Summer Fête now seems a long way off, but before memories of it fade away completely we must pay a grateful tribute to both church and school for a super afternoon (the poor weather was no-one's fault). As was remarked soon after, it was a good fête, much enjoyed by all who came to support it. The proceeds netted £1,678, which though down on last year's total was a good result notwithstanding.

The meaning of Carmel

In the concluding extract from Fr Robert Nash's article on the Carmelite communities he faces up to the accusation commonly levelled against the contemplative religious orders, that those who join them are wasting their lives.

“Why this waste?” There is not sufficient space in this short article to give the full answer. But here is a line of thought worth considering and discussing. Jesus Christ came to save the world. His mission was limited to a period of about thirty-three years. The world needed him sorely. His obvious course, to our way of thinking, would be to lose no time in getting involved in all sorts of activity; preaching, instructing, confounding His enemies' arguments, convincing the people by His miracles and winning them by His love. All that sounds very reasonable. But He did nothing of the kind. He ‘wasted’ thirty precious years in the obscurity of despised Nazareth. For every one year of activity there were ten during which He remained hidden and unknown, and who is so arrogant as to ask, “Why this waste?”

Why we are here

If Carmelites were questioned about the meaning of Carmel we make bold to suggest that their answer would go like this: “We are here as a perpetual reminder to the world of God and the supernatural. We are here to insist on the obligation of all men to go down on their knees to pray and adore Him. We are here, a tiny oasis surrounded by vast areas of arid desert, to persuade all peoples to come and assuage their thirst at the fountains of the Saviour. We are here to live with Christ hanging on the Cross, to stand by the side of His Mother on Calvary, to atone by penance for the prevailing sensuality and self-indulgence of so many Christians who will accept Him only on their own terms.

We are here because we believe, with our Father St. John of the Cross, that ‘one single act of pure love is of more value to the Church than all other works combined’. We are here to send up incessantly to our God that great prayer of St. Thérèse, ‘I beseech Thee to cast Thy glance upon a vast number of little souls; I entreat Thee to choose in this world a legion of little victims worthy of Thy love’ ”.

The Carmelites of Thicket Priory, York produce our communion wafers and also remember us in the course of their life of prayer. The value of that remembrance for our churches is reflected in these comments on the prayer life in Carmel.

St. Teresa laid down that prayer was to be the centre and purpose of our lives. Hence we arrange our days in such a manner that in our personal and Community lives prayer really gets the foremost place, and so permeates the whole of our day.

Pope John Paul II mentioned that the demands of the Carmelite life are more urgent today than four hundred years ago when the Church was threatened with grave dangers, and he exhorts us to live ever more generously for the Church, for its Bishops, Priests and Missionaries, of whom we are to be the silent and necessary helpers.

Prayer is the soul's life in God, or rather God's life in us, hidden with Christ—and represents the human heart's highest form of expression. It means taking time to be alone with Him, Whom we know loves us.

League of Friends

The Bridge Branch of the League of Friends of the Canterbury Hospitals raised £176 at their Coffee Morning on Thursday, 16th June. Many thanks to all those who supported us.

M.S.F.

Joys and Sorrows

The sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered during the Family Service at Bridge on 3rd July. Those baptized (only one babe-in-arms) were **David Martin**, the infant son of Tracy and Darel Pearson, 3 Union Road, and **Alan John Forrester** and sister **Sarah Elizabeth Louise** of 66 High Street.

Sarah has the double distinction of having been a bridesmaid a week before at the Bridge wedding of **Rosalind Parker** and **Simon Hopkins**, from 1 Dering Road. We also record two weddings on 16th July: the first at Bridge, when **Christopher Hogben** married **Karen Osborn**, and the second at Bekesbourne between **Kevan Zygmant** and **Penny Denne**.

One-time landlord of Bridge's *Red Lion* pub, **Fred Wells** of 9 Green Court passed away on 18th June after a long illness. Cremation at Barham on 28th June was preceded by a service in St. Peter's Church conducted by the Vicar. We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow Iris and family, some of whom sadly were held up in traffic jams and only arrived as the funeral ended.

Bridge with Patricxbourne Women's Institute

The June meeting of the WI took the form of a Garden Meeting at the home of Mrs Margaret Jones in Conyngham Lane. A very warm, overcast evening meant that we were able to sit on the lawn and enjoy refreshments. There were various stalls and a raffle.

Mrs Shirley Collingwood presided, as our President; Mrs Gill Harvey was in the process of moving house. However, we shall not be losing her until the autumn from our WI.

The next meeting was scheduled for 19th July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, with a talk on 'Homeopathy'.

D E King

Confirmation at Bridge

St. Peter's Church, Bridge was filled to capacity for the service of Holy Communion with Confirmation that took place on the evening of our Patronal

Festival, 29th June. We welcomed a large contingent of candidates from Wingham, Nonington and Margate: those confirmed from our own parish were Lorraine Flisher, Clare Baden-Daintree, Julia Harvey, Andrew Whatley, Dominic Legge and Martyn Wraight. In all one hundred and sixty people made their communion.

The Bishop of Dover celebrated and confirmed. In his sermon he spoke of the boldness of St. Peter's eventual apostleship contrasted with his lack of confidence on earlier occasions. The difference was brought about by his commissioning for the Lord's service. The bishop urged those being confirmed to think of that, should they be feeling unsure of themselves. After the service a reception was held in the school hall. It was prepared by Ann Medhurst, who also baked and iced a special confirmation cake, which the bishop cut.

Summer Holiday activities

Canterbury Library is holding two summer activities in Bridge for any youngster who would like to take part. The theme is *The Sea* and activity takes place at Green Court from 4.00 to 4.30pm. The dates are 4th and 11th August.

Colin Brabazon, Assistant Librarian

Don't forget —

The date for the SPONSORED BIKE RIDE is **Saturday, 10th September**. A great day out for the family—book it in your diary *now!* Sponsor forms are still available from the following: *Bekesbourne*, Jill Gillanders (830894) and Christine Ash (830214); *Bridge*, Kath Pierce (830844); *Patricxbourne*, Andrea Nicholson (830947) and Rosalie Stacey (830205).

Advance warning—Deanery Family Festival

This year's Deanery Family Festival has been fixed for **Sunday, 18th September**. It is at Aylesham, as part of their Diamond Jubilee celebrations, and the service is at 10.30am. Following previous years, there will be no morning services in any of our three churches, so that we can make this a proper deanery occasion in which all the churches worship together.

Choral Evensong at Bekesbourne

Wednesday evenings are not normal times for going to church, but then the evensong that is to take place in St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 17th August is somewhat out of the ordinary anyway.

The *Kent Chorale* is a choir that meets only during the summer to sing fully choral services in parish churches, and they asked if they could come to Bekesbourne. Naturally I was only too willing to welcome them to St. Peter's.

The service will be unlike our normal Evensong in that the *Kent Chorale* will do all the singing as happens in the cathedral. The music will include special settings of the responses and canticles, plus an anthem. There won't be a sermon and the whole service should last in the region of three quarters of an hour.

I hope there will be a good attendance for this unique evening, not least so that we can give our visitors a warm welcome, but everyone should come prepared not to take a vocal part in the proceedings. But it *will* be an act of

Continued on page 13

worship and not a concert: the difference from the norm is that, as at Cathedral Evensong, we worship through the choir's singing rather than by doing it ourselves. Come and experience another variety of public worship!

Church Barbeque

Generally church social functions are fund-raising events! We invite you to one that is purely *fun*-raising!

A Church Barbeque is to be held in the Vicarage Garden on Saturday, 13th August, starting at 7.30pm. We genuinely are *not* out to make money but simply to enjoy ourselves with food, friendship and fun; so why not join us. The all-in cost is £3 a head (real value for money) and we are taking numbers NOW! Book yourself in for this no-strings-attached, no-extras barbeque by contacting one of the Pikes straightaway! Numbers must be finalised by 6th August, so don't delay!

On The Nail for younger readers

About time too!

Introducing something completely new—a slot in 'On The Nail' just for younger readers. Yes, you're right; it IS about time too! Well, we've set the ball rolling with an easy-peasy quiz—no prizes, I'm afraid, but have a go anyway—but the rest will be up to you! In future months we want you to write your own column, so get thinking. We know you're all out there bursting with ideas, longing to see yourselves in print, so get cracking! Now's your chance, all you budding journalists!

How about letting us have a few puzzles? Let's all share your favourite joke or funny story! Try writing an article or a poem specially for 'On The Nail'. Send whatever you like, the more the merrier, to the editor—that's me, the vicar—you know where I live. The deadline (the date it must be in by) is the 15th of every month, so you've got till the 15th August to make the September issue of 'On The Nail'. And don't be disappointed if your contribution doesn't make it; just keep trying. We're hoping for so many bits and pieces that we have to pick and choose. You never know, your effort will probably pop up when you least expect it!

Anyway, enough rabbiting from me; here's the quiz I promised you! No, I didn't write it—and I'm not telling you who did either, so there!

* * *

Each group of letters below can be rearranged to give the name of one of the twelve apostles.

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MOHSTA

MSAEJ

TTHMWAE

How many other disciples can you name? Matthew's gospel chapter 10, verse 2 will give you the answers.

* * *

The answers to the following questions can be found in Luke 8, verses 41 to 42 and verses 49 to 56.

1. What was the name of the man who came to Jesus for help?
2. What was his job?
3. How old was his daughter?
4. Who went with Jesus into the girl's room?
5. What did Jesus ask that the girl should be given when she recovered?

A question of numbers

1. How many books are there in the Old Testament?
2. How many sons did Jacob have?
3. How many cubits long was Noah's ark?
4. The number of days Jesus spent in the wilderness.
5. The number of pieces of silver offered to Judas to betray Jesus.

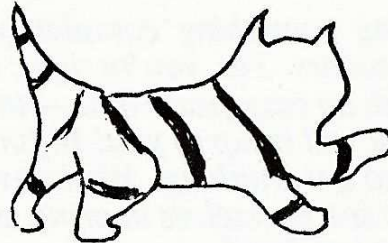
If your answers are correct they should add up to 421.

Know your neighbourhood

*Small and white with stripes of black,
He wouldn't purr if you stroked his back.*

Where in Bridge can this cat be seen?

(Answer next month)



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Lovers of Flower Festivals might like to visit the one at Eastry Church, which runs from 4th to 7th August. The church is open daily from 10am to 8pm. Eastry's Church Fête is on Saturday, 6th August, from 2pm to 5pm in Aumbry Garden, Church Street.

A day of Wholeness

A monthly event at Charlton, Dover

"Both the instructions to preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick are part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Both are vital and relevant. Today God is restoring to His Church the vision of the healing ministry."

The Revd Patrick Jones, Rector of Charlton-in-Dover offers an invitation which many have already accepted and from which they have derived great benefit.

By arranging a *Day of Wholeness* on the first Saturday of each month, we are seeking to help meet the needs of those who look for rest and renewal in times of stress, and those who have a particular need of healing for body, mind and spirit. For those too, who are weighed down through loneliness or grief, or simply need to find a more meaningful purpose to life.

We would hope that those who are themselves engaged in the healing ministry will be encouraged to find a fresh sense of purpose and dedication in their work.

The *Day of Wholeness* will be centred on the parish church of St. Peter & St. Paul, Charlton-in-Dover, (St. Alphege Road, Dover), and will be ecumenical in emphasis.

The ministry offered will be from a team of people, ordained and lay, who have experience in the counselling and healing ministries.

Although the programme for the day may vary from month to month, it will generally be:

- 10.00am Registration and Coffee
- 10.30am Introduction to the day and expectations
- 11.00am Learning to Relax (*Led practical session*)
- 11.30am Talk on an aspect of Healing and Wholeness by a guest speaker
(*Approximately 40 minutes*)
- 12.30pm Break for Lunch (*Light lunches are available*)
- 1.15pm Conducted Meditation
- 2.00pm Seminars—'Looking at difficult questions'
- 2.30pm Tea and Biscuits
- 3.00pm Act of Worship, and Laying on of Hands

In order to cover expenses of visiting guest speakers, heating, lighting, etc. it will be necessary to charge a small registration fee. Hot drinks, soup and light lunches will be on sale during the day. If you wish to attend the *Day of Wholeness* please apply for a booking form, complete and return it to:—

The Secretary, Dover Christian Ministry, The Rectory, St. Alphege Rd., Dover Kent CT16 2PU. Numbers have to be limited, so early booking is advised. A book stall will be available and it is hoped all talks will be recorded.



Bridge Parish Council

Among first items dealt with by the Parish Council at their meeting on Thursday, 14th July was the situation existing in the Bourne View/Mill Terrace area which had been brought to their attention at the June meeting. Although the Council heard that there had been some improvement in conditions there, they were not totally satisfied with the City Council's approach and were therefore going to write a further letter asking the City Council to monitor the situation carefully and requesting further information on the rules of tenancy.

Recreation Ground The Council decided to opt for a byelaw totally banning dogs from the Recreation Ground in view of its being used principally by sportsmen and children. To this end, a start was to be made to arrange for the ground to be enclosed. Cllrs Mrs Billie Anderson and Ken Greenaway kindly agreed to remove any large suckers from the trees there and to replace ties as necessary.

Streets and Footways The Council were to arrange for minor repairs to the bus shelter by the Post Office and to the refurbishment of the nearby wooden seat. The Council were made aware of the condition of the footpath leading from Bridge Down to the top of the stairway and action was being taken. The Council were to write to the management of Presto's asking if they could present a frontage to the High Street more in keeping with the rural location of the store.

Fish News

The Mobile Chiropody Unit was due to visit Bridge for the first time from 19th to 22nd July. The next session will be from 13th to 16th September. Patients already registered for treatment should have received new appointments—if anyone has been left out, please let me know.

* * *

The Luncheon Club will be closed for the whole of August. The new session begins on Monday, 5th September.

Village Appraisal The Council were pleased to note that the Village Appraisal Sub-Committee were making progress with the recommendations they were formulating to put before the Parish Council.

Planning The Council had no observations to make on the following applications: the formation of new toilet accommodation within the existing building, together with the demolition of the existing detached toilet block at the Red Lion Public House; extensions etc. at Church Cottage, High Street; erection of a five-bedroom house (amendments to approved design) River House, 67 High Street; alterations to existing link house, 7 Riverside Close; proposed five-bedroom house, plot 5, Union Road; chalet bungalow (outline) on land adjacent to Grindley Lodge, Higham Lane. The City Council had granted planning permission for the erection of a garage and loft spaces over the approved block of three garages at River House, 67 High Street and had refused permission for the erection of a dwelling on land at 'The Plat', Beech Hill and for the development to provide service areas etc. on land adjacent to the A2 at Kingston.

Lottery Fund The Council agreed to support in principle an application from the Nailbourne Scout Group for assistance from the Lottery Fund.

Television Reception The Clerk was to write to the IBA stating that a large number of residents of the village experienced poor quality television reception.

The Parish Council does not meet again now until after the summer recess, on Thursday, 8th September at the usual time of 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall. *K.A. Walder, Clerk*

* * *

We are very grateful to the daughter and son-in-law of Mrs Jessie Capper who have sent generous donations to the Fish Fund in appreciation of the help given to their mother and aunt, Miss Vinten.

* * *

The next Coffee Pop-In will be in Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday, 10th August from 10.15 to 11.45am. We are always pleased to welcome anyone from our four villages at these gatherings.

Joan Warren, 830233

St. Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

Flower Rota

6th August, Mrs Skinner. 13th, Mrs Millyard. 20th, Mrs Hogben. 27th, Mrs Broadwater.

Songs of Praise

The first of this summer's *Songs of Praise* services at Bekesbourne is on the 21st at 11am. Please submit your hymn choice to either Organist Stanley Grey (830522) or Churchwarden and Researcher John Purchase (830937—or more likely 61508). Don't forget to come along to the service, of course!

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 R.C. Whatley, 54 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830512)

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

Organist (Bridge):

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

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

Mr N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)

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

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

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

Captain of the Bells: Mr D. 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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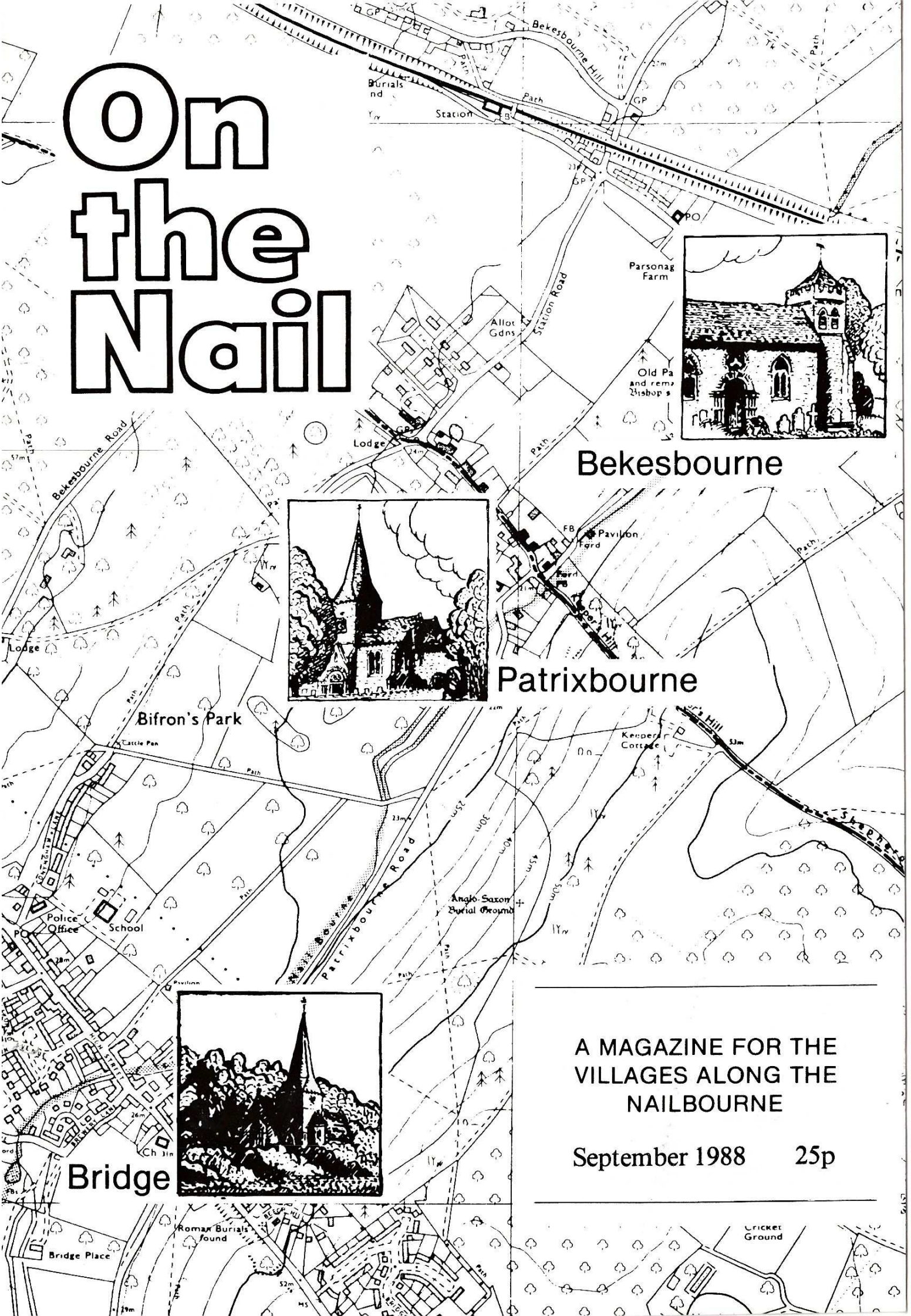
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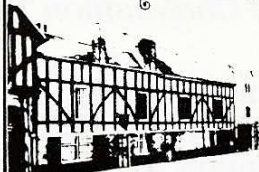
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Sunday Worship in September

Bridge	Patricxbourne	Bekesbourne
4th: 11am Family Service <i>(The Eucharist)</i> 6.30pm Choral Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
11th: 9.30 The Eucharist <i>(ASB Rite A, Revd W. Owen)</i> 6.30pm Evensong <i>(Canon F.S. Bull)</i>	11am Matins <i>(Revd C. Verity)</i>	8am Holy Communion <i>(Canon F.S. Bull)</i>
18th: <i>No Services today</i>	<i>No Service today</i>	6.30pm Harvest Evensong <i>(Canon F.S. Bull)</i>
25th: 8am Holy Communion	6.30pm Harvest Evensong	11am Matins
2nd October: 11am Harvest Family Service 6.30 Harvest Evensong <i>(Preacher: Revd C. Barlow)</i>	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

There is just one service in our churches on Sunday 18th, as that is the day of the annual East Bridge Deanery Festival. Following custom we will not hold our usual morning services in order to join with the other churches in this deanery act of worship.

This year St Peter's Church, Aylesham is hosting the festival, which will be a joyful celebration of the Eucharist at 10.30am. The preacher will be the Revd Christopher Elliot-Newman, Diocesan Director of Education. Ash Sunday School will be providing a five minute spot during the service, and the combined choirs of our churches will be singing an anthem. You can be certain of a very warm welcome at St Peter's, Aylesham in this their Diamond Jubilee Year. Choirs please note you are invited to robe.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *4th*, Mr H. Sheehan. *11th*, Mr E.R. O'Mahony. *18th*, Holy Communion The Revd Sheila Foreman. *25th*, Mr R. Chadwick, MA.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion will be held in St Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (*BCP*) at 9.30am and Friday (*ASB Rite A*) at 7.30am. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 7th at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always welcome to this short informal act of worship.

● The Vicar will be on holiday from 5th to 24th September inclusive. During that time anyone needing the urgent services of a priest should contact Canon Frank Bull (830440), but please only call on him in cases of emergency that cannot wait until the Vicar's return. Contributions for the October edition of *On The Nail* should be sent direct to the printer, John Purchase at A & J Purchase Ltd.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm
- 3rd *St Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher, 604*
Pray for Toni Denne and Adam Bowey who marry today at Bekesbourne.
- 4th **Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 15**
The Family Service takes the form of a shortened Eucharist.
Saxon Lodge Open Day, 10.30 - 7.30pm.
- 8th **The Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 10th Please support today's *Sponsored Cycle Ride*.
- 11th **Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 16**
- 12th Nailbourne Ladies Group, The Hunter Room. 8pm
- 13th *St Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258*
- 14th *Holy Cross Day*
Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15 to 11.45am
- 15th Bridge Village Playgroup *Fun Day* from 12.30pm
Prayers for Health and Healing, 7 Windmill Close, 7pm
Bridge Folk Dance Group, Village Hall, 8pm
- 18th **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 17**
There will be no morning worship in any of our three churches. Please join in the Deanery Festival Eucharist at St Peter's, Aylesham at 10.30. Bekesbourne's Harvest Festival takes the form of Evensong at 6.30pm, conducted by Canon Bull.
- 20th Bridge and Patricxbourne WI, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 21st **St Matthew the Apostle**
- 24th Coffee Morning for Bekesbourne Church, School House, 10.30am
- 25th **Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Pentecost 18**
- 27th Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC meets
- 28th Bekesbourne PCC meets
- 29th **St Michael and All Angels**

Off we go again!

In September most people take up the reins they allowed to fall slack for the duration of the summer holidays—or more prosaically, it's back to work or school or whatever constitutes the daily grind. We'll gloss over the fact that some of us are still holidaying.

September also tends to see a re-commencement in the activities of those clubs and societies that cater for our leisure needs and that have had their own summer break. Then, as hinted above, a new school year gets under way— and here let's wish good success to all those children who have moved a step up the educational ladder, particularly where they have gone to a new school or have started school for the very first time. In church circles too, September often marks the resumption of normal services, if you'll pardon the expression! This September, however, presents us with an additional challenge, and I'd like to tell you about it!

More fund-raising

Back in the spring the *Church Urban Fund* was launched nationally and locally, and this month our two Parochial Church Councils will be required

to set their own respective targets: they will also start discussing how to raise the necessary money. To give you a clearer idea of the situation, the suggested figure for each of the parishes of the Canterbury diocese is £1,100, and that is a large sum, even though we have three years in which to raise it. In some respects it seems unreasonable that a parish the size of Bekesbourne should be expected to come up with the same amount of money as a large and relatively well-to-do set up like Folkestone Parish Church, for instance; but the main thing is to realise that we determine our own target (the figure quoted is merely a guideline calculated in order to meet the diocesan total of £400,000) and treat it not as something tacked on to the diocesan quota or as a tax that we are obliged to meet in full, but as a goal to work for. If in the end we are unable to reach our chosen target it will be unfortunate but not cause to feel ashamed—assuming, that is, we have done our very best to raise the money.

What about it?

So, what is the *Church Urban Fund*? The centre pages of May's *On The Nail* dealt with it in great detail, so here's just a brief snippet to remind everyone what we're talking about.

“It is a fund established by the Church in response to the report *Faith in the City*. It has been created to provide support for those in our cities who are poor, disadvantaged and feel excluded from the mainstream of our national life. The purpose of the Fund is to raise and spend significant sums of money to support projects designed to help the people of deprived urban communities. *It is intended to be a powerful indication that we shall not forsake our fellow Christians in their work in such areas.*”

I have emphasised that last sentence because it really gets to the core of the issue. The Fund's aim is not to compensate for government cuts or to make up the shortfall on the state social services. The Fund has been created to assist the churches in urban priority areas to do their work. The Archbishop was careful to point out at the Canterbury launch that the church is not in the business of social service but of proclaiming the gospel of Christ in its particular locality. The projects referred to above are church sponsored and are being run by urban parishes as part of what they see as their rightful Christian witness to the good news of Jesus and his love.

We in affluent Kent are brothers and sisters in Christ to churchfolk in some very impoverished areas of this land. They know where their duty lies and yearn to do it with all their heart. The trouble is, they haven't the all-important cash. The *Church Urban Fund* gives us the chance to acknowledge our kinship with them and to help the church's mission go forward.

After all, their cause ought to be our cause too, seeing we are all members of one family: and good families generally try to stand by and support each other.

We shall keep you informed of local events, but if you would like to know more at this stage pick up a leaflet from one of the churches or ask me or your parish representative; Mrs Andrea Nicholson for Patrixbourne with Bridge, and Mrs Jennie Skinner for Bekesbourne. Please use this special prayer for the *Church Urban Fund*.

Father in Heaven, we pray for the cities of our land:
for their leaders and their common life,
for their places of wealth and deprivation,
and for all who are powerless or poor.

Bless the work of the Church Urban Fund,
that our cities may find healing and renewal,
and may glimpse the hope of the Eternal City,
whose builder and maker is God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For young readers

Well, you didn't exactly swamp me with material for this issue! In fact I had only one answer to my call. Come on, now! The holidays are over, so get your thinking caps on and start writing! In the meanwhile here is that first contribution, plus another quiz from the same anonymous source as the last one. Incidentally, did you find the whereabouts in the village of the cat in last month's puzzle? In case like me you didn't, he's on the Post Office roof.

OUR VILLAGE, BRIDGE

by Emma Young

Bridge has many features, such as several shops, hairdressers, a police station, a school, a Village Hall, a Dental Surgery, a Methodist Church and, last but by no means least, St Peter's Church.

Bridge also has a recreation ground and is surrounded by beautiful countryside, with a little river running through and a ford where I love to play.

WORDSEARCH

Hidden in the square are the names of seven places visited by Jesus. Look carefully because the names may be printed vertically, horizontally, or even back to front. Answers next month.

J S A O H P G U D B
E C I N U L A R B E
R E Z D S T L A J T
U V B L O X I K T H
S M E G I N L C P L
A O H C I R E J A E
L N A Z A R E T H H
E Q Y F S W O B E E
M C A P E R N A U M

The answers to each of these is a number from one to ten. Which number belongs to which question?

- A. How many lepers came to Jesus to be healed?
- B. How many said, "thank you"?
- C. How many Wise Men came to see the baby Jesus?
- D. In how many days did God create the earth?
- E. How many sons did Jesse (the father of David) have?
- F. For how many days did it rain after Noah built the ark?
- G. According to St Mark's gospel, how many loaves did the little boy offer to feed the people?

- H. And how many fishes?
- I. Which of the Ten Commandments says that the seventh day should be a day of rest?
- J. Which chapter of St John's gospel begins with a story about a blind man?

How well do you know the story of the Good Samaritan? Try to answer these questions without looking in the Bible, but if you get stuck you'll find the answers in St Luke's gospel, chapter 10, verses 25 to 37.

1. Where was the traveller going?
2. From where had he come?
3. What happened to him on the way?
4. Name the two people who walked by without helping the injured man.
5. Who was the third man who stopped to help?
6. What did he use to bathe the wounds of the injured traveller?
7. Where was the injured man taken?
8. What coins were given to the innkeeper to pay for the man's care?

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

A very gallant ship is she,
But she sails in the air and not on the sea.

Where in Bridge can you spot something which fits this description?

A final reminder

The Sponsored Bike Ride is on Saturday, 10th of this month. Please give it your full support. Last minute cyclists (or walkers) welcome! Details from Jill Gillanders (830894) or Christine Ash (830214) if you live in Bekesbourne, Kath Pierce (830844) for Bridge and Andrea Nicholdson (830947) or Rosalie Stacey (830205) for Patricxbourne.

A welcome return

For the past twelve months Bridge Church has limped along musically, since we have been without a regular organist. Martin Miles had to leave us last summer because of increased commitments at The King's School, though with the hope that after a year's absence he would be free to return. Happily that hope has been realised and we are delighted to have Martin back in charge of the church's music.

* * *

With the return of the choir after the usual August break Martin takes up the reins again in earnest with a fully-fledged choral Evensong on 4th: this is instead of the 25th, for this month only. It is marvellous to have him back and we look forward to the many musical feasts to come, of which preparations for the Christmas Carol Service are already in hand.

* * *

I would particularly like to pay my respects to the members of the choir who have soldiered on doggedly, seldom knowing who would be in charge from

Continued on page 13

week to week, frustrated by the limited opportunities to sing as only Bridge Choir can, yet carrying on all the same. There are joys in store, and if any reading this would like to come along and join the fray you would be welcomed with open arms.

Let me also thank the occasional organists who have played, often at a moment's notice. Particular thanks to Dr Lewis Ryder, a highly accomplished organist, to former organist Peter Giles for the Christmas Midnight among other services, to Michael Brewer of Boughton, and another ex-Bridge organist, Dennis Mathew. A special thank-you is due to our old friend Stanley Grey who has played more often than any of them and is always willing to amble along the High Street on request.

Joys and Sorrows

We record the baptisms on 21st August at Bekesbourne of **Thomas Anthony Keith**, son of Mr and Mrs A.K. Murphy, 'Chocks Away', Aerodrome Road and **Charlotte Louise**, daughter of Mr and Mrs S.R. Barrett, 3 Unicorn Cottages, The Hill.

* * *

On 30th July **Carolyn Jane Harris**, 1 Riverside Close married **Michael Kendrick** of Sunderland. The service in St Peter's, Bridge was conducted by Canon Frank Bull. St Peter's, Bekesbourne was the venue when the Vicar officiated at the marriage of **Kim Billings** and **John Stagg**: Kim is the granddaughter of our Mrs Hogben.

* * *

Bridge Methodist Steward, Pat Grant writes: "Many in the village will join with us in the loss of our senior member 'Flo' Wimpory. Known to all by her shortened name, she was a most lovable person, willing to help whenever and wherever possible, generous to all calls for help and most adept at giving out of herself, showing a deep Christian awareness of life's needs.

"Flo will be missed not only by the Methodist 'family' but by many others and we all join in acknowledgement of our deep sense of loss, still remembering there are several points worthy of celebration. Her passing was exceedingly quick—no suffering; she is re-united with Frank—both in the care of our Lord; and we shall all have gained by knowing this quiet woman who gave so much."

Mrs Wimpory's cremation on Thursday, 18th August was preceded by a service in her spiritual home, Bridge Methodist Church, conducted by the Minister, the Revd Sheila Foreman.

Saxon Lodge Open Day

Mr and Mrs G. Richards, the Proprietors of Saxon Lodge Residential Home for the Elderly at 30 Western Avenue are to hold an Open Day on Sunday, 4th September from 10.30am until 7.30pm All visitors will be warmly welcomed and invited to inspect the facilities they have to offer their residents.

On The Nail Noticeboard

Bridge Folk Dance Group is gradually growing but more dancers would be welcome, to enable us to enjoy a more varied programme of dances. Why not

come and join us when we return from our summer break? We meet on 1st and 15th September in the Village Hall at 8 o'clock. For further details ring either 830285 or 830652.

J.H.

* * *

Nailbourne Ladies Group is a lively, friendly organisation open to all ladies living in the villages along the Nailbourne. We have guest speakers, demonstrations and outings to interesting places. These cover a wide range of topics of interest to women today. NLG meets on the second Monday of the month in the Hunter Room of Bridge Village Hall at 8pm. The first meeting this season will be an illustrated talk by the National Trust on 12th September. New members are always most welcome!

L.F.

* * *

A **Fun Day** in aid of Bridge Village Playgroup is to be held at the Old Palace, Bekesbourne on Thursday, 15th September starting at 12.30pm. Lunches will be on offer together with a bouncing Fun Castle and other attractions. A fun day for all the children—please do come! All welcome!

* * *

A date for your diaries!! **Coffee Morning for Bekesbourne Church** at School House, Bekesbourne, at 10.30am on Saturday, 24th September. Bring and Buy—Cakes, Plants and anything saleable; plus Raffle. All contributions welcome!

It has been an expensive year for the church, with the purchase of a new mower for the churchyard and much increased insurance premium following the hurricane.

J.M. & G.D.M.

* * *

A RECIPE FOR LIFE

from a souvenir recipe book in Pershore Abbey, dated 1836.

Take equal parts of faith and courage.
Mix well with a sense of humour.
Sprinkle with a few tears, and add
A large helping of kindness to others.
Bake in a good-natured oven, and
Dust with laughter.
Remove all pity for self.
Scrape away any self-indulgence that is apparent, and
Serve in generous helpings.

How about a leisure club?

Residents of Bekesbourne, Patribourne and Bridge are invited to a meeting at Churchill House, Union Road, Bridge on 20th September at 2.30pm to discuss the formation of a Leisure Club. Light refreshments will be served. O.I.K.

Silence is golden

Where many are concerned silence is simply the absence of sound and they find

it hard to cope with. Hence the incessant jingling (background music, as they like to call it) that assails our ears in public places, and the personal stereo that is now essential equipment for every self-respecting commuter.

It is regrettable that silence has become so unpopular: indeed, in some areas it is positively feared. The fault lies in an almost universal ignorance of the potential worth of silence. Few know how to use it properly; which is a shame for properly employed silence is a precious gift that has much to offer. In church too, silence is a rare commodity and if we see it coming we invariably smother it with organ music or choose an extra hymn. If a period of silence comes without warning the congregation immediately assumes something has gone wrong and tries to identify the trouble.

What's wrong with a bit of silence? Absolutely nothing, provided we approach it from the right angle, i.e. not as the unavoidable absence of sound but as something definitely planned and carefully constructed. Approached positively rather than negatively silence is a different matter entirely and it becomes something to embrace not shy away from.

In religious terms silence is on a par with meditation and amounts to laying ourselves open to God. In it we try to close our minds to all other considerations, sounds included, so that freed from external distractions we can be thoroughly receptive to the Spirit of God. This is probably the most difficult aspect of prayer insofar as it involves us stopping talking (we usually 'say' our prayers) in order that God can speak to us.

The prayer of silence is never easy but it is well worth pursuing. Perhaps these thoughts of Clare Cameron's may encourage us to look upon silence as a friend.

"We do not have to enter the silence because it is with us always. We fill it with distractions, chatter to one another and seem to need the background of radio or television and so on, especially if we live alone. Some cannot bear silence any more than they can bear solitude. These, the majority, live on the surface of life which they take for reality, even though it never really satisfies.

"But there are others, and they are multitudes, who long for it but through circumstances are obliged to bear with noise in the home and traffic. For them there seems no escape.

"In meditation we learn to withdraw from the outer for a short time, to reach the deep springs of renewal which are in every one of us. We call it 'waiting upon God' and this is the source of our guidance, our restoration to a better sense of values.

"Nevertheless, we tend to separate the silence from the noise, the solitude from company, meditation from life, as if they were two distinct things. They are not. They flow into each other, or should, so that life itself becomes a perpetual meditation, a consecration in the service of God and man."

Bridge and Patricxbourne Women's Institute

On Tuesday evening, 19th July Mrs Theresa Mawson gave an interesting explanation of the principles of Homeopathy, an alternative method of treating illness.

At the end of June we provided tea for a party of WI members from Otford,

West Kent who were on a day trip to Canterbury. They were piloted through Bridge and Patricbourne in order to get an impression of our beautiful area, as it was their first visit.

At the August meeting Mrs M. Baker gave a cookery demonstration using summer fruits currently available. Delectable confections of raspberries, strawberries, cream, yoghurt and liqueurs were produced and tasted, diets being momentarily forgotten. Several dishes were raffled and taken home by the lucky winners, also a recipe sheet.

The next meeting on 20th September will be the occasion of our Harvest Supper. It is at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Bridge. Please bring your own plate, cutlery and a glass.

D.E. King

Holy Land Pilgrimage

The Vicar of Nonington writes:—

Jerusalem and Jericho, Nazareth and Bethlehem, Bethany and the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Olives and Gethsemane—are these and other biblical places just name as far as you are concerned? Why should they remain mere names? Visit them and have your faith deepened!

If I can assemble a viable number of people who would like the trip of a lifetime I hope to lead a party to the Holy Land from about 29th April to 7th May next year. A nine-day tour with full board would cost £500, flying by scheduled airline from Heathrow. There are a few extras, like a contribution to the guide's tip (about £8) and an extra day's trip to the Dead Sea and the Zealot fortress of Masada. I took a group from Faversham three or four years ago and all found it an unforgettable experience.

Later in the autumn I will arrange a slide show of the Holy Land to illustrate just where we will go and what we will see. If you are interested please contact me at Nonington Vicarage, Nonington, Dover CT15 4JT (Tel: 0304-840271)

Ian C. Hawkins

'Fish' News



The Luncheon Club starts a new season on Monday, 5th September.

* * *

The mobile Chiropody Unit will be here from 13th to 16th September. If you need transport please ask the Chiropodist to put your name in the transport book when she makes your next appointment. (If you forget, the book will be with me between sessions.)

* * *

The next Coffee Pop-In will be in Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday, 14th September from 10.15 to 11.45am. This event is proving so popular that I have had requests for it to be held twice a month instead of once. Another suggestion has been that we should have an afternoon Tea Pop-In towards the end of the month in addition to the Coffee Pop-In. Please let me know your views on this when we next meet.

Joan Warren, 830233

St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

Flower and Cleaning Rota.

3rd, Mrs Ash 10th, Mrs Mount 17th, Harvest Festival 24th, Mrs Mount

Harvest Services along the Nailbourne

St Peter's, Bekesbourne—18th September

6.30pm: Evensong (*Canon Frank S. Bull*)

St Mary's Patricbourne—25th September

6.30pm: Evensong (*The Vicar*)

St Peter's Bridge—2nd October

11am: Family Service (*The Vicar*)

6.30pm: Evensong (*Preacher; Revd Clive Barlow,
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“Come, ye thankful people, come!”

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

Hon Secretary: Mr R.C. Whatley, 54 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830512)

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

Organist (Bridge): Mr M. Miles, The King's School, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2ES (452492)

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

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

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

Mr N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)

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

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

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Captain of the Bells: Mr D. 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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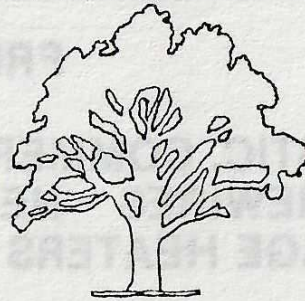
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Sunday Worship in October

Bridge	Patricxbourne	Bekesbourne
2nd October:		
11am Harvest Family Service	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
6.30pm Harvest Evensong (<i>Preacher: Revd C. Barlow</i>)		
9th:		
9.30 The Eucharist (<i>ASB Rite A</i>)	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong		
16th:		
9.30 Parish Communion	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
4pm Holy Baptism		
6.30pm Evensong (<i>Canon F.S. Bull</i>)		
23rd:		
8am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion	11am <i>Songs of Praise</i>
6.30pm Choral Evensong		
30th:		
9.30 The Eucharist (<i>ASB Rite A</i>)	11am Matins	8am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong		
6th November:		
11am Family Service	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong		

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *2nd*, Miss J. Charlesworth, MA. *9th*, Dr J.R. Butler. *16th*, *Family Communion*, Revd Sheila Foreman. *23rd*, Mrs M.C. Fairhurst. *30th*, Dr D. Rossman. Mr P.A. Grant wishes to thank all those who supported the Harvest service this year; there was more produce than ever before!

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion will be held in St Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (*BCP*) at 9.30am and Friday (*ASB Rite A*) at 7.30am. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 5th at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always welcome to this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

- 2nd** **Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 19*
Harvest Evensong at Bridge welcomes the Rural Dean and Vicar of Ash, the Revd Clive Barlow as preacher.
- 4th** *St Francis of Assisi, Friar, 1226*
- 5th** All interested in children's work are invited to a deanery evening to discuss a recent church report on the subject entitled *Children in the Way*, which takes place at 7.30pm in Bridge School.

- 6th *William Tyndale, Translator of the Bible, 1536*
Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
Bridge School Parents and Friends Association AGM, The School,
7.30pm
- 8th Pray for Kay Gammon and Richard Taylor, who marry today at Bridge
- 9th **Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity** *Pentecost 20*
- 10th *St Paulinus, Bishop, Missionary, 644*
- 11th Pray for the Deanery Clergy who meet this morning.
- 13th *St Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066*
Interchurch Meeting, Bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm
- 14th Church Barn Dance, Bridge School, 8pm to 11pm
- 15th *St Teresa of Avila, Mystic, 1582*
- 16th **Twentieth Sunday after Trinity** *Last after Pentecost*
- 17th *St Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c107*
- 18th **St Luke the Evangelist**
- 20th Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 21st Deanery Healing Service, St Nicholas', Ash, 7.30pm
- 22nd *Canterbury Council for Health and Healing* AGM and Study Day, St Paul's, Maidstone
- 23rd **Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity** *9 before Christmas*
- 28th **St Simon & St Jude, Apostles**
- 29th Pray for Jane Mummery and David Martin who marry today at Bridge
- 30th **Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity** *8 before Christmas*

Changing time

The period between 03.00hrs on 25th September and 01.00hrs on 23rd October has a significance that will only become apparent if you are likely to visit the continent between these dates. If that is so, you might like to know that the four weeks concerned are the one period this year when our time and continental time are the same: for the remainder of the year, as is well known, mainland Europe is an hour ahead of Britain—or the UK is one hour behind, depending on how you care to look at it. Outside that interval the time difference produces the intriguing mathematical piece of nonsense that says that the journey to Calais takes 2¼ hours while the return trip takes a mere quarter of a hour. The ferry companies reckon it is 1½ hours either way, so who's right?

* * *

Time is a very precisely measured commodity, and whereas we may be quite contented to be told the time is just coming up to twenty past four, an athlete or a down-hill skier wants to know his exact speed, for—where he is concerned—a hundredth of a second can make all the difference between winning and coming in a close second.

When in my youth I did a spot of bus conducting time that had previously been a haphazard thing suddenly became of the essence. I kept my watch exactly right and on being asked the time invariably gave it to within a minute. That precision about time (though not necessarily time-keeping) has stayed with me ever since.

* * *

The Greeks, bless their hearts, had a word for it, *chronos*. We get the word chronology from it: that sort of time that can be measured and which marks intervals in events. We are completely at the mercy of *chronos* and despite possible wishes to the contrary it presses on remorselessly, keeping to the same steady rate, totally unaffected by other influences.

But the Greeks had another word that we also translate 'time', i.e. *kairos*, and this is not measureable time. *Kairos* is the word we bring into use when we say things like, "It's about time you grew up", "Now is the time for all good men . . .", "It was a fabulous party; we had a great time!" In this case time refers to inclinations or circumstances which, moreover, are generally outside our control. Certainly it's not something that can be recorded on a stopwatch or pencilled in an appointments' diary.

* * *

In fact *chronos* and *kairos* are quite different from one another, for whereas the one deals with the sequence of events in our life, the latter denotes an outside influence that prompts or nudges us into a particular attitude or action. In religious terms the former could reasonably be described as man's time, the latter as God's time, insofar as they mark out the distinction between that part of our life that we control and that which the Christian is happier to leave in God's hands.

A question to leave with you! When people say, "I'd love to get involved in the church, but I really don't have the time"; to which sort of time are they referring?

Happy families

Two delightful weddings took place recently. The first was on Wednesday, 31st August when, on her parents' Silver Wedding anniversary **Bridget Stewart** from Bridge Down married **Greg Piper** from the USA in St Mary's Church, Patricbourne.

The second wedding, in St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne, took place on Saturday, 3rd September, when **Toni Denne** of Penton, Aerodrome Road married **Adam Bowey**. This was the second wedding for the Denne family this summer. We wish every blessing to both couples!

October occasions

Wednesday, 5th

Our deanery of East Bridge is holding a special meeting in Bridge School from 7.30pm onwards at which we shall discuss the place of children in the life of the Church and the different approaches towards their education and integration into the community. The discussion centres around a fairly recent church report entitled *Children in the Way* and all who have any involvement in work with children and young people or who are concerned, (shouldn't we all be), with the Church's attitude towards its young are asked to attend.

Thursdays, 6th & 20th

When you read in the diary column that prayers for health and healing are taking place you might like to know that a group is meeting (generally in the

vicarage) at 7 o'clock for under half an hour to offer prayer for a rich variety of people and situations that need healing and wholeness. We also endeavour to pray each time for all the residents of one road in the village, intending in due course to pray for every family in the parish. There is an open invitation to anyone to join us and we are always grateful to receive names for special mention. Many have felt the benefit of this group's ministrations through prayer: it is a vital area of our church's work!

Thursday, 13th

Please think about coming along to the occasional Interchurch meetings that we hold in the Methodist Church, especially this coming one that starts at 7.30pm. The fellowship of Christians from other churches has made this an important area of church life in this locality, and we value greatly the friendships this meeting has sparked off. We would love you to join us! It's not high-powered or emotional, merely a pleasant evening in pleasant company with a theme to set us thinking and conversing. Try it!

Friday, 21st

The third East Bridge Deanery Healing Service takes place on this date at 7.30pm. The venue this time is St Nicholas' Church at Ash and the preacher is Ian Hawkins, Vicar of Nonington and a member of the *Canterbury Council for Health and Healing*. If you would like to go and need taking, please get in touch with me. As always the service will include the healing ministry of the laying-on of hands.

Saturday, 22nd

The AGM of the *Canterbury Council for Health and Healing* is not just a formal meeting but the short prelude to an interesting study day at St Paul's, Maidstone. This year's theme is *What is healing?* and should be of interest and concern to everyone. The day starts at 10am and all are welcome to attend. A small charge of £3 (£5 for married couples) is made to defray expenses and participants should bring a picnic lunch with them.

The day ends with an act of worship, with the laying-on of hands. Those wanting a lift please contact me.

Operation 'Clear-Up' in Bridge Churchyard

On the 9th July, some members of Junior Church and their parents went to Bridge Church armed with rakes, clippers, dustbin bags and gloves. Each person was needed for this mammoth task! Quite soon everybody was on their hands and knees, except for some children who were busy chasing the toads!

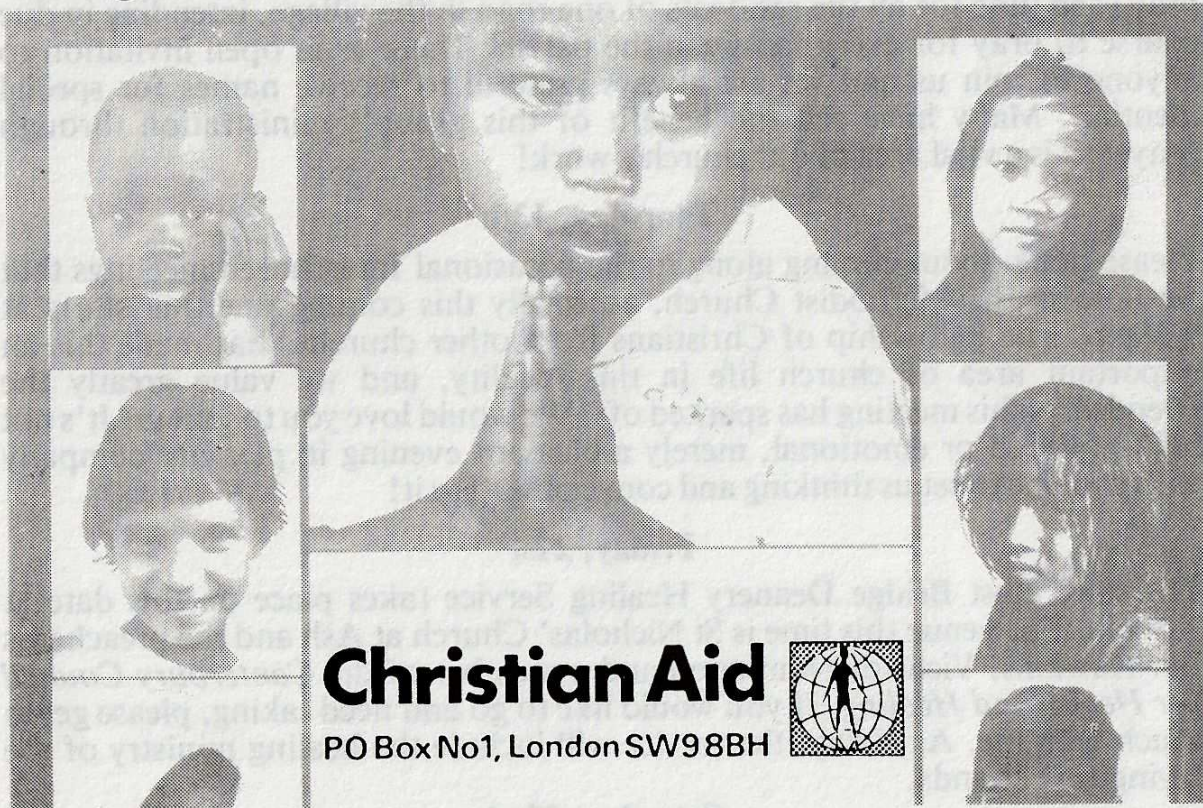
Nicola Varley and I were shearing the grass when we came across a very small grave stone. After we had trimmed it up, it looked like new. A lot of the time we spent waiting for a ride in Mr Young's Land Rover.

After all the hard work, the Churchyard looked really tidy. We made a bonfire to burn up all the rubbish, and then made our way to the Vicarage for a well earned barbecue in the Vicar's garden, which was great fun.

At Junior Church the following week, we heard that Mr Young had found a note on a tree near the bonfire from two Kiwis (New Zealanders) who had slept by the fire, saying "Thank-you" for a warm place to sleep. So clearing the churchyard was even more worth while.

Sarah Mummery

Bangladesh Appeal



THANK YOU: to the churchwardens of our three churches who, in the absence of the vicar, responded so readily to Canterbury Christian Aid's appeal for retiring collections for the Bangladesh emergency appeal.

THANK YOU: to the congregations of our three churches and to the members of Junior Church who contributed at such short notice.

PLEASE: continue to remember Christian Aid and its associates all over the world in your prayers.

PLEASE: if you were unable to contribute to the collections in church will you send a donation through a bank or post-office, or let me have it to pass on direct to Christian Aid, which learns of and responds immediately to every crisis as it arises, wherever it may be.

The need is immeasurable and **urgent!**

Muriel Packer

Harvest Supper and Barn Dance

On Friday 14th October Patrixbourne with Bridge are once again having a harvest supper incorporated into a barn dance, to be held at Bridge School. The Caller will again be Alf Matthews and the band, Stonestreet Folk.

Those who came last year will need no reminding of the fun that was had by all, so do come and join us! Don't worry if you don't know the steps; most of us don't and Mr Matthews is very patient.

Tickets at £3 each are available from Joan Carpenter, Doug Hill or Stephen Pike and include food, but please bring your own drinks. Children of secondary school age and upwards are welcome.

S.P.

“Keep Sunday Special” Campaign

Readers will recall that two years ago there was a Parliamentary campaign to relax the Sunday trading laws so that virtually every shop would be granted the right to open on Sundays. This move was resisted; many Church people maintained that Sundays were days for worship and re-creation. At all events, after a sharp campaign the move was lost, Parliament voted it out. Now another Bill aims to free the shops.

The Canterbury Christian Council, the Whitstable Council of Churches and the Whitstable Evangelical Alliance have joined forces to issue the following:

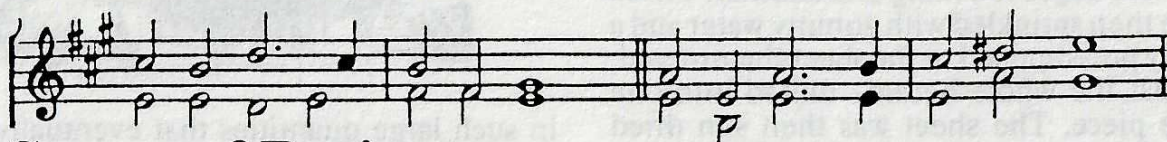
“While you enjoy your Sunday for worship, for your family and for relaxation BEWARE! The big traders are after bigger profits by attacking your Sunday. Mainly they are the DIY Stores, but they are less than ONE in FORTY of all shops.

“Two years ago the Sunday Trading Bill was rejected by Parliament with your petitioned support and prayers. This Autumn it is threatened to be introduced in another form. When the Queen’s Speech is read next month it is expected to be included in the proposals for legislation. Action is required now! Petition forms will soon be available together with further information. Write NOW to your MP and to the Prime Minister and Home Secretary. Every letter counts.”

Folk Dance Group

Bridge Folk Dance Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Dancers of all ages are made very welcome. Don’t worry if you haven’t a partner—just come along for an enjoyable evening! We next meet on the 6th and 20th of October, 8pm to 9.30pm, Bridge Village Hall. Enquiries, please ring 830285 or 830652.

J.H.



Songs of Praise

The popular *Songs of Praise* returns to St Peter’s Church, Bekesbourne on Sunday, 23rd October at 11.00am. Please give your choice to Mr Stanley Grey (830522) early in the month to ensure inclusion in the Service.

J.P.

League of Friends—Garage Sale

The Bridge Branch of the League of Friends are holding a Garage Sale on Saturday, 8th October between 10am and 12 noon in a garage in Western Avenue near the Presto Store. We will accept any items for sale and these can be donated totally or sold by us, taking 25% of the asking price. **No clothes please!** Items for sale should be brought to the garage as near 9am as possible on the day, marked with a price and your name and telephone number if money needs to be returned to you. If you have any queries please contact Elizabeth Stewart on 830344. Please come and have a look on the day; we may have just the thing you’ve been looking for!

M.S.F.

BIBLE LANDS PLANTS AND FLOWERS

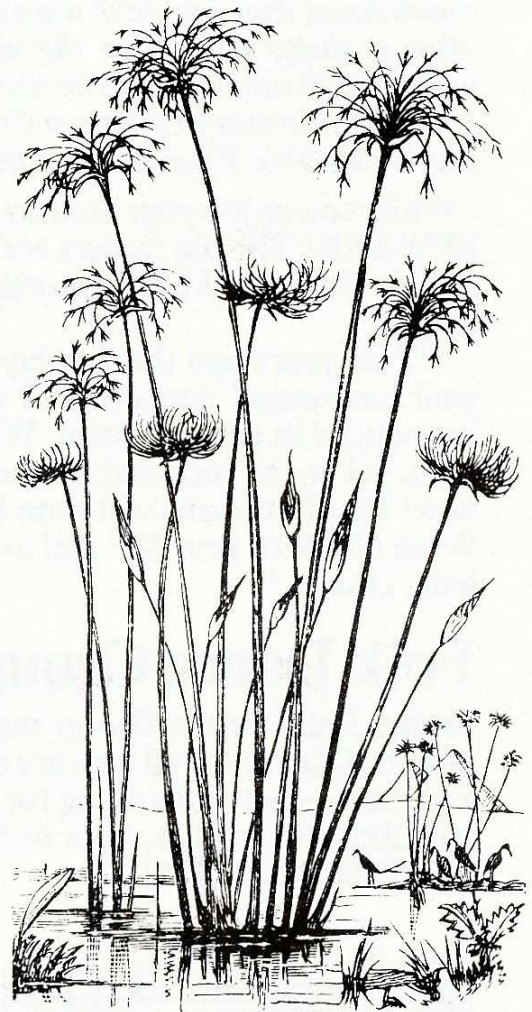
Papyrus

THE records found in Egyptian tombs and in the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum (which were suddenly buried in ashes thrown out by Mt. Vesuvius in AD 79), were all written on paper made from the papyrus stem. This shows the tremendous importance of papyrus in early times – and its value to us today in providing records of those times.

Papyrus (*papyrus antiquorum*) is a tall plant of the sedge family. It has smooth three-sided stems and a thickness of two or three inches at the base, tapering upwards gradually and ending in mop-like flower heads. It reaches a height of 8 to 10 feet, occasionally growing to 16 feet. It formerly grew on the banks of the Nile and in the Holy Land, forming a dense jungle in places, but is now extinct in the wild state in Egypt. Papyrus can still be found in the Hula district of northern Israel. It was used as writing material and also to make small boats, rope and sandals.

The method of preparing paper seems to have been very simple. The papyrus stem was first peeled, then the pith cut lengthways into thin slices which were laid side by side with the edges touching one another. These were then sprinkled with gummy water and a heavy press applied or the sheets hammered, so that the whole became united into one large piece. The sheet was then sun dried and cut to the required sizes for use, or pasted together to make scrolls, making a strong, flexible paper which was almost indestructible if kept dry. A better grade of paper could be prepared by laying several layers of pith crosswise upon each other. Papyrus polished with pumice gave a smoother surface for writing, which would be done with a reed pen or brush. Vegetable inks or lamp-black dissolved in gall juice would be used, or red ink made from cinnabar and gum.

In about 1075 BC an Egyptian sent to obtain cedar wood from Byblos in Lebanon, included 500 rolls of finished papyrus as part of the price. Papyrus was exported to Byblos





in such large quantities that eventually the word “byblos” came to mean a book, and then the name of that most precious of all books, the Bible.

Moses probably wrote on papyrus, but from the time of the Exile the Scriptures were written on skin as well as papyrus. The earliest Christian writings were on papyrus. The best known Biblical reference to papyrus is Exodus 2:3, the description of the infant Moses being put into a papyrus basket among the reeds (NIV) or an ark of bulrushes among the flags (AV). Other references are Job’s question “Can papyrus grow tall where there is no marsh?” (Job 8:11), and the mention of papyrus boats on the rivers of Cush (Isaiah 18:2).

Reproduced from ‘The Star in the East’, a magazine of life and work in Bible lands.

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Kingston Craft Club

AUTUMN! WINTER!! Come and join our Craft afternoons. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month, 1.00pm to 5.00pm in Kingston Barn. Call at any time during the afternoon; all crafts are welcome. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 12th. For further details ring either 830120 or 830078.

S.M.S.

New Sports Pavilion

Bridge Village Sports Trust reports that the main building work has been completed, and they intend to finish the outstanding items in the next weeks.

On Monday, October 24th at 3.00pm, the official Opening ceremony will be performed; and they expect Lord Conyngham to attend. Interested villagers will be most welcome.

In order to meet building regulations, the building had to be modified to include a toilet facility for the disabled. This, plus some other items, has increased the project costs and whilst substantial funds have already been raised, renewed efforts will have to be made by the committee members to raise the balance.

C.W.M



Bridge Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Thursday, 8th September for the first time after the summer recess and began by following up matters raised at the previous meeting. They heard that the situation at Bourne View and Mill Terrace had improved and decided to take no further action, and that the Kent County Council had carried out repairs to make safe the footpath leading from Bridge Down to the top of the stairway. Regarding Television reception, they had also received a reply from the IBA stating that only about seventy people in Bridge had real difficulties in receiving good television pictures, which did not justify them building an additional relay station.

Recreation Ground The official opening of the new sports pavilion by the Marquis of Conyngham was planned for Monday, 24th October at 3.00pm. One quotation for enclosing the Recreation Ground in preparation for the Byelaw banning dogs from the Ground was reported to the meeting and further consideration of fencing was deferred to the October meeting pending more information. It was decided to order four 'Dog Byelaw' signs for the Ground. The provision of safety surfaces around the playground equipment was again discussed. However, because of the high cost of installation and maintenance it was agreed that this should be a matter for discussion by parishioners at the next annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk was to contact the Conservation Department of the City Council for advice on the sycamore tree covered by a Tree Preservation Order alongside the pavilion.

Streets and Footways Following a number of complaints received, a letter

had been written to the County Council concerning overhanging trees and general untidiness in the Western Avenue, Green Court, Ford Close area.

Village Hall Cllr Ken Greenaway reported that the obsolete chimney stack which was cracked and unsafe had been taken down to roof level, and Cllrs Mrs Ann King and Mervyn Gulvin outlined a plan to keep clear the gully which the Village Hall shared with the Village Shop, and which blocked up with leaves and consequently overflowed in heavy rain.

Planning The Council had no objection to an application for selective felling of trees covered by TPO No 2 on land adjacent to the churchyard on Bourne Park Estate, off Bridge Hill. The Council saw no reason to change their views already expressed on a previous similar application, which had just been refused planning permission by the City Council.

The City Council had granted planning permission for the following applications: demolition of existing detached toilet block and formation of new toilet facilities within existing building at the Red Lion Public House; two-storey extension to dwelling at Forge Cottage, 51 High Street; erection of dwelling at River House, 67 High Street

Vacancy in the Office of Councillor:

The Council declared a casual vacancy in the office of councillor following the resignation of Cllr Edwards who had moved to Wye, and the Clerk was instructed to give official notice of the vacancy. Meanwhile anyone interested in being considered for the vacant position should apply to the Chairman, Cllr John Hill, Renville Oast (Tel: 830215). Cllrs Mrs King and Greenaway kindly agreed to serve on the Planning Committee for the time being.

The Council next meet on Thursday, 13th October at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

Fish News

The Luncheon Club, which is eight years old this month, will be celebrating with a gala meal on October 10th. Affiliated to *Age Concern*, the club provides a weekly social gathering and an excellent meal for elderly people who live alone or are housebound. Meetings are held at The New Close every Monday. At the moment we have vacancies for a few new members, please contact me if

you know of anyone who would like to join us.

Smoke Detectors. Kent Fire Brigade are trying to encourage people to install smoke detectors in their homes. In conjunction with the Social Services, they are funding a scheme to fit detectors in the homes of elderly people living alone in private accommodation, whom they consider to be at risk.

As the local *Age Concern* representative, I have been asked to forward requests for these installations—please let me know if you want more details about this scheme.

As there are many makes of detector now on the market I asked for advice, on your behalf, on how to choose the best model. You should make sure that the detector meet the British Standards and has the BS number BS5446 on it, and if possible, the Kite Mark. This and other valuable information on installation is included in a free leaflet published by the Fire Brigade. (I have a few of these leaflets available.)

The next **Coffee Pop-In** will be in Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday, October 12th from 10.15am to 10.45am.

Joan Warren, 830233

St Peter's Church, Bekesbourne

Flowers and Cleaning Rota: 1st, Mrs Skinner. 8th, Mrs Ellis. 15th, Mrs Smith (Flowers) and Mrs Hogben (Cleaning). 22nd, Mrs Millyard. 29th, 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 R.C. Whatley, 54 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830512)

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

Organist (Bridge): Mr M. Miles, The King's School, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2ES (452492)

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

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

Mr N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)

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

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

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

Captain of the Bells: Mr D. 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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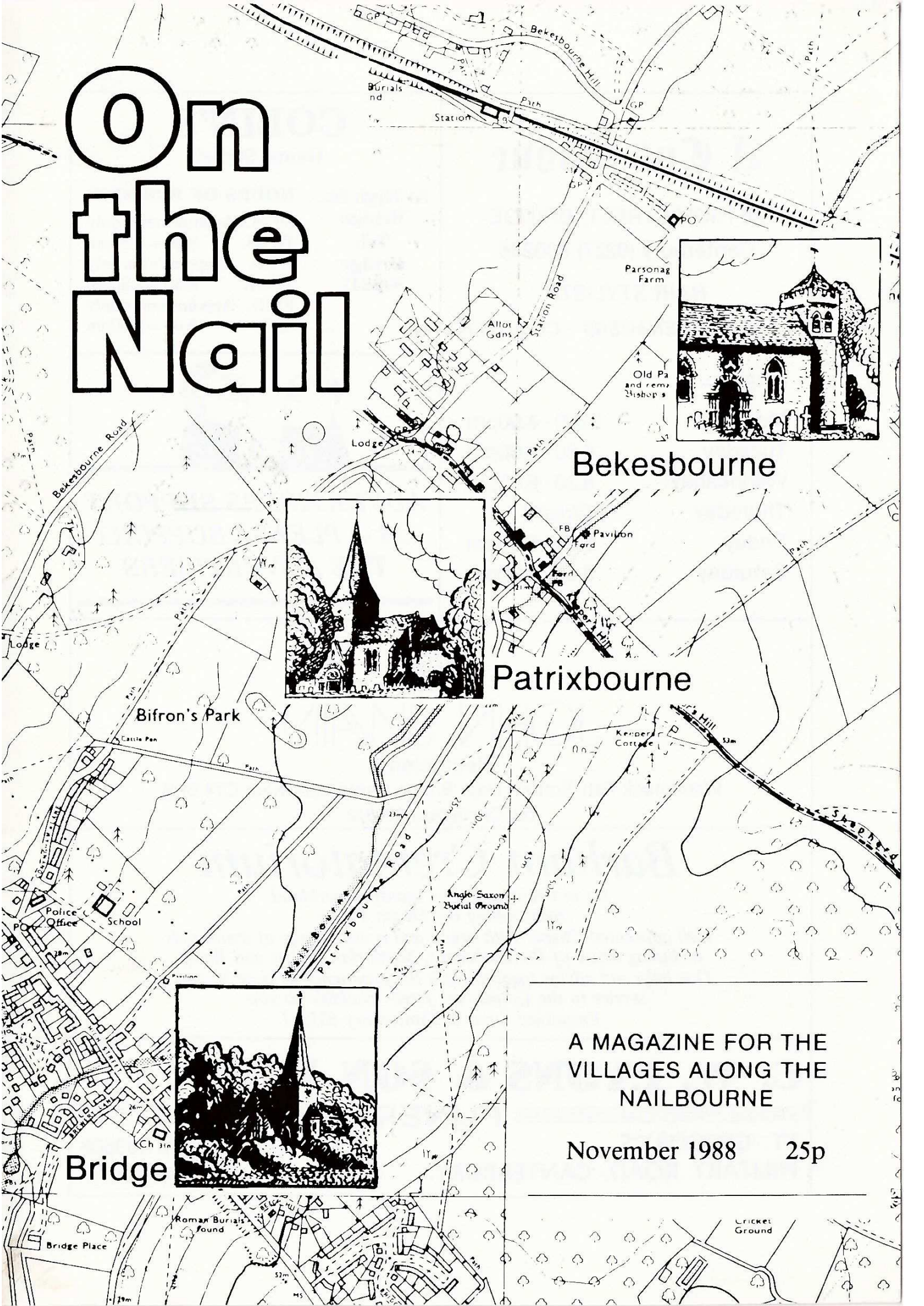
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patrixbourne



Bridge

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November 1988 25p

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Sunday Worship in November

Bridge	Patricxbourne	Bekesbourne
6th: 11am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion
13th: 9.30 The Eucharist (<i>ASB Rite A</i>) 10.50 Remembrance Service 6.30pm Evensong	11am Matins (<i>Revd C. Verity</i>)	8am Holy Communion
20th: 9.30 Parish Communion 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	11am Matins
27th: 8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Matins
4th December: 11am Family Gift Service 6.30pm Evensong	8am Holy Communion	9.30 Parish Communion

Remembrance Sunday is 13th and like last year there will be a Service of Remembrance at Bridge, which the local Royal British Legion branch will attend. Timed for 10.50am it will be preceded by a wreath-laying ceremony at the village war memorial in the churchyard. The two minutes silence this time will be observed inside the church, at the beginning of the service.

Other services that day are unaffected except that Matins at Patricxbourne will start at 10.55am in order to keep the silence on the stroke of eleven. It will be conducted by the Revd Cecil Verity, who was for many years an RAF chaplain.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: *6th*, Dr J. Rogers. *13th*, Holy Communion, The Revd Sheila Foreman. *20th*, Dr C. Pilkington. *27th*, Mrs R. Maxwell.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion will be held in St. Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (*BCP*) at 9.30am and Friday (*ASB Rite A*) at 7.30am. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 2nd at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, and non-residents are always welcome to this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st **All Saints' Day**
- 2nd *Commemoration of All Souls*
- 4th Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
- 5th Lady Chapel Fund Coffee Morning, Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, 10.30am
- 6th **Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity** *7 before Christmas*
The Family Service this morning is the annual Christmas Gifts Service

details of which appear elsewhere in this issue.

- 8th Pray for the East Bridge Deanery Synod this evening at Ash.
9th Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.30 - 11.45am
10th Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
11th *St. Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397*
12th *NEW AUTUMN FAYRE* at Bridge School from 2pm
13th **Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity** 6 before Christmas
15th Bridge with Patricxbourne WI, The Village Hall, 7.30pm
16th Nailbourne Horticultural Society, Bridge Methodist Church, 8pm
17th *St. Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680*
St. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200
Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
20th **Sunday next before Advent** 5 before Christmas
23rd Fish Scheme Tea Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 2 - 3.30pm
24th Bridge School Governors meet.
26th New Close Coffee Morning & Christmas Sale, 10 - 11.45am
Pray for Rebecca Rowntree and Dermot O'Boyle who marry today at Bridge.
Kent Trust for Nature Conservation Christmas Sale, 9 High Street, 10am - 6pm
27th **First Sunday in Advent**
Kent Trust for Nature Conservation Christmas Sale, 9 High Street, 10am - 6pm
30th **St. Andrew the Apostle**

Ready! Steady! Wait for it!

By the time you read this I have no doubt the city shops, having safely disposed of the Canterbury Festival festoonery, will be decked out for Christmas! Yes. I know it's only November, but you must have noticed how the Christmas decorations appear earlier every year! They began to be put up in November several years ago. Actually I detected more than a faint whiff of Yule-tide in one shop back in October. It shall be nameless! Why should we give it some free publicity?

* * *

Many people disapprove of the commercial anticipation of Christmas. But whereas shopkeepers might wait until nearer the time to introduce Father Christmas and his grotto, surely there's nothing in the rest worth getting upset about. After all the shops are not celebrating Christmas in November, they are simply doing their job of providing us with the wherewithal to keep Christmas ourselves at the proper time.

It's self-evident that any event, to be successful, needs prior preparation, and the better the preparation the better the event. I'm told plans for the next County Show follow hard on the end of the previous one, and in my own profession applications for weddings in the summer of 1989 began to come in this summer. Just so, a successful and enjoyable Christmas needs due preparation, and the longer we allow ourselves for it the less pressurised we shall feel and the smoother our Christmas will go. Be honest and admit, we resolve each year to get our Christmas shopping done calmly and early. The cake and puddings certainly need time to mature properly if they are to be at their best

on the day. The seemingly premature commercial Christmas is geared to helping us prepare in good time as well as to making money, and it certainly takes an element of drudgery out of the exercise if the setting is right.

A glance at the services list and diary above might lead us to imagine some of our village organisations have caught the bug and have forgotten the date of Christmas. But here too neither the friends of The New Close, the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation nor the church's Family Service group are labouring under the impression that it's OK to keep Christmas a month in advance. Where the first two are concerned it is a matter of raising money for very worthwhile causes *and* helping our Christmas preparations along into the bargain.

Surely the church ought to know better! Indeed it does, for the Christmas Gift Service that traditionally occupies the Family Service slot at the beginning of December is not actually a Christmas service but a further opportunity to prepare for Christmas. Let me explain.

For several years now the December Family Service has focussed attention on the residents of The New Close, many of whom have no family left to think of them at Christmas. We determined that no one at the home would be without at least one present on Christmas morning, so it was decided that at the Family Service worshippers would be asked to bring with them a gift-wrapped Christmas present for one of the residents of The New Close.

In past years response to this appeal has been magnificent and our friends at The New Close have been most appreciative of our efforts on their behalf. The gifts are usually received during the service by someone from the home, and afterwards are taken away and kept until Christmas day. Please will you help us again this year and bring happiness on Christmas morning to someone who might otherwise feel left out?

For your guidance suitable gifts might consist of sweets, chocolates or toiletries. Actually you should be able to find something suitable at either the New Autumn Fayre on 12th of this month, which will have a 'Christmas' stall, or Bekesbourne Christmas Market on 3rd December. Please allow for the fact that there are men as well as women residents. A pretty label marked "To (blank) from (your family's name)" would add the final touch: the staff can complete it for you later.

* * *

'If a job's worth doing it's worth doing well' goes the old adage, and most jobs are of a preparatory nature. You will soon be preparing your family Christmas and the shops will set out to help you, howbeit at a profit to themselves. Christians also need to prepare for Christmas, and I don't just mean rehearsing Carol Services and arranging how and when to decorate their place of worship. Centuries ago a period of preparation for Christmas was created so that the faithful could get themselves ready spiritually to celebrate the birth of the Saviour. The season of Advent still exists, spanning four Sundays, and surely within that time we should all manage to find time to prepare in heart and mind for Christmas, even whilst we are in the throes of more material preparations. As with the latter the more we attend to our spiritual getting ready the better will be our Christmas celebrations when eventually they start.

THE NEW AUTUMN FAYRE—12th November

As its name suggests this is a brand new venture which replaces the Bridge and

and Patrixbourne Church Christmas Market and which we are sure you will find very much to your liking.

Preparations have been in hand since soon after last year's Christmas Market (*see above on this theme*) so you can anticipate a whole new experience and help the churches at the same time.

From its name you will also see the theme has moved to autumn and we believe this will be an interesting variation. To keep a link with the past, however, and bearing in mind its proximity, there will be a special stall devoted to Christmas things, so you will still be able to shop early in that respect.

We have changed the venue to the spaciousness of the school hall. This has the added advantage of easier parking and extra opportunity for more attractions.

So here's hoping to see you at 2 o'clock of 12th November for the first ever New Autumn Fayre. Good luck to it!

* * *

On the same theme your attention is drawn to the need for groceries and other gifts with which to stock the stalls. To help here you will find a large box at the back of Bridge Church, for any donations you may be willing to make. Perhaps at the end of a shopping spree you could pop along to the church and leave something for the New Autumn Fayre. All offers gratefully received.

One further request is made by Sheila Fenn:

"They sell like hot cakes! What do? Well, almost any sort of homemade cake does really, so we shall need plenty for the exciting New Autumn Fayre that starts at 2pm on 12th November at Bridge School. If you will make a cake for us we shall be delighted. Just bring it along on the day or, if you prefer, leave it at 68 Bridge Down the evening before.

"If cake-making is not one of your talents, why not come along and choose a cake for tea? See you at the Fayre!"

BEKESBOURNE TOO

Whilst on the subject make a note in your diary right now that the annual **CHRISTMAS MARKET** in Bekesbourne Village Hall and held jointly by the Church and the Brownies takes place this year on **Saturday, 3rd December** from 2.15pm onwards. Here's hoping to welcome you at one of the traditional pre-Christmas functions that is always well-supported!

Four splendid efforts

The final onslaught of the season on Bridge churchyard happened on the morning of 8th October when a veritable army went to work, aided and abetted by assorted strimmers and other implements of ferocious effectiveness. The net result is a churchyard to be proud of and we are more than grateful to everybody who took part.

* * *

With typical aplomb Junior Church (who never do things by halves) raised £150.47 at their recent Jumble Sale. The proceeds are for their general funds. Thanks to all who helped in any way, especially to the little girl who, on being

asked by an exhausted adult helper if she didn't feel very tired (the child had worked all day from 10 till 5) replied, "Not a bit, anyway I like helping other people".

* * *

The recent Garage Sale on behalf of the Bridge Branch of the League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals made £140. Many thanks to all who supported us, and Mrs Flanders for the loan of her garage. *Maggie Field*

* * *

Mrs Jane Millyard would like to thank all who patronised the Coffee Morning at her home for Bekesbourne Church. £80 was raised.

Sponsored Cycle Ride 1988

The following reports from the villages speak of the continuing success of this exercise, not to mention the athleticism of our participants. Remember, half the proceeds go to the church concerned.

Bekesbourne

Many thanks go to the intrepid cyclists who rode for Bekesbourne in the Sponsored Bike Ride. Ian Gillanders, Marion Trudgill and Jenny Skinner helped to raise the admirable sum of £135 for the *Friends of Kent Churches* and our own church, and grateful thanks must go also to all their sponsors. My thanks to Jill Gillanders for her help and to John Purchase for assisting with the manning of the church. *Christine Ash*

Patricbourne

Patricbourne Church cyclists brought in £260. Joan Carpenter, Marian Harlow, Rachel and Jonathan Nicholson and Mrs Wilmshurst were the cyclists. We owe them all a great thank-you. Jonathan cycled after a morning of school.

I would like to thank Mrs Andrea Nicholson for organizing the Bike Ride and the villagers who cheerfully signed in the cyclists.

Everyone who took part enjoyed the day. We hope to enrol more cyclists from Patricbourne's outlying parts next year. *Rosalie Stacey*

Bridge

Bridge cyclists have done it again! The final total raised in sponsor money from the 14 cyclists, two walkers and two non-starters (sic) was the incredible sum of £377.35. It was lovely to see so many families taking part and they all deserve to see their names in print.

The majority visited on an average 13 churches which was a wonderful effort, but Stephen Pike our churchwarden outshone everyone by visiting 36 churches and he was the only cyclist to visit St. Mary's, Nackington. Tim Flisher with Simon and Emma were a close second, visiting 27 churches, and considering that Emma is only seven years old and had a very small bike, that was a great achievement. Our two walkers, Rosalind Waller and Sonja Dietschi again clocked up 20 churches and it was interesting to note, they were the only ones to visit Goodnestone, Chillenden and Nonington from our group.

Topping the list of churches our cyclists visited were of course Bridge,

Continued on page 13

Patrxbourne, Bekesbourne and Bishopsbourne, closely followed by Adisham, Aylesham (four churches there), Littlebourne and Womenswold and then Kingston, Barham, Ickham, Wickhambreaux and Wingham.

Everyone enjoyed this day out in the country and they were blessed with fine weather. Thank you to everyone that took part and if your name is not in the following list why not join the cyclists next year and help to top the £400 mark!

Our grateful thanks to the following: Stephen and Hilary Pike, Elizabeth and Catherine; Vivienne Brasier, Claire and Daniel; Tim Flisher, Simon and Emma; Tracy Mortley; Lisa Dawson; Rosalind Waller and Sonja Dietschi; Lucy Wilmhurst; Elizabeth and Richard Walder; Dominic and Andrew Legge.

May I add my grateful thanks to the people who so kindly manned the church and signed in 115 cyclists between 10am and 6pm.

Kath Pierce

The Family Album

While on 8th October the churchyard working party was in full swing outside, the interior of Bridge Church was given over to the charming wedding of two new members of the Bridge congregation, **Kay Gammon** and **Richard Taylor**.

Bridge was also the setting for two baptisms on Sunday, 16th October, those of **Kaleigh Leanne Tutt**, daughter of Chris and Jayne (née Arnison) of St. Gregory's Road, Canterbury and **Christopher Denis Beer**, son of Denis and Christine of 4 Windmill Close.

Your support please . . .

for a Coffee Morning on behalf of the Lady Chapel refurbishing at Beechmount, Conyngham Lane on Saturday, 5th November from 10.30 to 12 noon. Please support this event and have a chance to see the kneelers which are being made for the Lady Chapel. As well as coffee there will be a Bring and Buy of Christmas gifts.

A. Pentin

for another Coffee Morning and Christmas Sale at The New Close on Saturday, 26th November from 10am to 11.45am. Proceeds are for the residents' Amenity Fund.

O.I.K.

Hospital League of Friends Bridge Branch

Two vacancies will arise on the committee in the new year due to one member completing the statutory three years in office and the other having moved from the village. We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in standing for the committee from 1989 either from Bridge, Bekesbourne, Patrxbourne or Bishopsbourne. Please telephone Elizabeth Stewart, 830344

M. Field

Nailbourne Horticultural Society next meet on Wednesday, 16th November at 8pm in Bridge Methodist Church. There will be a talk on 'Bulbs' by Mr A. Davis.

D.E.K.

Will anyone putting **waste paper** in Mrs Whittaker's garage *please* ensure it is either tied up, in a box or in plastic carriers. It is collected by Harbledown Scouts.

Kent Trust for Nature Conservation The annual Christmas Sales will be on Saturday, 26th and Sunday, 27th November, 10am - 6pm at Mrs D. Whittaker's, 9 High Street, and again from 5th to 11th December at the same venue. All welcome!

Bridge with Patribourne Women's Institute

The Harvest Supper which took place in September was voted a great success. At the October meeting Mr P. Meiklejohn gave a talk entitled *A Kent Miscellany* illustrated with slides. This consisted of many very interesting and unusual facts regarding Kentish castles, ruined abbeys and famous people buried in Kent.

The November meeting on 15th will see the election of new officers and new committee. Do come along! Your nominations and votes are needed.

D.E.K.

For Junior Readers

Laura Brodie, aged seven wrote this, which is printed exactly as she wrote it. Her teacher had corrected it, to help her, and had written at the end of it, "It sounds as if you had a really lovely time. Thank you for telling me about it". My teacher, when I was at school hundreds of years ago, would probably have put something like, "Careless mistakes. Should do better". I think Laura's teacher is much kinder, because it is really very good.



Monday 19th September. Yesterday wich was Sunday the jonier church had a Ramberler. We were given a pice of paper with things to find on it. We walked up Union Road and there I found a pice of staw. That was on the list so I kept it. Daddy gave me a feather and mummy gave me a pebble. They were both on the list so I kept them. We went over a stile and in to a feild. We ran down the trak and I found two pine cones. I gave one to Luke and because they were on the list I kept the other one for myself.

Now I only had the sheep wool and a hop. We walked past the hop gardens. I picked a hop.

Now I only had to find a pice of sheeps wool. We walked past an ost house and went down another trak wich turned into a road.

At last we got into Bishopsborn. I still had'nt found any wool! But Luke had and gave me some. We had a game of rounders then went into tea. It was very nice. We had a picture taken. Then I went to cilbem on the tree with Joanne. She was helping me jump down but I landed in the nettles! I did'nt cry and Rosie put some wasp-eze on. I still went on the tree!

Please, you youngsters, don't forget to keep your articles rolling in. It's your page: do use it!

Farewell to Teresa

Teresa Harvey, as she was in 1980, started running Bridge Guides at a very young age with help from Pam Simmons—and in eight years it has grown from a small group of Guides to a full Company of 36. Many girls from Bridge and the surrounding villages have enjoyed Friday evenings at Bridge School: also outings, celebrations and camps. The Company has produced a Queen's Guide and two B.P. Trefoil Guides—the highest awards a Guide can receive. Teresa worked hard to obtain her Warrant and then to gain her Camp Licence and the Guides have benefited from her ideas and great enthusiasm. About four years ago Teresa married Paul Philpott and they moved to Bossingham where they now live with Richard, their small son; and Teresa feels she would like to start a Guide Company in her own village. I am delighted that we will have another Guide Company in the District, but very sorry that she is leaving Bridge. We will miss her but wish her well in her new venture which I am sure will be a success, and thank her warmly for all the time and energy that she has given to Bridge Guides.



Maggie Field

The future of Bridge Guides

With Teresa moving to Bossingham we are very fortunate to have Melanie Bevan who is prepared to run the Company, but she does need some help. It is very difficult to run a Company of 36 on your own, and Bridge Guides having built up such a good reputation would like to retain that status.

I would be delighted to hear from anyone between the ages of 18 to 50 years who is prepared to help with this very rewarding work with young people. No experience is needed—we will train you—if you have been a Guide it would be helpful but not essential. Please don't feel that you are not capable!

The job requires a certain amount of commitment and an interest in the development of children. I will be happy to discuss the matter with anyone who is interested or thinks they may be. *Please ring me on 830224.*

Mrs Maggie Field, District Commissioner



Bridge Parish Council

At the Parish Council on the 13th October, Members heard that the report from a tree specialist engaged to test-bore the protected lime tree by the pavilion on the Recreation Ground to ascertain the extent of decay had recommended that although the tree should not yet be considered urgently dangerous, its removal and replacement would be

prudent because of the considerable extent of the rot. The Council therefore agreed to make an application to the City Council for permission to remove the tree and the Clerk was to investigate if there would be any financial assistance available for a replacement tree from the 'Men of the Trees'. A progress report was given regarding the byelaw for the control of dogs. Cllr Mervyn Gulvin was to prepare

plans to submit to Orbit Housing to obtain their formal permission to erect a small stretch of fencing at Mansfield Court and the signs banning dogs from the Ground were on order and awaited. The Clerk was to ask the City Council if they would erect notices in Bridge Down following a complaint received about dogs fouling footpaths in that area. There already is in existence a byelaw made by the City Council making it an offence to allow dogs to foul footpaths and grass verges.

Streets and Footways The Council were concerned at the poor state of the roads and footways in the Parish and asked that this be brought to the attention of the County Council, pointing out the danger of such broken and pot-holed surfaces particularly to the elderly of which Bridge has a high proportion.

Village Hall Cllr Ken Greenaway outlined the need for replacement chairs for the main hall for which he hoped that there might be money available.

Village Appraisal Cllr Mrs Ann King reported on continued progress made by the Sub-Committee who intended to submit their recommendations shortly to the Parish Council for adoption. She also stated that a meeting to find out about starting up a youth club had been arranged for early November with a representative from Kent County Council Youth Services Department. It was understood that the Church had a similar intention and Cllr Mrs King was to liaise with them.

Planning The Council had no observations to make on applications for the conservation, conversion and extension of main house and outbuildings to form a hotel, restoration of landscape and a construction of a car park at Highland

Court, other than to draw attention to the need for signage at the exit on to Bridge Hill to limit as far as possible hotel traffic passing through the village. They had no observations either on applications for the erection of a bungalow (reserved matters), plot 2, Beech Hill, for a two-storey side extension to 'Robbins', Bridge Hill or for a new dwelling (reserved matters) on land adjacent to Grindley Lodge, Higham Lane.

They were strongly opposed to a second application to provide service areas etc. on land to the NE and SW of the A2 at Kingston. Planning permission had been granted by the City Council for the erection of a detached chalet bungalow on land adjacent to Grindley Lodge, Higham Lane and for the selective felling of trees covered by TPO No 2 of 1964 on land at Bourne Park Estate off Bridge Hill, and had been refused for the erection of 'granny' flat to side and conservatory to rear of Church Cottage, 104 High Street. An appeal had been made against the City Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the erection of a boundary fence to enclose the side garden at 12 Bridge Down.

Police Advisory Committee Meeting Cllr Mrs Margaret Jones had represented the Council at a recent meeting where the most disturbing news given had been the increase in public disorder in the Canterbury area as a whole.

New Parish Councillor Mrs Meriel Connor of Bourne Lodge, Bridge Hill was coopted on to the Council to fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Cllr Edwards.

The Parish Council next meet on Thursday, 10th November at 7.30pm in the Hunter Room of the Village Hall.

K.A. Walder, Clerk

Fish News

The Luncheon Club

We are grateful to the catering staff of The New Close for the magnificent meal they produced for our eighth birthday celebration, and in addition for all the other meals they produce throughout the year. Our thanks must also go to the residents and care staff for the hospitality they extend to us and the patience with which they accept our 'invasion' every Monday. Our members have asked me to send their thanks to all the voluntary helpers and drivers who enable us to run the Luncheon Club. We were very pleased that Mr

Shirley was able to join us and also Mr Kevin Challis from the Social Services, who is responsible for services for elderly residents in our four villages.

Tea Pop-In

In response to popular demand we are holding an experimental Tea Pop-In on Wednesday, 23rd November in Bridge Village Hall from 2 to 3.30pm. If this proves to be a success we hope to start regular monthly tea sessions in the new year. Although our 'Pop-Ins' are primarily for retired people we are always delighted to welcome anyone who cares to join us.

The next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 9th from 10.30 to 11.45am at the same venue.

Joan Warren, 830233

Bekesbourne Church Cleaning and Flower List

5th, Mrs Whigham. 12th, Remembrance Sunday, Mrs Ash. 19th, Mrs Gillanders. 26th, no flowers in Advent.

Remember the dates!

Bridge: NEW AUTUMN FAYRE, 12th November
Bekesbourne: CHRISTMAS MARKET, 3rd December

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 R.C. Whatley, 54 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830512)

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

Organist (Bridge): Mr M. Miles, The King's School, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2ES (452492)

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

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

Mr N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)

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

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

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

Captain of the Bells: Mr D. 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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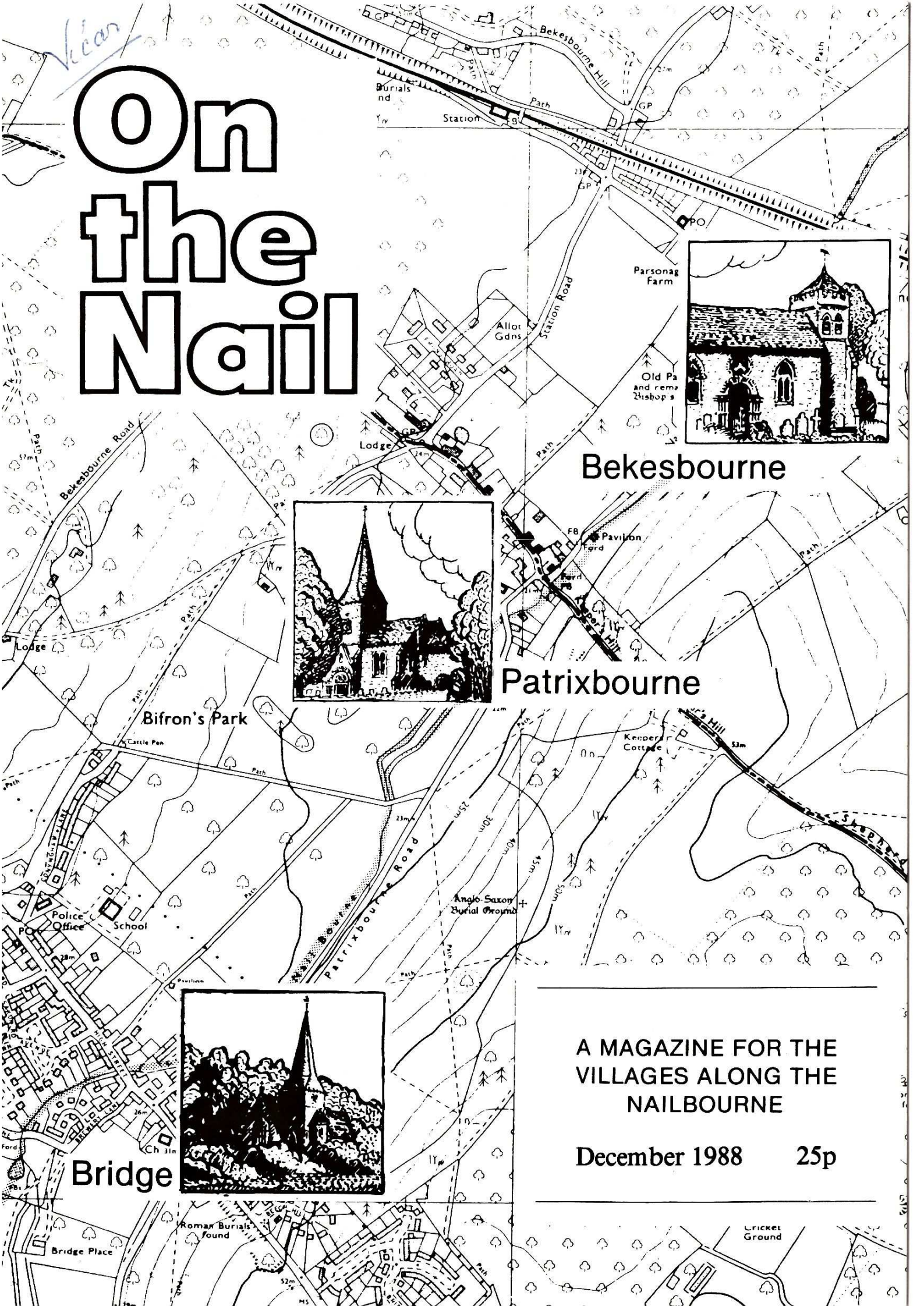
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On the Nail



Bekesbourne



Patricxbourne



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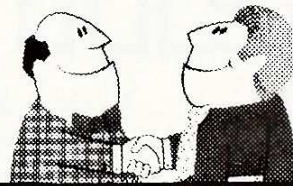
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Sunday Worship in December

Bridge

Patricxbourne

Bekesbourne

4th:

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

11th:

9.30 The Eucharist 8am Holy Communion 11am Matins
(*ASB Rite A*)
6.30pm Evensong

18th:

9.30 Parish Communion 11am *Carol Service* 8am Holy Communion
2.30pm Nativity Play
(*Junior Church*)
6.30pm *Carol Service*

25th:

(*See special display for Christmas Day Services*)

1st January

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

PLEASE NOTE the adjustments to the regular services at Patricxbourne and Bekesbourne on 11th and 18th. This follows last December's pattern and is to accommodate Patricxbourne's Carol Service.

Bridge Methodist Church at 11am: 4th, Mr Hugh Sheehan 11th, *Holy Communion*, The Revd Sheila Foreman 18th, The Revd John Turner 25th, The Revd Sheila Foreman.

Weekdays Celebrations of Holy Communion will be held in St Peter's Church, Bridge each Wednesday (*BCP*) at 9.30am and Friday (*ASB Rite A*) at 7.30am, with the exceptions of 28th and 30th December. Holy Communion at Churchill House is on Wednesday, 7th at 10.15am. The New Close service is each Wednesday at 2.30pm, with the exception of 14th, and non-residents are always welcome to share in this short informal act of worship.

For your diary and prayer list

- 1st Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
Bridge Folk Dance Group, The Village Hall, 8pm
- 3rd **BEKESBOURNE CHRISTMAS MARKET** in the Village Hall from 2.15pm
- 4th **Second Sunday in Advent**
Today's Family Service is the one for your gift for The New Close.
- 6th *St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c326*
Patricxbourne with Bridge PCC meets this evening.
- 7th *St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397*
- 8th Magazine Distributors' Meeting, The Vicarage, 2.30pm
Bridge Parish Council, The Hunter Room, 7.30pm
Hospital League of Friends Whist Drive, Bekesbourne Village Hall, 7.30pm

- 9th Interchurch Meeting, The Methodist Church, 7.30pm
 11th **Third Sunday in Advent**
 14th *St John of the Cross, Mystic, Teacher of the Faith, 1591*
 Fish Scheme Coffee Pop-In, Bridge Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am
 15th Prayers for Health and Healing, The Vicarage, 7pm
 Carols and Readings, The New Close, 7pm
 Bridge Folk Dance Group, The Village Hall, 8pm
 18th **Fourth Sunday in Advent**
Patixbourne Church Carol Service is in the morning at 11am. The Junior Church Nativity Play takes place in St Peter's Church at 2.30pm and the Church Carol Service in candlelight at 6.30pm.
 24th & 25th (See display below for all Christmas services.)
 26th **St Stephen the First Martyr**
 27th **St John the Evangelist**
 28th **Holy Innocents**
 29th *St Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170*

Christmas Worship

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4pm Christingle Service with Prayers at the Crib (*Bridge*)
 11.30pm Midnight Eucharist (*Bridge & Bekesbourne*)

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 8am Holy Communion (*Bridge*)
 9.30am Holy Communion with carols (*Patixbourne*)
 10.30am The Eucharist (*Bridge*)
 11am Carol Service (*Bekesbourne*)

*See, the tender Lamb appears;
 Promised of eternal years.*



The reality of Christmas Night

“It came to pass in those days . . .” wrote St Luke; and this ancient Once-upon-a-time heralds the most wonderful, well-loved story ever told. It’s a tale that was embellished by St Matthew.

The story in question provides the scenario for all Nativity Plays, is portrayed on numerous Christmas cards and features in just about every Christmas hymn and carol. In tableau form the story finds its way into our homes and churches, and at times is even to be found in a corner of the local shopping precinct. In the latter case its message often vies with the glitter of our extra-religious preparations, confronting busy shoppers with the seasonal reminder that Christ is in Christmas.

When it was.

What of the story, then? St Luke gave it a firm historical setting, describing the time and space it occupied, *i.e.* in the reign of Emperor Augustus, at the time of the first Roman census, during the Syrian governorship of Quirinius and in Bethlehem of Judaea. This dates the Christmas story around the year 3 BC, which sounds quirky until you realize there was a subsequent change in the calendar.

Mary couldn't have had her baby at a more awkward time, for not only were she and Joseph far from home, but their presence in Bethlehem was at the behest of the Roman occupying power. For reasons best known to the emperor (could it have been a mere whim?) a mammoth count was instigated to determine how many foreign nationals lived under Roman sovereignty. In Judaea at least this entailed a mass movement of the population—at precisely the time Mary's baby was due. How the census was conducted we do not know but it must have been a headache for those doing it. Suffice it to say Bethlehem at least was full to overflowing once all the members of David's line, plus their wives and children, had assembled.

Where it was.

It meant staying the night of course, since most would have come from far. Accommodation would have been at a premium. There was apparently just the one inn according to St Luke, but one wonders if arrangements were made for visitors to stay in private houses. After all not all residents of Bethlehem would have been of David's tribe, so some premises presumably would have been empty while their occupants attended the census in *their* home town. Can we assume members of the family normally resident in the city welcomed visitors into their homes for the brief stay involved?

Chance or choice?

That Jesus was born away from home, in the city of Bethlehem could have been the pure coincidence St Luke describes, or deliberately engineered by God, which is how Matthew saw it. Remembering who the baby was it seems unlikely that chance had any hand in the proceedings, so at the risk of being labelled gullible we can surely take it that even the chosen location of Jesus' birth was part of God's strategy. From the Jewish point of view the birth of the Saviour had to tie in with what the prophets had said about the Messiah, and they placed this great figure within the family of David. Bethlehem was that family's home town.

From the way St Luke relates his story every available space was taken by the time Joseph arrived with his wife. It really was the stable at the inn or nothing, and Mary's condition plus the intensely cold nights in that part of the world left Joseph with no option. It's a reasonable assumption that although St Luke only mentions a manger there must have been a stable that contained it.

Making the best of it.

Perhaps for Mary the stable was a blessing in disguise. No woman wants to give birth in a crowd. She needs space and privacy, and the stable had both of these. She also needs cleanliness—well, you can't have everything! And it was only a temporary measure, for no doubt Bethlehem emptied even quicker than it filled and if Mary needed further time to recuperate plenty of accommodation would surely be available for the next night.

The truth of Christmas

Such thoughts about the Christmas story do little to diminish our sense of horror at the squalid conditions attending the Saviour's birth, and if they seem less harsh in the light of Christmas carols and cards and plays we cannot escape the fact that the real situation was decidedly unlovely, positively unhygienic, intensely worrying and very hazardous.

How our Lord ever survived is a mystery: or would be, if we failed to see it in terms of God's chosen scheme for the human race. That night was born he who was to be the world's Saviour, and God would not allow his gift to mankind to perish at birth purely because the human conditions surrounding it were woefully inadequate. With God all things are possible, whether they measure up to our standards or not! So we celebrate, not lament Christmas with its good news that "to you is born . . . in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord".

Senior Citizens: an Invitation from Junior Citizens

The children of Bridge and Patrixbourne CE Primary School invite all Senior Citizens to visit the school and see a selection of entertainments from their Christmas production on Friday, 16th December at 1.30pm. Afternoon tea will be served afterwards.

If there are any problems with transport please get in touch with either Mrs Gulvin or Mrs Newton at school. The telephone number is 830276.

Everyone is most welcome, please tell all your friends about this as we are not able to send out individual invitations! *Anna Newton, Headmistress*

Thank you!

On Saturday, 12th November we held our New Autumn Fayre. We should like to record our grateful thanks to everybody who contributed to the resounding success of the day.

Especial thanks are due to the village traders for their valued support, the Nailbourne Ladies Group for doing the teas, the Guides who are always so ready to help and of course all the stallholders who worked so hard. We should also like to thank those who helped prepare and decorate the hall, and just as importantly helped to clear up afterwards.

The churches of Patrixbourne and Bridge rely on this and the Summer Fête for a substantial part of their income each year and it was with some trepidation that we decided to make the break with the traditional Christmas Market. However, with all the hard work the 'new look' paid off handsomely and we made well over £900. Success only comes through hard work and friendly co-operation and for that we say 'thank-you' to all involved.

Stephen Pike & John Williamson, Churchwardens

Ed: This event was a shining example of fund-raising and Christian fellowship combined, a genuinely happy occasion that modesty forbids Stephen to admit was the outcome of his inspiration, drive and enthusiasm, to which everyone else readily responded.

Family Records

The following were admitted to membership of the Christian family through Holy Baptism. On 30th October at Bekesbourne, **Nicholas Alexander**, second son of Alan and Carole-Ann Cassidy (née Payne). During Bridge Family Service on 6th November **Emma Louise** and **Christopher Richard James**, members of Junior Church and children of Jim and Marie Lockley, Brickfield Cottage, Mill Lane.

On a glorious October day (29th to be exact) Bridge Church provided the venue for the marriage of **Jane Mummery** of Great Pett Farm to **David Martin** from Cliffe near Rochester.

Raven Run

The Raven Run is a practical map-reading exercise for Scouts and Guides, organised by Rangers and Venture Scouts.

We started off at Chartham Hatch Village Hall at 8.30am one Sunday in October. Each group were given their co-ordinates and we marked out where the check-points would be and then planned the quickest routes to them.

We had to do challenges at each check-point, like being blindfolded and then putting out a fire using a supermarket trolley as a fire engine and squeeze bottles which we had filled up with water. We went through about five check-points, each with a different challenge. They were all moderately difficult in their own way. Towards the end we managed to get lost and after eight hours walking we at last arrived back, and to our surprise came third out of eighteen groups. We're still wondering how we made it!

*Sarah Howland, Sarah Field, Rebecca Clifton, Hannah Crawford
1st Bridge Guides*

Great Ormond Street Hospital

Bridge Guides raised £150 for the Guide and Scout Leukaemia Ward at Great Ormond Street Hospital with a sponsored three-legged walk around Bridge.

Maggie Field

1st Bekesbourne Brownies join the dance

Rachel Nicholson, one of them, writes:

The 1st Bekesbourne Brownies went to Archbishop's School for a dance competition.

We were third into the hall. We danced well. We danced to music from Raymond Briggs' *The Snowman*. The actual tune was "The Dance of the Snowman". We all dressed in white with woolly hats and scarves.

The 1st Barham Brownies came first, a tough pack to beat, with a wonderful dance. We all had a wonderful time, and would like to thank Brown Owl and Tawny Owl for helping us get our dance worked out.

Bekesbourne's Christmas Market, 3rd December

Reading Rachel's report prompts a reminder of the Christmas Market in Bekes-

Continued on page 13

bourne Village Hall that traditionally finds the Church and Brownies in happy co-operation. This year's market is on 3rd December starting at 2.15pm, and there will be all the traditional attractions that make this annual event a typical village affair. Come and lend your support as you have in the past, or sample it for the first time. I guarantee you won't be disappointed!

St Mary's Church, Patrixbourne

Famed rather more for architecture than change St Mary's Church has nevertheless broken with tradition (howbeit a recent one) and acquired new hymnbooks: not fresh copies of the old one but an entirely new book, in the form of the New Standard edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. This book contains 333 hymns out of the book we've been using together with the two up-to-date supplements *100 Hymns For Today* and *More Hymns For Today*, all in one volume.

The PCC readily gave its approval to the introduction of this hymnbook, the cost of which has been borne entirely by the organist Grace Allan, by the Choir but largely from an extremely generous donation made by former choir-member Mrs Susan Pratt as a farewell gift to the church.

The new book will afford a much wider selection of hymns, including some of the excellent and already popular newly-written hymns. We shall start using the *New Standard A&M* forthwith.

Bridge with Patrixbourne Women's Institute

The Annual General Meeting took place at Bridge on Tuesday, 15th November. Mrs J. Ambers was present.

Following the various annual reports describing the past year's highlights a new committee was elected as follows: *Chairman*, Mrs Harvey, *Secretary*, Mrs Collingwood, *Treasurer*, Mrs Franklin, *Committee*, Mesdames Stewart, De Cent, Durrell, Hills, Hopkins, Monk, Thrift, Watson and King.

On Tuesday, 20th December at 7.30pm we shall have our Christmas Party meeting.

D.E.K.

Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths

The Coffee Morning held at 4 Meadow Close on 20th October raised £340 for funds. Christmas Cards to the value of £270 were also sold. I would like to thank everyone who helped to raise this amount.

Elizabeth Stewart

Bridge Folk Dance Group

With two more meetings before the winter break, party night is on Thursday, 1st December and the final meeting on 15th. The venue as usual is Bridge Village Hall, at 8 o'clock. New dancers are made very welcome. Enquiries 830285 or 830652.

J.H.

League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals

The annual Christmas Whist Drive is on Thursday, 8th December in Bekesbourne Village Hall at 7.30. Please support this special event!

J.H.

Bible reading—a forgotten art?

The Bible could be variously described as a map for life's journey, an instruction manual for daily living, or a book of helpful advice drawn from many experiences in making the best of life. All these contain an element of truth, omit much and can be misleading!

The Bible certainly does help us cope with life's circumstances. However, reading and understanding it is not as straightforward as might appear. One reason for this is that the Bible is a miscellany or collection of writings written over a long period of time—some of it as much as three thousand years ago—and produced by a variety of authors each writing for a different audience and from separate standpoints.

Given all this, why trouble to read the Bible at all? Quite simply, to be told about Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament we have firsthand accounts of his life and teaching from those who knew him and who witnessed how he lived on in the hearts and lives of those who first began to spread the gospel—the good news—throughout the world. The Old Testament contains the Hebrew scriptures on which Jesus himself was nurtured, which formed the basis of much of his thinking and teaching, and which still has a relevance for Christian living.

So rich and varied is the Bible that the serious reader is quite likely to need additional help to discern what God is really saying through its pages. This is where the *Bible Reading Fellowship* comes in with its handy booklets of notes compiled to assist our understanding and so make our Bible reading that much more rewarding. The notes are carefully and expertly produced to give a manageable section that even the busiest people can accommodate. They fill in the background and give the commentator's interpretation of the chosen passage, the intention being that each person shall hear God speak to them through his Holy Word, as the Bible is often called.

What's on offer.

There are two sets of notes for adults and one for children.

NEW DAYLIGHT is particularly handy in that the daily Bible passage is printed in full. This means you don't actually need a Bible to follow them: convenient for studying on your way to work, in fact. With the text there is a helpful comment and suitable prayers—the most fruitful Bible study is after all not a purely intellectual exercise but a spiritual one as well.

GUIDELINES gives just the biblical reference (you need to use a Bible with it) with the added bonus of extra space for longer passages and a fuller commentary.

COMPASS is specially geared to younger readers and consists of a series of leaflets with puzzles, cartoons and picture stories. *Compass* is ideal for the 7 to 11 year olds—Junior Church members please note.

Examples of these plus other *BRF* literature are displayed on the library table in Bridge Church.

For many years Dr Nigel Allan, Ardpriory, Bekesbourne Lane has acted as our local supplier, but the number of those getting their notes through him has depleted to such an extent that he no longer qualifies for the special group discount that he got in previous years. This means the cost for *New Daylight* and *Guidelines* will be £6 for a year's supply, *i.e.* three booklets. You can take

it from me that even at the full price *BRF* notes are remarkably good value for money, and there is no doubt about it, we can all do with reading our Bible a lot more. Here is an ideal way to do it! Order your notes now from the *SPCK* bookshop in Canterbury! They make ideal Christmas presents.

Fish News

Announcing LIFELINE—a local emergency call system!

A constant fear of elderly people living alone is that they will be unable to summon help if they fall or are suddenly taken ill and cannot reach the telephone.

Recent developments in communication technology have led to a special service, available in this area, which overcomes this problem. The *Lifeline* unit, a computerised two-way speech communication system, can be plugged into an ordinary telephone socket. The system, which has a range of 90 feet, is activated by pressing a button worn on a pendant or wristband or by a key on the set. Within seconds contact is made with a 24-hour manned emergency centre, working through a loudspeaker in the telephone unit. The centre has essential details of the user's medical condition, doctor, family and neighbours and can mobilise help immediately (maintaining contact until help arrives).

In addition the set can be used for answering telephone calls from anywhere in the house and for making or answering calls without lifting the handset. The three most used numbers can be obtained by pressing a single key and eight more by pressing two keys.

A charge of £29.50 per quarter is made for this service, and for a further £10 a quarter a daily check call is made.

This is an excellent service and enables elderly and disabled people to have one of the advantages of sheltered accommodation in their own homes.

Knitters

If you have some spare time during the long winter evenings we should be grateful for your help in making woollies for our local 'children-in-need'. We need everything from babies' mittens to large jerseys. Wool and patterns are available at our Pop-Ins.

Speaking of which, the next Coffee Pop-In will be on Wednesday, 14th December in Bridge Village Hall from 10.15 to 11.45am. *Joan Warren, 830233*

Christmas Collections

The collections in all three churches at Christmas, with the exception of Christingle, will be given to the **Church Urban Fund**. Details of the fund in general appear in the centre pages of this magazine, but each of our two parishes have committed themselves to contribute towards it and Christmas seemed a good time to start the ball rolling. As John Purchase has observed, "when we are rejoicing at Christ's birth and enjoying Christmas spirit it will be a good moment to remember those who are deprived in the urban priority areas".

Collections will be made during the services, not as normally on arrival, and those who have envelopes may care to make a separate contribution as the plate comes round, bearing in mind the special intention this Christmas.

PARISH PUMP

Parish Council
News



Bridge Parish Council

At the start of the Parish Council meeting on 10th November, the Chairman Cllr John Hill welcomed Mrs M.E. Connor the newly co-opted member of the Council.

Recreation Ground The Council were pleased to learn that the official opening of the new sports pavilion by Lord Conyngham on 24th October had been successful.

Men of the Trees—'Trees in Your Village' Competition Although Bridge had not been among the winners in this competition, Cllr Mrs Billie Anderson, who had accompanied the judge on his inspection, reported that whilst the judge had stated that Bridge had not suffered as much as some of the villages, he had been impressed by the replanting carried out since last October's storms. The judge's comments relating to the churchyard were to be passed to Mr S.R. Pike, the churchwarden.

Streets and footways A reply had been received from the County Council stating that the High Street had been inspected and sections of the footways and carriageways would be reinstated where it was considered to be a hazard. As far as street sweeping was concerned, the village was classed as an urban area by the County Council and was swept by their contractors four times a year; in April, July, September and October. The County were unable to pinpoint exact times and stated that coning off sections prior to sweeping was not a very feasible proposition although they were prepared to give the matter further thought. The Parish Council noted with pleasure that after repeated requests, again to County, the open areas in Western Avenue, Green Court and Ford Close were being tidied up.

Cllr Ken Greenaway drew attention to Bridge Hill where soil and mud was being

washed down off the bank on to the pavement. This, too, was to be brought to the County's notice along with the drain in Brewery Lane which was still not coping with surface water when it rained. Southern Water were to carry out works under or about the bridge in the High Street and also at the ford where their engineers had located problems connected with the spongy nature of the ground there, particularly when the water table was high.

Car Parking on Pavements The Parish Council would like all parishioners to be aware of the national campaign being pursued by the police to stop cars from parking on the pavements.

Village Appraisal Cllr Mrs Ann King reported that there had been a very helpful and useful meeting held recently concerned with the setting up of a Youth Club in the village. She added that the Village Appraisal Sub-Committee were almost ready to submit their recommendations to the Parish Council for adoption and subsequent presentation to the Parish at the next Annual Parish Meeting in the spring.

Planning The Council had no observations to make on applications for the erection of one pair of semi-detached chalet bungalows on land at Dering Road, for an internally illuminated corporate lamp at the Plough and Harrow PH, on amended plans relating to an extension at 1 Bridgeford Way or amended plans relating to the erection of a five-bedroom house, plot 5, Union Road.

The City Council had refused planning permission for the erection of a detached dwelling on land to the rear of 'Conamore', Patricxbourne Road, and for a two-storey side extension to 'Robbins', Bridge Hill.

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

K.A. Walder, Clerk

Bekesbourne Church Flowers and Cleaning

No flowers during most of the month, it being the season of Advent; but all hands are sought in cleaning and decorating for Christmas. This will be done on Thursday, 22nd from 10.30am.

Bekesbourne Church must be almost unique in having its Carol Service on Christmas Day itself, but this has been the custom for many years now and it invariably proves a popular occasion. Those wishing to make their Christmas Communion can do so at the Midnight Eucharist or at one of the other churches if preferred.

Magazine Distributors

In paying tribute to the sterling efforts of those who make sure you receive your copy of *On The Nail* promptly each month, I invite all magazine distributors to the annual meeting, which this year is on 8th December at 2,30pm.

We would like to transfer the meeting to the Vicarage, in view of which it will be helpful to know beforehand who is able to come. A list of each distributor's 'round' would be useful, in advance of the meeting for preference. Thank you for all you do for the church in this respect.

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 R.C. Whatley, 54 Bridge Down, Bridge CT4 5BA (830512)

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

Organist (Bridge): Mr M. Miles, The King's School, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2ES (452492)

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

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

BEKESBOURNE

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

Mr N.H. Cruse, 9 Meadow Close, Herne Bay CT6 6NN (361335)

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

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

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

Captain of the Bells: Mr D. 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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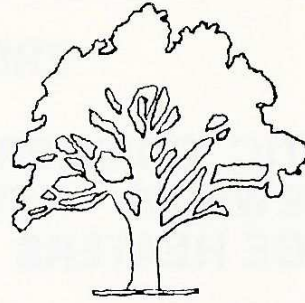
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